



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee (RPTS)  
**FROM:** Tim Canan, Planning Data & Research Program Director  
Charlene Howard, Manager, Planning Data Resources  
**SUBJECT:** High-Capacity Transit Map project update  
**DATE:** February 28, 2023

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The memo provides an update on the project to develop a regional high-capacity transit (HCT) map that is mode specific and operator neutral for the TPB Planning Region. TPB's definition of HCT includes Metrorail, commuter rail, light rail, streetcar, and bus rapid transit. The first four of the modes listed are readily understood without detailed description, however, what constitutes bus rapid transit (BRT) is more elusive. In TPB's 2022 update of its long-range transportation plan, Visualize 2045, BRT is described as follows:

*"Bus rapid transit, or BRT, is an enhanced, high-frequency service that makes use of transitways and brings together other enhancements that can move more people faster and more reliably than traditional bus services." <sup>1</sup>*

Staff plans to use the above definition as a starting point for defining what constitutes BRT for purposes of what will be included on the HCT Map product. How BRT is, and will be, implemented throughout the region varies widely, from including numerous features such as dedicated lanes, off-board fare collection, platform-level boarding, and intersection signal prioritization to perhaps including only signal prioritization for conventional buses running on unrestricted travel lanes. As a result, staff would like to engage this Subcommittee to obtain input on refining the BRT definition, which then could be applied to identify what BRT projects will be included in the HCT map.

At its March meeting, the Subcommittee will be asked to discuss and provide input on what will constitute BRT for purposes of this project. In advance of the March meeting, members are asked to review the information provided in this memo and evaluate the current working definition of BRT against any existing or planned BRT projects in your jurisdictions.

Thank you for your cooperation; we look forward to discussing this issue with you next month.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://visualize2045.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Visualize-2045-update-Chapter-6.pdf>