



What Will It Cost To Ride?

First, what does it cost when you **don't** have the option of train travel? \$4 per gallon gasoline had a lot of us pondering that question in the summer of 2008. Then there is the cost of parking when you drive to a destination, the cost of wear and tear on your car and (if you travel on business) the cost of your time and diminished productivity behind the wheel of your car.

- **Rail travel costs averages \$ 0.14 cents per mile on Amtrak routes versus \$ 0.54 cents per mile to own and operate a motor vehicle** (Ohio Environmental Council)

Even with prices slipping back around \$2 per gallon, the specter of higher fuel prices remains as prices for other needs and commodities have also risen. Because of that, Amtrak and the American Public Transit Association report ridership on trains and local mass transit remains high and continues to grow.

- **North Carolina** experienced a 24% increase in train ridership when gasoline hit \$4. But most interesting is that ridership has stil increased an additional 7% even with gasoline around \$2. (NCDOT)
- **Amtrak** has seen 7 straight years of increasing and even record-breaking ridership during times of **both** inexpensive and expensive fuel costs and despite fluctuating federal budget support over almost 38 years.

But what will it cost you to ride trains in Ohio? The average per mile fare nationally on Amtrak is approximately \$.14 cents. That translates to an average of around \$20 to \$25 for a one-way ticket at conventional speeds (79 MPH max) between Columbus and Cleveland, for instance.