

# 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.