

## Introduction

For someone who has just begun their college career at Virginia Tech and is new to Blacksburg, riding bus, or Blacksburg Transit, can be a daunting and intimidating task. That being said, once one rides the bus a handful of times, this task is quite easy to complete. The public bus system in Blacksburg, Virginia can be very helpful for getting an individual from place to place. This document is intended to introduce the reader to the concept of Blacksburg Transit, provide a glossary of relevant terms, and give a simple set of instructions to use as a guideline for riding the bus.

## Glossary of Terms

**BT Access** – service offered by Blacksburg Transit that specifically caters to people who are handicapped or disabled

**BT4U** – service that allows the user to text Blacksburg Transit ([info@BT4U.org](mailto:info@BT4U.org)) with the route code and stop number from their mobile device and a text will be returned telling the user when the bus is expected to reach the specific stop

**Fare free days** – days the buses operate charging a fare to no one; examples include the fourth of July, and during a festival in early August

**Go Anywhere** – service that works by calling and making a reservation with Blacksburg Transit and they will pick you up and take you anywhere in the town limits on an individual basis

**Route code** – identifier for a bus route, usually three or four letters, the route code identifies which bus route(s) a given stop is part of

**Service level** – frequency at which the buses are operating depending on a number of factors including: time of year, weather conditions, and time of day

**Time check** – location where a bus stops until a given time so that it can maintain a schedule; most buses are a time check every fifteen minutes during daytime full service.

## Technical Description

Blacksburg Transit operates a system of buses in the town of Blacksburg, Virginia. This community is home to Virginia Tech; students and faculty of this university comprise most of the ridership of this public transportation system. Blacksburg Transit, often abbreviated BT, operates several conventional buses and two articulated buses (these buses have a flexible middle section that allows the buses to be almost double the length of a normal bus yet allows it to negotiate turns). The fleet also includes a handful of smaller buses that are operated by **BT Access**, a service that is tailored to handicapped individuals. The buses run year round and almost all hours of the day and night but there are some exceptions to this rule: during holidays and the summertime, the buses run on reduced service. The reduced service occurs because most of the ridership is students and faculty and therefore there is not great demand for buses during these periods. Inclement weather can also reduce service. On most

days, the buses run from around seven in the morning to almost midnight on some routes. During the weekends, the buses run even later, usually until two in the morning. The frequency at which the buses are operating is referred to as the **service level**. The buses run on many routes and have many bus stops so there is a system to keep this information clear. Also there is **BT Go Anywhere**, a service that will provide direct transportation to locations in Blacksburg and Christiansburg so long as the passenger makes advanced reservations. Each route has a **route code** that is a few letters long, CRC for example. The CRC Shuttle bus takes passengers from to the Corporate Research Center and back to campus; all of the stops on the CRC Shuttle route are marked with a BT sign and the route code CRC. Also, each bus stop has a **stop number**. For example, a stop number might be 1703. So a passenger wishing to go to the Virginia Tech Airport would need to use the CRC bus and exit at stop 1703. Also, this combination of route code and stop number can be used with **BT4U**, a service that allows you to text Blacksburg Transit (at [info@BT4U.org](mailto:info@BT4U.org)) which will reply with the next three times a bus will reach that stop. The picture, located at the left side of the page, shows a Blacksburg Transit bus marked with Main Street on the front of the bus. This identifies the bus as being on the Main Street route and a prospective passenger could disembark anywhere on that route. The bus costs a fare of fifty cents for



most riders (exceptions are made for handicapped and other groups). However, a Virginia Tech student may ride the bus with only the presentation of their Hokie Passport since part of tuition is a fee for the buses. If for some reason a Hokie Passport is unavailable, it is advisable to have exact change to make boarding the bus as easy as possible. On some special occasion (noted on the BT website) there are **fare free days**. Once on the bus, there is a selection of seats riders may choose from. However, the folding seats at the front of the bus are reserved for handicapped individuals. If the seats are all occupied, it is possible to stand. It is important to

use one of the hand rails if one plans on standing and riding the bus. When one is ready to exit the bus, one can pull on the yellow cord that runs the length of both sides of the bus. This cord tells the driver that a stop is requested. The driver will stop at the next bus stop. It is important not to signal the driver too late or too soon that a stop is requested. The general steps of riding are as follows: pick a route, board the bus, disembark the bus, then plan a return trip. Below is a detailed set of instructions on how to ride a Blacksburg Transit bus.

## **Instructions**

### ***Safety***

There are always safety considerations to think about when riding in a motor vehicle. Impacts and collisions can cause injuries. Also, crossing in front of a vehicle that weighs several tons can have a negative outcome. However, the buses are designed to maximize safety and using common sense will keep a rider safe.

## *Needed Materials*

Route map

Timetable

Hokie Passport or bus fare

Electronic device for accessing BT4U (optional)

1. **Determining a Destination:** The first step in riding the bus is deciding on a destination. After this is decided, one can consult the route maps in order to decide which bus to ride. The route map has the streets on which the bus travels highlighted as well as a dot that marks each bus stop. The time checks are marked with a yellow triangle. And some maps have points of interest marked with a green square. Below is a picture of a route map for the CRC shuttle route.



2. **Determining a Time:** The next step is to examine the timetable for the bus route that you have chosen. Find the last time check before the bus arrives at your stop on the route map (direction of travel is on the route map). Then, find out what time the bus will leave the time check. Then, based on how far away the bus stop is from the time check, determine how long it will take you to get to the bus stop from which you are departing (keeping in mind Blacksburg Transit advises that you arrive at your stop about five minutes prior to a bus arriving at your stop). Below is a picture of a timetable for the CRC route.

CRC Shuttle "CRC"				
Provides service from central campus to the Corporate Research Center during <b>Full Service ONLY</b>				
CRC Shuttle Full Service Weekdays				
Neuman Library	Kroff / Tech Center Dr (VCOM)	Neuman Library	Kroff / Tech Center Dr (VCOM)	
Stop # 1100	Stop # 1710	Stop # 1100	Stop # 1710	
7:15 AM	7:15 AM	1:45 PM	2:00 PM	
7:30 AM	7:45 AM	2:00 PM	2:15 PM	
7:45 AM	8:00 AM	2:15 PM	2:30 PM	
8:00 AM	8:15 AM	2:30 PM	2:45 PM	
8:15 AM	8:30 AM	2:45 PM	3:00 PM	
8:30 AM	8:45 AM	3:00 PM	3:15 PM	
8:45 AM	9:00 AM	3:15 PM	3:30 PM	
9:00 AM	9:15 AM	3:30 PM	3:45 PM	
9:15 AM	9:30 AM	3:45 PM	4:00 PM	
9:30 AM	9:45 AM	4:00 PM	4:15 PM	
9:45 AM	10:00 AM	4:15 PM	4:30 PM	
10:00 AM	10:15 AM	4:30 PM	4:45 PM	
10:15 AM	10:30 AM	4:45 PM	5:00 PM	
10:30 AM	10:45 AM	5:00 PM	5:15 PM	
10:45 AM	11:00 AM	5:15 PM	5:30 PM	
11:00 AM	11:15 AM	5:30 PM	5:45 PM	
11:15 AM	11:30 AM	5:45 PM	6:00 PM	
11:30 AM	11:45 AM	6:00 PM	6:15 PM	
11:45 AM	12:00 PM	6:15 PM	6:30 PM	
12:00 PM	12:15 PM	6:30 PM	6:45 PM	
12:15 PM	12:30 PM	6:45 PM	7:00 PM	
12:30 PM	12:45 PM	7:00 PM	7:15 PM	
12:45 PM	1:00 PM	7:15 PM	7:30 PM	
1:00 PM	1:15 PM	7:30 PM	7:45 PM	
1:15 PM	1:30 PM	7:45 PM	8:00 PM	
1:30 PM	1:45 PM	8:00 PM	8:15 PM	

  

CRC / Hospital "CRC/HOS"				
Provides service from central campus to the CRC, Hospital and Fairfax Road during <b>Reduced Service ONLY</b>				
CRC / Hospital Reduced Service Weekdays				
Library	Kroff / Tech Center Dr (VCOM)	Montgomery Hospital	Fairfax Road / Ellett Ebbel	Research Center / W. Woodrow
Stop # 1100	Stop # 1710	Stop # 1800	Stop # 1600	Stop # 1713
7:45 AM	7:55 AM	8:00 AM	8:15 AM	8:30 AM
8:45 AM	8:55 AM	9:00 AM	9:15 AM	9:30 AM
9:45 AM	9:55 AM	10:00 AM	10:15 AM	10:30 AM
10:45 AM	10:55 AM	11:00 AM	11:15 AM	11:30 AM
11:45 AM	11:55 AM	12:00 PM	12:15 PM	12:30 PM
12:45 PM	12:55 PM	1:00 PM	1:15 PM	1:30 PM
1:45 PM	1:55 PM	2:00 PM	2:15 PM	2:30 PM
2:45 PM	2:55 PM	3:00 PM	3:15 PM	3:30 PM
3:45 PM	3:55 PM	4:00 PM	4:15 PM	4:30 PM
4:45 PM	4:55 PM	5:00 PM	5:15 PM	5:30 PM
5:45 PM	5:55 PM	6:00 PM	6:15 PM	6:30 PM

  

CRC Pre-Scheduled Connector Service				
Provides service from Neuman Library, McComas and Fairfax Road to the Corporate Research Center during <b>Full Service Saturdays ONLY</b> between 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Does NOT run VT Game Days. Trips must be scheduled in advance by calling: 840-443-7100 x2722				
CRC Connector Full Service Saturdays, Does NOT run VT Game Days				
7:15 AM	7:15 AM	1:45 PM	2:00 PM	
7:30 AM	7:45 AM	2:00 PM	2:15 PM	
7:45 AM	8:00 AM	2:15 PM	2:30 PM	
8:00 AM	8:15 AM	2:30 PM	2:45 PM	
8:15 AM	8:30 AM	2:45 PM	3:00 PM	
8:30 AM	8:45 AM	3:00 PM	3:15 PM	
8:45 AM	9:00 AM	3:15 PM	3:30 PM	
9:00 AM	9:15 AM	3:30 PM	3:45 PM	
9:15 AM	9:30 AM	3:45 PM	4:00 PM	
9:30 AM	9:45 AM	4:00 PM	4:15 PM	
9:45 AM	10:00 AM	4:15 PM	4:30 PM	
10:00 AM	10:15 AM	4:30 PM	4:45 PM	
10:15 AM	10:30 AM	4:45 PM	5:00 PM	
10:30 AM	10:45 AM	5:00 PM	5:15 PM	
10:45 AM	11:00 AM	5:15 PM	5:30 PM	
11:00 AM	11:15 AM	5:30 PM	5:45 PM	
11:15 AM	11:30 AM	5:45 PM	6:00 PM	
11:30 AM	11:45 AM	6:00 PM	6:15 PM	
11:45 AM	12:00 PM	6:15 PM	6:30 PM	
12:00 PM	12:15 PM	6:30 PM	6:45 PM	
12:15 PM	12:30 PM	6:45 PM	7:00 PM	
12:30 PM	12:45 PM	7:00 PM	7:15 PM	
12:45 PM	1:00 PM	7:15 PM	7:30 PM	
1:00 PM	1:15 PM	7:30 PM	7:45 PM	
1:15 PM	1:30 PM	7:45 PM	8:00 PM	
1:30 PM	1:45 PM	8:00 PM	8:15 PM	

This route only operates during Reduced service levels. At all other times please refer to CRC Shuttle. No Weekend service.

This route does not operate on Weekends or during Reduced Service. During Reduced Service please refer to the CRC/Hospital schedule.

Passengers should be at the bus stop at least 5 minutes before scheduled departure time. Italic represent approximate times. Bold times indicate PM hours. For Full or Reduced Service level information please visit the event calendar at [www.btransit.org](http://www.btransit.org)

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3. **Boarding the Bus:** Once at the bus stop, you are ready to ride the bus. Watch as the bus approaches and make sure not to approach the bus before it comes to a complete stop. Enter through the front door of the bus and either present the driver your Hokie Passport, or pay the fifty cent fare. Find a seat or a place to stand and hold on (if standing). Pay attention to the buses' location at all times so that you are prepared to get off of the bus when the time comes.



4. **Deboarding the Bus:** When the bus nears the stop at which you want to exit, pull on the yellow cord that runs the length of both sides of the bus (pictured below). Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop and then you can stand and exit the bus through the rear doors. Make sure you check for oncoming traffic before crossing the street because oncoming traffic does not stop for pedestrians.



5. **Planning a Return Trip:** Remember where you got off of the bus. Consult the timetable and route map so that you are able to return when you are ready (note the return trip may have a bus stop on the opposite side of the road depending on the location).

**CRC/Hospital**

Provides service from the Drillfield to the Corporate Research Center (CRC). During Reduced Service, route is extended to include service to LewisGale Hospital Montgomery, Blacksburg Industrial Park and Fairfax St.

No weekend service  
For additional Saturday Service see CRC Connector information

**CRC Shuttle "CRC"**

Provides service from central campus to the Corporate Research Center during Full Service O&V.

Newman Library Stop # 1703	West / East Upper Rd Jct/CRS		Newman Library Stop # 1715	
	Algebra (West) Stop # 1715	Algebra (East) Stop # 1715	Algebra (West) Stop # 1715	Algebra (East) Stop # 1715
8:00 AM	8:15 AM	8:30 AM	8:45 AM	9:00 AM
8:30 AM	8:45 AM	9:00 AM	9:15 AM	9:30 AM
9:00 AM	9:15 AM	9:30 AM	9:45 AM	10:00 AM
9:30 AM	9:45 AM	10:00 AM	10:15 AM	10:30 AM
10:00 AM	10:15 AM	10:30 AM	10:45 AM	11:00 AM
10:30 AM	10:45 AM	11:00 AM	11:15 AM	11:30 AM
11:00 AM	11:15 AM	11:30 AM	11:45 AM	12:00 PM
11:30 AM	11:45 AM	12:00 PM	12:15 PM	12:30 PM
12:00 PM	12:15 PM	12:30 PM	12:45 PM	1:00 PM
12:30 PM	12:45 PM	1:00 PM	1:15 PM	1:30 PM
1:00 PM	1:15 PM	1:30 PM	1:45 PM	2:00 PM
1:30 PM	1:45 PM	2:00 PM	2:15 PM	2:30 PM
2:00 PM	2:15 PM	2:30 PM	2:45 PM	3:00 PM
2:30 PM	2:45 PM	3:00 PM	3:15 PM	3:30 PM
3:00 PM	3:15 PM	3:30 PM	3:45 PM	4:00 PM
3:30 PM	3:45 PM	4:00 PM	4:15 PM	4:30 PM
4:00 PM	4:15 PM	4:30 PM	4:45 PM	5:00 PM
4:30 PM	4:45 PM	5:00 PM	5:15 PM	5:30 PM
5:00 PM	5:15 PM	5:30 PM	5:45 PM	6:00 PM
5:30 PM	5:45 PM	6:00 PM	6:15 PM	6:30 PM
6:00 PM	6:15 PM	6:30 PM	6:45 PM	7:00 PM

No route does not operate on Wednesdays or during Reduced Service. During reduced service please refer to the CRC/Hospital schedule.

**CRC / Hospital "CRC/HOS"**

Provides service from central campus to the CRC, Hospital and Fairfax Road during Reduced Service O&V.

Library Stop # 1703	West / East Upper Rd Jct/CRS		Montgomery Regional Hospital Algebra (West)		Fairfax Road / East Blvd Algebra (West)		Research Center 1700 Research Center Algebra (West)	
	Algebra (West) Stop # 1715	Algebra (East) Stop # 1715	Algebra (West) Stop # 1715	Algebra (East) Stop # 1715	Algebra (West) Stop # 1715	Algebra (East) Stop # 1715	Algebra (West) Stop # 1715	Algebra (East) Stop # 1715
7:00 AM	7:15 AM	7:30 AM	7:45 AM	8:00 AM	8:15 AM	8:30 AM	8:45 AM	9:00 AM
7:30 AM	7:45 AM	8:00 AM	8:15 AM	8:30 AM	8:45 AM	9:00 AM	9:15 AM	9:30 AM
8:00 AM	8:15 AM	8:30 AM	8:45 AM	9:00 AM	9:15 AM	9:30 AM	9:45 AM	10:00 AM
8:30 AM	8:45 AM	9:00 AM	9:15 AM	9:30 AM	9:45 AM	10:00 AM	10:15 AM	10:30 AM
9:00 AM	9:15 AM	9:30 AM	9:45 AM	10:00 AM	10:15 AM	10:30 AM	10:45 AM	11:00 AM
9:30 AM	9:45 AM	10:00 AM	10:15 AM	10:30 AM	10:45 AM	11:00 AM	11:15 AM	11:30 AM
10:00 AM	10:15 AM	10:30 AM	10:45 AM	11:00 AM	11:15 AM	11:30 AM	11:45 AM	12:00 PM
10:30 AM	10:45 AM	11:00 AM	11:15 AM	11:30 AM	11:45 AM	12:00 PM	12:15 PM	12:30 PM
11:00 AM	11:15 AM	11:30 AM	11:45 AM	12:00 PM	12:15 PM	12:30 PM	12:45 PM	1:00 PM
11:30 AM	11:45 AM	12:00 PM	12:15 PM	12:30 PM	12:45 PM	1:00 PM	1:15 PM	1:30 PM
12:00 PM	12:15 PM	12:30 PM	12:45 PM	1:00 PM	1:15 PM	1:30 PM	1:45 PM	2:00 PM
12:30 PM	12:45 PM	1:00 PM	1:15 PM	1:30 PM	1:45 PM	2:00 PM	2:15 PM	2:30 PM
1:00 PM	1:15 PM	1:30 PM	1:45 PM	2:00 PM	2:15 PM	2:30 PM	2:45 PM	3:00 PM
1:30 PM	1:45 PM	2:00 PM	2:15 PM	2:30 PM	2:45 PM	3:00 PM	3:15 PM	3:30 PM
2:00 PM	2:15 PM	2:30 PM	2:45 PM	3:00 PM	3:15 PM	3:30 PM	3:45 PM	4:00 PM
2:30 PM	2:45 PM	3:00 PM	3:15 PM	3:30 PM	3:45 PM	4:00 PM	4:15 PM	4:30 PM
3:00 PM	3:15 PM	3:30 PM	3:45 PM	4:00 PM	4:15 PM	4:30 PM	4:45 PM	5:00 PM
3:30 PM	3:45 PM	4:00 PM	4:15 PM	4:30 PM	4:45 PM	5:00 PM	5:15 PM	5:30 PM
4:00 PM	4:15 PM	4:30 PM	4:45 PM	5:00 PM	5:15 PM	5:30 PM	5:45 PM	6:00 PM
4:30 PM	4:45 PM	5:00 PM	5:15 PM	5:30 PM	5:45 PM	6:00 PM	6:15 PM	6:30 PM
5:00 PM	5:15 PM	5:30 PM	5:45 PM	6:00 PM	6:15 PM	6:30 PM	6:45 PM	7:00 PM

This route only operates during Reduced Service days. All other times please refer to F&P timetables for additional details.

**CRC Pre-Scheduled Connector Service**

Provides service from Newman Library, McCombs and Fairfax Road to the Corporate Research Center during Full Service Reduced O&V between 9 AM - 9 PM. Does NOT run VT Game Days. This must be scheduled in advance by calling: 800-643-7104 x2722

Full service timetables: [View Full O&V Timetables](#)

## Conclusion

This document should address all aspects that would allow an individual to ride a Blacksburg Transit bus with little difficulty. A technical description, glossary, and step-by-step instructions convey a clear and easy way for someone to understand and use this system. Safety is always a consideration, but BT buses are designed with safety in mind and the operators have received significant training. If any problems are encountered, remember to sufficiently check the route maps and timetables. If this action does not help, contact Blacksburg Transit directly.

Note: The pictures from the technical description and steps one and two are from the Blacksburg Transit website (<http://www.blacksburg.gov/index.aspx?page=791> (on 3/3/14)). The pictures from steps three and four are taken by the author. The picture for step five is a combination of pictures from the Blacksburg Transit and a photo take by the author. The pictures were compiled by the author.