

TransMilenio is the mass transit system of Bogotá and Soacha, based on the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) model. Inaugurated in December 2000, it is part of the city's Integrated Public Transport System (SITP). The system has approximately 114.4 kilometers of trunk lines in operation, distributed in 12 lines that cross the city. It has 143 stations and 9 portals that facilitate access and transfer between routes. The fleet is made up of red articulated and biarticulated buses for the trunk lines, and green feeder buses that connect peripheral areas with the main stations.

There are different services within the system. Trunk services operate on exclusive lanes and offer regular services that stop at all stations and express services that only stop at main stations. Feeder services connect neighborhoods and remote areas with trunk stations at no additional cost to the user. In addition, TransMiCable is a cable car system that complements TransMilenio, operating since late 2018 to improve mobility in hard-to-reach areas such as Ciudad Bolívar.

As of January 18, 2025, the unified fare for trunk and zonal services is 3,200 Colombian pesos. The official payment method for the system is the TuLlave card. There are different types of cards, including the basic card, the personalized card, and the TransMiPass card, which offers 65 trips for 160,000 pesos per month. Users have 125 minutes to make free transfers between zonal and trunk buses. In addition, there are subsidies for people in vulnerable situations, allowing up to 12 free trips per month for people with disabilities, people over 62 years of age, and households living in poverty.

To enter the system, it is mandatory to validate the TuLlave card. Avoiding payment of the fare may result in a fine of 189,800 pesos. Pets are allowed in accordance with the rules established by the system. The system operates from Monday to Friday from 4:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., Saturdays from 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., and Sundays and holidays from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

TransMilenio is the most widely used public transport system in Bogotá and Soacha, with a daily demand of approximately 4 million trips. Its infrastructure has grown significantly since its inauguration in 2000, currently having more than 114 kilometers of trunk roads and more than 660 kilometers of feeder routes, which allow the connection between different areas of the city and its surroundings. This system has been key to the mobility of the people of Bogotá, offering an efficient mass transport alternative.

Since February 2025, TransMilenio has implemented new free fare subsidies for vulnerable populations. Beneficiaries of these subsidies must be registered in Sisbén IV and can receive between 5 and 12 free tickets per month, depending on their classification. In addition, adults over 62 years of age and people with disabilities can access the benefit without having to meet additional requirements. To obtain this subsidy, users must have a personalized TuLlave card, which allows them to use these free trips.

Beginning March 20, 2025, TransMilenio will introduce the TransMiPass card, a monthly pass that offers 65 trips for a one-time payment of 160,000 pesos. This measure seeks to reduce costs for frequent users of the system, allowing them to pay approximately 2,460 pesos per trip, compared to the standard fare of 3,200 pesos. This initiative aims to alleviate the economic burden of citizens who rely on the transportation system daily.

Regarding regulations, TransMilenio has announced new policies for the administration of the TuLlave card. It has been reported that some cards could be deactivated without refund of the balance in cases such as the loss of non-personalized cards, inactivity for more than two years and improper use of subsidies, such as ticket resale. This measure seeks to prevent fraud and ensure that the benefits of the system reach those who really need them.

The system also maintains strict sanctions against fare evasion. According to Law 1801 of 2016, those who try to enter TransMilenio without paying will receive a type 2 fine equivalent to four current legal daily minimum wages, which corresponds to 189,800 pesos in 2025. If the offender pays the fine within the first five business days, they can access a 50% discount. These sanctions seek to discourage evasion and improve the financing of the system.

Beyond its function as a transportation system, TransMilenio has been the scene of various unusual activities. In recent years, events such as shoe and waxing services have been recorded on buses, which has generated mixed reactions among users. Recently, a young man went viral on social media after trying to steal fire extinguishers from a bus, after not receiving money from passengers. These episodes reflect the cultural and social impact of the system, which is a space where millions of stories converge daily.

TransMilenio portals are terminal stations that function as integration points between the main and feeder routes, allowing the connection between neighborhoods and peripheral sectors with the main system. Among the main portals is the Portal del Norte, located on Autopista Norte and Calle 170, which serves users from the north of the city. Likewise, the Portal de Suba, located on Avenida Suba and Avenida Ciudad de Cali, facilitates the mobility of the inhabitants of the town of Suba. The Portal de la 80, on Avenida Calle 80 and Carrera 100, serves passengers from the west, while the Portal Eldorado, inaugurated in 2012 on Avenida El Dorado between Avenida Ciudad de Cali and Transversal 93, offers connections to the El Dorado International Airport.

In the southwest of the city is the Portal de Las Américas, on Avenida Ciudad de Cali with Avenida de Las Américas, which serves users from Kennedy and Bosa. For its part, the Portal del Sur, located on Autopista Sur with Avenida Bosa, is one of the main terminals for those traveling between Bogotá and Soacha. In the south of the city is also located the Portal del Tunal, on Avenida Boyacá with Avenida Ciudad de Villavicencio, which benefits the inhabitants of Tunjuelito and Ciudad Bolívar. In addition, the Portal del Tunal is located on Avenida Boyacá with Avenida Ciudad de Villavicencio, which benefits the inhabitants of Tunjuelito and Ciudad Bolívar.

The Usme Portal, located on Avenida Caracas and Calle 91 Sur, is key for mobility in the town of Usme. Finally, the Portal 20 de Julio, located on Carrera 5 Este and Calle 31 Sur, facilitates transportation for residents in the southeast of the city.

TransMilenio routes are identified by a combination of letters and numbers that indicate their route and destination. The system offers different types of services, starting with easy or regular routes, numbered 1 to 8, which make stops at all stations throughout the day. On the other hand, express routes, numbered 10 to 75, allow for faster travel by making stops only at specific stations. There are also dual routes, identified between numbers 81 and 89, which extend the trunk service to arterial roads to improve connectivity in the city.

Each portal has feeder services that connect specific neighborhoods and sectors with the trunk system, facilitating the mobility of users to and from residential areas. For example, from the Portal del Norte there are feeder routes to sectors such as San Antonio, Verbenal and Jardines. From the Portal de Suba, feeder routes cover areas such as San Andrés, La Gaitana and Bilbao. These feeder routes are identified with numbers and letters that indicate their route and destination.

In addition, the official TransMi App is available for mobile devices and offers similar functionalities, including route planning and real-time station and bus stop location. This tool is especially useful for users who want to access system information from their smartphones.

In the TransMilenio system, the trunk routes are identified by a combination of letters and numbers that indicate their origin, destination, and type of service. The initial letter of each route corresponds to one of the nine operational zones into which the city has been divided, facilitating the identification and route of users. Each zone has been assigned a letter and a distinctive color. The North zone is identified with the letter A and the color blue, the Northwest zone with the letter B and the color red, the West zone with the letter C and the color orange, the Southwest zone with the letter D and the color green, the South zone with the letter E and the color yellow, the Southeast zone with the letter F and the color pink, the East zone with the letter G and the color purple, the Northeast zone with the letter H and the color brown, and the Central zone with the letter K and the color gray.

For example, a route that starts in the North zone and heads towards the city centre could be identified as A23, where "A" indicates the origin zone and "23" the route number. This nomenclature makes it easier for users to quickly recognise the origin and destination of each service, improving the travel experience in the system.

Some of the most representative routes include the B10, which connects Portal del Norte with the Tercer Milenio station, offering a quick option for users traveling from the north to the city center. The B12 connects Portal del Norte with Avenida Jiménez station, facilitating access to the historic center from the north. The B74 connects Portal del Norte with Calle 100 station, being an alternative for those heading north of the city.

The C15 connects Portal Tunal with Portal Suba, crossing the city from south to north and facilitating mobility between these two areas. The C25 connects Portal 20 de Julio with Portal Suba, offering a direct route between the southeast and northwest of Bogotá. The D20 connects Portal de la 80 with Universidades station, facilitating access to the educational center from the west. The D21 connects Portal de la 80 with Museo del Oro station, offering an option for those heading to the historic center from the west. The D24 connects Portal de la 80 with Avenida Jiménez station, facilitating access to the city center.

The F19 connects Portal Suba with the Banderas station, crossing the city from north to southwest. The F29 connects Portal Suba with Portal Américas, facilitating mobility between the northwest and southwest of Bogotá. The G11 connects the Terminal station in Suba with Portal del Sur, offering a direct route between the northwest and south of the city. The G30 connects Portal Suba with Portal del Sur, facilitating travel between these two areas. The H15 connects Portal Suba with Portal Tunal, crossing the city from north to south. The H17 connects Portal Suba with Portal Usme, facilitating mobility between the northwest and southeast of Bogotá.

The J23 connects Portal Eldorado with Universidades station, offering an option for those heading to the school from the west. The J24 connects Portal Eldorado with Museo del Oro station, facilitating access to the historic center from the west. The K10 connects Portal Eldorado with Calle 100 station, offering a route to the north of the city. The K43 connects Portal Eldorado with Héroes station, facilitating travel to the north of Bogotá. The L25 connects Portal Suba with Portal 20 de Julio, crossing the city from northwest to southeast. The M47 connects Portal Eldorado with Tercer Milenio station, facilitating access to the city center from the west.