



“Connecting our Neighborhoods to Opportunities”

## BRT Overview

**Birmingham Xpress (BX)** will employ **Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)** technology to provide a high-quality public transit system that will deliver 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. The **BX** will implement innovative system designs and technologies to improve travel time, lower costs, and enhance service appeal. *Think light-rail transit on rubber tires* -- BRT can travel as fast as light rail, but at approximately one-third of the construction costs. 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)

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.

## 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 implementing the first corridor of the **Birmingham Xpress** regional vision. Referred to as **Birmingham Xpress BRT Project** or simply **BRT** or **BRT Project**, the project corridor is approximately ten 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 1<sup>st</sup> Ave N between 56<sup>th</sup> St and 57<sup>th</sup> St to CrossPlex Transit Center at the intersection of Ave W and 47<sup>th</sup> St Ensley. The alignment is divided into three segments travelling east to west as follows:



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



The new **BX** transit line 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 the CrossPlex is estimated to be just under an hour.

New high-capacity, low- or no-emission vehicles will provide level boarding; and operate in both dedicated lanes (guideways) and in mixed traffic on 15-minute headways during peak periods (30 minutes in off-peak periods and on



*“Connecting our Neighborhoods to Opportunities”*

---

weekends). Other vehicle 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 payment vending), contemporary shelters with lighting, passenger information displays, wayfindings, bicycle parking with some locations hosting Birmingham’s Zyp™ Bikeshare stations, and other amenities. Sixteen stations (all to be named) are strategically located along the corridor at the following locations:

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

## Budget

The total budget for the current BRT Project is approximately \$46 million that includes all cost of planning, environmental, 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 the **BRT Project**, please visit [www.bhamxpress.com](http://www.bhamxpress.com) or [www.birminghamal.gov/brt](http://www.birminghamal.gov/brt). You may also contact the City of Birmingham, Capital Projects Management Office at [capitalprojectsoffice@birminghamal.gov](mailto:capitalprojectsoffice@birminghamal.gov) or (205) 254-2560.

---