Making the Connection with Bus Rapid Transit

Infill Transit at its Best

Moderator: Ken Sislak
DMJM Harris

Rail-Volution
Panelists

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- Joseph Calabrese – Greater Cleveland RTA
- James Hamre – Washington Metro
- Mark McLaren – HDR I S.R. Beard Associates
- Lynn Montei – Lynn Montei Associates
- Kathleen Sanchez – Los Angeles MTA
- Effie Stallsmith – Federal Transit Administration
- David Wohlwill – Pittsburgh Port Authority Transit
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• General Manager
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• Senior Business Planner
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  – B.A. in Environmental Studies
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Rapid Transit Characteristics

- Travel time savings
- Convenience
- Reliability
- Comfort
- Security
- Capacity
What is Bus Rapid Transit?

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) combines the **quality** of rail rapid transit with the **flexibility** of buses.

- **Vehicles**
- **Running Ways**
- **Stations & Terminals**
- **Systems**
- **Service Plan**
Attributes of LRT and BRT

- Exclusive ROW
- Signal priority
- Reliability
- Fare collection
- Appealing design
- Fixed guideway
- Exclusive ROW
- Signal priority
- Reliability
- Fare collection
- Appealing design
- Flexible routing
Exclusive Right-of-way
Appealing Design

Stations
Appealing Design

*Bus Rapid Transit Vehicles*

- Hybrid-electric propulsion
- Sleek design
- Low-floor entry
- Doors on both sides
Flexibility of Routing

By using rubber-tired vehicles, some routes can serve stations located off-corridor.

Stations are only 1/3 mile apart, meaning very short walks to access the system, while express services mean you don’t stop often.

By lowering the unit operating cost, Bogota is able to provide higher frequencies, multiple express services, fewer transfers, and connections to stations off-corridor.

Most “likely” trip pairs are connected by express, limited-stop service with no transfer required—a “one-seat” ride.

Bogota’s Breakthrough Transit Vision

TransMilenio

Note: System illustrated above is in process of major expansion.
Top Ten Myths About BRT

- Buses are noisy and smelly
- Buses are slow
- Buses cost more to operate and maintain
- Choice riders won’t ride buses
- Light rail transit has more capacity
- No station area development with BRT, only rail
- Bus rapid transit won’t be supported by community
- BRT is only for those cities who cannot afford rail
- World class cities have rail transit not BRT
- Bus rapid transit is not sexy or “cool”…