

**East Main Street Bus Rapid Transit Project**  
**Columbus, Ohio**  
**Small Starts Project Development**  
**Information Prepared October 2021**

The Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) proposes to implement a bus rapid transit (BRT) service on the 13-mile East Main Street corridor between downtown Columbus and the City of Reynoldsburg. The project is intended to serve 18 stations and operate in a combination of dedicated center and curbside guideway, as well as sections in mixed traffic. The project is expected to feature specially branded zero-emission or electric vehicles, near-level boarding at stations, off-board fare collection, complete streets improvements, transit signal priority, improved station amenities with enhanced safety and security, and increased transit service. The project's current estimated capital cost is \$220.0 to \$230.0 million. COTA is still determining the amount of funding it will seek from the Small Starts program.

COTA indicates the project will improve connectivity within and beyond the corridor; support and catalyze new types of equitable development and redevelopment projects; and to improve access to and opportunities for housing, goods and services, and employment for historically disadvantaged communities in and around the corridor.

COTA selected the East Main Street BRT as the locally preferred alternative in July 2021. It was subsequently included in the region's fiscally constrained long-range transportation plan in September 2021. COTA anticipates completing the environmental review process with receipt of a categorical exclusion by 2023, receiving a Small Starts Grant Agreement in 2024, and beginning revenue service in 2027.