



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Omaha is following the lead of cities worldwide that use bus rapid transit to move thousands of people every day. Ours is called ORBT. Welcome aboard.

What will ORBT do?

- ORBT is an enhanced service from Metro that will unite technology and travel upgrades for faster, more frequent public transportation.
- This service will connect more people to major destinations, such as workplaces, schools, hospitals, retail, entertainment, and recreation.
- ORBT will make Omaha more competitive with other metropolitan areas by attracting talented employees and innovative businesses.

Where will ORBT go?

- The first ORBT line will run on Dodge Street from Westroads to downtown Omaha; it will intersect with almost all existing Metro routes.
- Free, dedicated parking will be available for riders at a Park & Ride lot at Westroads Mall.
- Eventually, ORBT will provide connections citywide, with this first line establishing a foundation for a future network of rapid transit.

How will ORBT be different from existing Metro bus services?

- ORBT will have fewer stops than existing bus routes, allowing for faster travel between major destinations.
- Upgraded stations will feature ticket kiosks for prepaid boarding, real-time arrival displays, Wi-Fi, bike racks, and Heartland B-cycle stations at select locations.
- 60-foot vehicles will be equipped with Wi-Fi and powered by compressed natural gas (CNG); they will have onboard bike storage, three doors for faster boarding, and a floor height matching the station platforms for more accessible boarding.
- West of 30th Street, Transit Signal Priority (TSP) technology at traffic lights will recognize an oncoming ORBT vehicle and extend a green light.
- East of 30th Street, Business Access & Transit (BAT) lanes will be dedicated to ORBT and turning vehicles.

What does this mean for Omaha?

- Increased mobility and independence
- Reduced transportation costs for individuals, families, and businesses
- Improved connections between employees and businesses
- Better access to opportunity
- Enhanced talent attraction and retention
- Accelerated economic development along the route
- Eased traffic congestion
- Lessened environmental impact
- A more connected region

How much will ORBT cost?

- The first ORBT line is the most significant transit investment in Omaha in decades, with a projected capital cost of \$30.5 million.

Who is paying for ORBT?

- In 2014, Metro was awarded a highly competitive TIGER grant for \$14.9 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation to help fund this project.
- In addition to acquiring grants and reallocating other federal funds, Metro has received generous contributions from private entities including the Peter Kiewit Foundation, The Sherwood Foundation, Mutual of Omaha, The Nebraska Environmental Trust, and the Metropolitan Utilities District.
- Metro has also received in-kind contributions from the City of Omaha, the Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA), and Heartland B-cycle.

When will this happen?

- Expect to see construction start in the fall of 2018.
- ORBT is expected to launch in the fall of 2019!

See more frequently asked questions at our website!