



# How to Boost the Bus in the Twin Cities

>>> **Dedicated Lanes and Signal Priority for Better, Faster Bus Rides**



To protect our climate and to improve access and connection in our communities, the Twin Cities needs better, faster bus rides for more people. To make it happen, we need dedicated bus lanes and bus signal priority on the metro's most-used transit routes. These are simple and inexpensive fixes with the power to make a big impact.

**Right now, even the Twin Cities' busiest bus lines aren't serving people like they should.** Many metro residents can't access jobs, housing, healthcare, childcare, or education because our buses are too slow. Transportation is our state's biggest source of climate pollution and a serious contributor to air pollution and related public health problems, due to how much people have to drive. It doesn't have to be this way!

**Both Hennepin County and Ramsey County should fund immediate upgrades to core bus routes in our metro.** While the recent additions of A Line and C Line bus rapid transit are important, bus riders shouldn't have to wait years for progress to come one new line at a time—we need system-wide improvements now. Making transit trips faster and more reliable improves daily lives and supports equitable, sustainable communities.

> **Quick, reliable bus service is a justice issue and a climate issue.** Bus lanes and signal priority will improve access to jobs, opportunity, clean air, and essential resources for all county residents—in particular people of color, people with disabilities, youth, seniors, and people with low incomes. Improving transit will significantly reduce carbon emissions from transportation.

- >>> **40% of transit riders in Minnesota are essential workers**
- >>> **44% of riders are Black, Indigenous, or people of color**
- >>> **47% of riders don't have access to a vehicle**
- >>> **94% of jobs in the metro are not accessible to transit riders in under 45 minutes**
- >>> **27% of Minnesota's carbon emissions come from the transportation sector**

> **Signal priority and bus lanes can significantly speed up transit trips.** Cities across the country have successfully implemented signal priority and dedicated bus lanes and delivered significant time savings. Hennepin and Ramsey Counties can make immediate and affordable improvements to our transit system too—by funding and implementing bus lanes and transit signal priority across the sixty-six miles of bus lines in our region's High Frequency Network. When used in combination, signal priority and dedicated bus lanes can improve transit travel time by more than 20%.



## WHAT ARE THESE TRANSIT IMPROVEMENTS?

- > **Transit Signal Priority:** Red and green light cycles are adjusted to move buses faster by either shortening a red light when a bus is at an intersection or holding a green light longer.
- > **Bus Lanes:** Dedicated lanes ensure buses doesn't waste time stuck in car traffic. Often painted onto the street, these simple markings provide designated space for your bus to move efficiently along its route.

## WHAT IMPACT WOULD SIGNAL PRIORITY AND BUS LANES HAVE?

Conservatively, universal signal priority and strategic dedicated bus lanes on the High Frequency Transit Network can produce a 20% increase in transit trip speeds. **A 20% travel time reduction on all High Frequency Network buses would transform Twin Cities transit:**

- >>> Estimated time savings of more than 40 hours per year per person.
- >>> 780,850 hours saved across total ridership per year—at \$15 per hour, that's more than \$11 million.
- >>> More frequent buses and shorter transfers (assuming no reduction in the number of buses per route)

## HOW MUCH WOULD IT COST?

Providing transit signal priority across all High Frequency Network lines would cost only \$4 million. Painting bus lanes on half the lane miles of these routes would cost only \$5 million.

## WHY UPDATE ALL THE LINES AT ONCE?

Improving all the High Frequency lines at once meets the needs of our metro community—community members ride more than one line, and should be able to access the whole region quickly and reliably.

Hennepin and Ramsey Counties can reduce racial disparities, increase economic justice, and lower climate pollution by funding and implementing transit signal priority across all intersections on the High Frequency Network and bus lanes on the most congested 50% of the network. Let's do it today!



Move Minnesota leads the movement for an equitable and sustainable transportation system that puts people first. We are passionate about connecting communities, ending the climate crisis, expanding access to jobs and resources, and improving daily life for Minnesotans of all ages, races, incomes, and abilities. Learn more at [movemn.org](https://movemn.org).

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