

Downtown-Uptown-Oakland-East End Bus Rapid Transit

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Small Starts Project Development

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The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA) proposes to implement bus rapid transit (BRT) service between Downtown Pittsburgh and neighborhoods to the east. The proposed service operates on exclusive lanes between Downtown and Oakland. In Oakland, the service divides into three branches, Oakland-East, Highland Park, and Squirrel Hill. The Highland Park and Squirrel Hill branches operate in mixed traffic as corridor-based BRT services, while the Oakland-East branch continues in dedicated lanes along the Martin Luther King, Jr. East Busway. The Project also includes queue jump lanes, battery-powered electric buses, branded BRT stations, transit signal priority, and charging stations. The project's estimated capital cost is between \$200-230 million. URA has not yet identified the amount of Small Starts funding it will seek.

URA believes the proposed project will improve travel speed and the reliability of transit service in a heavily congested corridor. In addition, it will provide connections to Pittsburgh's two largest commercial employment centers, Downtown and Oakland, universities like the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University, as well as several hospitals, arenas, and cultural venues.

URA selected its locally preferred alternative (LPA) in April 2017. URA expects to adopt the LPA into the fiscally constrained long-range transportation plan by September 2017, complete the environmental review process with a Categorical Exclusion in fall 2017, receive a Small Starts Grant Agreement in 2020, and begin revenue service in 2021.