Installing SpotMyBus Mobile App on Android

We, at SpotMyBus, have developed a new mobile app for tracking your school buses. It works even better than than the original SMB app (which worked very well).

You must install the new SMB app using a web browser. Here are the instructions for installing with Chrome. Since Chrome and Android were both created by Google, Chrome comes installed on all Android phones. These instructions will likely work pretty well even if you use a different browser on your phone.

Installation Using Google's Chrome Browser

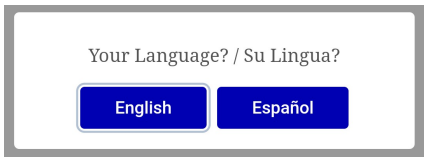
Step 1

Open your Chrome browser and direct it to:

https://spotmybus.app/install

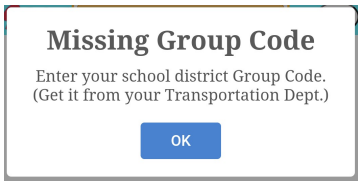
Please be sure to include the "https" (and make sure not to leave out the 's' at the end).

The app will ask you which language you prefer (English or Spanish). Touch the button for the language you prefer. The remainder of the instructions assume you chose English.

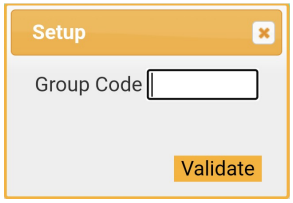


Step 2

Next, the app will ask you provide your school district's "Group Code." The Group Code is a 9-digit number. Your transportation department can provide you with the correct Group Code.



Touch "OK" and a dialog will appear:



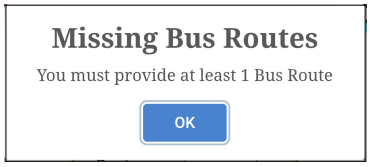
Enter the 9-digit Group Code provided by your transportation department and then touch the "Validate" button.

If the app complains that you have not entered a 9-digit code, or that you have entered an, "Invalid Group Code," then make sure you have the correct code, enter it carefully, and touch the "Validate" button.

Step 3

After you enter a valid Group Code, the app asks you to provide one or more Bus Route names for the routes you want to watch.

Touch OK and a dialog will appear:



You can enter up to five different Routes. Please be aware that Route Names and and Bus Numbers are not the same thing. A Route is a sequence of bus stops. Normally, each Bus Route is assigned a bus that runs that route every day. However, on any given day the bus that normally runs a route may be unavailable (e.g. out of service), and a different bus will be assigned to the route. The Route does not change from day to day, but the bus can.



Therefore, the SMB app asks you to provide Bus Routes *not* bus numbers. You must get the Route name(s) from your transportation department.

If you have one child riding a school bus, you'll only need to enter one Route name, but if you have more than one child riding different buses, you may want to enter more than one Route name.

After you enter the Route names, touch the "Validate" button, and the SMB app will verify that all of the Route names you provided are valid ones. If any of the Route names are not valid, the app will ask you to remove them from the list of Route names.

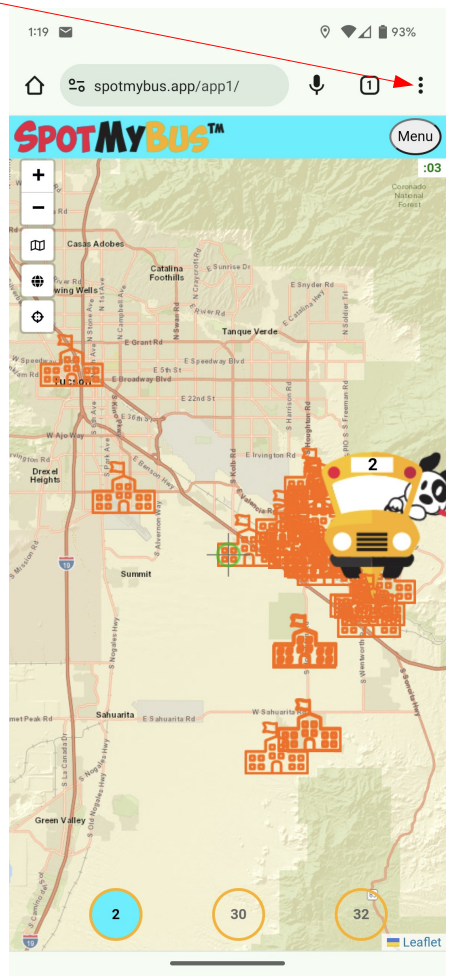
After you provide valid route names (and touch "Validate") the app will let you know it has saved your Route preferences.



Touch the "OK" button.

Step 4

Now, there will be a set of round buttons on the bottom of the screen, one for each Route name you specified in the the previous step. The SMB app displays only one Route at a time. You can switch between routes by touching the route buttons at the bottom of the display.



I touched the button for Route 2.

After you select a Route, a map will appear showing the schools in your school district and the location of the bus running the route you selected (if the bus is currently active). It will look something like this:

Notice, the bus icon is displayed with the Route name showing in the icon.

Naturally, you can zoom in and out by "pinching" or "stretching" the screen with your fingers, as on all mobile apps.

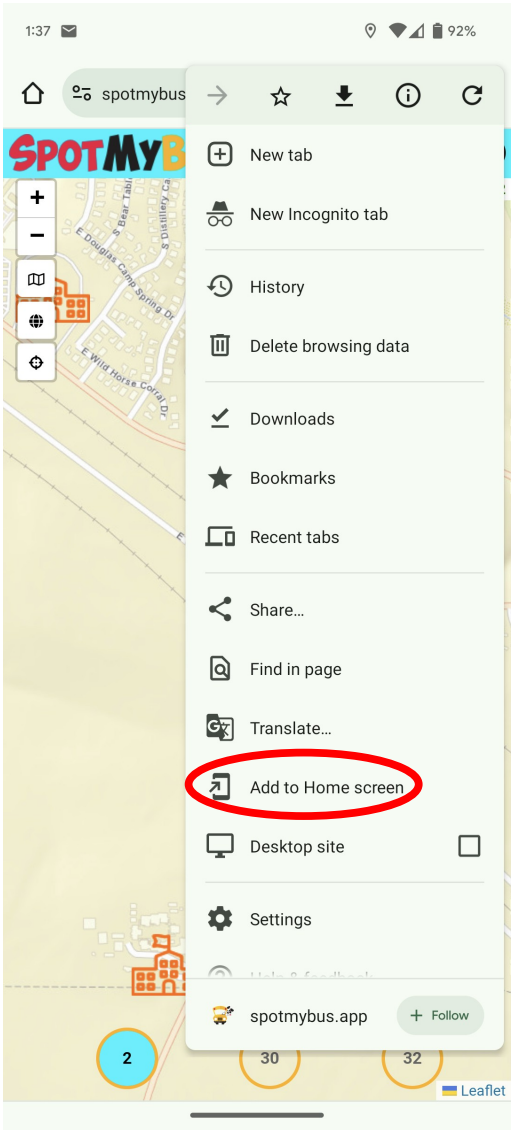
Notice there is a "timer" in the upper-right corner of the map. The timer shows how long ago the bus you are watching sent its location. Normally, buses send location information information every 30 seconds, so you'll see the timer count up, second-by-second, to 30, and then the position of the bus icon may change (if the bus moved) and the timer will reset to 0.

If there is no bus actively running the selected route, no bus icon will be displayed and the text in the timer box will say: "Inactive Route".

You can switch between “map” and “satellite” backgrounds using the 3rd and 4th icons in the upper-left corner of the map. Try touching the bottom one of those five icons a few times and see what happens.

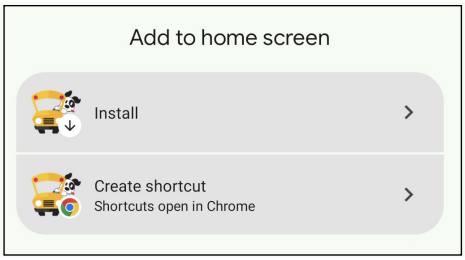
Step 5

Okay, so far you’ve got the SMB app running on your phone in a browser (Chrome). You can actually install it on your pbone, so it adds an icon to your phone’s home screen that you can touch to launch the SMB app. When you launch the app by touching the icon, it won’t look like it’s running in a browser any more. It will look like any other app installed on your phone.

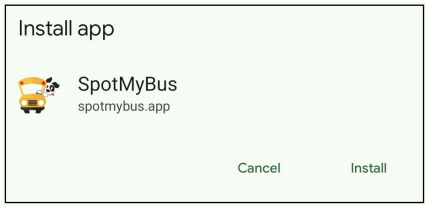


To install the app on your phone, first notice the red arrow pointing (in the image in Step 4) to the “3-dots” icon. Touch that icon and a long menu of options will appear, as in the image to the right.

Touch the “Add to Home Screen” option (circled in red), and a dialog like this will appear:



Choose the “Install” (top) option. The app will ask you to verify you want to install the app:



Touch “Install” and the SMB app will be installed on your phone, and an SMB icon will be added to your phone’s home screen that you can touch to launch the SMB app.