

# benefits of bus rapid transit [BRT]

**Equal access** - Improved transportation to potential employment, housing, and services, regardless of ability, family status or socio-economic circumstances.

**Return on investment** - Investing in large infrastructure projects creates a positive cycle of change in the local economy for job creation, and even impacts the Gross Domestic Product [GDP] of Ontario and Canada.<sup>2</sup> Studies have shown that more direct and indirect jobs are created per dollar invested in mass transit infrastructure than any other type of infrastructure spending<sup>1,2</sup>

**Sustainable growth** - Help protect York Region's greenspace from development by attracting new residents and businesses to our city centres.<sup>3</sup>

**Support climate goals** - Provide a sustainable travel option to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions caused by traffic congestion.

**Fast, safe travel** - Bring faster travel times on transit<sup>4</sup> and fewer collisions.<sup>5</sup>

**Assets for years to come** - Updated utilities like gas mains and fibre optic, expanded infrastructure like bridges and culverts, and streetscape including tree-lined sidewalks and bike lanes.

## Sources:

1. Conversations for Responsible Economic Development. [2015]. How Transit Impacts our Economy.
2. Province of Ontario. [2021]. Economic impact of infrastructure investments across asset categories in Ontario.
3. Of the 3,800 building permits issued for apartment units Region-wide, 76% were along rapidways in York Region's designated urban centres and corridors. [Statistics from York Region Planning and Economic Development. [2021]. Committee of the Whole, 2020 Regional Centres and Corridors Update].
4. 15 to 39% faster than curbside transit before rapidway construction. [Calculated based on modelling by York Region Transit, Service Planning. [2019]].
5. York Region has already witnessed 53%-69% fewer collisions along roads with rapidways. [Statistics provided by York Region Public Works Department, Roads and Traffic Operations. [2021]].

travel time savings:



15%–39%

faster than curbside transit before construction of BRT lanes

for every \$100 million of investment in infrastructure:



1,600 jobs

created for 1 year

\$114 million

boost to Ontario's GDP

1 bus



up to 70 cars



less traffic congestion & greenhouse gas emissions



added safety

traffic-free BRT lanes for emergency service vehicles

53%–69%

fewer collisions along roads with BRT lanes

more greenspace:

from the first 34 km of bus rapid transit



4,430 trees

128,430

shrubs, plants and flowers