

The most significant project in making Curitiba more livable, clean, and sustainable is its integrated public transportation system centered around bus rapid transit corridors. By providing an affordable, efficient, and easily accessible transit option, the bus system shaped urban development patterns in a sustainable way. It promoted density along transit corridors rather than continuous sprawl, reducing reliance on private automobiles. The bus system shows how transformative public infrastructure investments can be when they are thoughtfully planned.

Some good next steps for Curitiba to take include expanding bike lanes and pedestrian infrastructure to further reduce automobile dependency in a cost-effective way. Other options are incentivizing energy efficient building construction and retrofits to reduce environmental impacts, increasing green space and trees throughout the city to improve quality of life, and improving waste management infrastructure to increase recycling and composting rates. Thinking holistically across areas like transit, buildings, public spaces, and resource management will further Curitiba's leadership in urban sustainability.

I think the bus rapid transit system model has excellent potential for application in many North American cities seeking more sustainable development, particularly those currently dealing with high levels of car congestion and related issues. Too many cities on this continent remain primarily designed for automobiles, leading to a host of problems. Curitiba shows the transformative potential of valuing accessible public transit infrastructure. Tailoring bus corridor plans to the specific urban contexts of different cities could help them follow Curitiba's lead in working towards livable, equitable, and environmentally conscious communities.

Reference:

Mikesh, N. (2006). Curitiba, Brazil.

[https://depts.washington.edu/open2100/Resources/1_OpenSpaceSystems/Open_Space_Systems/
Curitiba%20Case%20Study.pdf](https://depts.washington.edu/open2100/Resources/1_OpenSpaceSystems/Open_Space_Systems/Curitiba%20Case%20Study.pdf)