



City of Birmingham Transit Program

The Public “Benefits” from BRT

Around the world, over half of the population lives in cities; by the year 2050, that number will increase to 75% of the global population. Bus Rapid Transit or BRT is a proven transportation infrastructure investment that increases safety and mobility, drives economic growth, improves the environment, and acts as a job engine. Simply put, BRT is good for riders and is good for job providers. A few examples in the United States and across the globe:



Job Catalyst

In Cleveland, Ohio, BRT development along Euclid Avenue led to a nearly 100% growth in jobs along the route, and billions of dollars were invested in the area. Over 50% of these jobs pay an annual salary of \$40,000 or more. As a result, the population has grown, which is further increasing the economic benefits of BRT. Ridership is increasing, and billions of dollars have been invested in the area.

Improved Mobility

In Johannesburg, BRT passengers save an average of 13 minutes a day on their daily commutes. In Mexico City, the BRT has reduced traffic-related injuries and fatalities by an estimated 40%. The system's dedicated rush hour bus lanes allow for buses to more rapidly and predictably navigate the route. With the increased speed and improved predictability, more residents are riding the bus, leading to reduced congestion on the roads. Less congestion is good for everyone, resulting in reduced travel time, reduced costs, reduced accidents, reduced individual health effects, and countless other benefits.

Reduced Pollution

Through the construction of almost 620 miles of BRT corridors in Mexico City, more than 113,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year have been eliminated. It is estimated that more than 2,000 days of lost work caused by pollution-related illnesses will be avoided through reduced traffic due to BRT. This translates into increased worker productivity to the tune of \$141 million. In Alameda County, California, an estimated 210,000 tons of gas is saved each year through utilization of BRT. Furthermore, in Oakland, California, BRT reduces emissions by about 1,900 tons per year through increased ridership and state-of-the-art hybrid buses.

Birmingham BRT

While nobody can predict the full economic impact of the Birmingham BRT, a few direct savings have been projected, including:

- R \$65 million annually in net travel time for all transportation system users;
- R \$49 million annually in travel time for transit system users;
- R \$13 million in reduced injuries;
- R \$1.8 million in reduced costs of air pollution; and
- R \$711,000 in reduced water pollution.

BRT in Birmingham, Alabama...good for riders, good for job providers, moving [Birmingham](#) Forward!

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:

- R Connect neighborhoods to opportunities;
- R Improve mobility and access to businesses and jobs;
- R Complement and encourage community reinvestment;
- R Improve the public transit network and state of good repair; and
- R 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 1st Avenue North between 56th Street South and 57th Street North, to the proposed west terminus, located at 47th 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 or contact the Program Management Office at 205-900-7191 or info@birminghamtransitprogram.org. You may also sign up to receive future email updates or submit questions and comments online at <http://birminghamtransitprogram.org/contact/>.