

Glossary of Terms

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

The term “BRT” tends to be used inconsistently across jurisdictions and municipalities. BRT generally refers to enhanced bus service that typically includes dedicated transit infrastructure. The most common definitions typically include (but may not be limited to) the following features:

- Dedicated right-of-way
- Busway alignment away from the curb lane
- Off-board fare collection
- Intersection treatments
- Platform-level boarding

Bus based mass transit systems in Canada and around the world are identified as BRT by incorporating differing levels and combinations of these features. Defining what constitutes BRT in Edmonton will be part of the continued work associated with implementing the mass transit network for 1.25 million people.

Mass Transit

A broad family of strategic public transit services that carry higher volumes of passengers within urbanized areas.

Regional Connections

Regional connections operate partly or entirely outside of Edmonton. Most regional connections operate as rapid transit routes between municipalities in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region.

Road Right-of-Way (ROW)

Road right-of-way defines the use of public property designated for people walking, rolling, biking, using transit and driving.

Transit Priority Measures (TPM)

Traffic management tools that give public transit priority over other vehicle traffic to improve speed and reliability of transit service. Transit priority measures fall into three categories, although they are often used together:

Regulatory Tools: Regulations applied to roadway operations to improve performance of the transit system while making use of the existing roadway. Examples include parking bans and restricted left turns for other vehicles.

Transit Signal Priority: The use of traffic signals to reduce delays for transit vehicles. Examples include transit-only signals and coordinated signal timing that favors transit.

Roadway Design Elements: Includes improving transit operations through roadway design including dedicated lanes and queue jumps.

Transit Right-of-Way In the context of transit routes, right-of-way describes how a transit vehicle interacts with other vehicles along the roadway or corridor. Generally, transit routes operate in one of three right-of-ways:

Mixed Traffic: Transit vehicles operate in travel lanes used by other vehicles.

Semi-Exclusive: Transit vehicles operate in a separate lane from other vehicles for parts of the corridor and are mixed with other vehicles for other parts (i.e., at intersections, driveways and/or turn lanes).

Exclusive: Transit vehicles operate entirely separate from other vehicles within their own lane and crossings or within their own dedicated corridor.

Mass Transit Service Definitions

Frequent Transit Frequent transit provides high service frequencies to serve busy routes and minimize waits and transfers. Stops along frequent transit corridors tend to be spaced closely to reduce walking distance for people and to make transfers more practical. Because of this, frequent transit routes tend to be slower than rapid routes but can potentially move high volumes of people along densely populated corridors.

Light Rail Transit (LRT) A family of urban rail-based passenger services which can provide high capacity and speed, but typically travel slower and use smaller vehicles than long distance rail services. In Edmonton, LRT includes High Floor LRT (Capital and Metro Lines) and Low Floor LRT (Valley Line).

Limited Stop Rapid Transit Limited stop service allows faster travel than local and frequent bus routes by stopping at strategic locations and bypassing intermediate stops. These routes may include higher capacity vehicles and some transit priority.

Local Transit Local transit routes serve neighbourhoods and local destinations, and connect to other local routes and/or higher orders of transit (i.e., mass transit).