



Kimley»»Horn

***Welcome! Thank you for joining us.
The virtual public meeting will begin shortly.***

Virtual Public Meeting | May 14 & May 21, 2024

Charlottesville Area Transit

Transit Strategic Plan



Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Project Overview
- Draft Transit Strategic Plan Document
- Project Schedule and Next Steps
- Question and Answer Period



Using Zoom

Audio/Muting

- All participants are on mute by default. This helps ensure the meeting runs smoothly and there are no auditory disruptions during the presentation.
- To request to speak during the Q&A session at the end of the meeting, please use the “Raise Hand” feature.
 - *If you are dialed in via phone, dial *9 to raise your hand*



- Captions are available. Please click the “Show Captions” button to enable them



Video

- Your video camera is off by default. To reduce the bandwidth of the meeting, only the Project Team will be sharing video to improve the overall meeting quality for all participants.



Welcome and Introductions



Charlottesville Area Transit
Transit Strategic Plan



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Project Overview



Charlottesville Area Transit
Transit Strategic Plan



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Project Overview

What is a Transit Strategic Plan?

- Required for transit agencies operating in urbanized areas to ensure that transit service is planned to meet community mobility needs
- Developed based on specific guidelines approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board and overseen by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)
- Serves as a strategic blueprint for service planning, operations, and capital needs (such as new bus purchases, technology upgrades, and customer amenities)



Project Overview

The Transit Strategic Plan Will Provide...

- A replacement of the 2018 Transit Development Plan (TDP), (previously required by DRPT) as the key planning document shaping CAT service for the next 10 years.
- An opportunity to evaluate and update our services and transit network to respond to changes in demand
- A planning process that will ensure that transit service better serves the needs of our customers and the Charlottesville region



Work Complete to Date

Summer 2023 Outreach and Engagement

Public Survey and Pop-Up Events

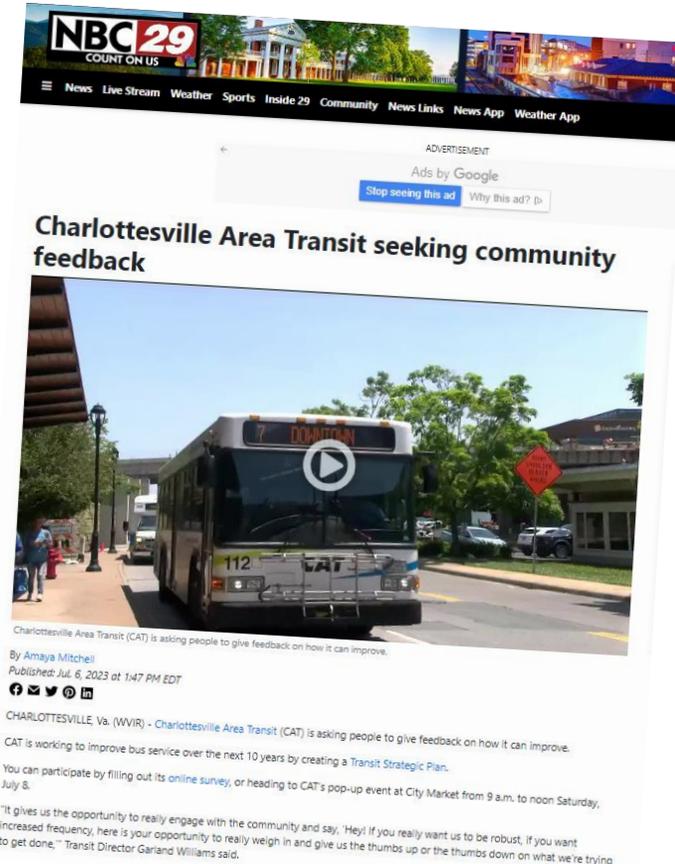
- 523 survey responses
- Collected feedback on current conditions and priorities for improvements

Stakeholder Workshop

- Focused discussions around the existing system, challenges, and opportunities

Bus Operator and Supervisor Interviews

- Focused small-group discussions on rider needs, operational challenges, and opportunities for improvement



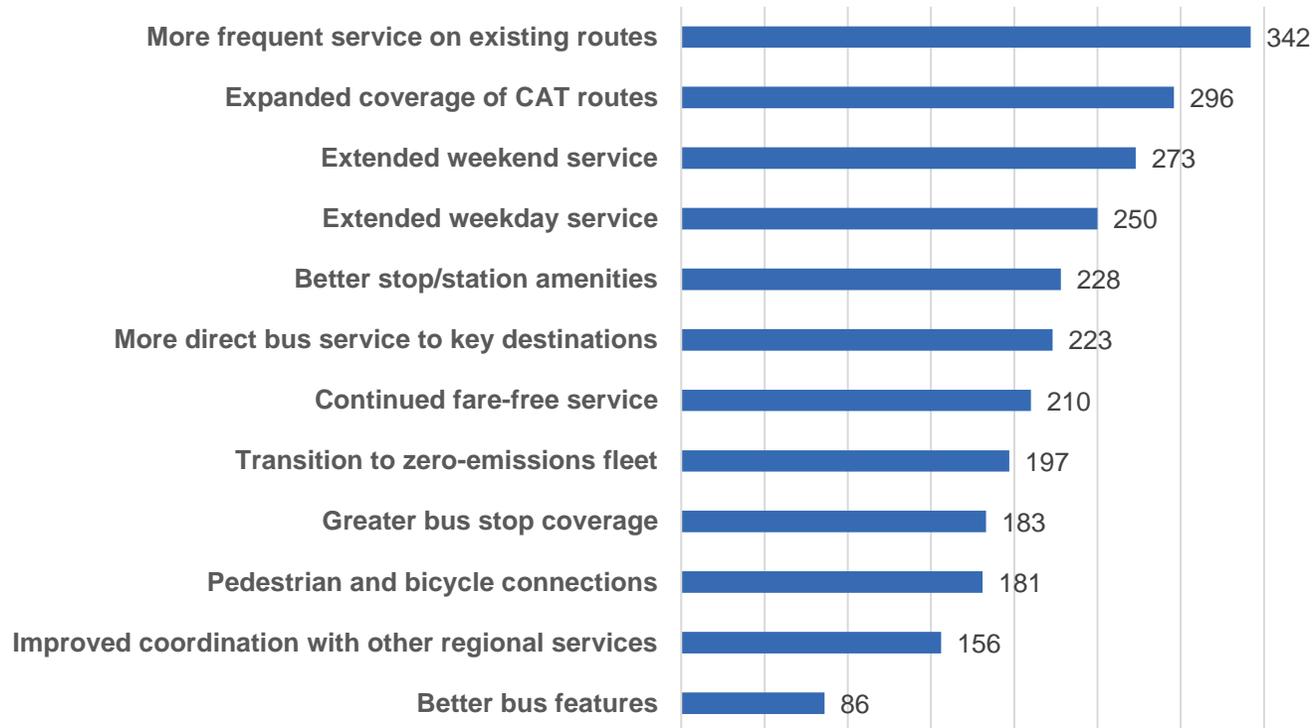
Charlottesville Area Transit
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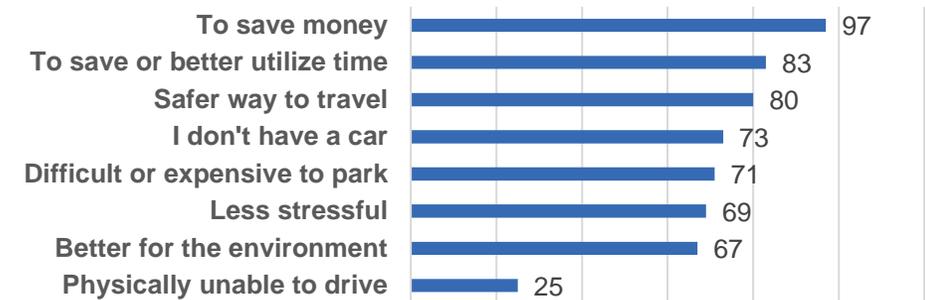
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Public Survey Findings

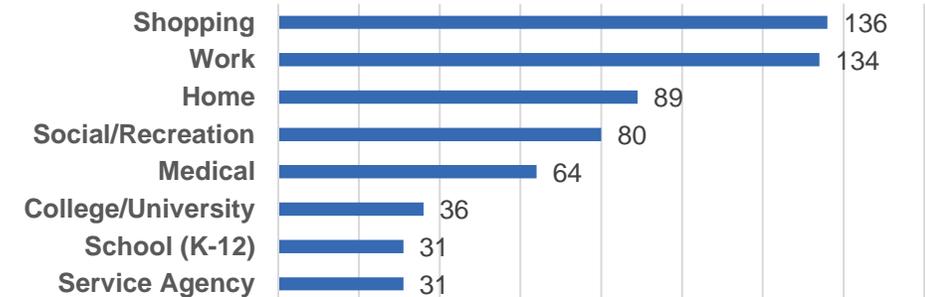
Priorities of Survey Respondents



Reasons for Riding the Bus

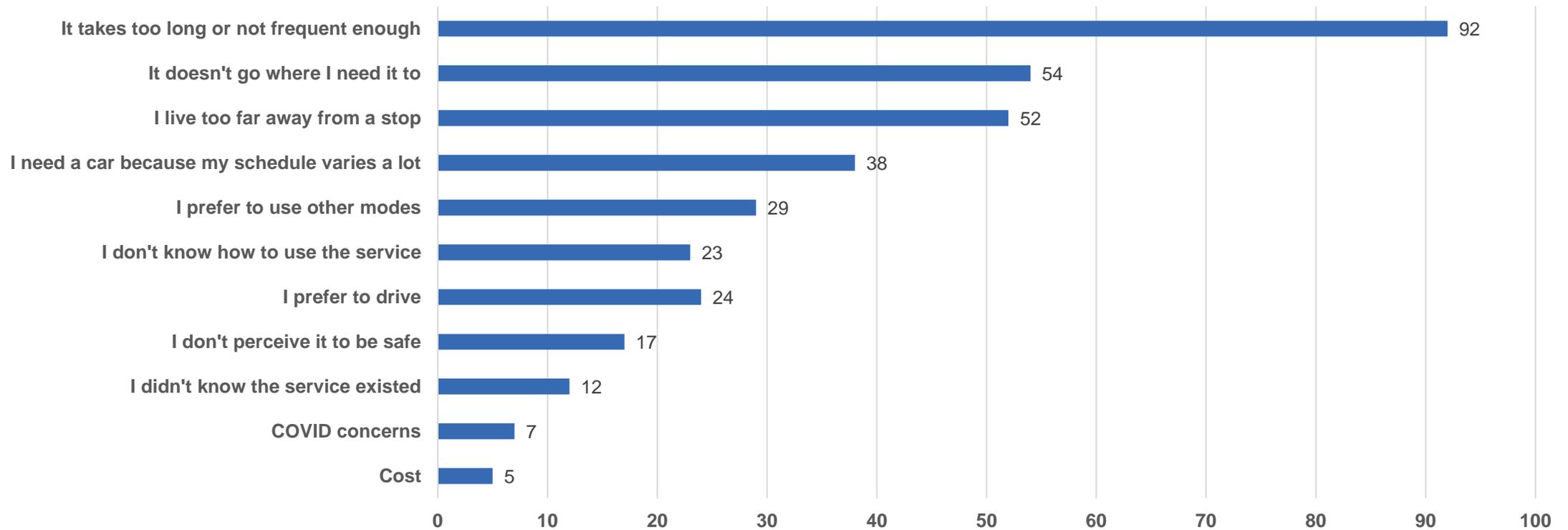


Trip Purpose/Destination



Public Survey Findings

Reasons for NOT Riding the Bus



Work Completed to Date

Plan Development

- ✓ System Overview and Strategic Vision
- ✓ System Performance and Operations Analysis
- ✓ Planned Improvements and Modifications
- ✓ Implementation Plan
- ✓ Financing Plan



TSP Chapter 1



TSP Chapter 2



TSP Chapter 3



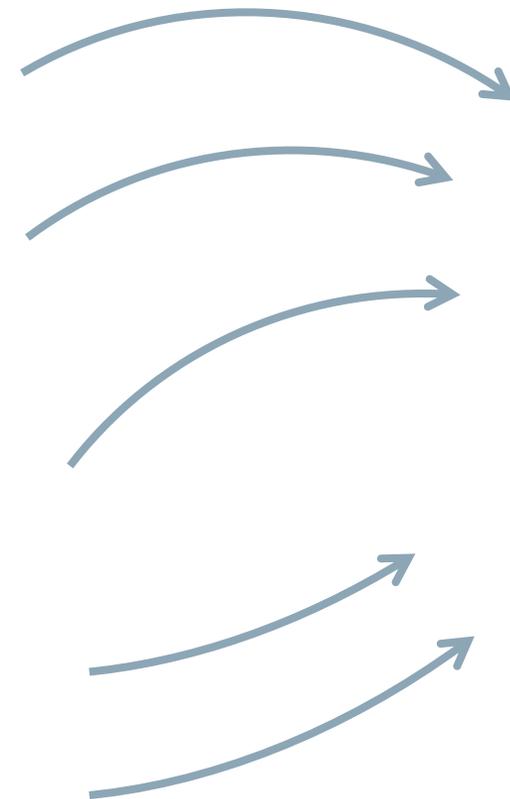
TSP Chapter 4



TSP Chapter 5



Public and Stakeholder Engagement
(throughout the planning process)



DRAFT
Transit
Strategic
Plan



WE ARE
HERE



Draft Transit Strategic Plan Document



Charlottesville Area Transit
Transit Strategic Plan



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Draft Transit Strategic Plan Document

The Transit Strategic Plan:

- Creates a strategic blueprint outlining changes that will improve the provision of transit services
- Is legislatively mandated to obtain future State funding
- Provides a forecast for future funding requests to support recommendations
- Contains recommendations that are **not** binding—the plan is meant to be flexible and can be adjusted in future updates
 - Annual written updates to DRPT and minor document updates every 5 years

Flexibility is important for CAT given ongoing and future regional transit efforts, local and regional growth, bus operator shortages, evolving funding needs, and ongoing considerations or upcoming studies about fares and fleet technology



Draft Transit Strategic Plan Document

**System Overview and
Strategic Vision**



TSP Chapter 1

**System Performance and
Operations Analysis**



TSP Chapter 2

**Planned Improvements
and Modifications**



TSP Chapter 3

Implementation Plan



TSP Chapter 4

Financing Plan



TSP Chapter 5



**DRAFT
Transit
Strategic
Plan**



Planned Improvements

Overview

- 40 service improvements developed
 - Incorporates recommendations from the 2021 CAT System Optimization Plan and 2022 Regional Transit Vision Plan
- Service improvements are “fiscally constrained” and grouped into one of three timeframes:
 - Short-term (1 to 4 years)
 - Mid-term (4 to 8 years)
 - Long-term (8 to 10 years)
- Recommendations cover FY 2025 – FY 2034
- Select “unconstrained” projects and additional recommendations subject to future study also included



Planned Improvements

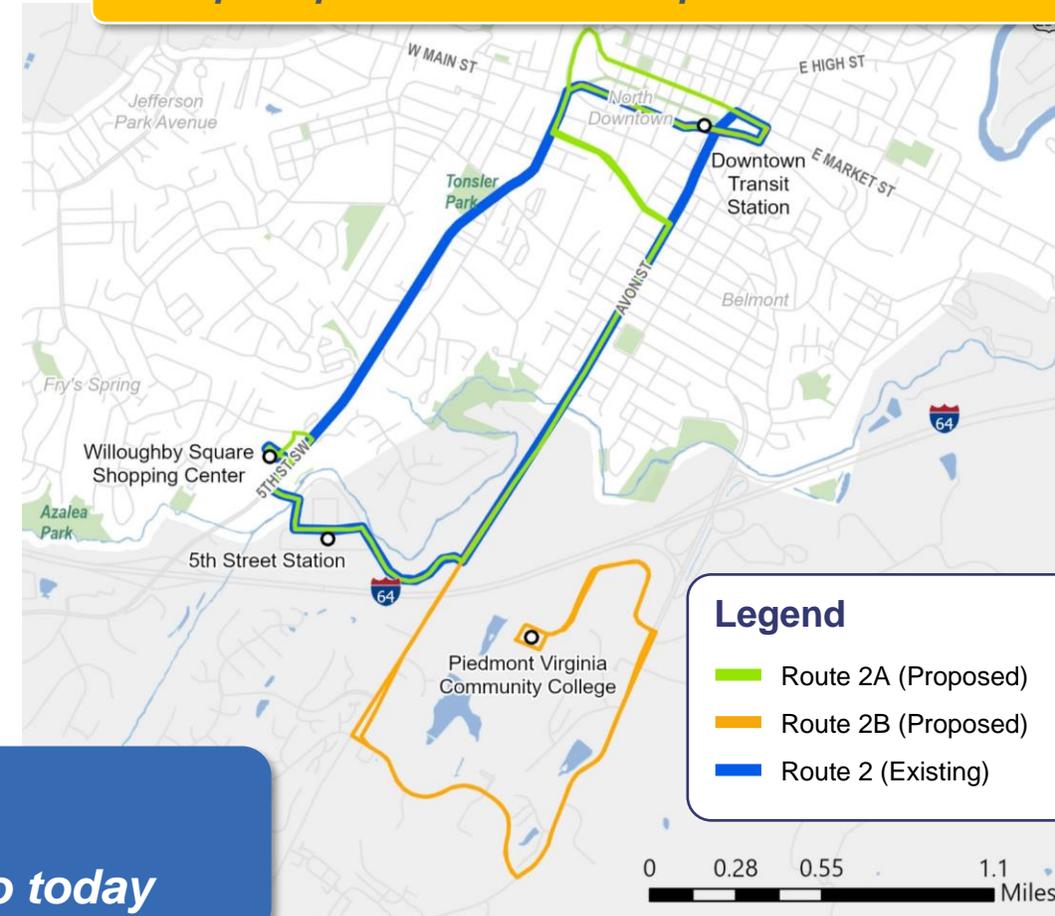
Short-Term (1 to 4 Years)

- Update route alignments;
Improve weekday frequencies
 - Targeted improvements to enhance service in the near-term
 - Focus on serving existing and new areas with highest ridership potential
- Continue implementation of MicroCAT
 - Ongoing on-demand microtransit pilot serving Pantops and 29 North

✓ *Implements most of CAT's System Optimization Plan*

✓ *Adds 25,800 annual service hours (+30%) compared to today*

Example: Split Route 2 into two patterns



Planned Improvements

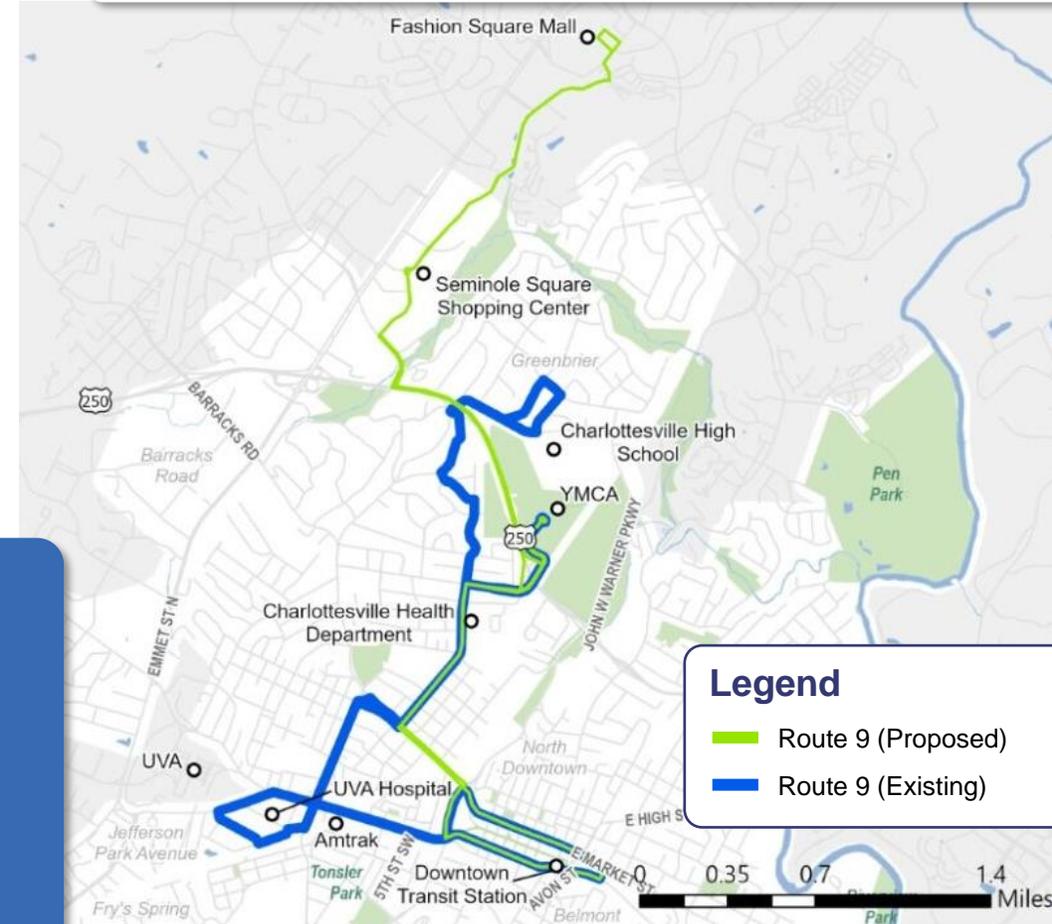
Mid-Term (4 to 8 Years)

On select routes:

- Update route realignments
- Improve weekday frequencies
- Improve weekend frequencies
- Reintroduce Sunday service

- ✓ *Completes implementation of CAT's System Optimization Plan*
- ✓ *Begins implementing Regional Transit Vision Plan recommendations*
- ✓ *Adds 62,400 annual service hours (+70%) compared to today*

Example: Route 9 realignment



Planned Improvements

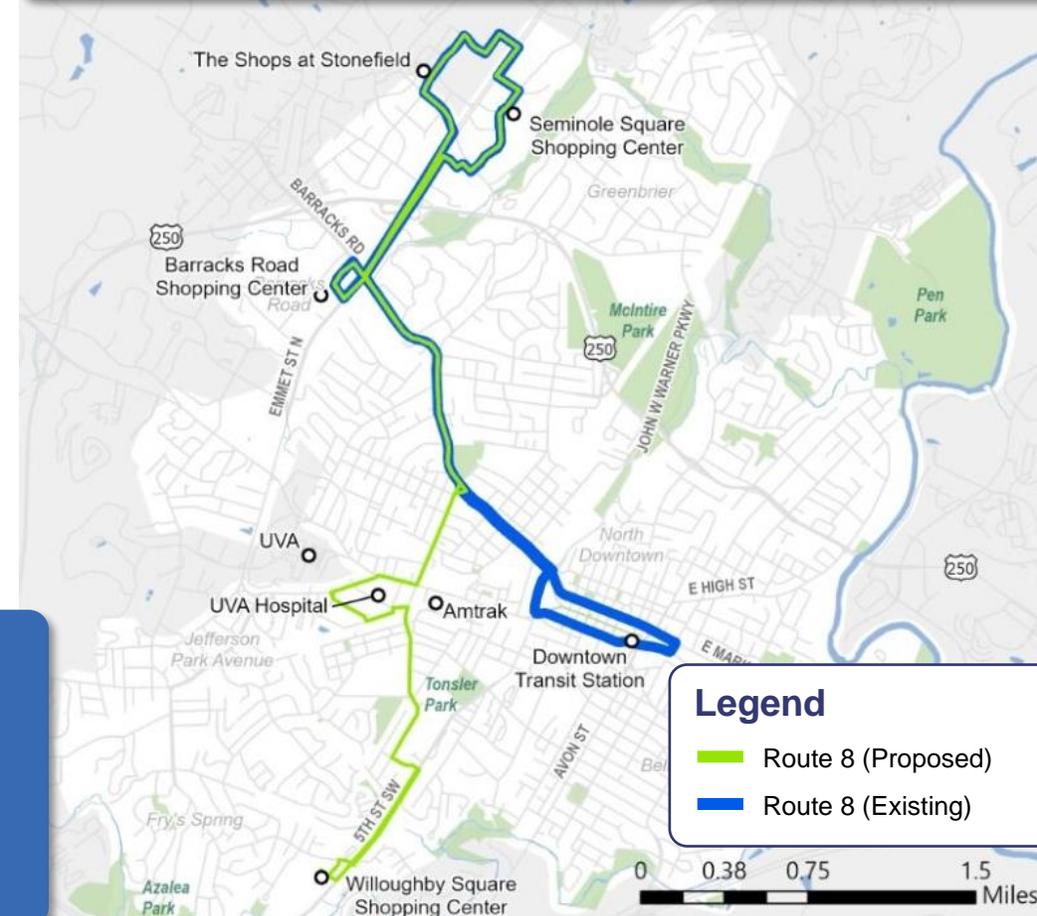
Long-Term (8 to 10 Years)

On select routes:

- Improve weekday frequencies on all routes **every 30 minutes or better**
- Improve weekend frequencies
- Sunday service on most routes with **matching span of service to Saturday service**

- ✓ *Continues implementing Regional Transit Vision Plan recommendations (Constrained Scenario)*
- ✓ *Adds 96,900 annual service hours (+110%) compared to today*

Example: Increase Route 8 frequency to every 30 mins



“Unconstrained” Improvements

Pending Further Study

- Additional improvements to weekend service frequencies
- Introduction of additional Sunday service
- Additional route realignments and extensions
- Microtransit expansion



Additional Non-Service Recommendations

Topics for future study, consideration, and assessment:

- **Customer experience:** Improvements to bus stops, expanded hours of operation at Downtown Transit Station
- **Fare policy:** Reintroduction of fares or sustain fare-free operations
- **Intermodal transfer opportunities:** Assess potential new park-and-ride connections
- **On-time performance:** Adjustments to route schedules and performance monitoring
- **Regional coordination:** with JAUNT, Albemarle County, and/or UVA
- **Microtransit expansion:** Assess potential service expansion opportunities
- **Regional Transit Plan:** Incorporation of additional unconstrained improvements



Infrastructure and Implementation Considerations

- Approximately **74 new buses** will be needed over the 10-year TSP timeframe
 - Includes replacement of current vehicles and expansion of the fleet to accommodate planned service implements
- Plan assumes regular replacement and maintenance of vehicles and equipment based on **federal and state standards**
- All replacement and expansion vehicles purchased in 2027 and beyond will be **exclusively zero-emissions vehicles**

Planned Major FY2025 Capital Projects:

- Bus shelter installation
- Planning, Environmental, and Preliminary Engineering work for CAT's Operations Facility (to accommodate future zero-emissions fleet)



Financial Considerations

- Recommendations are **required to be financially-constrained**, but cost estimates and other details **can be updated in future updates**
- Recommendations strive to **maximize use of external (Federal, State, and Regional) funding** sources
- Improvements, especially frequency increases, **require significant increases in operational funding**
- Local funding contributions from jurisdictions is based on share of service hours
- Completion and submission of the plan to DRPT is **required to receive future State funding**

CAT anticipates the need to increase local funding support, especially in 2026 and beyond, to maintain existing service and implement improvements

- DRPT Transit Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP) grant that is funding fare-free service will expire in 2025
- Federal CARES Act funding will not be available after 2025



Project Schedule and Next Steps



Charlottesville Area Transit
Transit Strategic Plan



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Project Schedule and Next Steps



Draft Transit Strategic Plan Document

- Now available for public comment!
- 4-week public review and comment period (through **May 31**)
 -  Available for review online (CatchTheCAT.org)
 -  Comments collected via online feedback form
 -  Virtual public meetings on **Tuesday, May 14 (6:00pm)** and **Tuesday, May 21 (12:00pm)**
- Consideration for adoption by City Council (anticipated on **June 3**)



Questions?



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Thank You!



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