



Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in Istanbul, Turkey: Metrobüs

An example of a successful BRT solution in a Eurasian metropolis

The Metrobüs BRT system in Istanbul is a successful response to the specific requirements of the city of Istanbul. The city's population explosion, its unique location on the Bosphorus and the risk of earthquakes are just some of the special challenges that were met by the BRT transport solution.

Istanbul in brief*

Population:
12,500,000 (city)

Population density:
2,400 inhabitants/km²

Key data for the BRT concept*

Inauguration	Length	Frequency (rush hour)	Average speed
September 2007	52 km with 45 stops	one bus every 45-60 sec.	40 km/h
Daily passenger load (total)	Average daily passenger load (per bus)	Maximum passenger load (per hour per direction)	
700,000	1,900	30,000	



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The initial situation

Istanbul has experienced a considerable population explosion. Within the last 50 years, the population has increased ten-fold. Due to its location on the Bosphorus, there are also some specific challenges in terms of traffic planning, e.g. for the undersea tunnel.

The various options for setting up a subway network were not pursued or were hindered by changes in the political leadership. The result: incoherent individual services that used different technology and did not provide a continuous service through the city centre. There was only one tram linking the various component systems to the city centre. Consequently, travel by private transport is very popular and this results in massive congestion problems.

The solution: BRT

As Istanbul had to respond urgently to the extreme congestion problems and the increase in the use of private transport, which was growing at an even faster rate than the rising population, the city needed a local transport system that could be implemented as soon as possible. The city opted for the individual BRT solution Metrobüs, as BRT best satisfied this most urgent requirements and also brought a number of other benefits.

The flexible design of BRT enabled a solution to be developed for Istanbul that met the specific requirements of the city while providing the ideal link to the existing local transport systems.

The result: Metrobüs in Istanbul

The Metrobüs has been so successful that the city is currently working on expanding the BRT system. This will make the system even more attractive and further increase people's mobility. A further extension of around 10 km was opened in 2012.

The results of the BRT system are impressive. The operating speed and passenger numbers are both extraordinarily high. With its high transport capacity, reliability and comfort, the CapaCity from Mercedes-Benz has played an important role in this respect. The BRT system has been flexibly adapted to suit Istanbul's difficult geographical situation and various circumstances without the need for any major construction work. Metrobüs demonstrates just how well BRT can be adapted to very different city structures and existing transport systems, and can act as a connecting element.

Key success factors for Metrobüs



High transport capacity and ride comfort with the CapaCity, appealing and individual design



Exclusive, completely separated bus lanes enable restriction-free driving without delays (average speed of 40 km/h)



Pre-board fare collection (payment before boarding the bus) with turnstile access reduces processing time, thereby increasing the overall transport speed and providing stability of income



Integrated tariff solution with electronic ticket for all transport systems (tram, subway, ferry and bus)

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