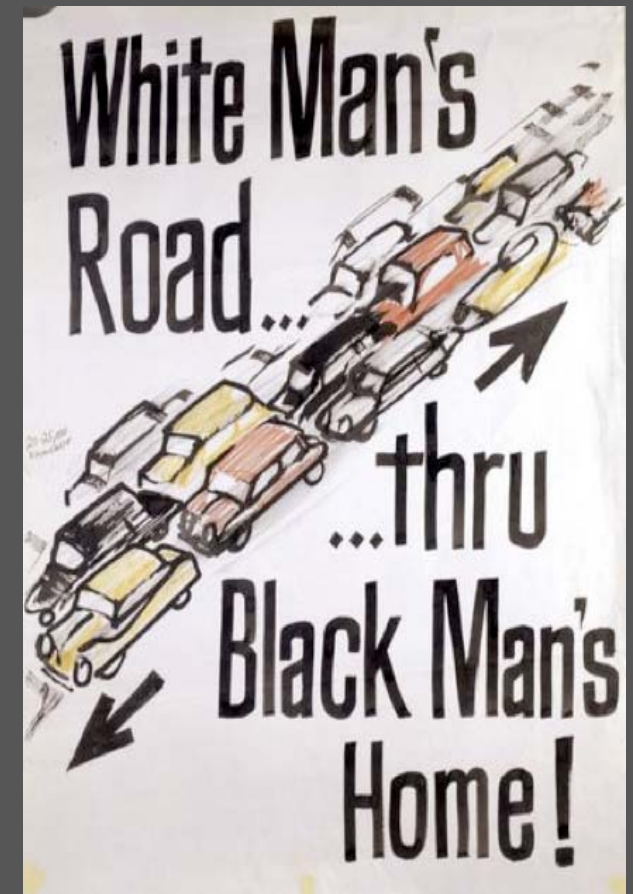


Transit Riders for Public Transportation National Campaign



Historical Commentary

- 1950's Interstate Highway System:
 - white flight
 - capital flight to suburbs, off transit grid
 - segregation by race, color, income. (tax base eroded)
 - redlining and restrictive covenants
- Sprawl is *especially* detrimental for low-income communities and people of color
 - underfunding of the inner city
 - long commutes on mass transit
 - air pollution (health impact)
 - climate change
 - combined cost of housing and transportation



Federal Transportation Policy Stuck in the 50's

Behind the Curve

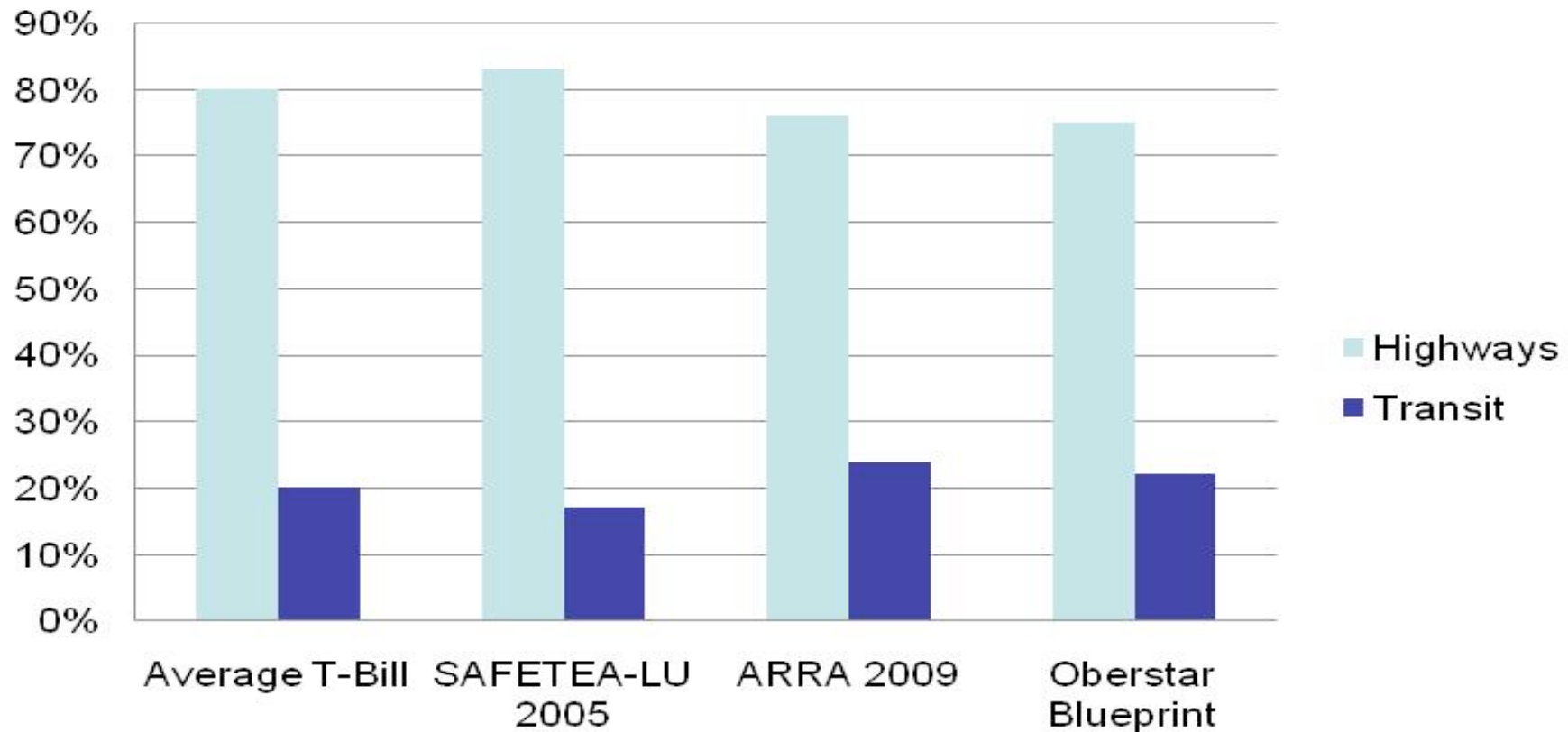
- Highway, freeways and roads priority
- Highway Trust Fund Broke
- Transit: Capital vs. Operations
- Racially discriminatory transit policies
- Our climate & environment in danger

Federal Transportation Bill

- Bill re-authorized every 6 years
- Expired September 2009
- Extended 3 times- expires again March 2011
- Current political landscape
- ARRA- Didn't do much for urban transit or funding for operations.

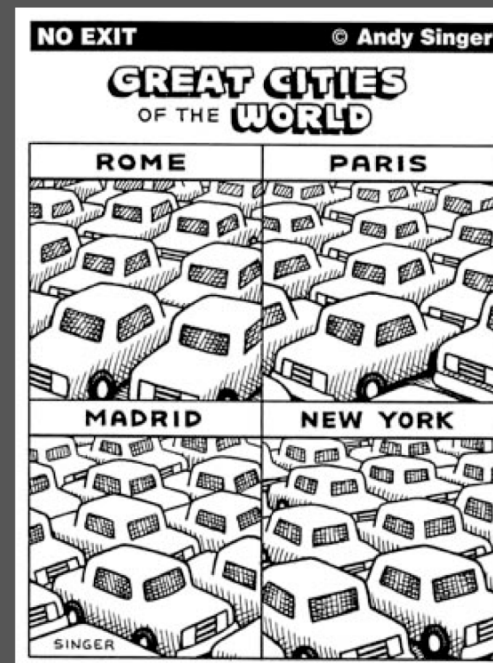
80/20 Funding Bias Against Transit

Federal Transportation Spending on Highways vs. Transit



Our Campaign Demands:

- Dramatic Reduction in Highway Funding (20% for maintenance) and Dramatic Expansion of Public Transit Funding (80%)
- Federal funding for policies that restrict auto in cities and states



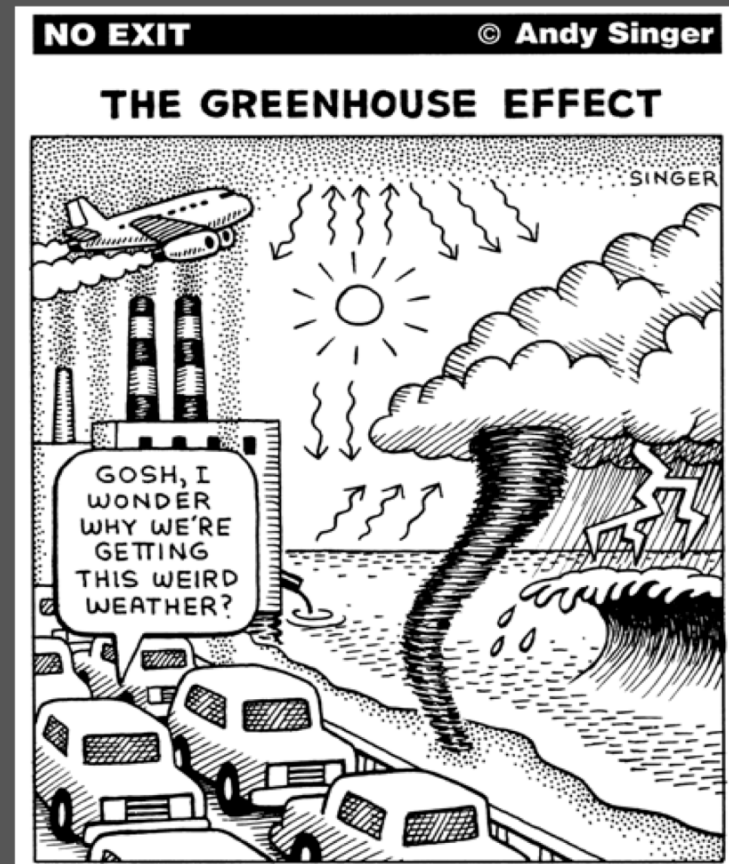
Our Campaign Demands cont...

- 50% of all transit funds dedicated to operations
- 50% of all capital funds dedicated to bus purchases




Our Campaign Demands cont...

- Strict provisions to reduce greenhouse gas and air toxin emissions



Our Campaign Demands cont...

- Establish a Title VI, Non-Discrimination Provision



**MTA,
We WON'T
Pay for
Racism!**

M	MTA Fare Hike		
	2007	2009	2011
Day Pass	\$5	\$6	\$7.25
Weekly Pass	\$17	\$20	\$24
Monthly Pass	\$62	\$75	\$90
Student Pass	\$24	\$29	\$35
College Pass	\$36	\$43	\$52
EZ Pass	\$70	\$84	\$90
Senior Pass	\$14	\$17	\$21

**REPEAL the
Fare Hike!**

**JOIN THE FIGHT, CALL THE BUS RIDERS UNION
(213) 387 - 2800**

National Transit Crisis!



source: <http://t4america.org>

What we've focused on:

TRPT Priorities:

- Operations
- Title VI

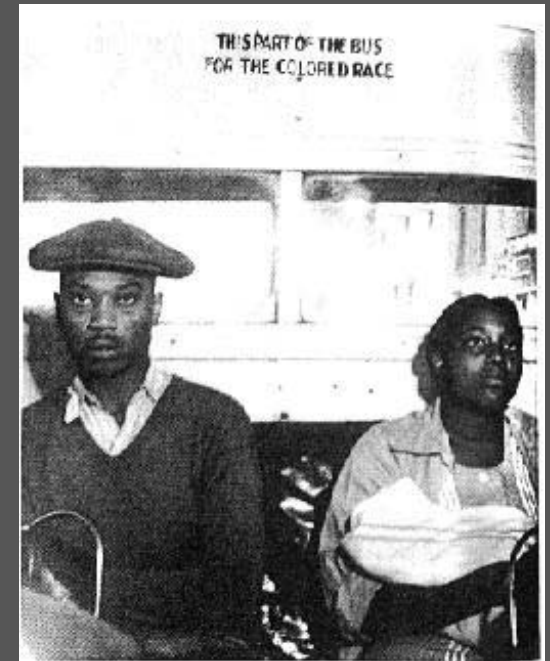
Campaign Tactics:

- Congressional Briefing
- Congressional visits
- Days of Action
- Local organizing
- Building Alliances: Other pro-transit coalitions, labor, faith-based organizations, civil rights organizations, environmental and climate orgs.
- Drafting legislative language

Operations

- Civil rights and social justice issue
 - Operations deficit = service cuts, fare increases, layoffs.
- Structurally underfunded in a time when we should be aiming to maintain and increase ridership.
- Local revenue sources are collapsing putting the burden on the transit riders.
- Political and ideological decisions
 - Federal, state and local gvts. have shifted the burden

Transportation: A Cornerstone of Civil Rights



Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955)

Foundation of Civil Rights

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits recipients of federal funding from discriminating on the basis of race, color, or national origin.

Civil Rights and EJ

President Clinton's Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice requires that federal agencies (and subrecipients):

“make achieving environmental justice part of their mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies and activities on minority populations and low-income populations in the United States...”

Civil Rights and Transportation

- Working Class communities and communities of color are protected against:
 - 1) Intentional Discrimination
 - 2) Discriminatory IMPACTS
 - 3) Have a right to a voice in transportation decisions

We Pushed for a Better Alternative



\$492 million

\$60 million



Airport Bus Rapid Transit Connector
Hegenberger and Pardee

Chicago

- Historical
 - Interstate routing used to reinforce segregation
 - Dan Ryan EI to the African American far South Side never finished.
 - Dan Ryan expressway for suburban commuters.
- Smart Growth challenges
 - Regional: Lawsuit 5:1 spending bias in favor of suburban transit?
 - City: Downtown focus at expense of neighborhoods, near suburbs.
 - CTA: Bus reroute FROM Mexican American East Pilsen community and Chinatown TO gentrifying University Village and South Loop
 - Whither the Public Sphere?

Points of Unity with Smart Growth

- Strengthen and direct development toward existing communities
- Provide a variety of transportation choices
- Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty, critical environmental areas
- Mixed land use
- Walkable communities

Tensions:

- Lacks a race and class analysis of urban design/policy—equity gets lost in practice
- Gentrification and displacement influenced by middle-class 'rediscovering' the city and other urban revitalization projects.
- Transit Oriented Development is a gentrification tactic
- No emphasis on creating democratic structures that allow working class and people of color to decide development priorities for their communities and region.
- Expecting the market to "regulate" itself

Principles:

- Understand neighborhood change and displacement potential.
- Engage residents in creating a vision for the future.
- Preserve existing units and act quickly to secure land for development of new affordable housing.
- Protect areas sensitive to displacement from upzoning.
- Retain and grow good jobs.
- Plan for neighborhood activity centers (“social seams”) to support integration and secure other community benefits for current residents
- Whenever planners make transit improvements, they should also examine how to preserve and create more permanently affordable housing, whether through joint development, coordination with the housing element, partnerships with nonprofits, or other means

Questions?

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