

EXPRESS BUS SERVICE

Description

Express bus service is fixed route service that typically picks up passengers from park and ride lots in suburban areas. These commuter routes have limited stops, and typically travel non-stop on highways to reach the destination, usually downtown. Express routes tend to be used for longer distance commuter trips, and many services utilize high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes. Express routes usually offer service during peak operating (commuter) periods with limited or no service during the mid-day. Fares for the service may be comparable to park and ride fares—slightly higher than typical local fixed route service.



Target Market

This service focuses on commuters from suburban areas, including state employees, students, and employees working in the central city: typically commuters who would otherwise utilize freeways to travel to and from work during the week.

How Will This Help?

- Reduces the number of single occupancy vehicles on major freeways and highways.
- Alternative to personal automobile.
- Helpful with time management: passengers can work on the vehicle, typically equipped with WiFi services.

Cost:	●●●○○
Time:	Moderate
Impact:	Corridor
Who:	Transit Provider
Hurdles:	Competitiveness, Funding & Sustainability

Success Stories

- Dallas State Fair—partnership with DART and the implementation of the Green Line allows customers to directly access the State Fair.
- Austin—The University of Texas partners with Capital Metro in order to mitigate congestion for home football games by offering fixed route service from park and rides.

Implementation Issues

Express routes must be well-planned prior to implementation. Planners should survey the potential users to determine schedules and routing, and should typically offer service in conjunction with one or more park and rides. In areas with limited ridership, sustainability can be an issue, so it is critical to market and promote the service accordingly. Additionally, it is important for these types of routes to have access to HOV/HOT or managed lanes. In order to be a viable solution to congestion mitigation, express routes must be competitive with driving a personal vehicle.