



6th Transportation Research Board Bus Rapid Transit Conference No Longer An “Emerging” Mode

June 18-20, 2018
Millennium Biltmore Hotel
Los Angeles, California

Call for Abstracts

Deadline: December 15, 2017

<https://catalyst.omnipress.com/#collection/225/submission>

Bus rapid transit (BRT) has evolved from an emerging mode used mainly in developing countries to an established transportation mode providing sustainable mobility in cities throughout the world, including those in developed nations such as the U.S. Planners have also discovered that BRT is a flexible mode that can be used in a wide range of urban transport applications including suburb-suburb premium service, core city-suburb premium service, high-speed freeway service, feeder service to rail networks, mainline transit in smaller cities and circulator services in downtowns. BRT can also serve as a catalyst for development and economic activity.

The conference will be held in Los Angeles, California, the city with the largest number of BRT lines in the country. The conference will bring together experts from agencies, the private sector and academia to explore the latest issues and trends in both research and practice related to the planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of BRT systems and networks in the world. This is the sixth iteration of a very successful conference, the last of which was held in Las Vegas, Nevada in August 2012.

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The conference will feature two “tracks”, one on technical issues, the other on planning and policy. Each track will have up to five sessions focused on current issues, projects and practices. While papers on any BRT-related topic are welcome, we are looking for (papers and presentations) that specifically address the following topics:

- **State of the Art in Vehicles:** The state of the art in BRT vehicle design changes as technology, procurement methods and applications improve. The introduction of nearly 100% low-floor vehicles, onboard battery energy storage systems, and use of new materials and assembly processes are offering greater convenience and accessibility to passengers, and are challenging the conventional ways of operating and maintaining BRT rolling stock.
- **Managing BRT systems:** BRT offers higher service speeds, improved reliability, more punctuality and assured connections. This topic explores operations management strategies, advanced use of supporting technologies such as intelligent transportation systems (ITS) and supporting traffic management measures that enable BRT to deliver on its promise of a higher quality transit product.
- **Developing Ridership:** BRT enhances the transit product, but what are the effective measures for turning this into real growth in ridership? This topic will examine both the quality

improvements and techniques such as branding, marketing, promotion, customer outreach programs, staff training, and how each has contributed to attract and retain new riders.

- **Developing BRT Stations:** Abstracts on this topic will examine the role and significance of the BRT station. The topic includes multiple themes: station design and facilities provided; the link between the station, transit and mobility services; neighborhoods ease in accessing stations; BRT stations and TOD; and BRT stations as a stimulus for neighborhood renewal.
- **Ensuring BRT System Safety:** This session deals with best practices regarding safety approaches on BRT systems, both from the point of view of the collection of data about accidents that happen, and from the point of view of improving the layout design in order to develop a safer system.
- **Procurement Strategies for BRT Systems-** Design Build (DB), Design Bid Build (DBB), and Construction Management/General Contractor (CM/GC) have been used for the construction of BRT projects over the past 10 years. This session will explore each type of strategy to define the circumstances that lead to the selection of these procurement strategies and their effect on project timing and cost.
- **State of Good Repair (SOGR) considerations:** This topic will address North American fleet and infrastructure assessment and automation, including new software, hardware and management tools being employed to achieve SOGR. Papers on success stories in achieving SOGR are encouraged from both North American and international perspectives.
- **BRT in the Total Transit System:** BRT lines work best when integrated and coordinated with a region's other transit services, whether rail or bus or both. This session will examine the integration of new BRT lines into the fabric of an existing transit system in metro areas. Potential focus areas including route network, schedules, fare structure, and the coordination of radial, circumferential and cross-town routings.
- **New BRT developments:** The U.S. vehicle market is unique, but American agencies have long sought the best ideas from around the world. This session will explore new technologies in other countries, and whether they can be made suitable for American application.
- **BRT and Connected/Automated Vehicles:** Emerging connected and autonomous vehicle technologies will inevitably affect development of BRT systems specifically the vehicles themselves or as considerations in BRT corridor planning. This session invites papers and presentations that will explore the intersections of BRT and CAV issues.
- **BRT in Complete Streets strategies:** "Complete Streets" policies require that roadways designers consider the needs of all users, no matter the mode of transportation. Much of the focus of complete streets has been on incorporating facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists and traditional bus services. But if they really are "Complete", these streets need to consider accommodation for BRT lines as well.

In the Background section of the abstract please state your intended audience e.g., transit operators, engineers, urban planners, researchers, etc. In the Conclusion section please explain the significance of your work to the intended audience(s) and the potential for transferability to others. Abstracts must not exceed 500 words in length.

Selected abstracts will be invited to prepare a presentation and or paper for delivery at the conference. Please submit your contributions at:

<https://catalyst.omnipress.com/#collection/225/submission> by **DECEMBER 15, 2017**.

Questions should be submitted to: Steve Andrle, TRB Staff, SAndrle@nas.edu or Claire Randall at Crandall@nas.edu