



## Press Release

### Maryland Transit Administration

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## CLIMBING GAS PRICES CITED FOR HIGHEST SAVINGS IN TWO YEARS FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION USERS

*Baltimore area transit user savings average \$829 monthly, \$9,953 annually*

**Baltimore, MD** (March 8, 2011) – The average price for gasoline as of March 4, 2011 has risen to \$3.47 a gallon nationwide, according to the [American Automobile Association](#) (AAA). Based on that figure and on the average, unreserved monthly parking rate, the [American Public Transportation Association](#) (APTA) has calculated that Baltimore area residents can save on average \$829 monthly and \$9,953 annually by using public transportation. The organization also estimates that individuals across the country can save on average \$825 per month, and \$9,904 annually, according to a chart posted [on their website](#).

“Public transportation has always had a compelling economic benefit for consumers,” according to Ralgin Wells, Administrator and CEO of the Maryland Transit Administration. “These figures confirm how dramatic the savings from using public transportation can be. While a rise in gas prices is never good news, we welcome the opportunity to save commuters nearly \$10,000 a year in transportation costs.”

The rise in gas prices is attributed at least in part to political uncertainty in oil producing regions of the world. This instability, coupled with economic woes already afflicting the vast majority of Americans, has caused many to consider alternate means of transportation without sacrificing either their freedom of movement or mobility. For many Americans, switching from driving to public transportation for even a few of their trips is a proven way to cut monthly and yearly transportation costs. These latest figures demonstrate just how dramatic those savings can be.

For instance, according to APTA, savings in New York City can average \$1,198 per month and \$14,376 annually, while savings in Las Vegas would average \$764 monthly and \$9,164 annually. The [transit savings report chart](#) on the organization’s website lists monthly and annual average savings projections for the nation’s 20 largest cities, based on gasoline prices as reported by the AAA on March 4, 2011.

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Consumers interested in calculating how much they can save by using public transportation instead of driving are invited to calculate the numbers for themselves by using an online “[Transit Savings Calculator](#)” online at [www.PublicTransportation.org](http://www.PublicTransportation.org).

For general information about MTA service, visit the MTA website at [www.mta.maryland.gov](http://www.mta.maryland.gov). Customers can also call the MTA Transit Information Center Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. at 410-539-5000. TTY 410-539-3497. To sign-up for e-mail about service modifications and delays, go to [www.mta.maryland.gov](http://www.mta.maryland.gov) and click e-mail notification.

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