



# BIRMINGHAM FORWARD

## City of Birmingham Transit Program

March 2017 Bulletin

### *“Bus Rapid Transit Achieves Major Milestone”*

The City of Birmingham Transit Program recently completed the environmental review required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project. After extensive review by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and multiple state agencies, the BRT project was deemed to have no adverse impact to the human environment, thereby classifying it for a categorical exclusion. To reach this milestone,

extensive studies and analyses were completed covering all areas of potential impacts, such as

impact to historic sites, air quality, environmental justice, and wildlife. The BRT Project also completed traffic modeling and analyses, including pre-design of the corridor, for two community transit stations, thirty-four bus stops, the corridor transitways layout, and enhancements to traffic signals that will prioritize the BRT buses at intersections.



This is a major step forward for the BRT Project to begin drawdown of the \$20 million in federal funding awarded to the City under the FTA’s Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program. The BRT is undergoing transition to the design phase, which is to commence in the middle of 2017. The City of Birmingham and the FTA are in the process of finalizing the project financing to complete the design and construction phases of the BRT.

#### About the City of Birmingham Transit Program

The City of Birmingham Transit Program comprises various projects, which include a new rapid transit service, an enhanced bus service, and expanded transit service throughout the Birmingham region. These projects will enhance public transportation over the long-term, resulting in a world-class transit system that will provide neighborhoods with access to numerous educational opportunities, employment opportunities, and vital services. The City of Birmingham Transit Program will:

- ✓ **Connect neighborhoods to opportunities;**
- ✓ **Improve mobility and access to businesses and jobs;**
- ✓ **Complement and encourage community reinvestment;**
- ✓ **Improve the public transit network and state of good repair; and**
- ✓ **Provide a foundation for special events transportation.**

The BRT is a high-capacity, public-transit project that will serve the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Area and the Birmingham-Hoover Metropolitan Statistical Area. As currently planned, the BRT route is approximately ten miles from the proposed east terminus, located in the Woodlawn area on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North between 56<sup>th</sup> Street South and 57<sup>th</sup> Street North, to the proposed west terminus, located at 47<sup>th</sup> Street Ensley and Avenue W. Public benefits of the BRT are wide-ranging and include economic competitiveness, an improved quality-of-life, safety improvements, and environmental sustainability.

For more information about the Birmingham Transit Program, BRT Project, or other current and future projects, please visit [www.birminghamtransitprogram.org](http://www.birminghamtransitprogram.org) or contact the Program Management Office at 205-900-7191 or [info@birminghamtransitprogram.org](mailto:info@birminghamtransitprogram.org). You may also sign up to receive future email updates or submit questions and comments online at <http://birminghamtransitprogram.org/contact/>.