

Northwest Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Frequently Asked Questions

March 15, 2021

What is Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)?

BRT is a high-quality bus-based transit system that delivers fast, comfortable, and cost-effective services similar to rail transit.

What are the Benefits of BRT?

Transit Improvements

- Rapid, limited-stop bus service with frequent schedules and extended hours
- Level boarding between the bus and station platform to ease access for passengers with disabilities or traveling with strollers or carts
- Off-board ticket vending to make boarding more accessible and quicker
- Intelligent traffic light systems that hold green lights longer for BRT buses to ensure rapid and on-time trips
- BRT Stations will all have seating, lighting, shelter, and real-time bus arrival displays

Safety

- Increased lighting at stations to make waiting for transit more comfortable
- Improved sidewalks and crosswalks at stations to enhance pedestrian safety
- High-quality transparent shelters to increase visibility and to enhance safety and security

Health and Environment

- Sidewalk to expand community access and encourage active transportation
- CNG BRT vehicles for clean emissions and improved air quality
- Provides more frequent, reliable transit to health facilities and major medical centers along the corridor

Economic Development

- Invests \$28.9 million from local and federal sources in community improvements along the Northwest Corridor
- Connects residents to numerous job opportunities and regional employment centers—including downtown, SSM St Anthony, Penn Square Mall, and INTEGRIS
- Offers a competitive, reliable alternative to private vehicle travel
- Will support and attract real estate investment along the route

How Much Will the Project Cost, and How is it Funded?

- The total project cost is approximately \$28.9 million
- EMBARK received \$14.4 million in federal funding through the USDOT Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) discretionary grant program to construct the system. The remaining project costs will be paid by local funds, including City of Oklahoma City Better Streets, Safer City, and General Obligation (G.O.) Bond funds.

What is the Timeline?

- NEPA Clearance Spring 2019 (Current Phase)
- Preliminary and Final Engineering 2021
- Construction and Vehicle Procurement 2021 and 2022
- Begin Operations late 2023

How Did this Project Transpire?

- The project is a direct result of previous planning efforts. The 2030 Fixed Guideway Plan (2005) identified transportation solutions to improve connections and mobility within the OKC metropolitan area. The resulting vision identified several regional transit priorities, including the Northwest Corridor BRT on Classen Boulevard and Northwest Expressway. Focused efforts have been underway in recent years to advance the planning, funding, construction, and launch of the Northwest Corridor BRT