



House Commission on Transit Governance and Funding

December 6, 2017



Curtis Koleber | Executive Director/CEO

Savannah Transit History

1869

The first horse-drawn streetcars introduced in Savannah

1890

Streetcars electrified with more than 40 miles of track

1899

Streetcar barn constructed on Gwinnett Street



Savannah Transit History



1946

Diesel buses replace streetcars

1961

Savannah Transit Authority established

1987

Chatham Area Transit Authority replaces Savannah Transit Authority

About CAT



- Oldest transit system in Georgia
- 2nd largest transit authority in the state
- Serves Chatham County
- Fixed route, demand-response, CAT Freedom, and bikeshare
- Free downtown shuttle and ferry service



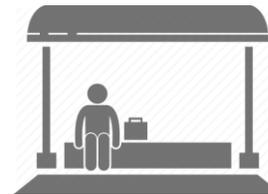
69 Buses



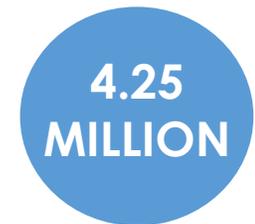
26 ADA
Vehicles



4 Ferry
Vessels



1,300 Bus
Stops



Passengers
Per Year

About CAT

Savannah Belles Ferry



- Only public ferry system in the State of Georgia
- Connects historic River Street with the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center
- 750,000 annual passengers
- Operations funded through a “Per Occupied Room” hotel fee
- Lowest operating cost per revenue hour in the country

State of the Region

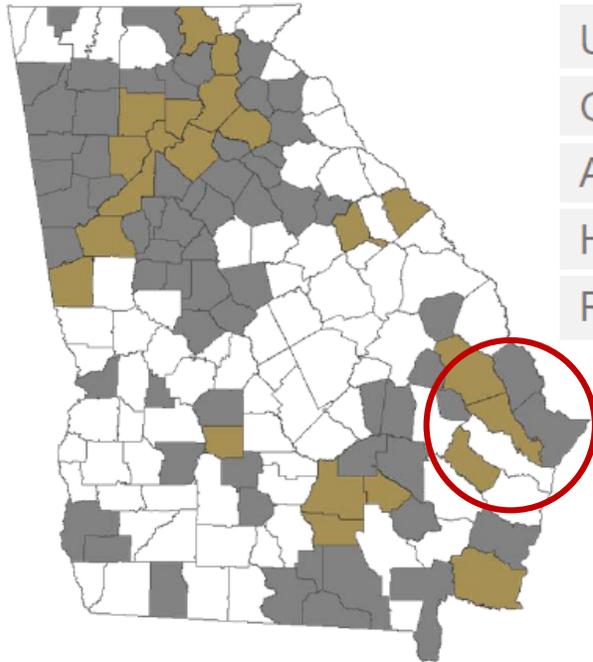
Economic Growth

- Port Logistics
- Tourism
- Entertainment Production
- Manufacturing
- Academic/Military/Gov't
- Healthcare



State of the Region

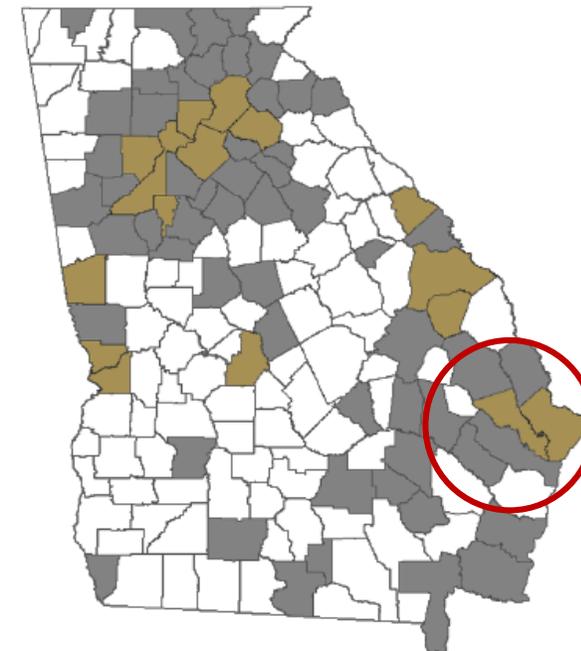
JOB GROWTH



U.S.	8.3%
GA	9.6%
Atlanta	10.4%
Hub	5.2%
Rural	2.9%



2010-2015



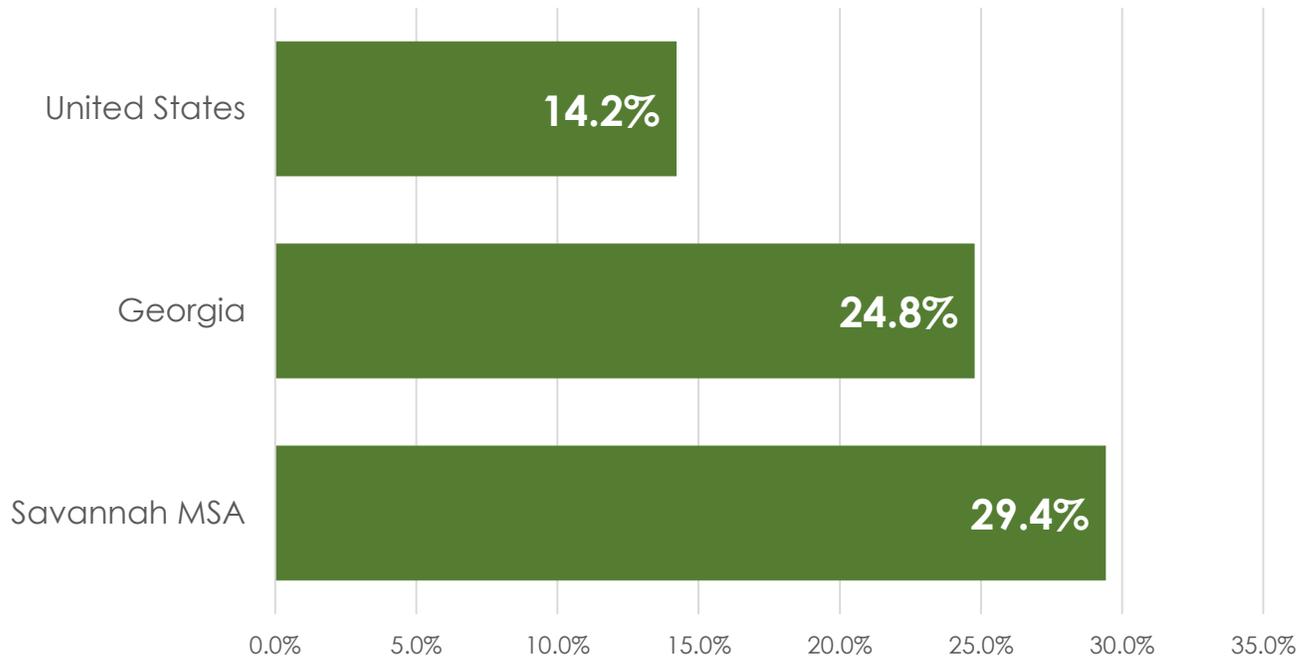
U.S.	6.5%
GA	7.6%
Atlanta	11.6%
Hub	9.4%
Rural	1.6%

2016-2026

State of the Region



15-Year Population Growth Rate (2000 - 2015)



Population Growth

- Seniors
- Millennials (regional) and Gen Z (local)
- West Chatham County
- Effingham and Bryan Counties

State of the Agency



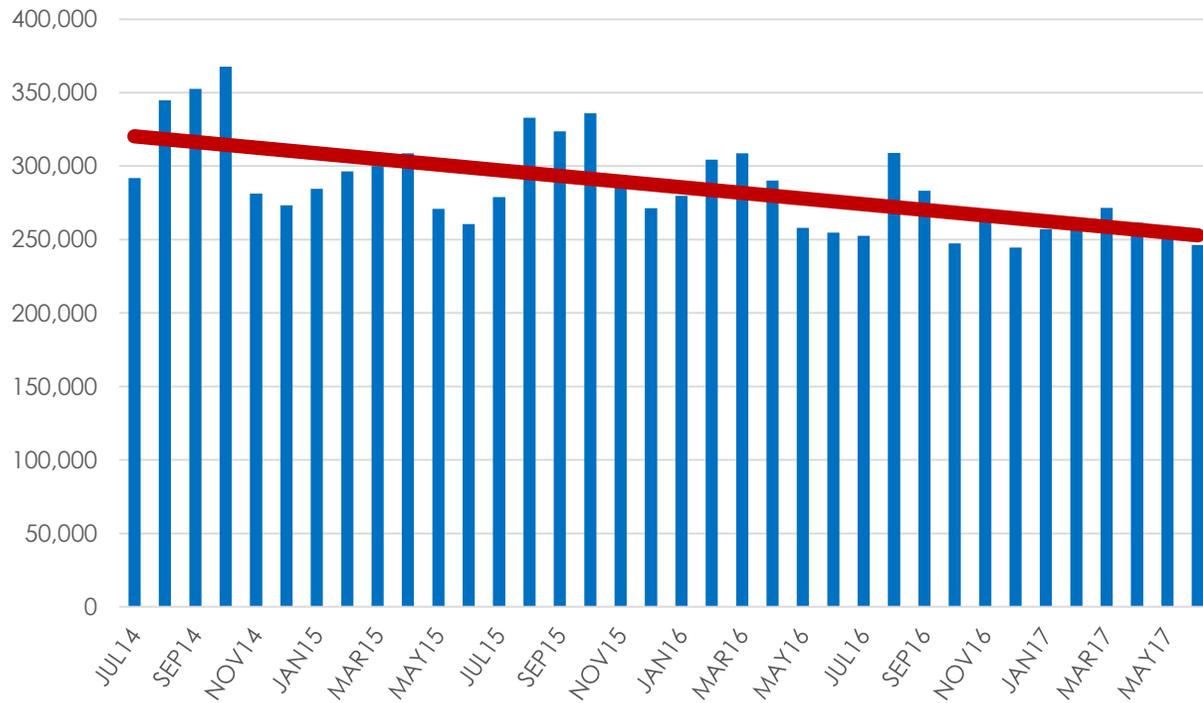
Ridership Trends



3-Year Ridership Trends

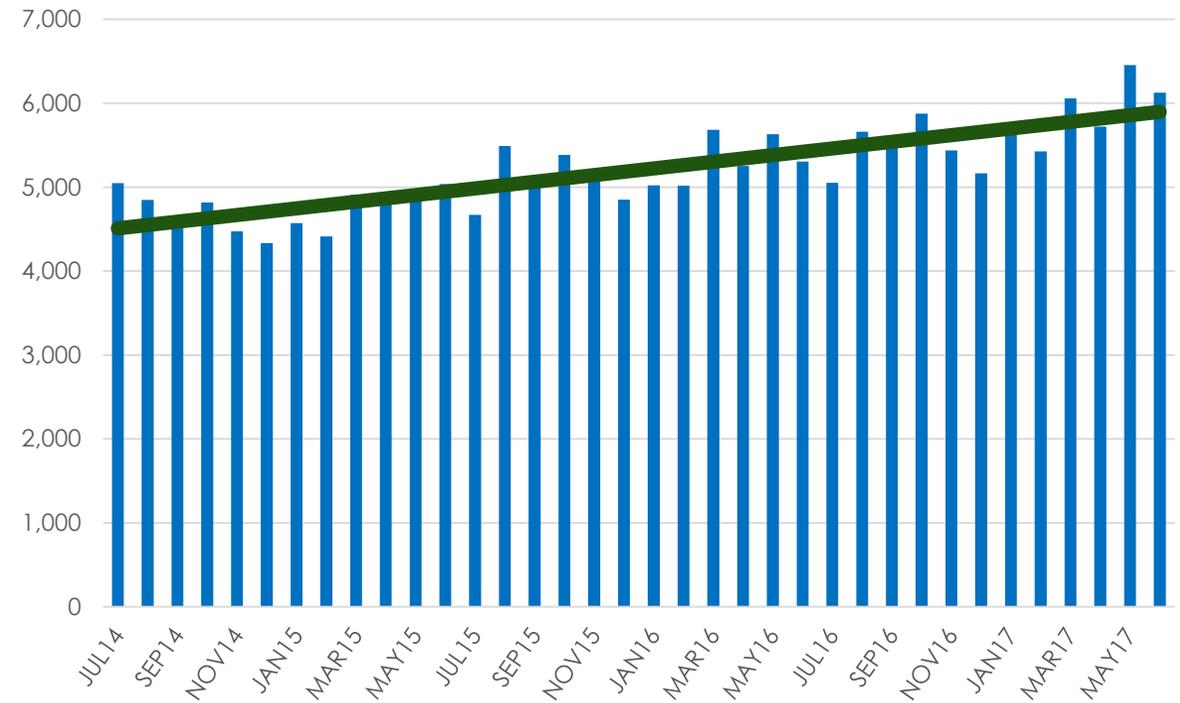


Fixed Route



-13%

Paratransit

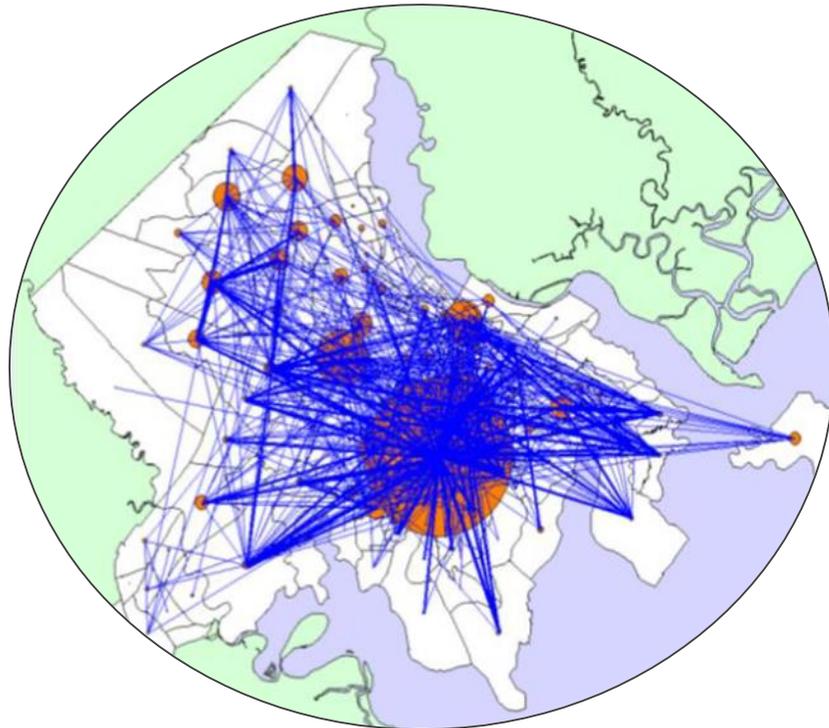


+20%

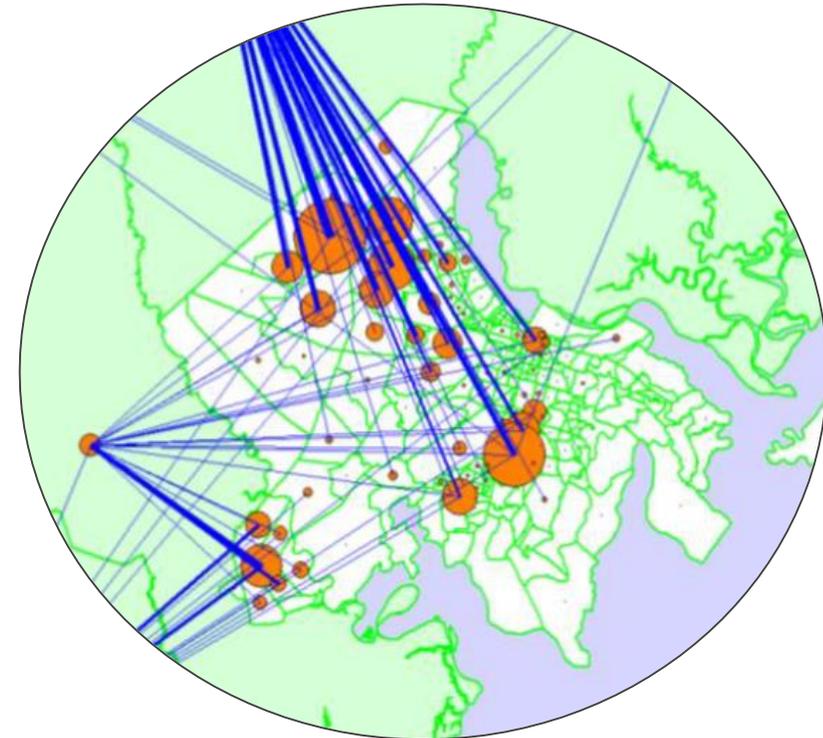
Origin-Destination Study



Internal (Local)



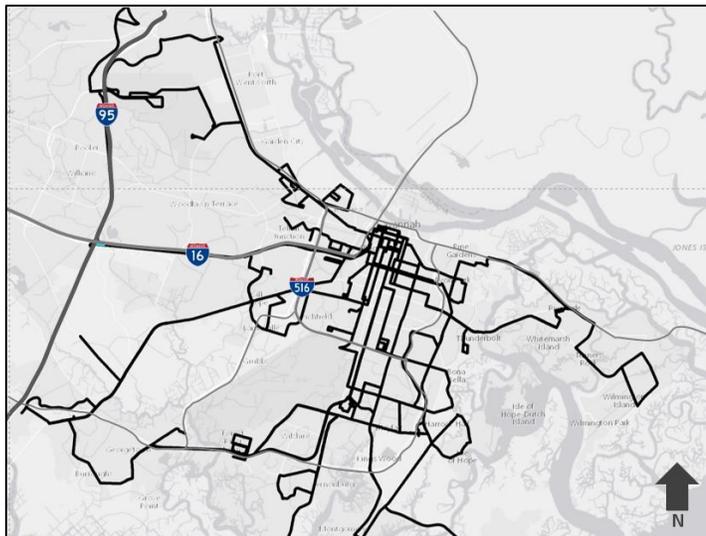
External (Regional)



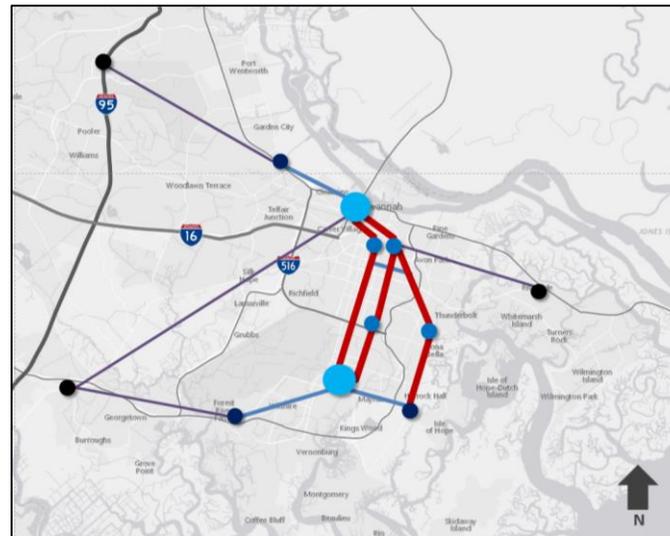
Fixed Route Redesign



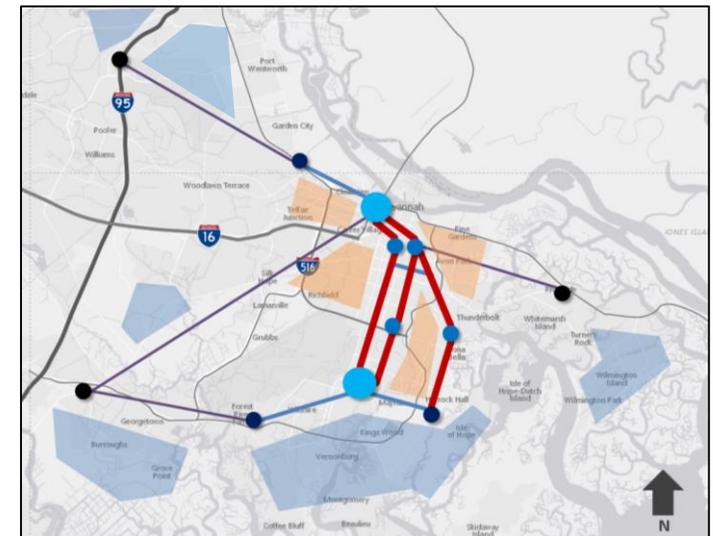
Build a network to match demand



Upgrade the transit backbone



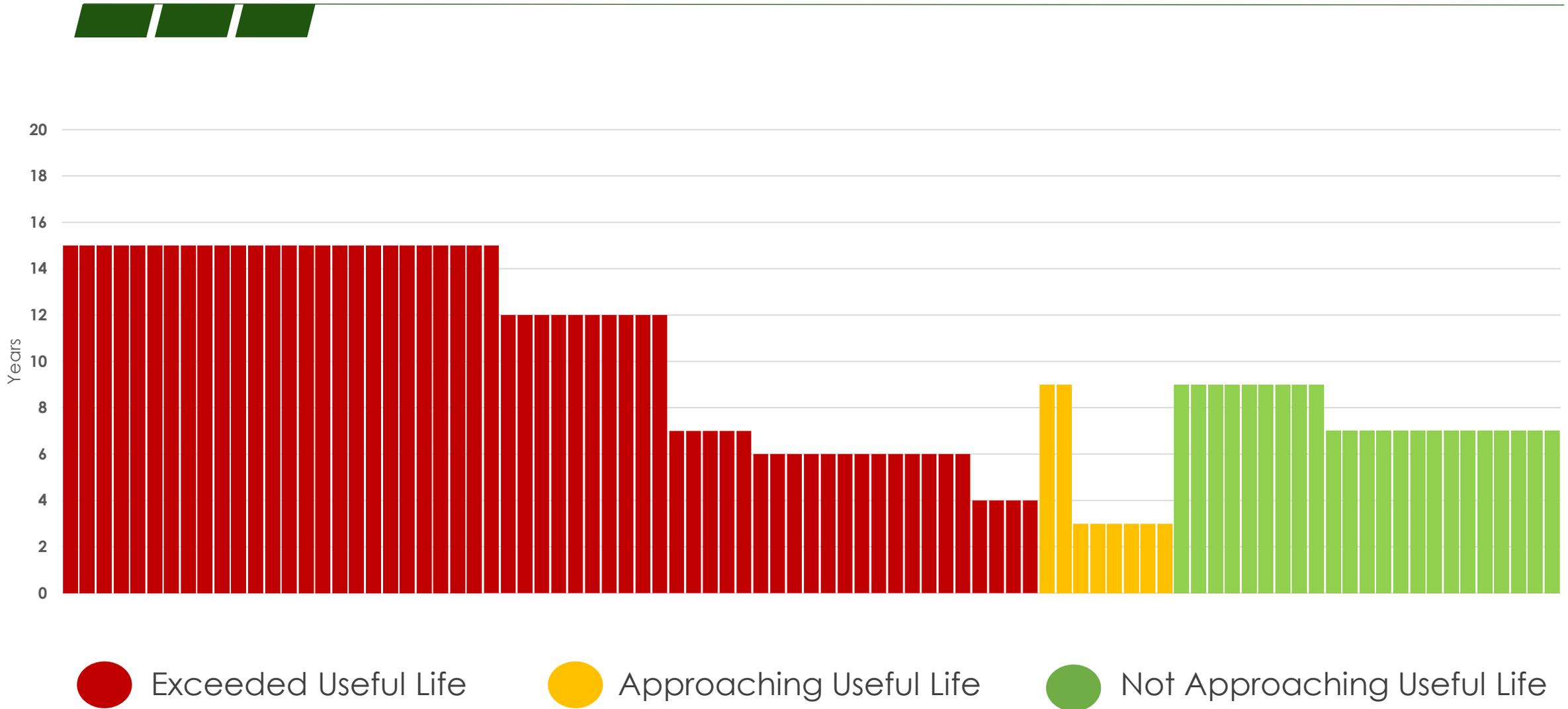
Fill in gaps in the network with alternative services



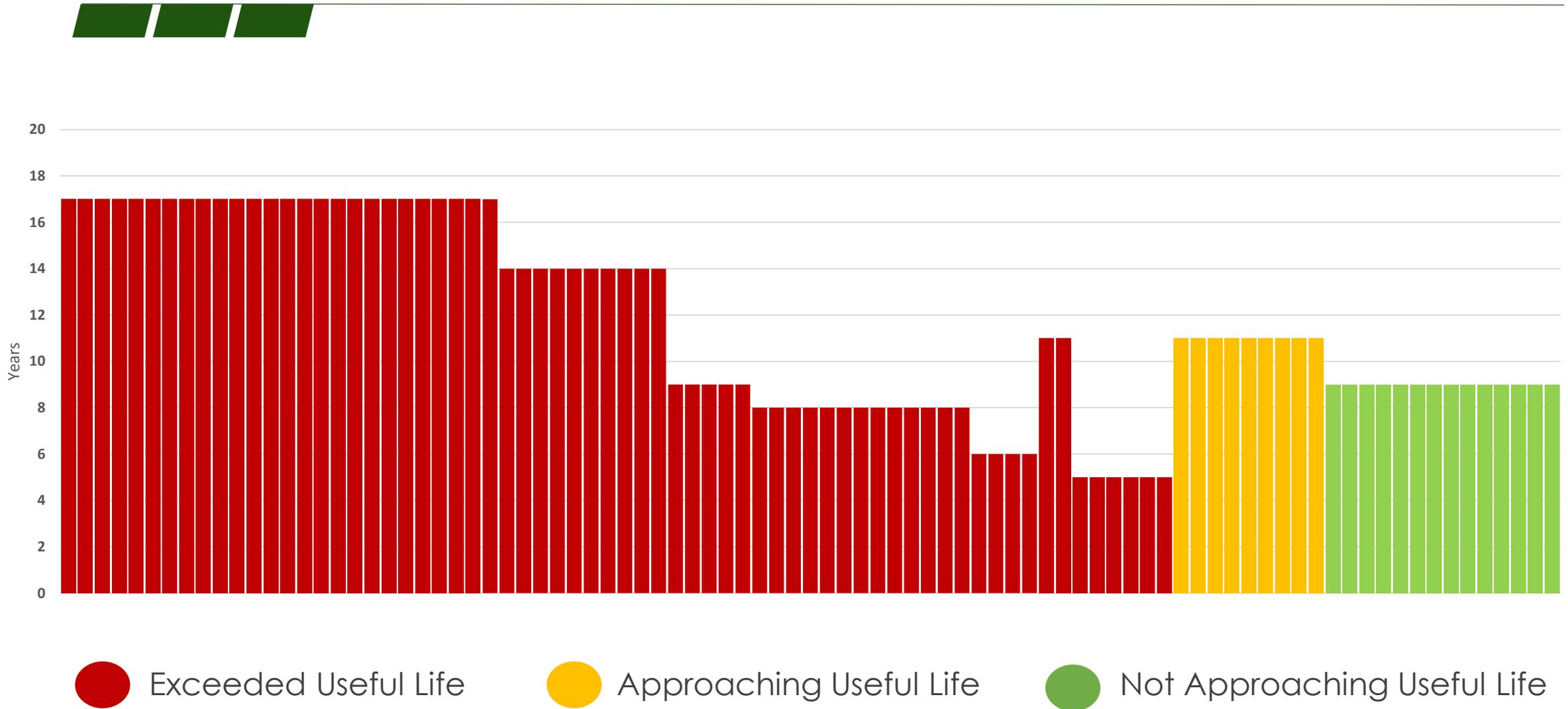
Asset Management



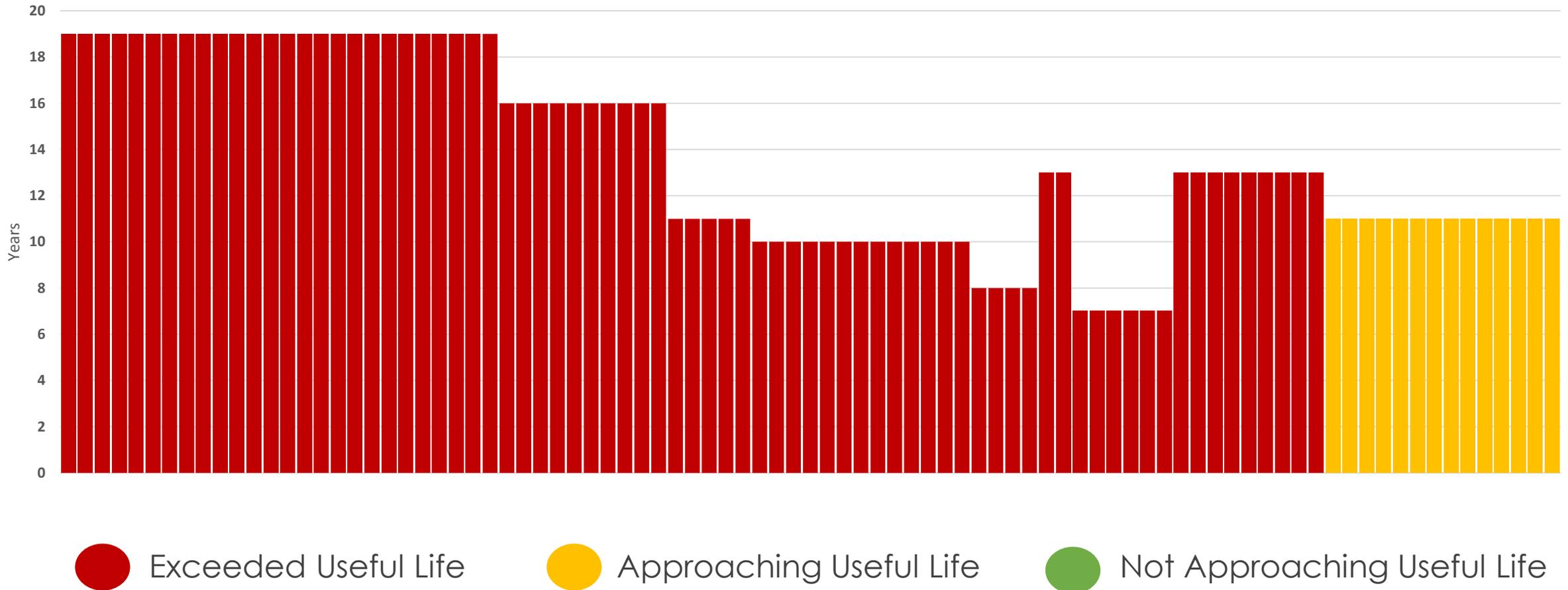
Fleet Aging Analysis (2018)



Fleet Aging Analysis (2020)



Fleet Aging Analysis (2022)



Fleet Replacement

- Received SRTA grant to replace aged fixed route buses (25)
- Received FTA 5339b grant to replace entire paratransit fleet (26)
- Secured funding through MPO to purchase additional vehicles (5)
- Laying groundwork for sustainable, long-term fleet replacement plan

Electric Fleet Conversion

- Performed in-house study on costs & benefits of using alternative fuel vehicles
 - Propane, CNG, and battery-electric vehicles
- Passed Board resolution to only purchase low and no emission vehicles moving forward
- First electric buses expected in Spring 2020 (SRTA)
- Full conversion expected by 2030
- Expected to save \$1M annually



Emergency Response



catchacat.org

Hurricane Evacuations

- Provided fare-free staging, evacuation, and re-entry service for residents and individuals with special needs in Chatham County
- Impact of FEMA reimbursement on cash flow
- Disruption of normal operations: reduced fares and increased expenses



Financial Sustainability



Financial Sustainability



- Need for sufficient capital AND operating revenues to support existing and future service
- **Capital projects typically involve increased operational costs**

CAPITAL NEEDS	OPERATING NEEDS
Vehicles	Improved frequencies in urban core
Land & facilities	Commuter / on-demand service
Technology	High-capacity service

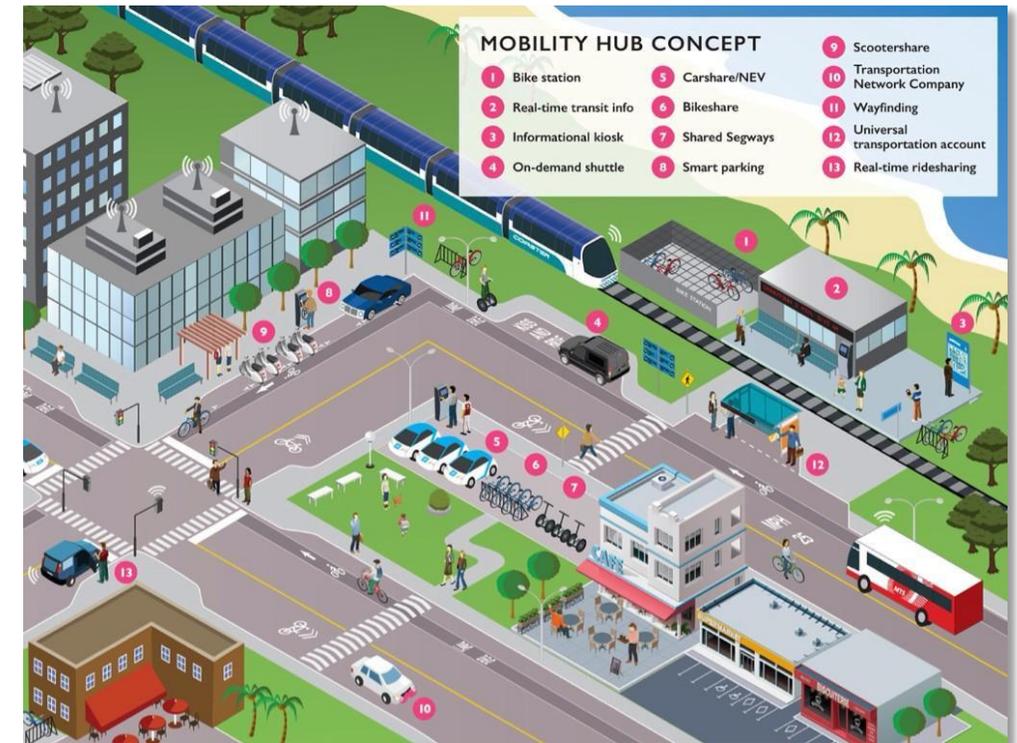
Current and Future Needs

- Creation of long-term local option transit sales tax
- Development of state funding source (formula)
- Incentivize regional coordination and cooperation
- Retain local control with state guidance



Looking Forward

- On-demand / flex service
- Commuter service / park & ride / vanpool
- Improve passenger information systems and bus stop amenities
- Mobile ticketing
- Develop streetcar and/or BRT service in urban core
- Workforce development / TODs





QUESTIONS?