



# BUS CHAT



## Starlink in a Bus Conversion?



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How many people have, or have considered getting Starlink? I see more and more people using it in campgrounds and some of my friends have it. The \$600 hardware fee is a bit steep for what you get in my opinion however, when you consider the monthly fee of \$150, which seems to keep ratcheting up every few months, it can cost a lot to use this system. At \$150/month, that comes out to \$1,800/year to be connected. Is it worth it? Only you can make that determination.

If I get it, I will probably use it for at least 10 years, good Lord willing, and that comes to \$18,000, and that is assuming no price hikes, which will happen, guaranteed. My Verizon and T-Mobile hotspots work in about 95% of the places I travel, so I figure it will cost me \$18,000 to get connected 5% of the time that I can't connect any other way.

Also, because I travel and live full-time in my bus conversion, if I park someplace that I cannot get a cell phone connection, then I have a choice. I can either not check my email and the Forum for a few days until I can get to a place where I can get

a connection, or I can continue driving until I can reach a location with cell phone service, maybe at the next stop. There have been very few times that I felt I needed Starlink to be connected.

That being said, I was parked on a beach in Mexico last February where there were no cell phone towers nearby, so the connection was very spotty. Luckily my neighbor had Starlink, and he let me connect to his system and I was able to get my work done. However, I could have easily driven about a mile into town and connected with my hotspot.

If I were stationary in a remote mountain cabin in the middle of Colorado, then no doubt, I would get Starlink in a heartbeat, but in my current situation, it is hard to justify the \$18,000 price tag over 10 years to stay connected.

The other thing about Starlink, unless you mount the antenna on your roof, you must get it out of a protective case (which does not come with the unit) and set it up and run the cable and connect it each time you park. Then when you get ready to leave, you must take it down, box it up, coil up the cable and store it in your bus. Yes, one more thing to have to make room for in your bus. If I were to stop in a rest area for the night in the middle of nowhere for a day or two, is it worth setting it up for one night? Besides it may get run over or stolen, although most people know, it will not work for them without an official transfer of ownership.

You could permanently mount it on your roof, but you need a clear view of the sky in the direction of the satellites, and if you like to park under trees to keep your bus cool in the summer, a roof mount system is not ideal. There is an advantage to having my unidirectional hotspots and just turning on my laptop and instantly be connected 24/7 without having to even get out of the bus.

There at least are a couple of Facebook pages dedicated to Starlink, and if you read those, you will see that there are problems now and then with Starlink, as they seem to be quite brittle and they get blown off roofs and damaged all the