

# SEPTA FORWARD: BUS REVOLUTION

## Fall 2023 Recommendations



### Overview of Changes

**SEPTA Forward: Bus Revolution** is sharing recommendations for bus service improvements.

The recommendations will include changes to 77 of the 125 SEPTA bus routes and the introduction of 16 new routes. The changes are designed to make the bus network more reliable, bring frequent bus routes closer to more people and jobs, and create a network that is easier to understand and use.

### Bus Revolution Recommendations

- Increasing the number of bus routes that operate frequently (at least every 15 minutes) on weekdays by 30%—from 33 to 43. All 43 routes will also operate frequently for much of the day on Saturdays and Sundays, representing a huge increase from today. An additional 1.1 million people will be within a 10-minute walk of frequent bus service, compared to today.
- Making the service more efficient to operate and easier to understand by combining similar routes and redesigning them to make them operate more directly. These changes will reduce the number of SEPTA bus routes overall from 125 routes (currently) to 106 (recommended).
- Introducing eight SEPTA on-demand zones, where riders will be able to request a ride and be picked up within 30 minutes. Riders will be able to travel anywhere within a zone and/or connect to SEPTA's other transit services (bus, Metro, and/or Regional Rail Stations).

The Bus Revolution will have many positive impacts for riders and people living and working in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Compared to SEPTA service today:

- The number of frequent bus routes will increase by 30%.
- An additional 1.1 million people will be within a 10-minute walk of frequent bus service.
- More than 99% of bus riders within a 5-minute walk of a bus route will still be within a 5-minute walk of a bus route.



 Bus  
Revolution

Visit the project website to view the latest draft and timeline, participate in a virtual meeting, or attend a community open house.

[SEPTABUSREVOLUTION.COM](https://septabusrevolution.com)

# Bus Revolution FAQs | We're answering some of your questions.

## How did SEPTA come up with these recommendations?

The recommendations reflect four rounds of community feedback and extensive analysis of SEPTA's existing bus routes, ridership patterns, local and regional travel patterns, and demographic analysis.

## Will the Bus Revolution mean more transfers?

We worked hard to minimize the number of transfers required, especially for short trips and for travel between important destinations, like Center City, University City, and the airport (for example). In some cases, however, some riders may need to walk slightly farther to their bus routes or transfer between routes.

Nearly 40% of all riders make a transfer today. To support this, in 2023 SEPTA began providing one free transfer, and added a second free transfer in 2023 based on public feedback in recent years.

## What about Bus Stop Spacing?

One of the goals of the Bus Revolution is to make service more reliable and dependable. Reducing how often a bus stops is one strategy to achieve these goals. While having many bus stops along a corridor means a short walk for riders, very closely spaced stops slow bus service for everyone. SEPTA has more closely spaced bus stops than any other transit system in the United States and in the City of Philadelphia, bus stops are sometimes only a two-minute walk, or about 700 feet apart. Most transit agencies aim for bus stops to be a four- to five-minute walk, or about 1,400 feet.

The Bus Revolution project will include changes to bus stops. These changes will occur as part of implementing the route changes. We are not including changes to bus stops in this round of recommendations because our focus is on individual bus routes. Once the bus routes are confirmed, we will share plans and ideas about where bus stops will go and how many there will be.

We will look at ridership levels and surrounding connections, destinations, and populations at individual stops, with a particular focus on frequent routes in areas with good pedestrian infrastructure. This will allow SEPTA to strike the right balance between a comfortable walk to and from a bus stop with how fast the bus can travel. Our goal is that riders who currently have a five-minute walk to a bus stop will continue to have only a five-minute walk to a bus stop.

## Will the Bus Revolution include infrastructure improvements?

Yes, SEPTA is investing more than \$150 million in infrastructure improvements designed to complement the service changes proposed through Bus Revolution, with a particular focus on making service faster and more reliable. In May, we broke ground on the new Wissahickon Transit Center, a \$45 million investment that will not only improve the passenger experience but will enable SEPTA to run more frequent service for thousands of people in northwest Philadelphia neighborhoods and beyond. We unveiled new, red-painted bus lanes on Market Street in August, a project completed through critical partnerships with PennDOT and the City of Philadelphia.

SEPTA is committed to working with partners, including the City of Philadelphia, to advance infrastructure improvements that support better service for everyone.

## How was feedback incorporated into the Bus Revolution?

The Bus Revolution included four rounds of community engagement that included 178 events. We talked to people in all parts of the service area and collected over 20,000 comments. After each round of engagement, we reviewed and tallied feedback and comments and used this information to update and refine our recommendations.

This current round of engagement is part of SEPTA's Public Hearing process. All comments received will be submitted as part of the testimony that will be reviewed by an independent hearing examiner. They will weigh the feedback and give recommendations to SEPTA regarding next steps for the Bus Revolution.

## What's next for the Bus Revolution?

The public hearing process will take place between September 12 and September 30, 2023. During that time, we will be collecting testimony and comments from riders throughout the City of Philadelphia and Southeastern Pennsylvania. An independent hearing examiner will review the testimony received and give recommendations to SEPTA regarding next steps for the Bus Revolution.

SEPTA plans to respond to this direction with an updated bus network by the end of the year so that implementation of the recommendations can begin in summer 2024.