"Connecting our Neighborhoods to Opportunities"

Birmingham Xpress Overview

Birmingham Xpress (BX) is a new regional public transit system that will serve the communities of Birmingham and surrounding areas. BX will employ **Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)** technology to provide a high-quality public transit system that delivers fast, reliable and cost-effective mobility service for citizens and visitors. BX will connect communities to opportunities and vital services, and enable citizens to reach employment, educational, and healthcare centers. It will also allow visitors access to explore Birmingham's rich historic and cultural locations. BX will implement innovative system designs and technologies to improve travel time, lower costs, and enhance service appeal. These objectives are accomplished by:

- Dedicated Busway & Alignment
- Intersection Treatments (Signal Priority)
- Vehicle Design
- Platform Level-Boarding Stations
- Off-board Ticketing/Fare Collection
- Enhanced Transit Service
- Rider Appeal (Branding)
- Land Use Coordination (TOD)

Think light-rail transit on rubber tires -- BRT can travel as fast as light rail, but at approximately one-third of the construction costs.

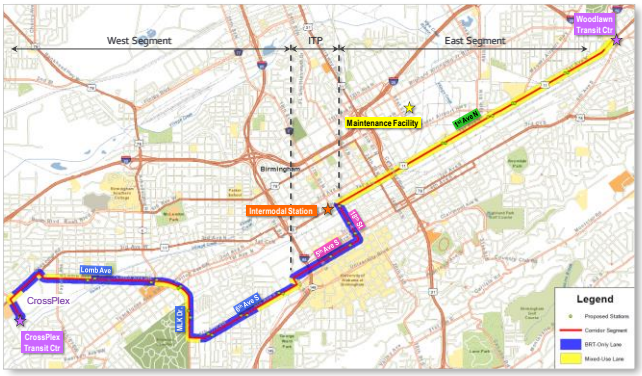
Public benefits of the new transit service will be wide ranging and include Economic Competitiveness, Quality of Life, Safety Improvements, Environmental Sustainability, and Improvement in Transportation State of Good Repair.

BRT Project Description

Scope

The City of Birmingham, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority (BJCTA), is developing the first alignment for Birmingham Xpress regional vision. The project, referred to as **Birmingham Xpress BRT Project** or simply **BRT** or **BRT Project**, will be developed in a corridor approximately ten (10) miles between the east and west termini or Transit Centers in the Woodlawn Community and Five Points West Community near Birmingham CrossPlex. Running through Birmingham's Jones Valley along the US11 corridor, the BRT will update Birmingham's inner-city public-transit system by *connecting 25 neighborhoods*, while serving major employers such as Integrated Medical Systems, University of Alabama at Birmingham, and Brookwood Princeton Medical Center. The route travels from Woodlawn Transit Center on 1st Avenue N between 56th and 57th Street to CrossPlex Transit Center at the intersection of Avenue W and 47th Street Ensley. The alignment travels the following route from Woodlawn to CrossPlex:

- East Segment
  - 1st Ave N/US11
- ITP Segment
  - 18th St N/S
  - 5th Ave S/8th St S
- West Segment
  - 6th Ave S/SW
  - MLK Jr Blvd
  - Montevallo Rd
  - Lomb Ave
  - Bessemer Rd/US11
  - Ave W



The new BX alignment will replace BJCTA's MAX services that currently operate within the corridor, greatly improving reliability, mobility, capacity and operations on one of BJCTA's highest ridership corridors. The travel time between Woodlawn and CrossPlex is estimated to be just under an hour.

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New high-capacity, low- or no-emission rapid buses will feature low-floor level boarding; and operate in both dedicated lanes (guideways) and in mixed traffic on 15-minute intervals (headways) during peak periods (30 minutes in off-peak periods and on weekends). Other rapid bus features include self-securing wheelchair parking, on-board bike racks, spacious seating, and automatic vehicle location (AVL) and transit signal priority (TSP) technologies. BRT stations, will feature a high-level of amenities with platform boarding, ticket validation (some with ticket vending machine [TVM]), contemporary shelters with lighting, passenger information displays, maps and wayfindings, bicycle parking with some locations hosting Birmingham's Zyp™ Bikeshare stations, and other features. Sixteen (16) stations (all to be named) are strategically located along the corridor with others planned for the future:

- 1st Avenue N:
  - 50th Street N
  - 43rd Street N
  - 41st Street N
  - 34th Street N
- 18th Street N/S:
  - Morris Avenue
  - 2nd Avenue S
  - 4th Avenue S
- 5th Avenue S
  - 17th Street S
  - 14th Street S
- 6th Avenue S/SW
  - 6th Street S
  - 1st Street S
  - Goldwire Street SW
- Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
  - Loveman Village
- Lomb Ave
  - Cotton Avenue SW
  - Princeton Parkway W
  - 13th Street W

Budget

The total budget for the current BRT Project is approximately $44 million that includes all cost of planning, environmental documentation (NEPA), real estate/right-of-way acquisitions, engineering and design, vehicle procurement, construction, and start-up activities. The primary funding source is a $40 million TIGER VII Grant on a 50% match basis, from the USDOT/FTA. Other grant funding includes New Starts and CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality). Match dollars to Federal grants and other local funding are provided by the City of Birmingham and BJCTA.

Schedule

The overall schedule for the BRT Project is approximately 60 months from the commencement in May 2016 thru start-up and revenue service in 2021. The project is currently in the design phase. Construction will begin in the summer of 2019 and will take approximately 14 to 16 months. The goal is to enter full revenue service before the World Games in July 2021.

More Information

For more information about Birmingham Xpress and **Birmingham Xpress BRT Project**, please visit www.bhamxpress.com or www.birminghamal.gov/brt. You may also contact the City of Birmingham, Capital Projects Management Office at capitalprojectsoffice@birminghamal.gov or (205) 254-2560.