



## **Driving Prosperity with Modern Transit**

*EESI Briefing, May 20, 2025, Jonah Crespo*

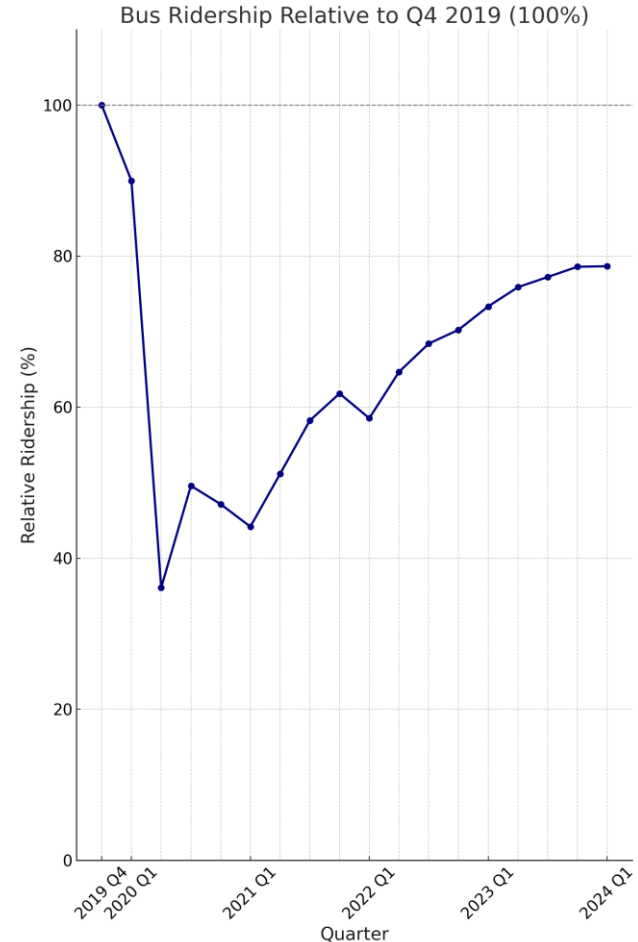
# Driving Prosperity Through Modern Transit

- Transit is rebounding, now is the time to invest in better fleets
- Transit is a mode of modern, accessible, and reliable transportation which supports local economic development, skilled jobs, and keeps America moving



# Rising Demand for Transit Services

- Post-COVID Ridership on the rise
- Projected to exceed pre-pandemic levels
- Driven by more than just commuters



# Modern Fleets Improve the Community

- Less congested streets
- Rider experience is seamless
- More affordable transportation
- Better service leads to repeated service!



# Transit Spurs Economic Development

- Every \$1 in transit investment returns \$5
- Transit Orientated Development supports walkable and vibrant communities
- Cleaner fleets complement neighborhood development



# Transit Spurs Economic Development



# Transit Spurs Economic Development



# Investments in Transit Fuel American Jobs

- 77% of federal transit funds flow back to American businesses and jobs
- New technologies require skilled labor
- Transit drives foot traffic and local commerce



# Smarter Fleets, Better Performance

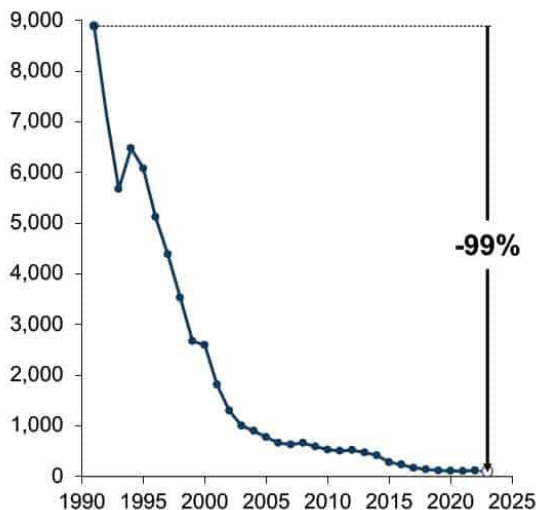
- Electric buses require less maintenance
- Battery prices are dropping rapidly
- Fewer breakdowns = higher uptimes, service



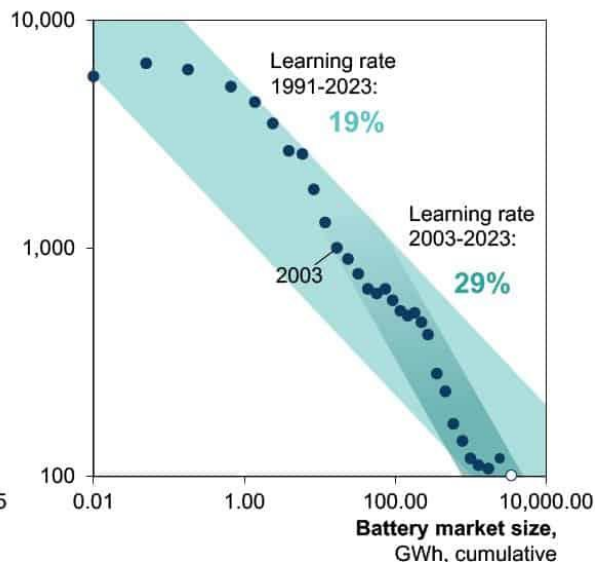
# Smarter Fleets, Better Performance

Figure 3: Lithium-ion battery prices, \$/kWh (left), \$/kWh log scale (right)

Battery cost decline



Battery cost versus market size, log-log scale



Source: Ziegler and Trancik (2021)<sup>8</sup> for 1991-2014, BNEF Lithium-Ion Battery Price Survey (2023)<sup>9</sup> for 2015-2023, RMI analysis

# Reaching More Riders, Unlocking Local Spending

- 50% of trips are for non-work purposes
- Transit access improves local economic participation
- Federal programs help fund transit service

