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Rapid buses cut travel time in half for these Louisville neighborhoods. Are more to come?

Bailey Loosemore, Louisville Courier Journal

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The Courier Journal's Changing Communities reporter Bailey Loosemore will dig into the changes that are reshaping the places we call home. Courier Journal CONNECT TWEET LINKED IN COMMENT E MAIL MORE

It used to take Ronald Yates almost an hour to commute from his job in Valley Station to his home in Shawnee. But last month, his travel time was cut in half.

The reason: Louisville's first <u>rapid bus line</u>, which covers a 13-mile stretch of Dixie Highway into downtown. [Louisville's first rapid route — the 10 line — was created as part of the <u>New Dixie</u> <u>Highway Project</u>, a \$35 million effort meant to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety along the busy southwest corridor.]

Just as its name suggests, the service carries passengers through traffic quicker than traditional routes do. And city leaders say it's the first step toward creating a more efficient and reliable transit system similar to services in peer cities such as Nashville, Tennessee, and Indianapolis.

It could even lead to light rail in Louisville.

"There are cities that start with <u>bus rapid transit</u> and turn it into fixed rail," said Gretchen Milliken, Louisville's director of advanced planning and sustainability. "It's where a lot of cities are going."

The <u>Transit Authority of River City</u> reports that its rapid service is already exceeding expectations, with more than 6,600 rides in one week alone.

Read more at: https://www.news-leader.com/story/news/local/2020/03/02/light-rail-louisville-tarc-bus-rapid-transit-may-first-step/4867000002/

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