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the country, it's very costly when there's congestion. We also know that almost half of all Fortune 500 companies, which represent about two trillion dollars in annual revenue, are headquartered in America's transit intensive metropolitan areas. Rail transit makes sense as part of our region's strategic transportation investment portfolio. We know also that rail creates jobs, by attracting employers to areas that are accessible to more people. We know that it empowers workers by enabling those who cannot access cars to reach jobs and become productive members of society. It gets workers to opportunities for training and self-improvement, to make them more productive. We also know that it strengthens local businesses by giving them access to workers and to a wider market. And it also enables elderly people, which is the fastest growing segment of rural populations, to remain independent. We know it allows them also access to healthcare, to shopping, nutrition programs, and other basic life needs. Rail transit is so valuable to local businesses that firms oftentimes underwrite the costs of their employees' commute. Now some people may say, well, you're never going to get people out of their cars, especially in the state of Nebraska. But we have found that in other states, where quality commuter services is offered, now remember it's got to be quality, it's got to be effective and efficient, we know that people who are known as choice riders choose rail transit in metropolitan areas. And those choice riders, the people who have access to cars in order to commute but choose to ride rail transit or use rail transit instead, those metropolitan areas are some of the larger ones. But we also know that choice riders will choose to ride commuter trains in Portland, Oregon; St. Louis, Missouri; Dallas, Texas; and New Orleans, Louisiana. Now what are the economics of rail transportation? There are a number of benefits that come as a result of having rail transportation for commuters. Mobility benefits are those that come from enabling people to move effectively and participate in society as producers, consumer citizens and community members. As people become older or begin to have more disabilities they're experiencing restrictive mobility, because they do not own a motor vehicle, they can't afford to drive, or physically unable to drive. Having commuter rail can provide that mobility for many of these people to jobs, medical services, family and friends, recreation and cultural events, shopping and schools. As a matter of fact, at the Transportation Committee hearing we