In 2016, the average family spent over 17% of their budget on transportation expenses. Those costs fall even more heavily on the poor, who are more likely to travel farther to work, live far from transit centers, or work irregular hours, making transit less accessible.

In the early 1900's there were private taxi bus services called Jitneys that charged a nickel and competed with streetcars for business. But, over the next several decades, most places had outlawed Jitneys to reduce competition. Public transit companies now hold a monopoly on transit.

When allowed, private bus services like Jitneys are becoming profitable in many large cities that are struggling to keep up with the transit needs of a growing population. They also have managed to do so while both keeping their costs lower and providing a faster service than public transit.

Because private Jitneys are more adaptable, they are able to immediately increase the number of buses at times of peak demand or provide extra transport for special events and sports games.