



# University Corridor Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Potential Health Benefits

## **What is BRT?**

Bus Rapid Transit, or BRT, is a high-quality bus-based transit service that operates similarly to light rail. The primary difference is that BRT uses buses, making it significantly cheaper to develop and maintain than light rail infrastructure. However, BRT benefits from dedicated lane and platform services like light rail.

## **What is the University Corridor project?**

The University Corridor project is a centerpiece of METRONext, METRO's capital improvements plan approved by over 70% of voters in 2019. The University Corridor will provide BRT services to communities from Westchase in southwest Houston to Eastex/Jensen in the northeast.

## **How will the project be beneficial to my health?**

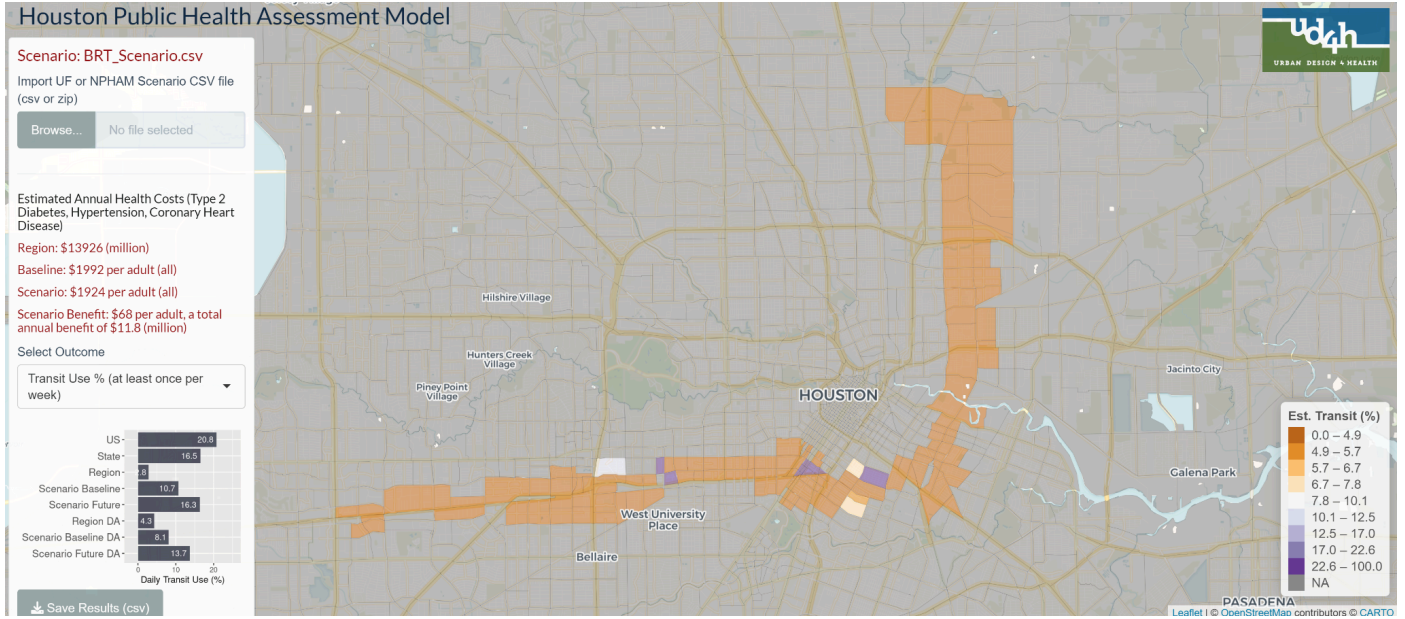
In partnership with Urban Design 4 Health, Air Alliance Houston has modeled the potential health impacts of the project using the H-PHAM tool (Houston Public Health Assessment tool). The University Corridor project will result in numerous health benefits for residents directly adjacent to it. Overall, the project will improve access to reliable transit, improve the pedestrian realm, and decrease car use in the area—all of which provide significant environmental and health benefits.

Infrastructure improvements from the project will result in the following health benefits:

- Lower BMI
- Lower Type 2 Diabetes rates
- Lower High Blood Pressure and Coronary Heart Disease rates
- Lower depression and distress rates
- Increase in walking, biking, and transit use
- Decrease in annual, community-level health costs by ~12 million (\$68 per capita)

Everyone has a right to breathe clean air.

a: 2520 Caroline Street, Suite 100, Houston, TX 77004 | p: 713.528.3779 | w: [airalliancehouston.org](http://airalliancehouston.org)



*Project area, modeling projected transit use increase*

Outcome	Region	Scenario Baseline	Scenario Results
Adult Population	7203662	173476	173476
Health Cost per Adult (\$)	1933	1992	1924
BMI	28.1	28.5	28.6
BMI>30 (%)	36.7	37.8	34.1
BMI>25 (%)	73.3	73.7	72.5
Type 2 Diabetes (%)	11.7	13.5	12.8
Hypertension (%)	23	21.6	21.2
Coronary Heart Disease (%)	4.8	4.5	4.4
Depression (%)	24.3	24.8	23.9
Distress (%)	4.6	5.2	5.1
Walk for Transport (%)	28.4	37.2	46.1
Bike for Transport (%)	1.7	3	3.9
Transit Use (%)	2.9	10.7	16.3
Personal Vehicle Use (%)	88.6	96.3	94.2

*Baseline and University Corridor BRT Scenario changes*

Everyone has a right to breathe clean air.

a: 2520 Caroline Street, Suite 100, Houston, TX 77004 | p: 713.528.3779 | w: [airalliancehouston.org](http://airalliancehouston.org)