

RTA Proposed Amendments for Article 11 - Transportation

Fact Sheet: Once Rampart opens, we'll have 31 miles of track. In addition, ridership has grown by 33% over the last 5 years (18.4 million in 2015 vs 13.4 million in 2010).

2.B.4 Under "How" please add Develop metrics and criteria to guide land-use and transit investment to create effective TOD projects.

2.D.4 Under "How" please add Establish walking friendly site design guidelines for developments along transit routes (CPC/RTA); Develop traffic calming measures for new and infill developments, particularly where high use driveways conflict with pedestrian, cycling or transit infrastructure (CPC); Develop design guidelines that prevent the use of transit stops for freight loading and unloading (CPC)

2.E.3 Under "How" please add Modify off-street parking requirements to allow for reduced parking needs based on proximity to transit lines and bicycle routes; Establish clear, maximums for off-street parking, instead of minimums

Goal 4

Fast and efficient mass transit supported by transit-oriented development

4.A Develop a Transit Master Plan to guide future investments and service enhancements.

Recommended Actions

1. Use best practices to develop specific criteria and metrics for identifying corridors for transit infrastructure investment such as BRT and light rail.
2. Establish TOD guidelines for land uses served by high-quality transit service that prioritizes usage of public transit and complementary modes of like walking and biking.
3. Develop a Strategic Plan outlining the vision for the future of transit in New Orleans with residents, other agencies and key stakeholders.

Who: RTA, RPC, DPW, DOTD, DDD, CPC,

When: Medium Term

Resources: Federal funding; bond funds

4.B Enhance in RTA's infrastructure to support an upgraded transit network that focuses on access, safety and timeliness.

Recommended Actions

1. Continue to replace older RTA buses with newer vehicles that are more fuel efficient and have lower emissions.

Who: RTA

When: First five years

Resources: Federal funding; bond funds

2. Improve the waiting experience for customers at transit stops.
 - a. Continue to install comfortable, durable benches and shelters at all bus stops throughout the city and ensure adequate funding and coordination between agencies for maintenance of bus and streetcar stops.
 - b. Improve access, signage, lighting, landscaping, and other amenities at major transfer points
 - c. Replace Bus Stop signs throughout the network that are more durable and provide customers with more relevant information.
 - d. Modify street design guidelines for major corridors to prioritize safety for vulnerable users and accessibility to transit stops.

Who: RTA, RPC, DPW, UPT, MSY

When: Medium Term

Resources: Federal funding; bond funds

3. Conduct a feasibility study on introducing left turns at major intersections to minimize the number of crossings along the streetcar right of way.

Who: RTA, RPC, DPW, CPC

When: Medium Term

Resources: Grant funding

4. Invest in fixed guideway and bus rapid transit infrastructure by obtaining federal and local funding.

- a. Conduct feasibility study to build a fixed guideway transit line from the Central Business District to the new North Airport Terminal.
- b. Conduct feasibility studies to identify the service delivery model(s) to expand transit services throughout the city while supporting Transit Oriented Development.
- c. Study the feasibility of adding transit only lanes on area highways.

Who: RTA, RPC, CPC, DPW, DDD, DOTD, UPT, MSY

When: Medium Term

Resources: Federal funding; bond funds

5. Create and update a Transit Asset Management Plan annually to ensure that the transit fleet is in a state of good repair.

Who: RTA

When: First five years

Resources: Staff Time

6. Consolidate stops to reduce travel times along existing bus and streetcar lines.

Who: RTA, DPW, DOTD

When: First five years

Resources: Grant funds

7. Create gateway connections at UPT and MSY.

Who: RTA, DPW, DOTD, UPT, MSY

When: Long Term

Resources: Federal funding; bond funds

8. Improve access to the Convention Center and Port of New Orleans

Who: RTA, DPW, DOTD, UPT, MSY

When: Long Term

Resources: Federal funding; bond funds

4.C Increase use of technology

Recommended actions

1. Decrease travel times for transit users.

a. Add traffic signal priority technology

b. Implement more new fare collection/ boarding techniques to decrease dwell time.

Who: RTA, DPW, RPC

When: First five years

Resources: Federal funding; bonding

2. Implement a new CAD/AVL system.

a. Improves customer information about service in real time

b. Data from the AVL system will improve transit schedules and provide insight on route design, allowing staff to identify where people are using the system to create better, more attractive services.

Who: RTA

When: First five years

Resources: bonding

4.D Improve and expand access to the transit network throughout the City.

Recommended Actions

1. Improve bus and streetcar frequency.

a. Identify high ridership corridors and corridors with high ridership potential that can support service intervals of 15 minutes or better.

b. Identify options to create crosstown lines to decrease travel times.

c. Create transit mini-hubs around the city to shift the network from hub and spoke to a web with more travel options for riders.

d. Provide better connections to MSY on the new Airport Express line, increasing the transit mode share.

Who: RTA

When: First five years

Resources: local funding

2. Redesign lines where possible to connect with major destinations and other trip generators to increase ridership and efficiency on both ends.

Who: RTA

When: First five years

Resources: local funding

3. Examine the feasibility of alternative service delivery models to meet the needs of riders in lower demand neighborhoods.

Who: RTA

When: First five years

Resources: local funding

4. Improve regional transit connections with partner agencies.

Who: RTA, JeT, SBURT

When: First five years

Resources: local funding

4.E Expand marketing and community engagement

Recommended Actions

1. Improve marketing outreach to attract automobile drivers by developing promotional materials highlighting the benefits and cost savings of using public transit.
2. Partner with major employers and educational facilities to increase transit usage.

Who: RTA

When: First five years

Resources: local funding

4.F Create forums for agency coordination and consolidation to improve transit service delivery and sustainability.

Recommended Action

1. Create a transit working group that includes transit providers, traffic management, planning and travel demand management staff from each jurisdiction to collaborate on the actions of each required to support transit.

Who: RTA; RPC; Jefferson and St. Bernard Transit and traffic and planning staff from each parish

When: Medium Term

Resources: Staff Time