



Istanbul Metrobus BRT System (Turkey)

The Project:

Istanbul is the largest city in Turkey, with a population of over 14 million people who generate over 23 million trips per day. More than half of these journeys are made using motor vehicles, with 21% by private cars, causing significant levels of congestion during peak times.

Metrobus is a 24-hour BRT scheme, travelling from Beylikdüzü Sondurak in the west of the city to Söğütluçeşme in the Anatolian area of the city. This 52km journey (constructed in four steps), which initially took 180 minutes, now takes an average of 83 minutes, with a frequency of 30 seconds. The system is well integrated with other transport modes and used a simple distance-based fare system. The buses utilise hybrid technology to help reduce emissions and improve energy efficiency. Daily ridership is approximately 700,000 – the system is highly popular as it provides a high frequency connection across Istanbul that is unaffected by the weather.

Numerous factors were considered during the conception phase of the Metrobus, including the current mobility patterns, future areas of growth within the city and hence future trip generation, which helped define the route of the Metrobus network. The funding for the scheme was provided by Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality

Current successes/problems

Many users of the system, who own private cars, have stated that they prefer to travel by Metrobus, and research has found that congestion on the routes around the Metrobus line have been reduced since its introduction, although this was increased during the construction of the BRT route, which caused additional problems. Furthermore, delays during peak times often occur at stations without off-vehicle fare collection systems, resulting in queues of buses forming at these stops.

