Industry Perspective Quotes

Attribution: APTA President and CEO Paul P. Skoutelas

EXPO At-A-Glance

"EXPO only comes around every three years, and it's where the future of public transportation comes into focus. Our industry directly employs 450,000 people and supports millions of private sector jobs, while relying on 3,000 suppliers in all 50 states."

Economic Impact

"Public transportation drives the economy, and this year we proved it with the World Cup. Every dollar invested in transit generates five dollars in economic returns and moves through a supply chain that touches all 50 states. Our industry employs 450,000 workers and supports millions of private sector jobs. And voters get it. Over the last 18 months, 49 of 56 transit ballot measures passed across the country. That's an 88 percent success rate and a powerful economic and political statement."

AI In Transit

"Transit agencies of every size are using AI to make service more reliable, more efficient, and more responsive to riders. They're piloting, learning, and scaling what works. That practical approach is exactly how our industry will deliver better outcomes for riders and the communities we serve."

Federal Funding

"Every dollar invested in public transportation generates five dollars in economic returns, supports family-wage jobs, and can save a household more than $14,100 a year. Last year, Congress approved more than $21 billion for public transit and almost $16 billion for passenger rail. Now Congress has until December 11 to pass a new five-year surface transportation bill. The House bill is a good first step, but the funding falls short. We're urging Congress to increase investment levels, including guaranteed funding, so communities can count on transit for years to come."

Safety & Security

"Safety and security are always our top priority. Through APTA's SECURE Task Force, transit agencies are showing their commitment to safe, clean, and reliable transit for all. Traveling by public transportation is 10 times safer per mile than traveling by automobile. As threats evolve, our industry continues to invest in the technology, training, and partnerships that protect our riders, our employees, and our communities."

Emerging Trends

"Public transportation does more than move people. It shapes the future of our communities. In Seattle, the world's first floating rail bridge now connects riders across the region. Here in Chicago, the $5.7 billion Red Line Extension is the largest transit project in the city's history. And in Rhode Island, RIPTA more than doubled its fleet of kneeling paratransit vans to serve a growing population of older riders. These projects show what's possible and why we should be optimistic about what's ahead."

World Cup

"This summer, the whole world watched public transportation deliver. Transit systems moved millions of fans to 91 World Cup matches in 13 cities, setting ridership records while still getting everyday riders where they needed to go. That success came from years of planning and decades of federal investment. The World Cup showed, in real time, what public transportation can do when it has the resources to perform. That's the case we're making to Congress as it writes the next surface transportation bill."

Emergency Preparedness

"From a global pandemic to natural disasters, public transportation works hand-in-hand with emergency responders and government agencies to keep essential personnel and emergency rescue and relief teams in motion. In times of crisis, public transportation employees continue to prove their abilities to adapt to the swiftly changing needs of their communities."