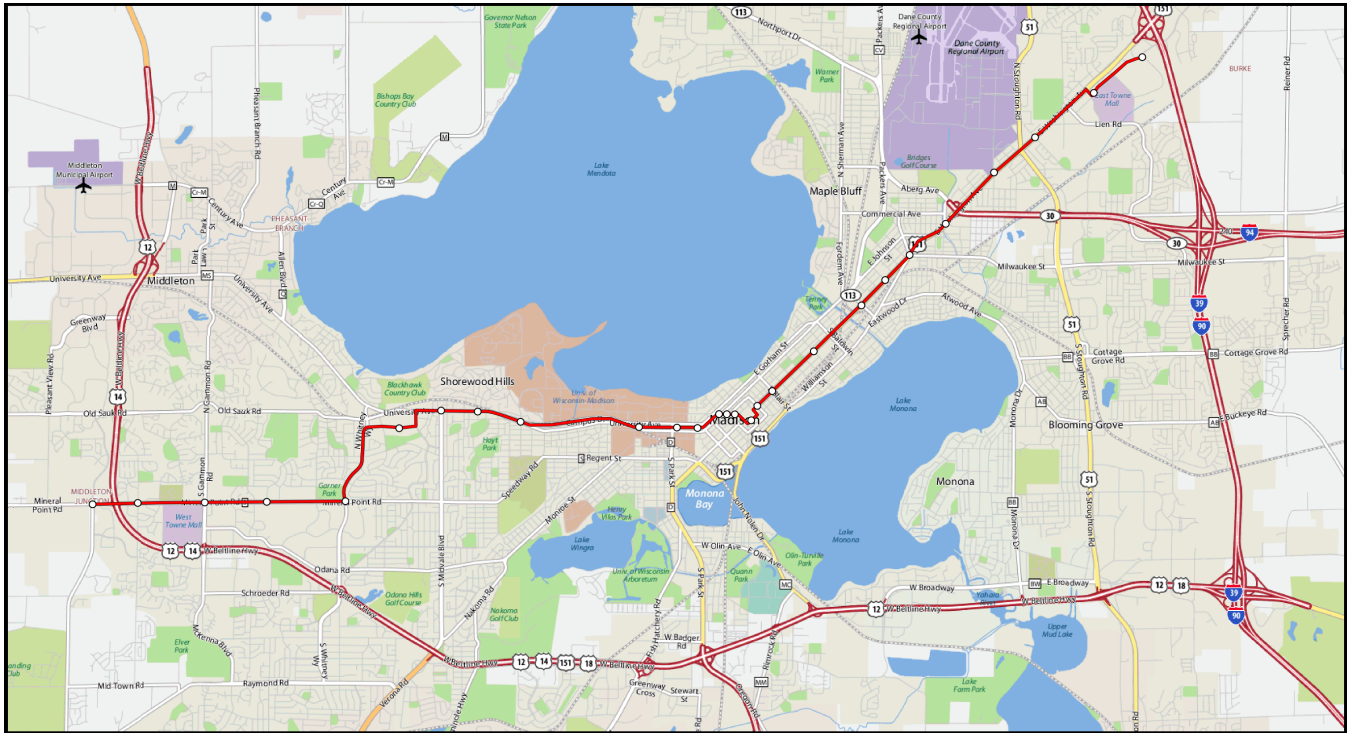


Bus Rapid Transit

a proposal for new transit in madison



The starter line, serving the central corridor. This is green transportation!

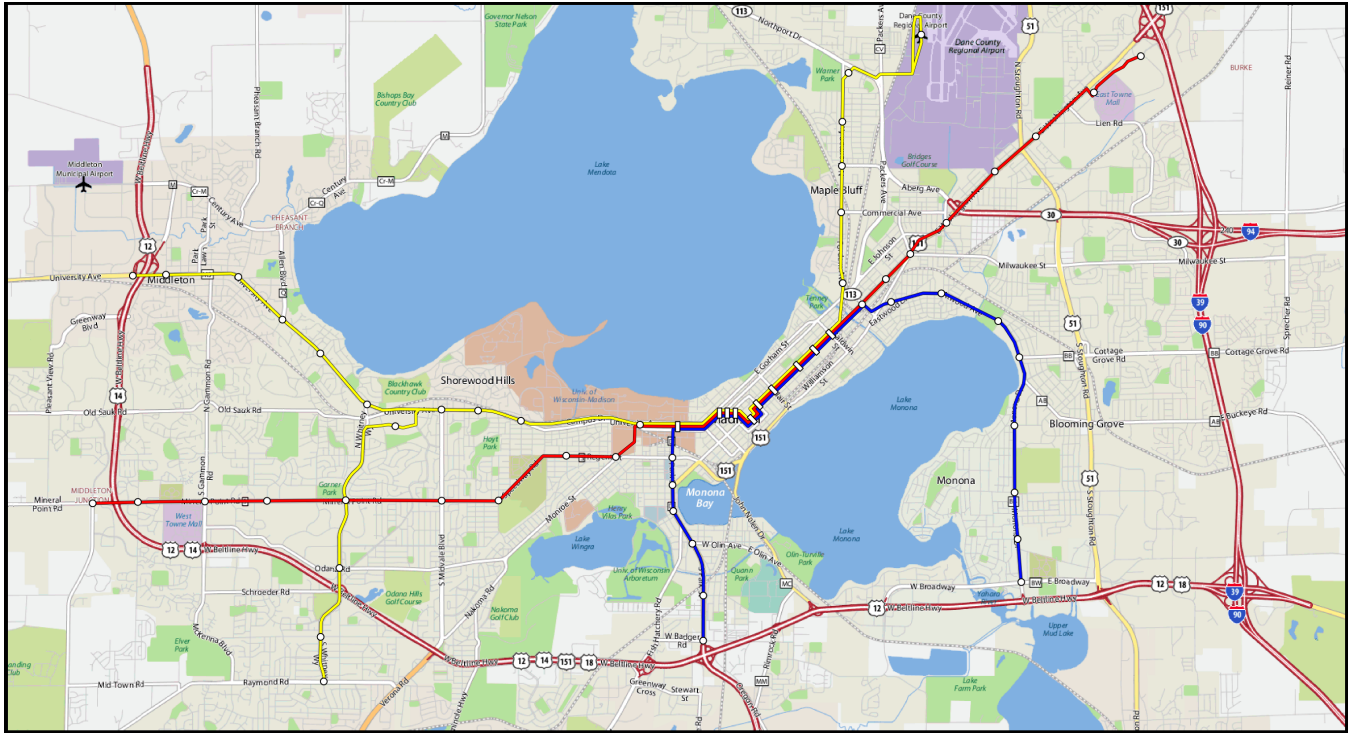
This is the starter line. It includes bus lanes on Mineral Point Road, Whitney Way, University Avenue, Johnson Street, and East Washington Avenue east of Stoughton Road. Vehicles operate in mixed traffic on Campus Drive and between State Street and Stoughton Road. Superior service is achieved with signal priority, limited stops, stations with level boarding and pre-paid fares. This will be branded as a rapid transit line and will provide 10-15 minute service all day. Some circumferential and commuter routes are converted to local circulators to enforce the stations and provide a transit grid. The corridor will be defined with a colored marking on the pavement.

This bus rapid transit project is to be treated as a transportation project, designed to encourage choice consumers to take public transportation. This service consolidates many overlapping routes and introduces a rapid transit line where transfers take place at stations. Power alternatives include hybrid diesel electric, trolleybus (overhead wires), and compressed natural gas. As a transportation project, the user's time is highly valued, and frequent headways are prioritized. By mimicking light rail, BRT can provide comparable service for less cost sooner, and can be upgraded in time. When the transit users' needs are prioritized, the system will encourage redevelopment at its stations.



Please visit our website at www.madisonbrt.googlepages.com or link to it from www.busadvocates.org.

6/6/2008



The complete system installed incrementally, Metro Mover (The M).

This is the built-out bus rapid transit system that could eventually serve Madison. Note the already clearly defined corridors that are asking for good transit. A pedestrian on East Washington Avenue can easily get to Monona Drive, Park Street, University Avenue, Mineral Point Road, or State Street quickly and comfortably without a car. This kind of service is critical for dense, urban development. The alternative is deep, plentiful, and expensive parking garages.

This investment in transit has the potential to reduce traffic congestion on Madison's arterials, however, mass transit's role in the city is not to make it easier to drive. Instead, the goal is to provide a more convenient and economical option. So, as traffic continues to build on the avenues, the city can provide an alternative to congestion and stabilize road capacity.

Although this is a system that emphasizes the city and encourages urban redevelopment, it also has the potential to provide green transportation to Madison's surrounding communities. The Red Line may be extended to serve Sun Prairie and Verona; the Blue Line may eventually serve Fitchburg, McFarland, and Stoughton; the Yellow Line is poised to serve Middleton and Waunakee.

Many American cities have or are planning bus rapid transit facilities. In a few years, these lines, or parts of them, could be converted to light rail when the service reaches capacity and funds are more easily secured. This is not a typical slow bus. This is high capacity transit and will be competitive with driving. Imaging will be important, and reversing the negative image of bus transportation is important. The bus rapid transit system would interface at stations with buses and potentially streetcar and commuter rail with parking and bicycle facilities, making transit a convincing choice for a significant fraction of the population.