

# Public Transportation in Mérida, YUC: A Growing Issue

The problem we aim to solve is that of the public transportation system. For many people, regardless of their age and occupation, public transport or city buses are the only means of transportation to and from their daily activities. As university students, we depend heavily on the city buses to get to school, do groceries, and reach our other daily activities as city buses are far more affordable than private transportation such as taxis, Uber, etc. On average, approximately 26%(2019) of the city's population use the public transportation system on a daily basis. And approximately 19.27%(2019) of the average family income is budgeted for public transport.

A common issue citizens tend to have with the current system is that buses aren't always reliable; whether the bus is running late, had an accident or was caught in traffic in the end, the users of the system are who suffer as they arrive late to their appointments.

Another very common issue that cause users to be late is that bus drivers don't stop to pick up a new fare. This could be derived from the bus being overcrowded or that the driver simply refuses to stop. Either way, this appears to be an oversight in the planning of this system, or lack thereof.

Lastly, bus fares are continuously rising but the service isn't improving. On the road today are many buses around 30-40 years old that are potential hazards.

As one woman recalled: *"It happened in seconds, but for me it happened in slow motion: the front axle of a truck thundered and the right-side tire came off. The tire kept moving at full speed and almost ran me over, luckily a man pulled me because I couldn't react. I continued my way as if nothing, some things are just bad luck, but I wonder, in what situation was that bus so that the tire had come loose?"* - **La odisea del transporte público en Mérida**

After taking into consideration the aforementioned issues, it's plain to see that there is a need for an improved system. A system more apt for the people that it is actually servicing with use of modern technology.

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