

# GLOSSARY

Terms related to Bus Rapid Transit and Duke Street In Motion

TERM	 =Key Terms	DEFINITION
<b>A</b>		
 <b>Alternatives (Design Alternatives)</b>		Options for how the corridor will be redesigned to accommodate <b>bus rapid transit</b> along with other streetscape improvements to address the <b>vision and guiding principles</b> (sometimes referred to as design concepts at this stage).
<b>Articulated Bus</b>		Bus composed of two sections linked by a pivoting joint (articulation). This joint enables the vehicle to turn corners despite its long length. These buses carry more passengers than a standard rigid-bodied bus.
<b>B</b>		
 <b>Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)</b>		A high-quality, bus-based transit system that delivers fast and efficient service that may include dedicated lanes, busways, transit signal priority, off-board fare collection, elevated platforms for <b>level boarding</b> , enhanced stations. BRT service is generally characterized by less frequent stop spacing, dedicated bus lanes, strong branding, and enhanced and consistent station infrastructure and amenities, among other features. Find out more about BRT at: <a href="https://transit.dot.gov/research-innovation/bus-rapid-transit">transit.dot.gov/research-innovation/bus-rapid-transit</a> .
<b>C</b>		
 <b>Cycle Track</b>		A facility exclusively for bicycles that combines the user experience of a separated path with the infrastructure of a conventional bicycle lane. A cycle track is physically separated from general traffic and is distinct from the sidewalk.
<b>D</b>		
 <b>Dedicated Bus Lanes</b>		Travel lanes used exclusively by buses. May also be called a “bus running way” or “busway.”
<b>E</b>		
 <b>Edge Condition</b>		Features or amenities within the proposed public <b>right-of-way</b> but outside of the curb. This would include features such as sidewalks, bicycle facilities, trees, benches, etc.
<b>F</b>		
 <b>Frontage Road</b>		A local road running parallel to a higher-speed road that may give access to commercial areas or residential areas. May also be called an access road or service road.
<b>I</b>		

**Intelligent Transportation System (ITS)**

In public transit, aims to control public transportation networks, to maintain their performance, and to provide users (passengers and decision makers) with up-to-date information about trips and network operating conditions. You can learn about Alexandria’s ITS projects here: [alexandriava.gov/SmartMobility](http://alexandriava.gov/SmartMobility)

**L**

**Level Boarding**

Condition in which bus station platforms are high enough to be at the same level as the bus floor, facilitating quick boarding and easy access for wheelchairs, disabled passengers, and baby strollers. This design often also results in decreasing the time to load and unload passengers.

**Local Bus**

Local bus service generally operates in mixed-traffic and is primarily characterized by frequent stops (shorter stop spacing compared to BRT).

**M**

■ **Mixed Traffic Lanes**

Lanes that are open for use by any vehicle and do not offer exclusivity to certain modes or types of vehicles. Also called General Travel Lanes.

■ **Mixed Traffic BRT**

A bus system that operates in mixed traffic but has some elements of **BRT**, potentially including fewer stops, off-board fare collection, **transit signal priority**, **queue jumps** and enhanced stop types/amenities.

**Multimodal Connectivity**

Provides access to stations for those walking, biking, rolling via connected sidewalks and bicycle facilities. May also describe connections to other transit services such as rail or local/regional bus.

**O**

**Off-board Fare Collection**

Passengers pay their fare before boarding the bus using a ticketing machine, mobile app, or other method, reducing delay.

**P**

**Preferred Alternative**

This term refers to the alternative that an entity believes would best accomplish the purpose and need of the proposed action (in this case, building a transitway corridor) while fulfilling its statutory mission and responsibilities, giving consideration to economic, environmental, technical, and other factors. This is the term used as part of the federal requirements for assessing the impacts of a project prior to construction.

**Q**

■ **Queue Jump**

Any “short,” additional lane added to a certain direction at a signalized traffic intersection. Such a lane is typically restricted to use by buses to allow them to move ahead of traffic when a special signal for the lane authorizes “green” movement ahead of the other lanes of that direction. This allows the bus to “jump” ahead of the queues of other traffic that are formed on the other lanes

**R**

**Real-time Information**

Refers to information about the actual bus expected arrival times at a particular location, as opposed to schedule information. The information is typically presented on electronic signs located on vehicles or at stations, indicating the arrival of the next bus or stop. May also be made available on phones or other mobile devices.



■ <b>Repurposed Lane/Lane Repurposing</b>	Conversion of the function of a travel lane. Lanes that were previously open to all traffic (see <b>Mixed Traffic Lanes</b> ) are restricted to use by only certain transportation modes such as <b>BRT</b> vehicles.
<b>Right-of-way</b>	Publicly owned area of land generally used for transportation purposes. It generally includes the travel portion of the street between the curbs, as well as the gutters, curbs, sidewalks, utilities, drainage facilities, and bike facilities.
■ <b>Running Way</b>	Lanes that are expected to be used by a particular transportation mode, e.g., the bus.

## S

■ <b>Shared-use Path</b>	A transportation facility that supports multiple recreation and transportation modes, such as walking, bicycling, inline skating, and wheelchair use. A shared-use path is generally more narrow than a <b>cycle track</b> and separate sidewalk.
■ <b>Sharrows</b>	A road marking in the form of two inverted V-shapes above a bicycle, indicating which part of a road should be used by cyclists when the roadway is shared with motor vehicles. It is also a reminder to drivers that the road is meant to be shared with cyclists.
■ <b>Streetscaping</b>	Features that enhance the natural or built fabric of the street, including trees, community gathering areas, and more.

## T

<b>Transit</b>	Public transportation including subway, light rail, bus, and <b>BRT</b> .
<b>Transit Accessibility</b>	Defines how conveniently and safely public transportation can be accessed by people regardless of their age, gender, disabilities, and physical conditions. Accessibility standards issued under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) apply to places of public accommodation, commercial facilities, and state and local government facilities in new construction, alterations, and additions. Regarding a bus stop/station, this includes but is not limited to: ADA ramps; platform edge (on-street) warning surface; traveler information system for users with vision disabilities; bus boarding assistance including level or near-level boarding.
<b>Transit Amenities</b>	These can include but are not limited to shelters, benches, passenger information systems (maps, next bus arrival times), fare collection, wifi, elevated platforms, and public art.
■ <b>Transit Signal Priority (TSP)</b>	Technology to expedite travel time through traffic signals for transit vehicles by holding green lights longer if a particular bus is running behind schedule and if the overall signal cycle operation can accommodate the slight green hold. In some jurisdictions the technology may also allow for an early green for transit vehicles.

## V

<b>Vision and Guiding Principles</b>	Established goals and guidelines for the Duke Street In Motion project. These were developed based on community input and were adopted by the Duke Street In Motion Advisory Group in June 2022. The guiding principles provide the basis for evaluating design concepts for the corridor. You can view the Vision and Guiding Principles here: <a href="https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2022-06/Duke%20Transitway%20Vision-Guiding%20Principles%20Adopted%20June%202021%202022.pdf">https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2022-06/Duke%20Transitway%20Vision-Guiding%20Principles%20Adopted%20June%202021%202022.pdf</a>
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## W

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### *Wayfinding*

Combines signage and map design, symbols, color, and typography to effectively navigate people to and from stations, destinations, and nearby landmarks.

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### *WestEnd Alexandria*

A term describing the redevelopment area formerly known as Landmark Mall. You can find more information at: <https://westendva.com/>.

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