

# LINKUS

## PROGRESS REPORT

### *Transforming the Way We Move*

Thanks to the overwhelming support of Central Ohio voters in November 2024, the LinkUS initiative is officially moving from vision to reality. Backed by historic investments in transit and infrastructure, LinkUS will deliver *45% more* COTA service and *more than 500 miles* of sidewalks, bikeways and trails, *expanding access to opportunity* across the region. Early progress is already underway, with preliminary engineering advancing on Bus Rapid Transit lines and planning for community infrastructure projects launching across dozens of jurisdictions. Read below for the latest.



LinkUS is how we're building a more connected future — *together.*

#### Transit Updates

##### Late-Night Lineup

On May 5, COTA began delivering on the LinkUS promise to provide more service to customers. COTA has extended its service past midnight to provide more access for second- and third-shift workers. This is the first step toward becoming a 24-hour transit system.



- **Downtown Lines: 1-11, 102 and CMAX**  
Weekday and Saturday Lineups: 10 p.m., 11p.m., midnight
- **Crosstown Lines: 21-25 and 31-35**  
Weekday and Saturday service runs past midnight to allow for connections with downtown lines.

» For more information: [COTA.com/servicechanges](https://COTA.com/servicechanges).

##### September Service Change Public Meetings

Join us for public information meetings to discuss September service changes.



- **Public Information:**

Aug. 7 at 6 p.m. and Aug. 12 at noon

To share your thoughts on future COTA improvements thanks to LinkUS, you can attend a public meeting in person at 33 N. High St. or virtually via Facebook Live (@COTAbus).

##### Short Range Transit Plan

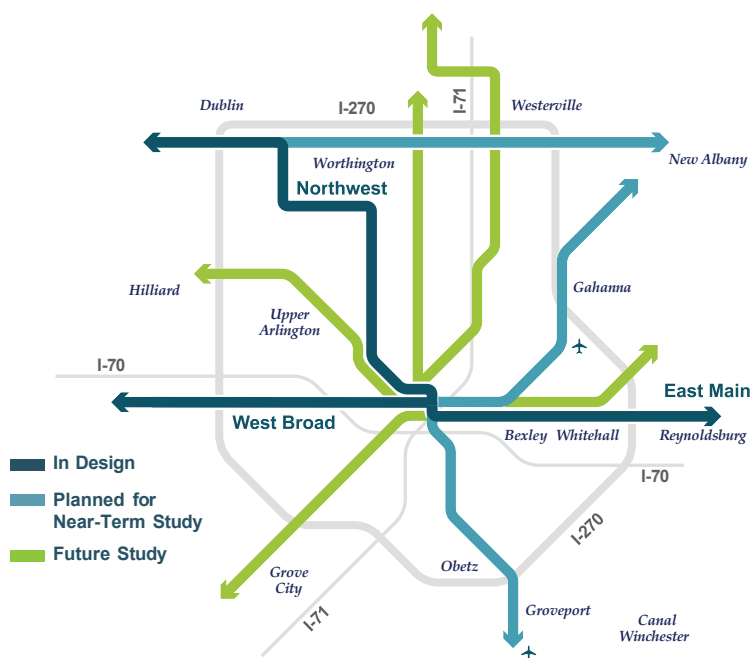
As part of LinkUS planning, COTA is working to improve its transit system for the future. This summer, COTA will update its Short-Range Transit Plan (SRTP) to help plan service for the next five years. This process includes gathering feedback from COTA customers and the community. Look for SRTP public meeting dates later this fall where you can provide suggestions and comments on how COTA can improve its service. Meetings will be available in person and online via Facebook Live (@COTAbus).



# BRT Project Status

Bus Rapid Transit, known as BRT, is a premium transit solution designed to rapidly move more people using larger vehicles, enhanced technology and increased frequency. By providing dedicated lanes specifically for rapid transit, it is more reliable and convenient than traditional bus systems.

## Rapid Transit Corridors



## West Broad BRT

### Connecting With the Community

- In 2024, we engaged with approximately 3,700 community members across 35 community events. In addition to public events, 412 businesses were surveyed, which amounts to around 90% of all businesses along the corridor.
- A bus rider survey was provided to COTA Line 10 riders, the current local service along West Broad, with nearly 550 respondents. Of the respondents, 70% indicated they ride COTA daily.

### What's Upcoming in 2025

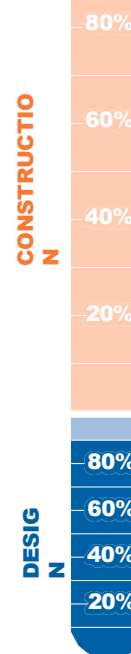
- With design work near completion, customers and community members could see utility work and other pre-construction activities as soon as fall 2025.
- Community engagement continues as the West Broad BRT line nears construction in early 2026.
- Look for more information, including frequently asked questions, community briefings and more public outreach over the next several months. Outreach will also continue during construction.

### Looking Ahead

- Construction is anticipated to begin at the end-of-the-line site of the future Rockbrook Crossing Park and Ride/Transit Center in Prairie Township and will continue from 2026 through 2028.

### West Broad BRT PROGRESS

4th Quarter  
**2028**  
EXPECTED  
OPEN FOR  
SERVICE



For more information about the West Broad Street BRT line, visit [LinkUSColumbus.com/WestBroad](https://LinkUSColumbus.com/WestBroad)

## East Main BRT



### East Main BRT PROGRESS

**2029**  
EXPECTED  
OPEN FOR  
SERVICE

80%  
60%  
40%  
20%

CONSTRUCTION

DESIGN

80%  
60%  
40%  
20%

### Connecting With the Community

- Since 2024, LinkUS has engaged businesses along the corridor to inform them about the East Main Street BRT project and collect information, including contact information, parking capacity and how their customers can access them (walk, bike, car, etc.).
- Around 86% of businesses responded.
- LinkUS participated in 31 community events, held four in-person open-house-style community meetings and a virtual presentation. We also engaged in one-on-one conversations through phone/email and stakeholder meetings.

### Design Progress

- The East Main Street BRT line is working toward completing the 60% of design milestone by summer 2025.
- Based on stakeholder and partner feedback, the team has made several design updates, such as refinements to station locations, downtown Columbus routing, traffic analysis and detailed roadway and utility design.



### What's Upcoming in 2025

- Look for more information to be shared in the coming months, including fact sheets, design renderings, social media updates, website content, newsletters, translated materials, postcards and more.
- Our public engagement team will continue to hold meetings and briefings with local businesses, municipal leaders, commissions, community stakeholders and more.
- Also, look for upcoming community meetings and appearances at local events. The LinkUS team will be at community events and festivals throughout the summer. In the fall of 2025, LinkUS will host community meetings to share details on the project at 60% design.



For more information on meetings and to look at the design of the East Main Street BRT line, visit [LinkUSColumbus.com/EastMain](https://LinkUSColumbus.com/EastMain)



## Northwest BRT

### Connecting With the Community

- Building upon robust engagement throughout the 10% planning and design phase, the Northwest project team will continue to engage residents, workers and visitors throughout 2025.
- Coordination with The Ohio State University is underway, and additional community briefings with residents, businesses and healthcare providers will be held later this year.

### Design Progress

- The Northwest project team is working toward completing 30% design for phase one (Downtown Columbus to Bethel Road).
- Updates regarding station locations, north and south end-of-line locations, traffic analysis and ridership modeling will be available later this year. Look for these updates in the January 2026 progress report.



### Northwest BRT PROGRESS

**2031**  
EXPECTED  
OPEN FOR  
SERVICE

CONSTRUCTION

DESIGN



### Milestone

The Federal Transit Administration has granted the Northwest Corridor entry into Project Development under the Capital Investment Grant Small Starts program. This is an important milestone and signals the FTA will consider the project for federal funding.



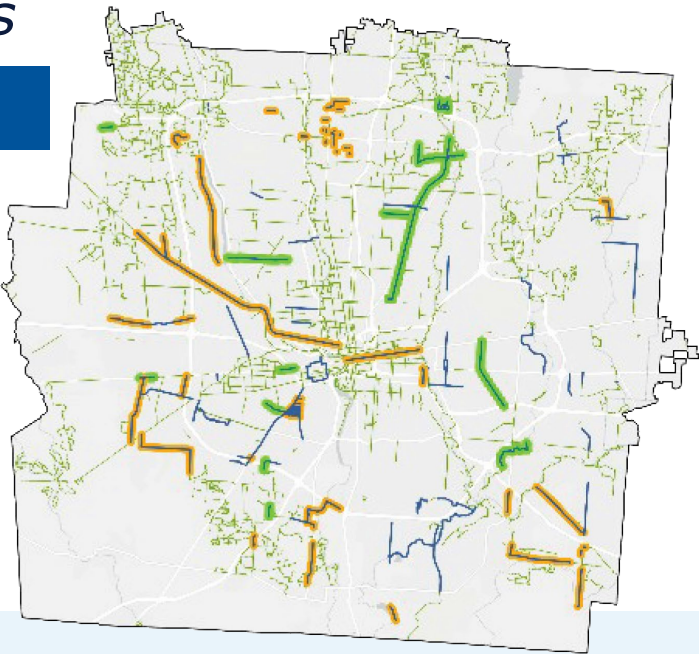
For more information about the Northwest BRT line, visit [LinkUSColumbus.com/Northwest](https://LinkUSColumbus.com/Northwest)

# Sidewalks, Bikeways & Trails

## Transit-Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) Updates

- In March, the COTA Board of Trustees approved funding for 83 projects over the next five years that will help create 150 miles of sidewalks, bikeways and trails throughout COTA’s service area. These projects are designed to improve access to COTA services while making it safer to walk and bike in our communities.
- Nearly 40 of those projects will receive a total of about \$30 million in funding in 2026 for project development or construction.

➤ To view all approved projects, visit [LinkUSColumbus.com/500miles](https://LinkUSColumbus.com/500miles)



Projects shown in **green** are planned for construction funding in 2026. Those in **orange** are slated for project development funding in 2026. The projects in **blue** will be underway or completed by 2031.

## Highlighted 2026 Projects

### GROVE CITY McDowell Road Improvements

- Road safety improvements and resurfacing of about a half-mile stretch of McDowell Road between White Road and Stringtown Road.
- LinkUS funding will help fund the construction of a shared-use path and upgrade the sidewalk to be ADA-compliant.

Connects to COTA Line 3.

LinkUS will fund \$1.09 million of the \$4.07 million project.

### FRANKLIN COUNTY Cooke Road Improvements (Clinton Township, Columbus)

- Roadway reconstruction and street improvements.
- LinkUS funding will help build the addition of a sidewalk and shared-use path along Cooke Road between Karl Road and Cleveland Avenue.

Connects to COTA Line 8 and CMAX.

LinkUS will fund \$672,755 of the \$7.5 million project.

### WESTERVILLE Brooksedge Mobility Project

- Reimagining a traditional office park by adding complete street elements and better connections to parks and existing trails, including the Alum Creek Trail/Ohio to Erie Trail.
- LinkUS funding will help fund the construction of sidewalks, shared-use paths and safer crosswalks.

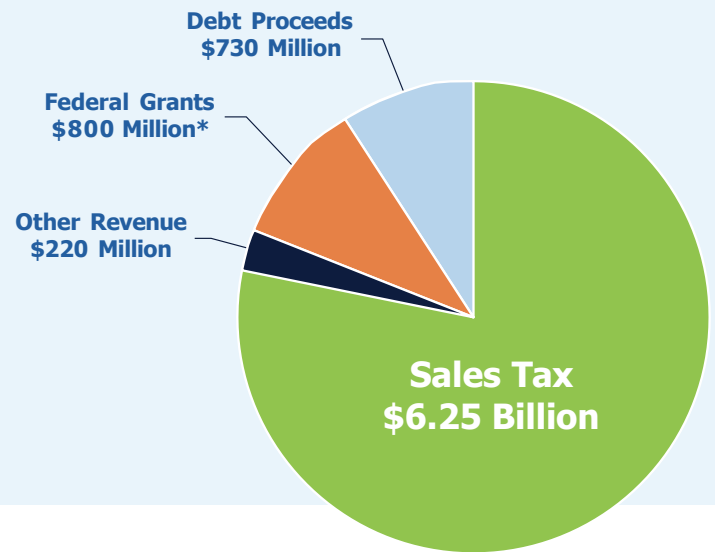
Connects to COTA Line 43 along Schrock Road.

LinkUS will fund the \$3.27 million project.

# Financial Snapshot

LinkUS is backed by a sustainable funding model that will generate \$6.25 billion in local sales tax by 2050 — to support expanded transit, walkable infrastructure and a more connected region.

*\*Grant drawdowns represent anticipated revenue. Figures are subject to change.*



## 2025

Anticipated Sales Tax Revenue\* \$104 million

### Expenses (2023–Present)

West Broad	\$20.2 million
East Main	\$6.5 million
Northwest	\$4.85 million
<b>&gt;&gt; Current Corridor Total</b>	<b>\$31.55 million</b>

### LinkUS Grant Spending (YTD)

West Broad Corridor Design \$8 million

## PROJECTED EXPENSES

New Transit Services (2025) \$11.75 million

### Corridor Spending (2025–2029)

West Broad	\$350 million
East Main	\$340 million
Northwest	\$185 million

*\*The new sales tax went into effect on April 1, 2025. This projection includes seven months of the new sales tax received in 2025.*



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OR REQUEST A PRESENTATION AT  
**LinkUSColumbus.com**



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