

Letter from Ilana Preuss  
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If you're among the growing number who take the bus or train to work, this won't be news: It's bad out there.

Our public transportation systems struggle to meet demand in a good year - and this has been a lousy one. Nearly three in four systems are operating in the red, forced to impose cuts in service or raise fares - and sometimes both, our new report shows.

Congress will soon be voting on how we fund - and fix - transportation. But too many of our lawmakers don't understand what it's like to rely on a struggling public transit system day in and day out.

If you've been affected by transit cuts in your community, tell us your story and we'll share it with Congress. Click here:

[http://action.smartgrowthamerica.org/t/3224/petition.jsp?petition\\_KEY=475](http://action.smartgrowthamerica.org/t/3224/petition.jsp?petition_KEY=475)

As our new report, "Stranded at the Station," makes clear, transit ridership has been growing at nearly triple the rate of the population and almost twice as fast as the number of miles driven (in cars) for the last decade and a half.

But at the same time that more people are using public transportation, nearly three-quarters of transit systems have had to raise fares, cut service, or delay maintenance due to funding cuts and increased costs.\*1

We know the real effect of our crumbling transportation infrastructure is more personal than those sweeping statistics. But most lawmakers have only a passing familiarity with the public transportation system in their area, so it's up to us to make sure they get it.

Let us know how reduced service, increased fares, and limited accessibility affect your daily life so we can make sure Congress gets the message. Click here:

[http://action.smartgrowthamerica.org/t/3224/petition.jsp?petition\\_KEY=475](http://action.smartgrowthamerica.org/t/3224/petition.jsp?petition_KEY=475)

Thank you, once again, for your support.

Sincerely,

\*1 "Stranded at the Station: The Impact of the Financial Crisis in Public Transportation." Transportation for America, August 2009.

<http://t4america.org/resources/stranded>