

BRT Basics:

A Primer on Bus Rapid Transit

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is “a rapid mode of transportation that can provide the quality of rail transit and the flexibility of buses.”

BRT is helping cities across the world combat congestion and improve mobility. In North America, BRT systems are up and running in such diverse places as Cleveland, Los Angeles, Toronto, Pittsburgh, Charlotte, New York and Boston, with plans for BRT service in dozens of other cities.

Unlike traditional buses, which are often slow, dirty and uncomfortable, BRT employs **the latest in bus and station technology** and puts buses in special lanes so that they can travel congestion free, on **rail-like routes**.

BRT means faster travel, greater reliability and improved customer convenience and information.

Bus Rapid Transit has the opportunity to **reduce congestion** while improving mobility for those who can not or choose not to drive. BRT’s flexibility makes it well suited to urban, suburban and rural areas.

By serving existing neighborhoods and job sites, BRT can promote transit-oriented development around those destinations.

BRT routes can also adapt much more easily to development and socio-economic changes than static rail systems.



Vehicles

- Sleek, modern design
- Low floor for easy boarding
- On-board route information
- Potential for alternative fuel or hybrid technology



Congestion-Free Routes

- Specially designated, bus-only lanes
- Barrier-separated dedicated bus lanes
- Curb-side or median-side
- Bus-only roads or highways



Stations

- High-concept, distinctive architecture
- Real-time arrival information
- Bigger stops may attract development, including retail and other amenities.



Technology

- Vehicle tracking allows real-time bus arrival information
- Special signals give buses priority at stoplights
- Real-time monitoring of traffic to reduce bus bunching



Service

- Pre-paid boarding and innovative fare collection technology
- Frequent rush hour service
- Routing tailored to the time of day and day of the week

TRI-STATE TRANSPORTATION CAMPAIGN

