



ROUTE 53 | SMITHFIELD AVENUE

Route 53 operates between Kennedy Plaza in downtown Providence and the Saylesville Industrial Park in Lincoln. The route provides straightforward, direct service via Charles Street and Smithfield Avenue. However, the route performs poorly, largely because it duplicates Route 72 Weeden/Central Falls for most of its length. Ridership demand is low in the area north of Weeden Street that is uniquely served by Route 53.

Proposed Changes

- Consolidate Route 53 with Route 72 Weeden/Central Falls to reduce duplication and provide more consistent service on Smithfield Avenue. The consolidated route would follow the existing Route 72 alignment and continued to be designated as Route 72 Weeden/Central Falls.
- Increase frequency on Route 72 to 30 minutes during the peak, 45 during the off-peak.
- Extend service hours on Route 72 to begin at 5:30 AM and end at 7:30 PM.
- Service to Saylesville Industrial Park would be discontinued due to low ridership. Route 53’s trip deviation into the Branch Avenue Stop & Shop would also be discontinued.

Before and After Statistics

	EXISTING	PROPOSED
	Existing Route 53	New Route 72
Span of Service		
Weekday	6:03 AM – 6:27 PM	5:30 AM – 7:30 PM
Headways		
Weekday		
AM Peak	55	30
Midday	53-55	45
PM Peak	55-62	30
Evening	1 trip	45

Related Changes

- The Charles Street corridor, south of Smithfield Avenue, would continue to have high frequency bus service, with Routes 51, 55, 58 and 72 serving this area.
- Route 72 would discontinue its two trip deviations within Central Falls, serving Wilfred Manor and Coates Manor, due to low ridership. Avoiding these deviations will provide faster, more direct service for the majority of customers on this route.



ROUTE 53 | SMITHFIELD AVENUE MAP

