

Default Useful Life Benchmark (ULB) Cheat Sheet

Sources: NTD Reporting Manual

Transit Agencies must report the age of all vehicles to the National Transit Database. FTA tracks the performance of revenue vehicles (Rolling Stock) and non-revenue service vehicles (Equipment), by asset class, by calculating the percentage of vehicles that have met or exceeded the useful life benchmark (ULB).

FTA has set a default ULB as the expected service years for each vehicle class in the table below. ULB is the average number of years at which a vehicle would reach a 2.5 rating on the FTA Transit Economic Requirements Model (TERM) scale, assuming a standard maintenance schedule. When entering fleet data in the NTD, Transit Agencies have the option to either use the pre-populated default ULB or submit an adjusted ULB based on differences in operating environment and/or agency maintenance practices. In cases where the submitted ULB differs significantly from the default value, agencies may be prompted to submit justification.

Vehicle Type		Default ULB (in years)
AB	Articulated bus	14
AG	Automated guideway vehicle	31
AO	Automobile	8
BR	Over-the-road bus	14
BU	Bus	14
CC	Cable car	112
CU	Cutaway bus	10
DB	Double decked bus	14
FB	Ferryboat	42
HR	Heavy rail passenger car	31
IP	Inclined plane vehicle	56
LR	Light rail vehicle	31
MO	Monorail vehicle	31
MV	Minivan	8
RL	Commuter rail locomotive	39
RP	Commuter rail passenger coach	39
RS	Commuter rail self-propelled passenger car	39
SB	School bus	14
	Steel wheel vehicles	25
SR	Streetcar	31
SV	Sport utility vehicle	8
TB	Trolleybus	13
	Trucks and other rubber tire vehicles	14
TR	Aerial tramway	12
VN	Van	8
VT	Vintage trolley	58