

# BUS RAPID TRANSIT

## Metro Rapid Route A



Metro's new bus rapid transit system (BRT) is currently under construction. The first BRT line, Rapid Route A, is expected to launch later in 2024.

Passenger training sessions will be available this coming Spring and Summer. If you'd like Metro staff to come talk to your organization or group, email [mymetrobus@cityofmadison.com](mailto:mymetrobus@cityofmadison.com) or call (608) 266-4466.

Watch for future bus flyers and online information for additional details as we move closer to a finalized launch date. Riders can also stay updated on the project by signing up for text and email alerts at [mymetrobus.com/alerts](https://mymetrobus.com/alerts).

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ***What is BRT?***

Bus rapid transit (BRT) is a frequent, faster, and more reliable bus route that uses larger buses to transport more riders. BRT's features include frequent all-day service and direct routes with fewer stops. It utilizes special traffic signals to help buses get through intersections faster, dedicated bus lanes, and stations with off-board fare payment kiosks.

### ***When will it begin?***

Metro's Rapid Route A will be the first official BRT route and is expected to launch in the Fall. Rapid Route A will run east to west along its currently scheduled route. Metro's north to south Rapid Route B is currently being developed and expected to go online in 2028.

### ***What will the larger, articulated buses be like? What does articulated mean?***

As part of the BRT project, Metro is adding 62 all-electric (60-foot) articulated buses into its fleet. Articulated buses, or bendy buses, are longer buses that have an accordion style section in the middle. They have multiple doors – one front, two middle and two rear doors – for quicker, more efficient boarding.

Larger buses will help address overcrowding in busy corridors by providing more seats than Metro's current standard fleet (40-foot buses) and more standing room for people to comfortably ride. A standard 40-foot Metro bus can transport approximately 80 passengers at capacity. An articulated bus can hold about 120 people.

The new bendy buses are starting to arrive in Madison from the factory. Look for them out on the streets in the coming weeks as our staff begin to train and become familiar with operating the new vehicles.

### ***Will Buses Have Doors on Either Side?***

Yes. Some BRT stations are located in the median. The new BRT buses will have doors on either side so that you can easily board no matter which way the bus is traveling. Passengers will board BRT buses in the middle and rear doors, different than how they currently board in the front door only. New fare readers will be located at each door for payment.

### ***Why are some of the BRT stations in the median? How are people supposed to be able to get to them?***

There will be signalized crosswalks at each station so that people can safely travel to the median.

With Metro's current curbside stop locations, riders need to cross the entire street once when making a roundtrip. With center-running stations, or stations in the median, a rider will cross half the street, twice.

Once the new BRT buses arrive, staff will create training videos to give riders a better idea of what accessing station and boarding a bus will look like. Training sessions with staff will also be available.

### ***Will the new articulated buses only be on BRT?***

No. All-electric articulated buses will be available this coming year on Rapid Route A, as well as Routes B, F, R, 75, and UW campus service. Some of these routes will also board at BRT stations. Complete information will be available in the coming months.

### ***Will Rapid Routes allow me to connect with buses traveling beyond the East-West corridor?***

Yes. Metro's current Route A is being converted into Rapid Route A. The service redesign implemented last June was designed so that regular Metro routes connect with BRT routes for easy boarding between the two. The Rapid Route A will operate the schedule and route it currently runs now, but with the added benefits of BRT - more capacity, more speed, more efficiency.

### ***How much will it cost to ride BRT?***

Fares will not increase due to BRT. Metro's existing fare structure will remain the same. However, Metro will also be rolling out new fare collection technology that will launch prior to BRT. There will be a lot of new and convenient features that will make it easier to ride ALL of Metro buses including fare capping options, the ability to use credit cards as payment on the bus, online accounts, smart cards and more.

### ***Do I need to have a phone or computer to use the new fare technology?***

It will not be required to have a phone or computer to pay your fare. There will be several payment options available. However, to make boarding on BRT faster, passengers will board at middle and rear doors of the bus. New fare readers will be available at all doors to pay your fare.

### ***Can I board with cash?***

Ticket machines will be placed at new BRT stations for riders to buy paper barcode tickets with cash before you board the BRT bus. Riders will then scan the barcode ticket upon entering the bus.

Passengers can still board with cash on Metro's standard 40-foot buses, where riders can board at the front door of the bus by the driver.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Metro has a lot of exciting updates coming this year. Stay updated on all the latest information by watching for bus flyers or signing up for email and text alerts at [mymetrobus.com](http://mymetrobus.com).