

Metro Rapid: BRT in Los Angeles

Why Metro Rapid in Los Angeles?


- Public is dissatisfied with slow bus service. Bus speeds in LA have declined by 12% since mid-1980s due to worsening traffic congestion. 50% of the time a bus is in service it is stopped.
- Funding is not available for Light Rail or Heavy Rail Systems in many corridors
- Metro Rapid incorporates many components of Light Transit at lower cost.
- Metro Rapid can be phased into service far more easily than Rail Transit.

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Bus Signal Priority System

- Automated bus detection using loops and transponders
- Reduces bus delay and assists in maintaining bus spacing
- Minimizes impact on automobile cross-traffic



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Demonstration is a Success

Reduced Passenger Travel Times

- Wilshire/Whittier Corridor – reduced travel times by 29%
- Ventura Corridor – reduced travel times by 23%

Increased Corridor Ridership

- Wilshire/Whittier Corridor – ridership has increased by 42%
- Ventura Corridor – ridership has increased by 38%

Attracted New Riders

- 1/3 of ridership increase are new riders
- 1/3 of increase are current riders riding more often
- 1/3 of increase are current riders who changed routes

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Wilshire Bus Rapid Transit Project



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Operating Characteristics

- Upgrades existing Metro Rapid Line #720
- Repair Curb lanes (6km)
- Full Signal Priority
- Dedication Bus Division
- Peak Period Bus Lane with support of Cities



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BRT Vehicles

- Higher Capacity Vehicles
- Low floor, 3 door, clean air vehicles
- Faster boarding and exiting
- Fare Validators
- Next Stop Display and Announcer
- Bicycle Racks



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BRT Stations



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Network Expansion Program

1. Considered all MTA and Municipal Operator bus routes (250)
2. Identified Tier One regional corridors (36)
Established minimum thresholds to ensure necessary ridership levels and opportunities for travel time savings.
 - 500 boardings per route mile
 - 10 mile (16km) route length
3. Identified Metro Rapid Corridors (23)
Identified the core segment of each Tier One corridor based on transit potential, transit dependence, and transit service.

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