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ABSTRACT

The accelerated growth of urban population in Colombia during the last decades has created a challenge to public transportation systems in cities across the country. This document presents a case study of Transcaribe, the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system that operates in Cartagena, Colombia. Transcaribe was created to supply public transportation services that are environmentally friendly and more organized than the previous system of buses. In order to do so, the institution has to both manage and operate a portion of the system. The implementation of Transcaribe presented major challenges regarding its operational design and the construction of infrastructure, as well as current financial considerations that deteriorate its solvency. New sources of funding should be considered to guarantee its financial sustainability, such as the investment of public local resources to increase long-term demand for the system.