The C Line will improve transit in the Route 19 corridor.

Rapid bus is a package of transit enhancements that adds up to a faster trip and an improved experience on Metro Transit’s busiest bus routes.

Route 19 carries one out of four people traveling on Penn Avenue today, but buses make up less than 3 percent of the vehicle traffic. More than 7,000 people use Route 19 each weekday. Ridership is expected to grow to 9,000 rides per day by 2030 with the C Line.

What changes will the C Line bring?

Service will operate more frequently than it does today—every 10 minutes, like light rail. Longer buses will have additional seats and space. See features on the next page.

The C Line will be about 25 percent faster than Route 19 service—without making major changes to the street.

Fares will be collected at the station and not on the bus. Platforms will also have a raised curb making it easier to step onto the bus. Complete snow removal will improve winter boarding, too.
What makes the C Line different?

Limited stops, more frequent service
The C Line would be the primary service in the corridor, with increased service on nights and weekends. Local bus Route 19 would continue to run at a reduced frequency to serve local trips and off-corridor branches.

C Line
Service every 10 minutes 1/2 mile between stations

Route 19
Service every 30 minutes 1/8 mile between stops

More green time with signal priority
To keep moving, C Line buses can “ask” traffic signals for early or extended green lights to keep moving.

Pre-boarding fare payment for faster stops
For speedier boarding through all bus doors, C Line buses won’t have fare boxes. Customers will purchase a ticket or tap a Go-To Card, at the station just like light rail. Police officers—not bus drivers—will ensure customers have paid.

Curb extensions for speed & space
The C Line will run in general traffic and won’t widen the roadway. Instead, the project will add curb extensions or bump-outs at many stations.

Curb extension provides space for a C Line station and eliminates side-to-side weaving. Far side stops can use signal priority to help the bus keep moving.

Neighborhood-scale stations with amenities
Stations will be equipped with amenities for a safe and comfortable customer experience, similar to light rail. Standard features include heat, lighting, security features, real-time bus departure information and trash receptacles.