

# Northwest Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

## Frequently Asked Questions

February 20, 2019

### ***What is Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)?***

BRT is a rapid transit mode that can provide the quality of rail transit using the operating flexibility of buses. ***What are the benefits of BRT?***

#### Transit Improvements

- Level boarding eliminates need for lifts or ramps for wheelchairs and or for people with disabilities or traveling with strollers or carts.
- BRT vehicles will come more frequently - in some places, every **X** minutes - all day long.
- Intelligent traffic light systems will hold green lights longer for approaching BRT vehicles, minimizing the amount of time that BRT stops for anything other than passengers
- All-Door Boarding will legally allow passengers to board through any door to eliminate crowding and speeds up boarding.
- BRT Stations will all have seating, lighting, shelter, high-tech information systems, and public art.

#### Safety

- Increased lighting at stations makes waiting for transit much safer;
- Emergency phones at stations provide direct links to public safety;
- Cameras at stations will act as crime deterrents;
- Dedicated lanes calm car traffic to safer speeds
- Bike lanes calm car traffic to safer speeds, and get bikes off of sidewalks;
- New traffic signals make it safer to cross the street;
- Improved crosswalks and bulb-outs increase visibility of pedestrians;
- Increased street lighting increases visibility of pedestrians;
- BRT Stations also act as pedestrian refuges, even for those who simply want to cross the street.

#### Health

- Creates bike lanes, which encourage biking which has been proven to improve health;
- By offering greener choices for transportation, BRT reduces asthma and other respiratory problems by reducing air pollution;
- Reduces obesity and health problems by creating safe, accessible and walkable communities. BRT would create pleasant transit stops and safer streets and sidewalks;
- Provides more frequent, reliable transit to health and medical centers along the corridor.
- Economic

#### Environmental

- Offers a competitive, reliable alternative to a private vehicle, household transportation costs can be reduced, thereby freeing up more resources for other necessities such as housing and healthcare;
- BRT creates hundreds of local jobs (construction and support jobs);
- Invests \$XM into Northwest Corridor from Local and Federal sources;

- Attracts private investment (BRT in Cleveland attracted some \$4.3B of investment into its struggling economy);

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### ***How much will the Project Cost and how is it funded?***

- The total project cost is \$28.9 million.
- EMBARK received \$14.4 million in federal funding through the USDOT Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) discretionary grant program for the construction of the system. The remaining project costs will be paid by local funds including *Better Streets*, *Safer City* and General Obligation (GO) Bond funds.

### ***What is the Schedule?***

- NEPA Clearance Spring 2019 (Current Phase)
- Preliminary and Final Engineering 2020 and 2021
- Construction and Vehicle Procurement 2021 and 2022
- Begin Operations 2023

### ***How Did this Project Come About?***

- The project is a direct result of previous planning efforts. The 2030 Fixed Guideway Plan (2005) identified transportation solutions to improve connections and mobility within the OKC metropolitan area. The resulting vision identified several transit opportunities, including BRT. A BRT corridor on Classen Boulevard and Northwest Expressway was included in the regional systems plan, thus laying the foundation for a multimodal corridor along the two arterials.