

Transit System Plan Update

Metropolitan Transit Commission

September 25, 2024



Transit System Plan Update

Opportunity to bring **Vision to Reality**

Integrated Approach

We can weave our bus vision with our rapid corridor vision into a **balanced plan** to best serve our customers.

Transparent Process

We will use an **open and inclusive process** to discuss assumptions, trade-offs and opportunities.

Realistic Plan

We will develop a plan that is **implementable** and sustainable over the long-term.

What is the Transit System Plan Update?

Our Transit Vision

The Transit System Plan Update will provide a financial plan and implementation schedule for an identified program of bus and rail improvements in the Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) service area.

Better Bus Plan

Foundation of our Transit System Plan

Rapid Transit Corridor System Plan

Update of the 2030 Corridor System Plan

Balanced Program

Of bus and rail improvements in the CATS service area

Financial Plan

Fiscally constrained to committed, planned or future funding (local and federal)

Note: CATS' existing local funding sources for transit are fully committed to fund existing transit services

Implementation Schedule

An implementation schedule will be developed based on community goals and priorities as well as financial constraints

CATS Team

Kelly Goforth

Chief Development Officer

Jason Lawrence

Chief Planning Officer

Chad Howell

Chief Financial Officer

Consultant Team

Better Bus Program

Foursquare ITP & Kittelson & Associates

Rapid Transit Program

WSP

Financial Analysis

Infrastrategies LLC

This Plan is Building On:

Our Mission & Vision

Moving people forward

To create a seamless transit experience that improves the lives of individuals, fuels economic growth, builds a connected region and fosters a sustainable future for all.



Values:

Safety
Employee Centric
Customer Focused
Equity & Inclusion
Innovation
Sustainability
Excellence

Strategic Priorities:

Organizational Resilience
Employee Success
Future-Forward Planning & Innovation
Exceptional Customer Experience
Positive Community Impact

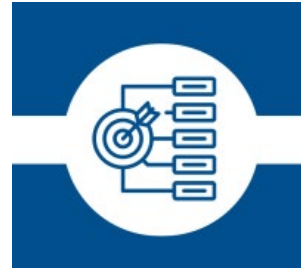
Process:

How will the Transit System Plan be Updated?

We will follow a transparent and inclusive process to build consensus around the overall goals and objectives for future transit expansion in the CATS service area.

We will work with the Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC), stakeholders, and the public throughout the process.

1



Fall 2024

Goals, Objectives & Baseline Assumptions

Confirm and prioritize program goals and objectives. Define evaluation criteria based on those goals

2

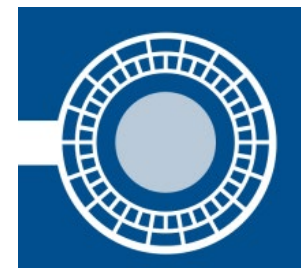


Winter/Spring 2025

Alternatives & Evaluation

Evaluate potential bus and rail improvements

3

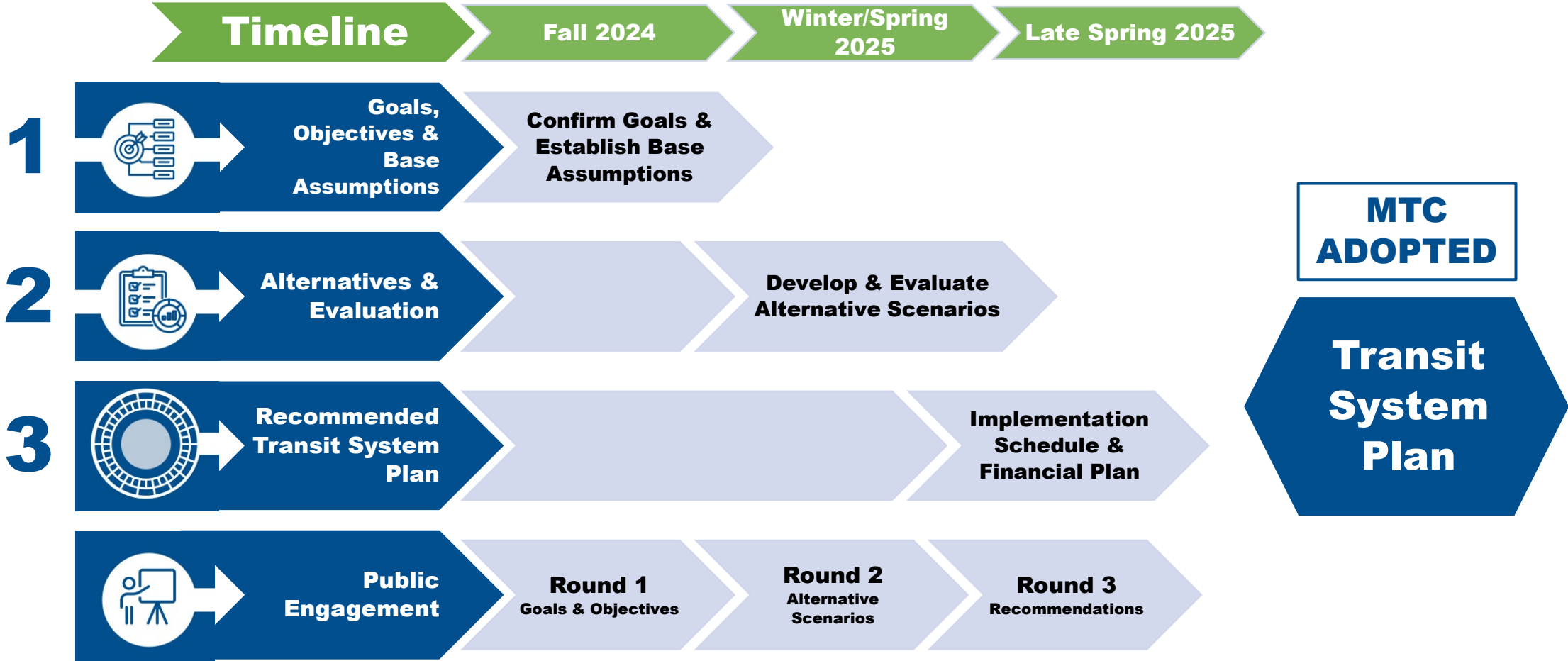


Late Spring 2025

Recommended Transit System Plan

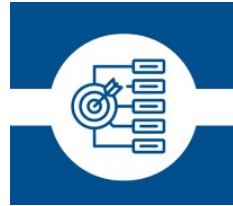
Develop a fiscally constrained plan and implementation schedule

Overview of Process & Schedule:



Fall 2024

Goals, Objectives & Baseline Assumptions



Goals & Objectives:

- Confirm and Prioritize
- Establish Evaluation Criteria to measure scenarios against our Goals and Objectives

Baseline Assumptions:

Foundation: Better Bus Plan

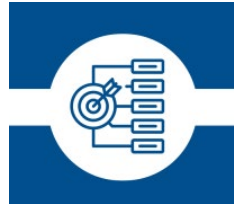
- Update Envision My Ride System Map – Better Bus Plan
- Bus Service Plan (short & long-term)
- Operational efficiencies and run time improvements
- Bus fleet investment and zero emission fleet transition
- Micro-transit implementation (cost & schedule)
- Mobility hubs, bus stop improvements (cost & prioritization)

Corridor System Plan: Rapid Transit Network

- Project cost updates including capital and operations/maintenance

Fall 2024

Goals, Objectives & Baseline Assumptions



Financial Model:

Technical Tool
Accurate
Conservative
Transparent

Confirm Baseline Financial Assumptions

- Expenses and Revenues (FY24 actual & FY25 Budget)
- Operating Costs Projections (evaluate fixed vs. variable)
- Revenue Projections (sales tax, grants, fare, other)
- Cost Escalation (operating and capital)
- Debt & Financing Costs
- Outcome: Develop Baseline Financial Model

Update Baseline Program & Phasing

- Not fiscally constrained
- State of Good Repair (vehicle replacements and overhaul, facility needs)
- Better Bus Program (service plan and capital costs)
- Rapid Transit Program (project capital and O&M costs)
- Baseline Phasing Assumptions

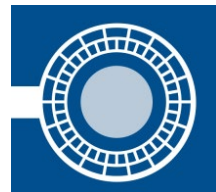
Winter/Spring 2025

Alternatives & Evaluation



Late Spring 2025

Recommended Transit System Plan



Scenario Development & Evaluation

- Create scenarios by testing key variables (bus & rail)
- Better Bus Baseline & Timing
- Rapid Transit Options: Value engineering, scope reduction, change in terminus location, mode and alignment alternatives, phasing
- Integrated Bus and Rail Transit System Plan Scenarios for Community Input
- Fiscally constrained financial evaluation

Recommended Transit System Plan

- Recommended Implementation Plan (schedule and funding)
- Recommendation to CRTPO for incorporation into 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (important step in federal process)

Engagement Strategy:



Public Meetings

Virtual & in-person

Locations throughout Mecklenburg County

- Round 1: **Goals & Objectives**
- Round 2: **Alternative Scenarios**
- Round 3: **Recommendations**

On-going Engagement Opportunities

- Community Area Planning
- Project Meetings (Better Bus, Red Line, Gold Line)
- Council District Town Halls
- Other County and Town Meetings

Stakeholder Meetings

- Community and business organizations
- Neighborhood associations
- E-TOD Coalition

Technical Team

- Monthly Meetings
- City and Town managers, Planning & Transportation Directors
- Mecklenburg County, NCDOT, CRTPO

Elected Officials

- Regular Briefings
- County, City & Town Elected Officials
- State Legislature Delegation

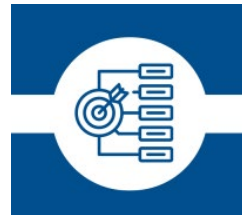
On-Line

- Public Survey
- Website
- Social Media
- Email: tsp@publicinput.com

Detailed Schedule: 2024

Fall 2024

Goals, Objectives & Baseline Assumptions



Public Engagement

Community Area Plan Meetings

Community Area Plan Meetings

Red Line Design Update Meetings (station locations)

Gold Line Design & Environmental Study Meetings (stop optimization)

Better Bus Plan Meetings

TSP Public Meetings: Round 1 – Goals & Objectives

MTC

MTC Strategy Session: Goals & Objectives, Baseline Assumptions

MTC Meeting(s): Transit System Plan Update Discussion & Upcoming Engagement

Detailed Schedule: 2025

Winter/Spring 2025

Alternatives & Evaluation



Public Engagement

Red Line & Gold Line Public Engagement

TSP Public Meetings: Round 2 – Alternative Scenarios

MTC

MTC Workshop: Potential Transit System Plan Scenarios

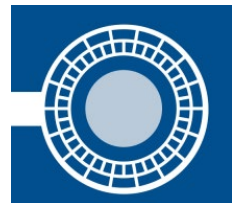
MTC Meeting: Red Line & Gold Line LPA Refinements

MTC Workshop: Initial Scenario Evaluation Results

MTC Meeting(s): Engagement Summary & Refined Evaluation Results

Late Spring 2025

Recommended Transit System Plan



Public Engagement

TSP Public Meetings: Round 3 – Recommendations

MTC

MTC Meeting(s): Recommendations

MTC Meeting: Adopt Transit System Plan

Next Steps

MTC Strategy Session

October 23, 2024

Preliminary Agenda:

- Transit System Plan Goals and Objectives
- Regional Transit Needs
- Better Bus Plan Update
- Financial Model Assumptions and Inputs
- Initial Baseline Financial Analysis
- Kick off Budget Process – Year End Review FY2024 and YTD FY2025
- Other CATS Updates and Initiatives

Overview of Process & Schedule:

