

Open House Discussion Points

Do you agree that there is a need for some type of alternative transit technology?

What type of transit technology fits in this community?

Do you agree that advanced transit technology benefits the community?

What do you think are the primary benefits of an advanced transit technology?

Are there concerns with an advanced transit technology?

Should the community continue with the next steps to implement an alternative transit technology?

Transit benefits for the Ann Arbor Community

Opportunities

- More travel choices to get to work, school, medical care, and recreation
- Connect with people
- Economic development and business retention
- *Every \$1 spent on transit generates \$4 in economic returns**

Savings

- Out of pocket - riding transit costs less than owning and operating a vehicle
- Time - you can text, talk or work safely while riding transit
- Environment - reduces carbon footprint and the need to widen roads and add parking lots
- *Families that use public transportation can reduce their household expenses by more than \$9,000 annually, more than the average U.S. household spends on food every year**

Health

- Improves air quality and reduces asthma events
- Supports active transportation by increasing walking
- Taking public transit increases walking by 8.3 minutes per day. *Doctors recommend 30 minutes of moderate exercise per day**

Project Website

www.aaconnector.com

**According to the American Public Transportation Association*

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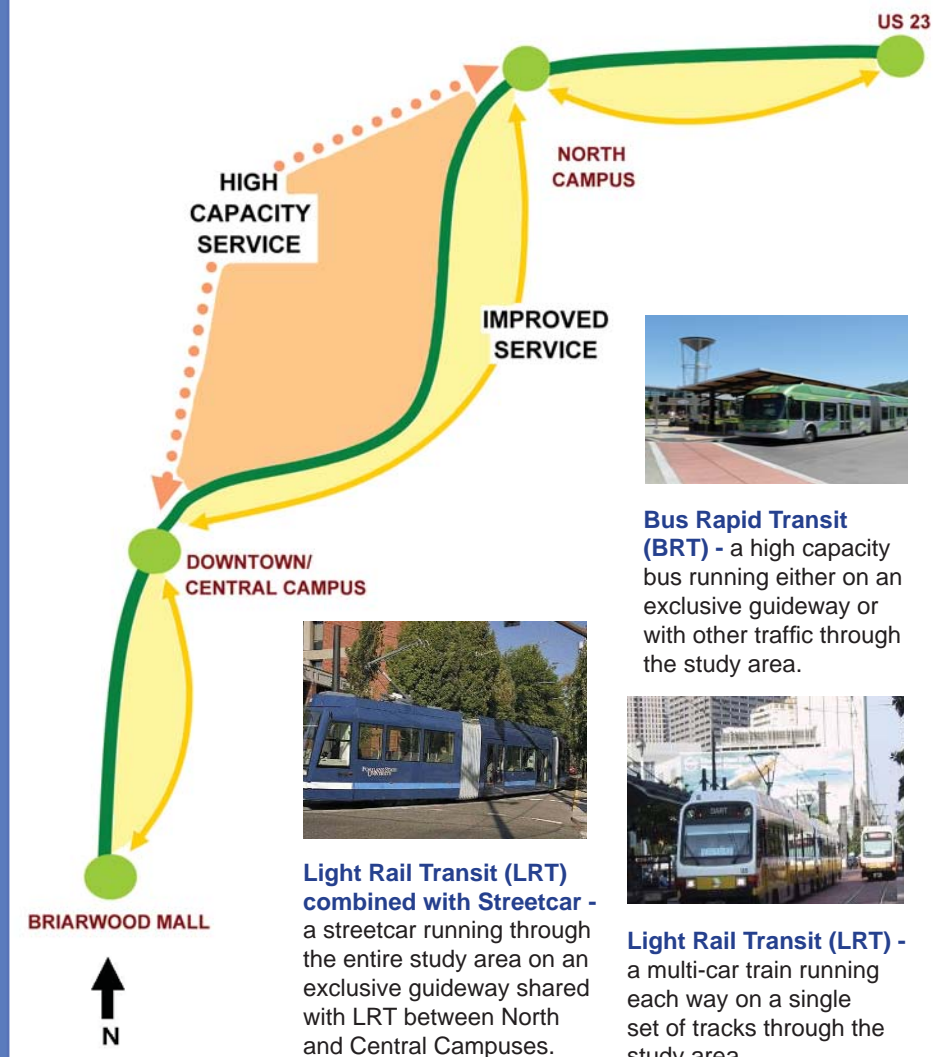


Ann Arbor Connector Feasibility Study

Getting from Here to There...Making the Connection

What type of transit system will move Ann Arbor in the future?

In 2009, the City of Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority, Ann Arbor Transportation Authority and the University of Michigan initiated this study for the feasibility of advanced transit options for the City. This is the third study newsletter. Previous newsletters are available at www.aaconnector.com.



Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) combined with Light Rail Transit (LRT) - a high capacity bus running through the entire study area on an exclusive guideway and along a shared guideway with LRT between North and Central Campuses of the University of Michigan.



Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) - a high capacity bus running either on an exclusive guideway or with other traffic through the study area.



Light Rail Transit (LRT) combined with Streetcar - a streetcar running through the entire study area on an exclusive guideway shared with LRT between North and Central Campuses.



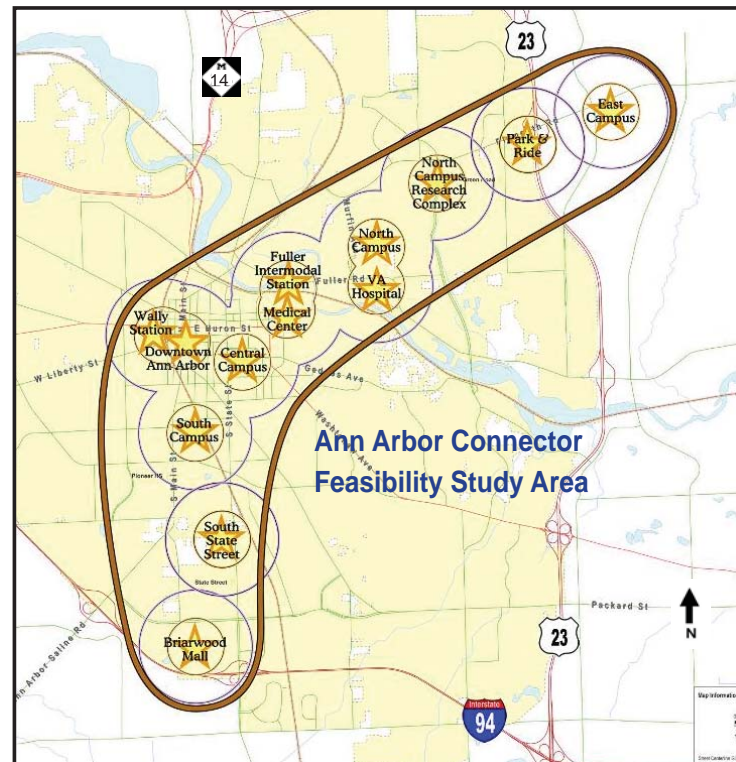
Light Rail Transit (LRT) - a multi-car train running each way on a single set of tracks through the study area.



Elevated Technology (Monorail or Automated Guideway) - vehicles running each way on an elevated guideway through the study area.

Ridership varies throughout the study area, so a solution may include a combination of the above transit systems.

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Study Area

The general shape of the study area resembles a boomerang - an observation from thetransportpolitic.com. The study area encompasses key activity centers and intersecting trip-producing corridors along a path between the University of Michigan's East Medical Campus, through downtown Ann Arbor, and extending south to the Briarwood Mall area. The boomerang shape is reminiscent of the early streetcar and interurban transit lines that ran in Ann Arbor from 1890 to 1925.

Your opportunity to participate and express your ideas is:

Monday, November 15th at the Ann Arbor District Library

Open House Times
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Presentations
4:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

See Open House Discussion Points on Page 4.



Did You Know?

A Typical Bus:

- Is a vehicle that is 40' long and 8.5' wide
- Carries 80 passengers (some standing)
- Travels at a maximum speed of 55 MPH

A Typical Articulated Bus:

- Is a vehicle that is 60' long & 8.5' wide
- Carries 120 passengers
- Travels at a maximum speed of 55 MPH
- Can bend in the middle because it has a flexible section

How the Ann Arbor Community Benefits from Improved Transit

Ann Arbor's reputation as an environmentally friendly, health conscience and economically vibrant community is recognized each year in publications such as Kiplingers, Money, Fortune and AARP. The emphasis on the environment and promotion of transit and non-motorized transit options stems from its 30 year commitment to minimize expansion of the roadway system. Transit service improvements and non-motorized transportation enhance the community's transportation mobility.



Ann Arbor Residents

Ann Arbor residents experience traffic congestion at some time or another during the day. A high capacity transit system makes it possible for a higher overall passenger carrying capacity, reducing demand for parking and traffic congestion. This means that the community's investment in parking facilities and roadway infrastructure improvements can be reduced.

A high capacity transit system provides an alternative to driving a car; saves money on transportation costs; encourages walking; and impacts the environment less. If it is located on its own guideway and separated from traffic flow and traffic signals, transit travel times decrease.



Middle school and high school students can also take advantage of an improved transit system to get them to and from school, to after school events, and jobs.

Downtown Access

A robust and modern transportation system attracts downtown visitors for shopping, dining and business opportunities leaving parking and traffic congestion issues behind.

Commuters to Ann Arbor

Commuters to Ann Arbor avoid some crowded areas due to traffic congestion and lack of parking. Improvements to the transit system reduces the number of vehicles using the streets and parking facilities. Park-and-Ride facilities located on the perimeter of the Ann Arbor area will be linked to the high-capacity transit system, allowing commuters to benefit from lower parking costs.



University of Michigan Medical Researchers

Researchers often have several appointments each day at different locations at the U of M Medical Research Complex. A fast and reliable way to get to appointments on the campus saves time in transit to review cases or relax.



University of Michigan Students

Many of the buses connecting the campuses are overcrowded before and after class changes. A high-capacity transit option will reduce overcrowding and entice additional riders with improved service.

Community Comments on Transit Benefits

At the first Open House held on June 8, 2010, residents commented that a more sophisticated transportation technology could itself be an attraction the Ann Arbor Area.

A representative from the Downtown Citizens Advisory Council said that there could be an additional 5,000 people living in downtown Ann Arbor, and that a transportation connector was a necessity, as well as an amenity, that would create something of an attraction, providing vitality to the downtown. Others echoed that in order to continue attracting new graduates and other 25-35 year old professionals, that there needs to be an attractive and vibrant transit option.

Pat Kelly *Supervisor, Dexter Township*

"As the baby boomers age and the economy contracts, there will need to be transportation options to keep the talent, wisdom and knowledge the baby boomers have to offer available to employers, help them maintain their health and retain their quality of life."



Kady Clark *Student*

"I sometimes use public transit out of necessity (no gas money), but sometimes to save the world and be green. The bus stops near my house and I can take it downtown or to Ypsilanti. Things that do not work about the current bus system are that it does not run late enough and only once an hour in the evening and does not go far enough outside of Ann Arbor."

Mallory Scholl *Quinn Evans Architects*

"Using the AATA transit system is a convenient and reliable way for me to get to and from downtown on a daily basis; and affordable with my go!pass! I love that I don't have to waste my time in traffic or looking for a place to park once I get downtown. Taking the bus to work every day is a relaxing and sustainable commute choice that not only helps the environment, but also helps the traffic/parking congestion in Ann Arbor. If the bus system expanded its service hours on the weekends and allotted more cabs for the NightRide program, I would never have to worry about driving downtown."



Sherry Miller *Miller Canfield*

"I believe that utilizing the AATA transit system is a great way to save a ridiculous amount of money than it would cost me to park my car in a structure to work downtown. Also, I find that riding the bus in to the station from the Park & Ride in the morning is relaxing and non-stressful. I'd recommend it to anybody. I love my go!pass! I ride the bus frequently with many business people, even some attorneys that I know. It's a great alternative transportation option."



Conan Smith *Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners*

"We are a one-car family now, by choice, and transit is an essential tool for us. Being able to get around the city and the region without a car saves us a lot of money and dramatically cuts down on our carbon footprint. I'm glad to be doing something for the planet that has such a great impact on my pocketbook too!"

Did You Know?

A Typical Streetcar:

- Is a vehicle that is 70' long & 8' wide
- Carries 120 passengers
- Travels at a maximum speed of 35 MPH
- Are generally not operated as multi-car trains

A Typical Light Rail Transit Train:

- Is a vehicle that has multiple cars that are 90' long & 8.7' wide
- Carries 200 passengers per car
- Travels at a maximum speed of 55 MPH
- Can be linked to form a train

Elevated Technology:

- May either be a monorail or automated guideway transit