



# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Public Transit Users Can Save Up To \$8,000 Per Household Annually**

(Stockton, CA) – San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD) joins the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) in releasing the results of an analysis showing that commuters can save up to \$8,000 a year by taking the bus and paying for one less car in the household. These savings represent more than what the average household pays for food in a year.

Gas prices nationwide have increased by 179.9% since 2003, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Based on APTA's "Transit Savings Index," at the current AAA recorded average gas price in Stockton of \$4.07, a person can save an average of \$2,792 per year on variable cost (fuel, maintenance, and tires) alone, by riding RTD buses using a 31-day unlimited pass.

APTA calculated the cost of taking public transit by averaging the monthly cost of transit passes of transit agencies across the country. This data is generated from the annual APTA fare collection survey, and is weighed based on ridership (unlinked passenger trips). The assumption is that a person making a switch to public transportation would likely purchase an unlimited pass from the local transit agency, typically available on a monthly basis.

APTA then compared the average monthly transit cost to the average cost of driving. The cost of driving is calculated using the 2008 AAA average cost of driving formula, which considers both variable and fixed cost. The variable cost includes the cost of gas, maintenance, and tires, at an assumed annual mileage of 15,000 miles, while fixed cost includes insurance, license registration, depreciation, and finance charges. The comparison also uses the average mileage of a mid-size auto at 23.4 miles per gallon and today's price for self-serve regular unleaded gas as recorded by AAA. To achieve the highest possible savings, the analysis assumes that the household pays for one less car.

RTD is among those public transportation providers across the nation that have seen record ridership. For fiscal year 2008 (July 2007 to June 2008), RTD's monthly ridership increased 27% - or nearly 90,000 more riders per month. And, systemwide average weekday ridership has increased by 29% - or 4,000+ more riders per day on average.

RTD provides an online transit savings calculator at [www.sanjoaquinRTD.com/relief](http://www.sanjoaquinRTD.com/relief), for individuals to calculate their commute cost.

To learn more about RTD's services, please call the Customer Information Line - (209) 943-1111 or 1-800-HOW-TO-RIDE (1-800-469-8674), or visit [www.sanjoaquinRTD.com](http://www.sanjoaquinRTD.com).

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