Commuter Rail Transit

Bus Rapid Transit

Commuter Rail Transit (CRT) ①

What is it:
- A form of rail that transports commuters from suburban areas into cities, using the same tracks that intercity railway freight and passenger trains use

Fast Facts:
- CRT systems usually travel at high speeds and with few stops
- The trains are usually roomy

Community Benefits:
- Commuters save money by using mass transit rather than driving their own cars
- Increases accessibility of city to those living in suburbs
- Decreases commuter traffic congestion, as well as air pollution and emmissions from automobiles

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) ②

What is it:
- A form of transit that uses buses in designated, traffic-free lanes, allowing them to run like trains

Fast Facts:
- BRT is faster, more reliable, and more convenient that regular bus systems because it separates buses from the rest of traffic
- Raised station curb, smart cards, and ticket kiosks help speed up boarding
- Technology is used for elements such as tracking of buses to provide accurate schedule information and for giving buses priority at stop lights

Community Benefits:
- Gives an alternative to train/rail transit for areas that cannot support that infrastructure
- Cleaner air/less pollution from every switch that is made to public transportation from individual cars
- Decreased traffic congestion
- Bus stops can be well-designed and become a hub for business

Pervious Pavers

Green Roof

Pervious Pavers ①

What is it:
- Paving material that allows stormwater to be absorbed through its surface and put back into the ground below, rather than run-off into a storm drain system.
- Can be used to pave sidewalks, parking lots, bike paths, etc.

Fast Facts:
- Decreased run-off means decreased soil erosion and less sediments and pollution winding up in watersheds

Cost Savings:
- Can soak up as much as 70% to 80% of annual rainfall.
- No need to put in detention pond or other storm management solution—more property to work with.

Green Roof ②

What is it:
- Roof of a building that is covered with vegetation

Fast Facts:
- Absorbs rainwater, provides insulation for building, creates habitats for wildlife, can help lower air temperature in urban areas

Cost Savings:
- Reduction in energy usage and heating and cooling costs
- Reduction of stormwater runoff, plus some local governments give a stormwater tax reduction for green roofs
- Increased durability of roof itself

Planting to Collect Rainwater

Using the Sun

Rain Gardens, Run-on Stormwater Retention, Rain Barrels, and Native Plants

③

What is it:
- methods for decreasing storm water run-off
- features allow storm water to be returned to the ground, rather than run-off into streets and into streams

Fast Facts:
- Decreased run-off means decreased soil erosion and less sediments and pollution ending up in watersheds
- Our groundwater gets recharged

Cost Savings:
- asthetically pleasing way to manage storm water, can increase property value
- reduce hazards such as flooding brought on by storm water

Rooftop Solar Panals and Daylighting Buildings

④

What is it:
- rooftop solar panels allow the sun to be used for energy
- daylighting buildings is the use of large, strategically placed widows that take advantage of the sun's light throughout the day

Fast Facts:
- Enough sunlight falls on the earth's surface every hour to meet world energy demand for an entire year.

Cost Savings:
- reduce dependence on non-renewable resources for energy
- daylighting also reduces electricity bills as it gets rid of the need for lights to be on inside during the day

Think Small
to Save Big

Reuse Resources

CFLs and LEDs/Efficient Lighting, Low Flow Pumbing, High Performance Windows
⑤

What is it:
- easy changes that can be made to reduce energy and water consumption

Fast Facts:
- According to the EPA "Conventional toilets use 3.5 to 5 gallons or more of water per flush, but low-flush toilets use only 1/2 to 1/4 the water"
- High Performance windows keep heating and cooling costs down
- compared to incandescent bulbs, CFLs and LEDs use 1/10 of the energy, last much longer and stay cooler.

Cost Savings:
- Efficient Lighting options and High Performance windows reduce amount of energy used and thus reduce amount of CO_2 released
- low flow plumbing=decreased use of water resources and water bills

Using Recycled Building Materials, Gabion Baskets, Recycling and Composting
⑥

What is it:
- Conserve resources by reusing them rather than using new materials
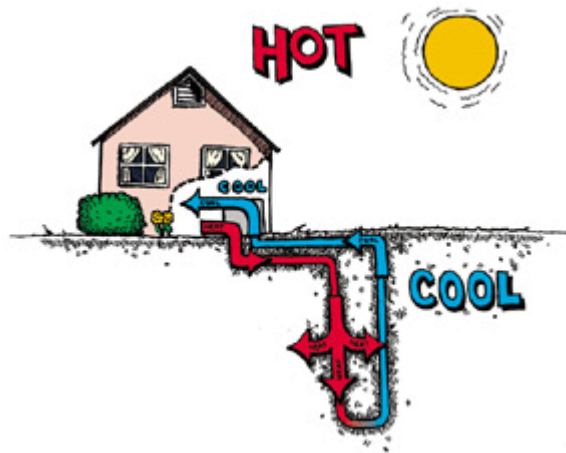
Fast Facts:
- Gabion Baskets reuse rocks and other materials that are excavated during the building process to construct walls for preventing erosion
- Pavement, wood, brick, and metal, are commonly recycled building materials
- Only 2.5% of all waste food was composted in 2008 – the rest went to landfill or incinerators (Clean Air Council)

Cost Savings:
- reduce environmental impact of extracting new building materials
- composting adds nutrients back into soil
- composting and recycling reduce amount of waste that sits in landfills and reduces the need for new landfills

Geothermal Heating and Cooling

Geothermal Heating and Cooling

What is it:
- uses the temperature of the earth's crust to heat building during the winter and cool it during the summer
- Can also be used for hot water heating

Fast Facts:
- Uses geothermal pumps to harness energy
- Almost 100% energy efficient, only loss of energy is in friction that takes place during the process

Cost Savings:
- Extremely low greenhouse gas emmissions
- Saves on energy costs in the long-run

Transit Making Connections

Transit Making Connections

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①

Carpool and Hybrid Parking in Preferred Areas

What is it:
- Specially designated parking spots for carpool and hybrid cars are located closest to the building

Fast Facts:
- Preferred parking spots are an incentive for using these methods of transportation

Community Benefits:
- Carpooling saves on gas, wear and tear on roads, and emmissions.
- Hybrid cars reduce our dependence on oil and reduce emmissions

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②

Bike Lanes and Storage Racks

What is it:
- Bike lanes are lanes on roadways that are designated for cyclists only
- Storage racks, often covered, provide a place for cyclists to leave their bikes safely.

Fast Facts:
- Dedicated bike lanes cut injury risk by 90% (American Journal of Public Health)
- Both encourage bicycle use

Community Benefits:
- Safer roadways and less congested sidewalks
- Moving from driving cars to biking means less emmissions/ air pollution
- Health benefits from exercise

Transit Making Connections

Transit Making Connections

Walkable Sidewalks ③

What is it:
- Sidewalks that are wide and spacious allow for greater pedestrian mobility

Fast Facts:
- Walkable sidewalks are beneficial for community members of all ages

Community Benefits:
- Increase accessibility of the community--a car is not required to get everywhere
- Safer sidewalks and roadways
- Cleaner air/ less emmissions from decreased car usage
- Aesthetically pleasing
- Increase the overall sense of connection and community in a town

Transit Connections ④

What is it:
- Bus and train routes that make transit easy for people to navigate and travel within and between towns/ the county without relying on a car
- At train stations there are also bus stops and at bus stops there is bike storage, and connections to bike lanes, and sidewalks that are walkable

Fast Facts:
- Public transit's overall effects save the U.S. 4.2 billion gallons of gasoline annually (American Public Transit Association)

Community Benefits:
- Cleaner air/ less emmissions from decreased individual car usage
- Easier for community members to get to school, work, doctor's appointments, etc.

Environment Enhancing Resources

Environment Enhancing Resources

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⑤

Conservation of Trees and Plants on Property

What is it:
- Protecting and preserving trees and plants that are already on the property

Fast Facts:
- The trees and plants that are already located on the property are part of the ecosystem of that area and provide important benefits like carbon storage

Community Benefits:
- Aesthetically pleasing
- Trees provide natural shading and reduce the "heat-island" effect of pavement
- Trees and plants provide ecosystem functions such as nutrient cycling, soil preservation, and habitats for wildlife

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⑥

Community Character

What is it:
- The unique look and feel of an area

Fast Facts:
- Historic uses and ethnic back grounds can be reflected in the space and give it a unique character

Community Benefits:
- Can be aesthetically pleasing
- Helps contribute to the identity of community members and increases sense of "place", which leads to an increased desire to care for and protect the area

Environment
Enhancing Resources

Environment
Enhancing Resources

⑦

Integrate Wildlife Habitat with Green Space

What is it:
- Creating a wildlife habitat such as a small pond in your dedicated green space. Other examples include creating connections to existing streams or waterways, and planting native plants with winter berries for native birds

Fast Facts:
- Helps reverse the effects of habitat loss due to development
- Helps reinstate native species where invasive ones have taken over

Community Benefits:
- Aesthetically pleasing
- Bring wildlife back to the area and enjoy the ecosystem functions they provide

⑧

Protect Historic Areas

What is it:
- Keeping areas and structures of historic importance intact during building and development

Fast Facts:
- The Rockland County Historical Society has recognized 78 historic sites within the county by marking them with informational markers (see image on back)

Community Benefits:
- Historic sites bring character to the community
- Educational benefit
- Can save on construction costs if an existing historic building is used to create a new one
- Preservation of history for future generations to enjoy

⑨

Central Gathering Spaces

What is it:
  • Plaza, park, outdoor stage/gazebo, picnic tables, etc.

Fast Facts:
  • These central gathering spaces encourage people to enjoy themselves outdoors

Community Benefits:
  • Encourages public interaction
  • Provides spaces for public events such as concerts and fairs, as well as private gatherings
  • Helps build local identity and appreciation for the community
  • Increase neighborhood property values

⑩

Entertainment

What is it:
  • Movie theatre, community center recreation room and gym, etc.

Fast Facts:
  • Entertainment options can bring both vitality and revenue to a community

Community Benefits:
  • Encourages public interaction
  • provides a space where all ages can find enjoyment
  • Improve quality of life for community members

Social Interactions for All Ages and Stages

Social Interactions for All Ages and Stages

Outdoor Recreation

⑪

What is it:
- Winter skating, pool, skateboard park, playground, etc.

Fast Facts:
- Arenas for these activities encourage active communities that enjoy the outdoors

Community Benefits:
- Encourages public interaction
- Venue for sports events --> creation of community sports teams
- Attracts visitors to the area
- Encourages physical fitness

Connections

⑫

What is it:
- Community garden, library, farmers markets, etc.

Fast Facts:
- These places provide opportunities for cultural growth, support of the local community, and opportunities for connections between and among people

Community Benefits:
- Encourages public interaction
- Educational resources
- Improve quality of life for community members
- Bring together people from diverse backgrounds

Neighborhood Center ⑬

What is it:
  • Space for community meetings, club meetings, kitchen for pot lucks, seniors events, day care, ect.

Fast Facts:
  • Neighborhood Centers can be used for anything the community decides

Community Benefits:
  • Provides helpful services and spaces for community member of all ages
  • Encourages interactions across generations

Locally Owned Stores ⑭

What is it:
  • Café or restaurant, coffee shop, corner store, gallery, etc.

Fast Facts:
  • Locally owned businesses require less transportation and thus are usually more environmentally friendly
  • They often boast better customer service than big businesses

Community Benefits:
  • Give character to the community
  • Local businesses often support non-profit community groups
  • Job opportunities
  • Strengthen economic base of community

Housing

(15)

What is it:
- Housing for multiple ages and stages of life

Fast Facts:
- Multi-age housing promotes the health and well being of both young and old
- Housing can be located above shops to decrease buliding footprint (see image on back)

Community Benefits:
- Encourages interactions and learning experiences between generations
- Increased sense of community
- Allows for aging in place

Medical

(16)

What is it:
- Urgent critical care located within the community

Fast Facts:
- Urgent Care Facilities provide an alternative to emergency rooms when the medical issue is non-life threatening

Community Benefits:
- After-hours and emergency medical attention close to home
- Provides jobs
- Increases safety of community