

Michigan Avenue/Grand River Avenue BRT
Lansing, Michigan
Small Starts Project Development
Information Updated November 2015

The Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) proposes to build an 8.5-mile bus rapid transit (BRT) line from the State Capitol in downtown Lansing, linking Michigan State University (MSU) and downtown East Lansing, to the Meridian Mall in Meridian Township. The BRT alignment includes 7.2 miles of exclusive bus lanes and 1.3 miles of operation in mixed traffic, 27 stations, 200 park-and-ride spaces, off-board fare collection, transit signal priority and the procurement of 17 new articulated buses. The project's current estimated capital cost is \$163.92 million. CATA expects to seek \$74.99 million in Small Starts funding.

The project would connect five of the region's major activity centers, including the State Capitol, MSU, the downtowns of Lansing and East Lansing, and Meridian Mall which includes over 120 retailers in nearly one million square feet of retail space. The project corridor, which also includes several national and regional educational institutions, major regional employers, medical facilities, and residential neighborhoods, is experiencing increasing congestion that cannot be mitigated by the existing transit network. BRT service would reduce one-way corridor transit travel time from 45 minutes to 37.5 minutes, provide more frequent service, and extended service hours.

CATA completed an alternatives analysis in the Michigan/Grand River Avenue Corridor in May 2011. BRT was selected as the locally preferred alternative. The project entered Small Starts Project Development in April 2013. The project was approved into the region's fiscally constrained long range transportation plan in July 2015. CATA anticipates completion of an Environmental Assessment and receipt of a Finding of No Significant Impact in 2016, receipt of a Small Starts Grant Agreement in 2017, and the start of revenue service in late 2018.