



What is Link?

Link is a modern transit system that will move our growing population around the city sustainably and efficiently. Link rapid transit will benefit everyone in Saskatoon, whether you take the bus, drive, walk or bike.

With funding secured from the federal and provincial governments, construction of some of the Link stations began in 2024 with 44 more planned in 2025, and system launch planned for 2028. 73% of the cost is being covered by our partnerships with the Province of Saskatchewan and the Government of Canada (and can't be used for other purposes).

Link is key to sustainable growth

As our population continues to rise, we need to keep densifying our neighbourhoods and improving transit. High-quality transit allows a city to grow without slowing traffic down. When prioritized, transit has the potential to reduce vehicle congestion, provide environmentally efficient and responsible transportation, and reduce both personal mobility expenses and overall public infrastructure expenses.

Link will have the potential capacity to move up to 1,440 passengers per hour in each direction. One bus with 30 passengers moves the same amount of people as 27 cars.

We often hear that people will never ride the bus – but with Link, buses will come more frequently, more reliably, will get you where you want to go quicker, and will be more competitive with a car in terms of convenience. An efficient transit system can also save residents money. No need for car payments, insurance or repairs.

For more general information, please visit saskatoon.ca/link.

For information specific to College Drive, or to fill out our online survey, please visit: saskatoon.ca/linkcollegedrive.

You can also use the QR code below:



Background

In 2016, Saskatoon City Council approved “The Growth Plan to Half a Million,” aiming for balanced growth, quality of life, sustainability, and economic development for a rapidly growing city. A key element of the Growth Plan was a Transit Plan that focused on a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system to provide high-frequency, direct service along major corridors.

In November 2017, Council approved a preferred BRT configuration and conceptual framework. Public comments were gathered in June 2018, which led to further engagement and technical work, including 19 engagement events held in the autumn of 2018. The feedback gathered from this work informed a report that went to City Council on April 29, 2019. At that meeting Saskatoon City Council approved the final routing and network design for the BRT system (Red, Green and Blue Lines).

Since the initial conceptual framework, work has been ongoing to develop functional plans, economic analysis, station design and a transit system reconfiguration plan. The Covid19 epidemic caused some delays in the work due to the inability to actively communicate with stakeholders. As work began to return to somewhat normal, conversations with stakeholders impacted by changes on the College Drive BRT Corridor from Clarence Avenue to Preston Avenue continued throughout the design process. The University of Saskatchewan, affiliated Colleges, hospitals, emergency services and area residents adjacent to College Drive have provided feedback to create a design that considers the various modes of transportation and needs of users of the transportation system, including those that work in the area, attend University, live nearby, or travel through.

One of the key pieces of creating a fundamental shift in how transit works in Saskatoon is funding. Through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), the governments of Canada and Saskatchewan have contributed 73% of the total project costs of \$250 million - money that is dedicated to the BRT project.

In July 2024, City Council approved the name Link to be used for the branding and marketing of the BRT system (Red, Green and Blue Lines). This new bus service will fall under the master brand of Saskatoon Transit, but it will have its own visual identity to reflect the unique high frequency corridor service.

Construction of the first station platforms began in autumn of 2024 with eight station platforms completed. 44 station platforms are planned for construction in 2025 with shelters and other amenities being finalized for installation prior to service launch. Link is anticipated to go into service in June 2028.



Saskatoon BRT

Approved 2019 April 29

Legend

- Stations
- ▲ Queue Jump Lanes
- Red Line
- Green Line
- Blue Line
- Mixed Traffic with Bump-out Stations
- Exclusive Runningways

