

# National Rural Transit Livability Performance Measures

## Livability Principle

**Coordinate and Leverage Federal Policies and Investment**

Align federal policies and funding to remove barriers to collaboration, leverage funding, and increase the accountability and effectiveness of all levels of government to plan for future growth, including making smart energy choices such as locally generated renewable energy.

**Value Communities and Neighborhoods**

Enhance the unique characteristics of all communities by investing in healthy, safe, and walkable neighborhoods—rural, urban, or suburban.

**Enhance Economic Competitiveness**

Improve economic competitiveness through reliable and timely access to employment centers, educational opportunities, services and other basic needs by workers, as well as expanded business access to markets.

**Provide More Transportation Choices**

Develop safe, reliable, and economical transportation choices to decrease household transportation costs, reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil, improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote public health.

**Promote Equitable Affordable Housing**

Expand location- and energy-efficient housing choices for people of all ages, incomes, races, and ethnicities to increase mobility and lower the combined cost of housing and transportation.

**Support Existing Communities**

Target federal funding toward existing communities—through strategies like transit-oriented, mixed-use development and land recycling—to increase community revitalization and the efficiency of public works investments and safeguard rural landscapes.

Source: [www.sustainablecommunities.gov](http://www.sustainablecommunities.gov)

## Relational Statement

Rural transit coordinates and leverages investment between federal, state, and local partners to meet community goals, mitigate duplication of transportation service, and operate service cost-effectively.

Rural transit encourages value in communities and neighborhoods as a complementary element of local multimodal plans; providing transit service for the general population, and particularly for populations with acute transit needs, is part of investing in healthy and safe rural communities where distances may be long between people and essential goods, services, and employment.

Rural transit contributes to economic competitiveness in rural America by providing accessibility through span of service, service frequency, and service reliability to a variety of destinations in the service area to support worker commute needs and access to markets.

Rural transit provides an alternative travel mode choice as services are designed and marketed to encourage individuals to choose a mode of travel other than driving alone.

Rural transit connects participating households of all ages, incomes, races and ethnicities to work and community; thus potentially lowering the combined cost of housing and transportation expenses.

Rural transit supports existing communities through collaboratively designed and planned services which promote efficient use of the existing built environment by supporting activities in nodes where transit service is most efficient and productive.

## Measure

**Local Operating Investment per Operating Expense**

**Ridership\* per Index of Transit Need Population**

**Revenue Vehicles per Total Rural Land Area**

Alternative: Revenue Miles per Total Rural Land Area  
Preferred: Rural Transit Accessibility Level

**% Workers that Did Not Drive Alone to Work**

**Household Income after Transportation & Housing Expenses**

**Ridership\* per Developed Land Area**

\* Annual Unlinked Passenger Trips

**Rural Transit Livability Index (RTLTI)**

**Results shared with public via online data dashboard (not yet complete)**

The authors gratefully acknowledge the FTA's sponsorship of "Rural Livability Performance Measures Suitable for Use at a National Level". A study commissioned to identify, test, and recommend a set of measures that leverage existing national data to characterize the contributions of transit to livability in rural areas of the United States.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



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