

Typically, urban bus routes are slower modes of transportation to and from destinations than private vehicles because they often stop to pick up and drop off passengers. On the other hand, express buses can outpace commuter traffic by using HOV and express lanes where they are available. Besides their convenience and economics, the advantage of public buses is that passengers are free to relax, read a book, text, email, post, write, have a conversation, meet people, and view the scenery. The stress of fighting traffic and paying attention to driving is eliminated.

Passengers must adjust their schedules to accommodate slower bus service speeds, but the benefits far outweigh the slight difference in time spent getting from one place to another. Buses and Light Rail run on consistent schedules, so passengers need to get used to them.

People who grew up in cities with efficient public transportation typically didn't own cars. Personal vehicles were considered a luxury and a hassle to maintain, park, garage, and insure. My second wife never learned to drive or felt the need to because she got around fine using public transportation. Now, with the advent of rideshare companies, autonomous vehicles, and light rail, there is little need for the expense of a car.

If Apache Junction were to do the minimum of adding bus service along the Old West Highway, Apache Trail, and Main Street (all the same roads with different names as they transit Apache Junction and Eastern Mesa), it would connect the residents of Apache Junction and Eastern Mesa to many other cities in the Valley. In addition, it would provide easy access to Sky Harbor Airport's Sky Train and all the airport terminals. All a passenger would have to do is pack a bag or carry-on, be dropped off at the bus stop, or walk to it and get on the bus. No parking fees or other costs involved.