

Project Overview

The *Intercity Bus Schedule Frequencies on Notable U.S. Routes* project fills a gap in knowledge of the amount of service provided by intercity bus lines on heavily traveled corridors. This project involves recording the number of direct schedule options on 65 routes on representative days to provide a baseline understanding of service. We aim to update the schedule information annually or bi-annually to deepen our understanding of changes in bus transportation.

The information presented can build appreciation among policymakers, analysts, and journalists about the enormous scale of the U.S. intercity bus system. A prevailing lack of understanding about the system stems partially from the absence of available service frequency measures between cities. Even seemingly simple questions like "How many scheduled motorcoaches operated daily from City A to City B?" can't be readily answered due the lack of a convenient source of information available.

There are several contributing factors to this lack of clarity and resources. The *Russell's Official National Motor Coach Guide,* once a comprehensive source and still a valuable reference tool, does not include all carriers. Greyhound is included in the *Guide,* but it does not publish all its schedules. Compounding this issue, schedules have become highly dynamic. Passenger demand can result in expansions or cuts, or spur schedule changes after timetables are published. Online booking platforms capture the ever-changing nature of schedules, but many schedules disappear from public view once a bus departs. Comparing service levels over time is impossible without collecting and archiving schedule information from online sites.

Steps to Compile Information

The Chaddick Institute team follows a three-step process to measure schedule frequency.

- 1. Identify a broad range of routes representative of the U.S. intercity bus system. Our review considers 66 routes, primarily linking metro areas with a population of one million or more but also numerous smaller markets to give us a diverse mix of routes.
- 2. Review online booking sites to identify the companies that sell or provide service on these routes. As part of this process, we determined whether information should be retrieved from the individual carrier websites or whether booking "meta search" sites could be used.
- 3. Filter the results to accurately measure each route's service level. When there are multiple bus stops in a city, there is a risk that service will be overcounted due to the way search results are displayed, with unique options for each stop. Routes with stops designated in Table 1 as "Specific" involved filtering for particular stops or stations, while those shown as "All Stops" did not require filtering. When such filtering resulted in an inaccurate measure due to the idiosyncrasies of a schedule, a more labor-intensive review of the bus schedule was undertaken.

Our results (Table 1, pages 2 - 5) show the number of *direct buses daily* in the direction. For example, the first entry on the table, Albuquerque, NM – Denver, CO, had one Greyhound and 2 -3 Los Limousine departures on the days sampled in early 2025. Typically, there are an equal number of buses in the opposite direction. Additional details about our data collection are provided on page 6, along with an more extensively described example.

Figure 1: Interpreting the Frequency Tabulations Presented on Table 1

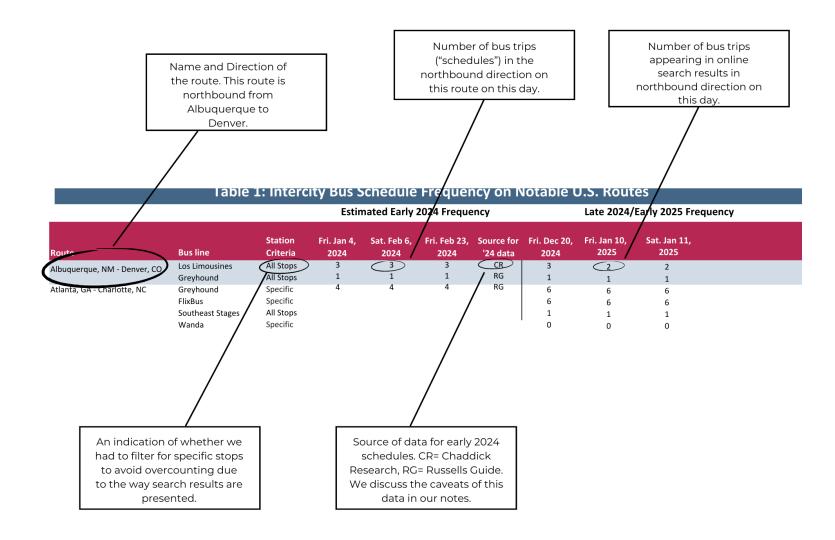


Table 1: Intercity Bus Schedule Frequency on Notable U.S. Routes												
	Bus line	Estimated Early 2024 Frequency Late 20										
Route	Bus line	Station Criteria	Fri. Jan 4, 2024	Sat. Feb 6, 2024	Fri. Feb 23, 2024	Source for	Fri. Dec 20, 2024	Fri. Jan 10, 2025	Sat. Jan 11, 2025	Wed. Jan 15, 2025	Fri. Feb. 28, 2025	
Albuquerque, NM - Denver, CO		All Stops	3	3	3	CR	3	2	2	2	2	
	Greyhound	All Stops	1	1	1	RG	1	1	1	0	1	
Atlanta, GA - Charlotte, NC	Greyhound	Specific	4	4	4	RG	6	6	6	6	6	
	FlixBus	Specific					6	6	6	2	5	
	Southeast Stages	All Stops					1	1	1	1	1	
	Wanda	Specific					0	0	0	0	0	
Atlanta, GA - Nashville, TN	Greyhound	All Stops	5	5	5	RG	5	5	5	5	5	
	FlixBus	All Stops					2	2	2	2	2	
	Vonlane	All Stops					2	2	1	1	2	
Atlanta, GA - Orlando, FL	Greyhound	All Stops	4	4	4	RG	5	5	5	4	4	
	FlixBus	Specific					3	3	3	4	4	
	RedCoach	All Stops					2	2	1	1	2	
Austin - Dallas, TX	Tornado/El Espreso	Specific					15	9	10	9	10	
	Vonlane	All Stops					10	10	4	8	10	
	Greyhound	All Stops	7	7	7	CR	8	8	8	8	8	
	FlixBus	Specific	2	2	2	CR	11	11	11	9	11	
	RedCoach	Specific	3	2	2	CR	2	2	2	2	2	
Austin - Houston, TX	FlixBus	Specific					7	7	6	4	7	
	Vonlane	All Stops					7	7	4	7	7	
	RedCoach	All Stops					5	4	3	3	4	
	Tornado/El Espreso	Specific					1	1	1	1	1	
Baton Rouge - New Orleans, LA	Greyhound	Specific	5	5	5	RG	6	6	6	7	7	
	FlixBus	All Stops					5	5	4	1	5	
Boise, ID - Portland, OR	FlixBus	All Stops					1	1	1	0	0	
Boston, MA - New York, NY	FlixBus	Specific	22	21	22	CR	27	27	23	14	27	
	Peter Pan	Specific	12	10	12	CR	15	15	14	8	13	
	Greyhound	Specific	10	10	9	CR	14	14	14	13	14	
	Go Buses	Specific	2	2	2	CR	6	2	2	2	2	
	Coach Run	All Stops	2	2	2	CR	2	2	2	0	0	
	OurBus	Specific	4	3	5	CR	6	4	2	1	4	
Bozeman, MT - Spokane, WA	Jefferson Lines	All Stops	1	1	1	RG	2	2	2	1	2	
Charlotte - Raleigh, NC	Greyhound	Specific					6	6	6	6	6	
	FlixBus	Specific					1	1	1	0	0	
	Coach Run	All Stops					1	1	1	0	?	
Charlotte, NC - Washington, DC	FlixBus	Specific					5	5	5	2	5	
	Greyhound	All Stops	4	4	4	RG	5	5	5	5	5	
	Wanda	All Stops					3	3	3	3	3	
	CoachRun	All Stops					1	1	1	1	1	

			Friday,	Saturday,	Friday,						
		Station	Janury 4,	February 6,		Source for	Friday, Dec.	Friday, Jan.	Sat. Jan 11,	Wed. Jan 15,	Friday, Feb.
Route	Bus line	Criteria	2024	2024	2024	'24 data	20, 2024	10, 2025	2025	2025	28, 2025
Cheyenne, WY - Denver, CO	Greyhound	All Stops	1	1	1	RG	1	1	1	1	2
,,,	Arrow	All Stops					1	0	0	1	0
Chicago, IL - Cincinnati, OH	Greyhound	Specific	1	1	1	RG	1	1	1	1	1
	Barons	Specific					0	0	0	0	0
Chicago, IL - Cleveland, OH	Greyhound	Specific	2	2	2	RG	2	2	2	2	2
	Barons	Specific					1	1	1	1	1
Chicago, IL - Detroit, MI	Greyhound	Specific	3	3	3	CR	3	3	3	3	3
	FlixBus	Specific	1	1	1	CR	2	1	1	0	1
Chicago, IL - Indianapolis, IN	Greyhound	Specific	6*	6*	6	CR	6	6	6	5	5
	FlixBus	Specific	4*	4*	4	CR	5	6	6	2	5
Chicago, IL - Memphis, TN	Tornado/El Espreso	Specific					3	2	2	2	2
Chicago, IL - Memphis, TN	Greyhound	Specific	2	2	2	RG	2	2	2	2	2
	Tornado/El Espreso	Specific					2	2	2	3	3
Chicago, IL - St. Louis, MO	Greyhound	Specific					2	2	2	2	2
Chicago, IL - St. Paul, MN	Greyhound	All Stops	4	4	4	CR	4	4	4	5	5
	FlixBus	All Stops	1	1	1	CR	2	2	2	2	2
Cincinnati, OH - Detroit, MI	Greyhound	All Stops	2	2	2	CR	2	2	2	2	2
	Barons	All Stops					1	1	1	1	1
	Tornado Bus	All Stops					1	1	1	1	1
Dallas - Houston, TX	FlixBus	Specific	7	6	7	CR	8	8	7	4	8
	Vonlane	All Stops	Х	X	Χ	CR	8	8	6	8	8
	Greyhound	Specific	7	7	7	CR	7	7	7	6	6
	Red Coach (FC and Bu	siSpecific	4	3	4	CR	5	5	4	3	5
	Tornado/El Espreso	Specific					2	2	2	2	2
	Megabus	All Stops	4	2	4	CR	0	0	0	0	
Dallas, TX - Los Angeles, CA	Greyhound	All Stops	3*	3*	3*	RG	3	3	3	3	3
Dallas, TX - Oklahoma City, OK	Greyhound	All Stops					3	3	3	3	3
Denver, CO - Omaha,NE	Arrow Express	Specific					1	1	1	1	1
	Burlington Trailways	Specific	1	1	1	RG	1	1	1	1	1
Denver, CO - Salt Lake City, UT	Greyhound	All Stops	1	1	1	RG	1	1	1	1	1
	Greyhound	All Stops					1	1	1	1	1
Denver - Glenwood Springs, CO	Bustang	All Stops					15	15	15	15	15
Des Moines, IA - Minneapolis, M	N Jefferson Lines	All Stops	2	2	2	RG	2	2	2	2	2
Detroit - Grand Rapids, MI	FlixBus	All Stops					1	1	1	0	1
	Indian Trails	All Stops					1	1	1	1	1
El Paso, TX - Phoenix, AZ	Greyhound	Specific	4	4	4	RG	5	5	5	5	5
	Los Limousines	All Stops					3	3	3	3	3
	Tusefa	All Stops					1	1	1	1	1
Houston, TX - Los Angeles, CA	Greyhound	All Stops					1	1	1	1	1
Houston, TX - New Orleans, CA	FlixBus	Specific					5	4	4	1	5
	Greyhound	Specific	3	3	3	RG	3	3	3	0	3
Indianapolis, IN - St. Louis, MO	Greyhound	All Stops	3	3	3	RG	3	3	3	3	3

		Station	Friday, Janury 4,	Saturday,	Friday,	Source for	Friday Dec	Friday Jan	Sat Jan 11	Wed. Jan 15,	Friday Feb
Route	Bus line	Criteria	2024	2024	2024	'24 data	20, 2024	10, 2025	2025	2025	28, 2025
Kansas City - St. Louis, MO	Greyhound	Specific					3	3	3	4	4
Laredo - San Antonio, TX	Greyhound	All Stops	7	7	7	CR	7	7	7	7	6
	Tornado/El Espreso	All Stops	4	3	6	CR	5	7	6	7	7
Las Vegas, NV - Los Angeles, CA	FlixBus	Specific	4*	4*	4*	CR	10	10	9	8	10
	Greyhound	Specific	6*	6*	6*	CR	7	7	7	7	7
	Las Vegas Shuttle	Specific	3*	3*	3*	CR	5	0	3	0	5
	Los Limousines	All Stops	1*	1*	1*	CR	3	3	3	3	3
	Tufesa	Specific	3*	3*	3*	CR	2	2	2	2	0
	Luxxpress	Specific					2	2	1	2	2
Las Vegas, NV - Phoenix, AZ	Tufesa	All Stops					3	3	3	3	3
	Los Limousine	All Stops					0	0	0	0	0
	FlixBus	Specific					2	2	2	2	2
	Greyhound	Specific	1	1	1	RG	0	0	0	0	0
Las Vegas - Reno, NV	All carriers	All Stops					0	0	0	0	0
Las Vegas, NV - Salt Lake City, UT	Tufesa	Specific					1	1	1	1	1
	All other carriers	All Stops					0	0	0	0	0
Los Angeles, CA - Phoenix, AZ	Greyhound	Specific	8	8	8	CR	7	6	6	6	6
	Los Limousine	Specific					4	3	3	3	0
	Tufesa	Specific	4	4	N/A	CR	3	3	0	3	0
	FlixBus	Specific	4	4	4	CR	3	3	3	1	3
Los Angeles - Oakland, CA	FlixBus	Specific	5	5	5	CR	5	5	5	3	5
	Greyhound	Specific	3	3	3	CR	3	3	3	3	3
Los Angeles - San Diego, CA	FlixBus	Specific					11	11	10	7	10
	Greyhound	Specific	4	4	4	RG	4	4	4	4	4
	Tufesa	Specific					3	3	3	3	0
Los Angeles - San Francisco, CA	FlixBus	Specific	4	4	4	CR	4	4	4	2	4
	Greyhound	Specific	4	4	4	CR	3	3	3	3	3
Los Angeles - St. Louis, MO	Greyhound	Specific	2	2	2	RG	2	2	2	2	2
McAllen - Houston, TX	Greyhound/Valley Tra	in Specific	4	4	4	CR	4	4	4	3	4
	Tornado/El Espreso	Specific	2	2	2	CR	3	2	2	2	2
McAllen - San Antonio, TX	Greyhound/Valley Tra	ın All Stops	6	6	5	CR	5	5	5	4	3
	Tornado/El Espreso	All Stops	1	1	1	CR	2	1	1	1	1
Miami - Orlando, FL	FlixBus	Specific	13	14	15	CR	13	13	10	5	13
	RedCoach	Specific	5	5	5	CR	7	7	8	5	7
	Greyhound	Specific	4	4	4	CR	4	4	4	5	5
	Jet Set Express	Specific	2	2	2	CR	3	3	3	3	3

		Station	Friday,	Saturday,	Friday,	Source for	Fuidou Doo	Fuidou los	Cat lan 11	Wed les 15	Friday, Feb.
Route	Bus line	Criteria	Janury 4, 2024	2024	2024	'24 data	20, 2024	10, 2025	2025	2025	28, 2025
Miami - Tampa, FL	FlixBus	Specific					8	8	6	3	8
	Greyhound	All Stops					3	3	2	1	2
	RedCoach	All Stops					2	2	3	2	2
Minneapolis - Duluth, MN	Jefferson Lines	Specific	3	3	3	RG	3	3	2	3	3
Minneapolis - Fargo, MN	Jefferson Lines	All Stops	1	1	1	RG	2	2	2	4	2
Nashville, TN - Memphis, TN	Greyhound	All Stops	4	4	4	RG	4	4	4	4	4
	Vonlane	All Stops					2	2	1	2	2
New York - Ithaca, NY	OurBus	All Stops					5	4	4	6	5
	FlixBus	All Stops					4	4	3	2	4
	Megabus	Specific					2	2	2	0	2
	Adirondack Trailways	All Stops					1	1	1	1	1
	Greyhound	All Stops					0	0	0	0	0
New York, NY - Montreal, QB	Greyhound	All Stops					4	4	4	4	4
	Flixbus	All Stops					2	2	2	2	2
	Adirondack Trailways	Specific					1	2	2	2	2
New York, NY - Philadelphia, PA	FlixBus	Specific	18	17	17	CR	25	25	24	14	25
	Greyhound	Specific	16	16	16	CR	18	18	18	19	19
	Peter Pan	Specific	11	11	11	CR	16	16	14	8	16
	Wanda	Specific	6	6	6	CR	6	6	6	5	6
	OurBus	Specific	2	2	2	CR	5	4	5	4	3
	Panda	Specific	5	5	5	CR	3	3	3	3	3
New York, NY - Pittsburgh, PA	Greyhound	All Stops	4	4	4	RG	6	6	5	6	6
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Fullington Trailways	All Stops					1	1	1	1	1
	FlixBus	Specific					0	0	0	0	0
New York, NY - Providence, RI	Peter Pan	Specific					4	5	5	4	5
	FlixBus	All Stops					3	3	4	2	4
	Greyhound	All Stops					1	1	1	1	1
	OurBus	All Stops					1	0	0	0	0
New York, NY - St. Lous, MO	Greyhound	All Stops	3	3	3	RG	3	3	3	2	2
New York, NY - Syracuse, NY	FlixBus	All Stops					7	7	7	4	7
, 5,,	Greyhound	All Stops					6	6	6	6	6
	Adirondack Trailways	Specific					5	4	4	3	4
	OurBus	All Stops					2	4	4	2	1
New York, NY - Toronto, ON	FlixBus	Specific					3	3	3	1	3
	Adirondack+NY Trailwa	•					3	2	2	2	2
	Greyhound	All Stops					3	3	3	3	3

Route	Bus line	Station Criteria	Friday, Janury 4, 2024	Saturday, February 6, 2024	Friday, February 23, 2024	Source for '23 data	Friday, Dec. 20, 2024	Friday, Jan. 10, 2025	Sat. Jan 11, 2025	Wed. Jan 15, 2025	Friday, Feb. 28, 2025
New York, NY - Washington, DC	FlixBus	Specific	21	21	22	CR	29	29	29	13	29
	Peter Pan	Specific	8	6	8	CR	23	23	21	13	23
	Greyhound	Specific	14	13	14	CR	14	14	14	13	13
	Wanda	All Stops	6	5	6	CR	6	6	6	6	5
	Washington Deluxe	Specific	5	2	N/A	CR	4	3	1	0	3
	OurBus	All Stops	5	3	N/A	CR	3	1	1	0	2
	Megabus	All Stops	22	24	18	CR	0	0	0	0	0
Oklahoma City, OK - Wichita, KS	Greyhound	All Stops					2	2	2	2	2
	Amtrak Thruway	All Stops					1	1	1	1	1
Orlando - Tallahassee, FL	RedCoach	Specific	5*	5*	4*	CR	4	4	5	4	4
	FlixBus	All Stops	1*	1*	1*	CR	1	1	1	0	1
	Greyhound	All Stops	1*	1*	1*	CR	1	1	1	1	2
Pittsburgh, PA - Washington, DC	Greyhound	All Stops					3	3	3	4	3
Portland, OR - Salt Lake City, UT	All carriers	All Stops	1	1	1	CR	0	0	0	0	0
Portland, OR - Seattle, WA	FlixBus	Specific	6	7	6	CR	5	4	4	3	4
	Greyhound	All Stops	1	1	1	RG	0	0	0	0	0
Portland, OR - Sacramento, CA	FlixBus	Specific					1	1	1	1	1
	Greyhound	All Stops	2	2	2	CR	0	0	0	0	0
Raleigh, NC - Washington DC	Greyhound	All Stops	5	5	5	CR	6	6	6	6	6
	Wanda	All Stops	3	3	3	CR	3	3	3	3	3
	FlixBus	All Stops	2	2	2	CR	2	2	2	0	2
	Coach Run	All Stops					1	1	1	0	0
San Francisco - Sacramento, CA	FlixBus	Specific					4	4	3	3	4
	Greyhound	Specific					3	3	3	3	3
Seattle - Spokane, WA	FlixBus	Specific					2	2	2	2	2
•	Northwest Stages	Specific					3	3	3	1	3
	Greyhound	All Stops	2	2	2	CR	0	0	0	0	0
Seattle - Vancouver, WA	FlixBus	Specific					n/A	4	4	3	4
	Greyhound	Specific	2	2	2	RG	n/A	1	1	1	1
	Amtrak Thruway bus	Specific	4	4	4	CR	n/A	4	4	4	4
	Quick Shuttle	Specific					n/A	2	2	0	2
Source code for early 2024 data		<u>Key</u>									
RG: Russells Official Motor Coach G	uide		guency in oppo	site direction fro	om route shown						
CR: Chaddick Institute research			om Russells Gu								
CK: Chaddick institute research				s Guide, but info	incomplete						

Technical Details of Schedule Information Collected

The following methodological details were significant to our data collection:

<u>Direct Service Only</u>. Only direct bus services were considered and connecting services (those involving transfers) were excluded. Data was collected at least seven days in advance (with some exceptions) for trips on December 22, 2024, and at least a week in advance for January and February 2025. Our data-collection approach picked up "extra sections" operators by bus lines added to reservation booking platforms as separate buses, as each departure is generally listed separately. However, carriers may add buses on specific routes closer to departure, which will not be identified by our method.

Sources Consulted. To identify carriers providing service, we consulted several metasearch ("booking aggregator") sites, including busbud.com, ilikebus.com, and wanderu.com. We also reviewed individual carrier websites, including bustang.com, greyhound.com, redcoachusa.com, tornodobus.com, and vonlane.com. On routes between large metro areas with stops in both the city proper and suburban areas, we focused on service to and from the city proper. For example, when evaluating New York – Washington service, only stops within the city limits of New York, NY, and Washington, DC, are considered. Due to unique geographical considerations, we included Cambridge, MA, in our Boston, MA, results. We also present in Table 1 estimates of schedule frequency in late 2023 and early 2024. However, we caution that these earlier results are the product of different and less refined data-collection efforts than our recent results. We often used *Russell's Guide* to assess service levels in early 2024, which may not reflect additions or subtractions to service after publication.

<u>Caveats</u>. On a handful of routes, our results may not include carriers whose schedules do not appear on major booking platforms. These omissions pertain primarily to small carriers concentrating on the U.S./Mexico border region and lines operating to and from New York's Chinatown district that do not appear on major booking platforms. Although these carriers account for only a tiny share of departures, it is important to remember that our results are only for carriers that appear on prominent booking platforms. The possibly that certain buses were sold out, and thus dropped from search results, exists. However, we found no evidence that this was an issue, largely due to our practice of looking at schedules well in advance of departure.

Illustrative Example. The first entry on the table, Albuquerque, NM – Denver, CO, had one Greyhound and 2 -3 Los Limousine departures on December 20, 2024, and each of the four days sampled in early 2025. This reflects service in the designated (northbound) direction and is based on search results on online booking platforms. Each carrier had just one stop in each of the cities, making filtering for particular stops unnecessary (hence, the "All Stop" designation on the table). The early 2024 results for Greyhound are from the Russell's Guide (RG), which showed one departure but may not capture schedule changes after RG's publication. Los Limousine neither appeared in RG nor was encompassed by earlier Chaddick Institute research (CR). Thus, no schedule information for early 2024 are provided.

<u>Information on File with Study Team</u>. We collected additional information beyond that shown in Table 1 to facilitate future data-collection efforts. Please contact the study team if you have questions or would like elaboration.