

# Milestones in Allegheny County Transit



- 1840s Horse-drawn omnibuses move first passengers between Downtown Pittsburgh and Lawrenceville.
- 1859 Citizens Passenger Railway Co. begins horse-drawn rail service in Pittsburgh.
- 1870 The Monongahela Incline opens and becomes the first operating passenger incline in the United States.
- 1888 Cable car service is first introduced between Downtown Pittsburgh and East Liberty.
- 1911 Inaugural bus service operates between Carrick and Bruceton.



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During the 1960s, Pittsburgh had the largest surviving streetcar system in the United States.

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- 3/1/64 Port Authority became the sole operator of all public transit in Allegheny County following a merger of 33 independent transit companies
- 5/25/73 Pittsburgh becomes the first big city to adopt an annual transit pass.
- 5/11/77 The American Society of Mechanical Engineers designates both the Monongahela and Duquesne Inclines as landmarks.



- 12/18/77 The 4.3-mile South Busway opens serving the communities of Overbrook, Brentwood, Whitehall and Baldwin.
- 3/8/79 ACCESS, the shared ride-transportation service for senior citizens and persons with disabilities, is established.
- 12/10/80 Port Authority breaks ground for Stage I Light Rail Transit project to modernize the remaining trolley lines into light rail service.

- 10/18/81 Local officials and dignitaries gather for a groundbreaking ceremony to begin construction on Port Authority's Downtown Subway.

- 2/21/82 The 6.8-mile Martin Luther King, Jr. East Busway opens, serving communities such as East Liberty, Homewood and Wilkinsburg.

- 4/15/84 The first portion of the new T system opens from South Hills Village to Castle Shannon.

- 7/3/85 Port Authority opens the 1.1 subway portion of its Downtown T system.





- 7/7/85 The Downtown Free Fare Zone is established.
- 10/2/89 HOV lanes opened in the median of I-279.  
Six Port Authority routes began express service to the North Hills.
- 5/16/93 Stage I Light Rail Transit improvements are completed.
- 10/27/94 Groundbreaking occurs for construction of the 5-mile West Busway.
- 11/18/96 New 28X Airport Flyer route debuts serving Oakland, Downtown Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh International Airport.
- 9/4/99 Port Authority retires the last of its Presidents' Conference Committee (PCC) cars during a farewell tour held on the old Drake Loop.

**In September 2000, Port Authority's West Busway opens, serving the communities of Carnegie, Crafton, Ingram, Sheraden and the West End.**



- 5/17/01 The first bike racks are installed on buses thanks to a grant from The Richard King Mellon Foundation.
- 11/01 First Avenue T Station opens, making it Port Authority's first new Downtown station to open in more than 13 years.

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6/15/03 Port Authority opens its new 2.3-mile extension of the Martin Luther King, Jr. East Busway to provide service to the Swissvale/Rankin border.

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6/2/04 The 5.2-mile Overbrook Line reopens after being closed for more than a decade for repairs

4/23/05 The first hybrid diesel-electric buses are put into service, reducing emissions of nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide, and, on average, achieving 25% greater fuel mileage and better acceleration than diesel buses.



3/25/12 Port Authority opens its 1.2-mile light rail extension from Downtown Pittsburgh to the North Shore, helping to revitalize the area by providing transit to business districts, educational institutions and entertainment venues.