

LIGHT RAIL STATIONS

Light Rail stations are places where transit riders can board or exit light rail lines or transfer to other types of transit, like MetroRapid or MetroExpress services.

» DESIGN

Depending on average daily traffic, constraints and existing terrain, light rail stations can be built at one of three elevation levels.

STREET LEVEL



Blue Line Light Rail, Minneapolis, MN
[via Wikimedia Commons](#)

ELEVATED



DART Royal Lane Station, Dallas, TX
[via Wikimedia Commons](#)

UNDERGROUND



Northgate Link Light Rail, Seattle, WA
[via Sound Transit](#)

» PLATFORMS

Station platforms are designed based on factors like space available and existing street layout. These three platform options could be applied to any of the station layouts above.

CENTER PLATFORM

Station is positioned between two tracks



MAX Orange Line Light Rail, Portland, OR
[via Trimet](#)

SIDE PLATFORM

Station is positioned on both sides of two tracks



MAX Blue Line Light Rail, Portland, OR
[via Google Streetview](#)

SPLIT PLATFORM

Station is split, usually on either side of an intersection



MAX Blue Line Light Rail, Portland, OR
[via Google Streetview](#)

» STATION LOCATIONS

Several factors determine where light rail stations can be placed, including:



STATION SIZE

Light rail stations take up roughly a city block's length of space – typically 400 feet long by up to 24 feet wide.



AREA ELEVATION

For light rail vehicles to start and stop as designed, each station along a line must be placed in areas that are straight and flat, free of curves or turns, and with little to no slope.



BALANCING ACCESS AND SPEED OF SERVICE

More stops mean more access, but this can affect the speed of the service.



ACTIVITY AROUND STATION AREA

In destinations with higher activity, coverage areas may need to overlap in order to conveniently serve the most users. Stations would ideally be located near the places people want to go, so that once they arrive at the station, they can walk or bike to their destination with relative ease.

» AMENITIES AND FEATURES

Regardless of which type of station is chosen, these amenities will be a priority:

- Full accessibility to all
- Proper scale to fit neighborhoods
- Community-centered
- Opportunities for art
- Shelter for shade and protection from elements
- Informative signage
- Seating and leaning rails
- Lighting, video surveillance and emergency phones
- Ticket vending machines
- Landscaping
- Connectivity to sidewalks, bike lanes and storage facilities, other transportation options and parking (where applicable)

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