GDOT Statewide Transit Plan

Georgia Planning Association Annual Conference

October 3, 2019
Agenda

• Project Purpose and Overview
• Existing Conditions
• Public and Stakeholder Engagement
• Transit Needs Assessment
• Performance Measures
• Upcoming Activities
• Q&A
Mentimeter Icebreaker

GPA represents multiple types of planning organizations! What type of organization do you represent?
Mentimeter Icebreaker

How did you get here today?
Mentimeter Icebreaker

How often do you ride transit?
Mentimeter Icebreaker

What would make you ride transit more often?
Mentimeter Icebreaker

How do you envision transit in Georgia in 2050?
GDOT Statewide Transit Plan

**What:**
- Identify needs and opportunities
- Incorporate local and MPO plans
- Recommend implementation strategies to address unmet needs

**Why:**
- Support GDOT’s multimodal SWTP/SSTP
- Ensure an efficient and effective Transit Program
- Ensure all Georgians have access to public transit
- Optimize Georgia’s multimodal network
Study Process

- Collect & Review Relevant Plans & Data
- Develop Vision & Outcome-Based Performance Measures
- Document Existing Conditions & Future Trends
- Needs Assessment
- Investment Strategies & Funding Scenarios
- Final Statewide Transit Plan

Denotes majority completion
Project Team

- Statewide Steering Committee
- Technical Advisory Committee
- Public Stakeholders
**Project Team**

**Project Leadership**

- **Leigh Ann Trainer**
  - Transit Program Manager

- **Kaycee Mertz**
  - Rail and Transit Planning Manager

- **Brian Smart**
  - SWTRP Project Team
  - Project Manager

- **Daniel Walls**
  - SWTRP Project Team
  - Deputy Project Manager

**Project Staff**

- **Ryan Walker**
- **Ansley Grantham**
- **JaQuitta Williams**
- **Brittni Russaw**
- **Sinan Sinharoy**
- **Will Butler**
- **Anna Shoji**
- **Maria Jones**
- **Ryan Ellis**
- **Leslie Langley**
- **Caleb Stubbs**
Statewide Steering Committee (SSC)

The SSC consists of agencies that have a stake in transit and have a statewide purview. The SSC’s role is to:

- Assist in the development of a statewide transit vision
- Provide a statewide perspective
- Review and monitor strategic direction of the project

SSC Membership:
- ACCG
- DCA
- DCH
- DHS
- FHWA
- FTA
- GAMPO
- GARC
- GDEcD
- GDOT
- GMA
- GTA
Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The TAC consists of transit providers and agencies that have a direct role in delivering or planning for transit at the local and regional level. The TAC’s role is to:

- Provide insight to the daily challenges, needs and trends as it relates to transit service in Georgia
- Inform the recommendations of the SWTRP
- Provide insights on planning and prioritization efforts at the local and regional levels

TAC Membership:

- Public Transit Providers (Urban, Rural, Intercity)
- Regional Commissions
- MPOs and the ATL
- The VA, DBHDD, ADA Coordinator
- Education, Workforce, and Economic Development Stakeholders

Input has also been solicited from additional stakeholders, public interest organizations, and community advocacy groups
Vision Statement

“Improve the quality of life and economic opportunities for all Georgians by supporting an innovative, connected, reliable, and accessible multimodal public transportation network.”
GOALS

1. Provide a safe and sustainable transit network

2. Optimize public transit programs to best meet public transit systems’ and travelers’ needs

3. Ensure public transit coverage across the state to support mobility and access for all

4. Connect rural transit to regional and urban centers

5. Leverage technology and innovation to support public transit ridership and performance measures
Overview of Public Transit in Georgia
Public Transit in Georgia

- 123 counties out of 159 have public transit service today
- 144.7 million passenger trips provided in FY 2017 across all transit modes
- Rural demand-response service is available in 95 counties and 6 cities
  - 80 providers operate across the state
  - 72 providers serve single counties
  - 5 providers are regional systems serving multiple counties and cities, some with shared assets
  - 3 municipal systems
- Provider fleets range from 1 to 76 vehicles
Public Transit in Georgia

- 15 fixed-route service providers statewide
- Outside Metro Atlanta:
  - 9 fixed-route providers
  - 5 counties served by both fixed-route and demand-response service
  - Planned future fixed-route service in Brunswick
- 13-County ATL Authority and GRTA service area:
  - 6 fixed-route providers
  - 5 Rural GDOT Subrecipients: Forsyth, Henry, Cherokee, Paulding, Coweta
  - Newest fixed-route providers: ConnectDouglas, and Henry Co. fixed-route
Public Transit in Georgia – New Service

Outside Metro Atlanta:
- New demand response service in Carroll County
- Planned future fixed-route service in Brunswick
- Planned regionally coordinated demand response service in South Georgia

13-County ATL Authority and GRTA Service Area:
- Newest fixed-route providers: ConnectDouglas, and Henry County Transit
Importance of Public Transit in Georgia

Public Transit supports Georgia’s communities by:

- Improving access to healthcare and social services
- Improving access to education and employment opportunities
- Lowering personal transportation costs
- Attracting new employers and strengthening regional economic competitiveness

Over a 20-year period, every $1 billion invested in transit results in $3.7 billion in additional gross domestic product.

Source: APTA - Economic Impact of Public Transportation Investment

Georgia’s elderly population is projected to increase 175% by 2050, passing 4.2 million statewide.

Source: Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget

Over a 20-year period, every $1 billion invested in transit results in $3.7 billion in additional gross domestic product.

Source: APTA - Economic Impact of Public Transportation Investment

Georgia Growth Since 2010

Sources: GDOT, NTD, US Census, and Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget
Existing Conditions Analysis
## Focus Areas and Data Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus Areas</th>
<th>Data Sources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State and Local Plan Review</td>
<td>GDOT, Regional Commissions, MPOs, Counties, Transit Providers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population Trends and Impacts to Transit</td>
<td>GDOT, National Transit Database, US Census Bureau, and Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget, Georgia Tech</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trip Types, Travel Patterns, Travel Demand</td>
<td>Transit Providers, GDOT-GA Tech Research Partnership, GDOT Travel Demand Model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transit System Operational Data</td>
<td>National Transit Database, GDOT, Transit Providers</td>
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<td>Transit Coverage</td>
<td>GDOT, Transit Providers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emerging Technologies</td>
<td>GDOT, FTA, National Research</td>
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Planning Document Review

- 2040 Statewide Transportation Plan/Strategic Transportation Plan
- State Rail Plan
- Local & Regional Plans
- GDOT/Georgia Tech Economic Impact Study
- GDOT Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan/Transit Asset Management Plan
- Transit System Plans
Common themes found in statewide plans, transit development plans, MPO long range transportation plans, regional commission plans and county comprehensive plans throughout Georgia:

- Connecting to jobs and healthcare
- Coordinating regionally for greater connectivity
- Enhancing awareness of existing transit service
- Improving access and mobility for elderly and underserved populations
- Exploring new sources to meet funding needs
- Coordinating land use, future development, and transportation
- Exploring opportunities to partner with private companies (e.g. ride-hailing services)
- Supporting commuter or intercity transit service to meet demand
- Expanding local bus or rail service to meet demand
- Promoting safe pedestrian and bike access at bus stops and facilities
Existing Conditions

- Georgia currently has **80 Rural transit systems** and **17 Urban transit systems**
- Outside metro Atlanta, 79.8 percent of the population and 71.8 percent of the state is served by public transit
- Since 2015, Georgia’s Rural transit trips have declined by 3.1 percent. Nationally, Rural transit trips have declined by 2.6 percent

![Projected 2050 Population Growth](chart)

Sources: GDOT, NTD, US Census, and Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget
Existing Conditions – Transit Service

Passenger Trips Outside of the Atlanta Area – 11.9 million in 2017

Large Urban, 5,883,853
Small Urban, 4,401,735
Rural, 1,617,511

Sources: GDOT, 2017 National Transit Database
Existing Conditions - Socioeconomic Analysis

Source: 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
As communities grow, new challenges and opportunities arise.

Rapid advances in technology are changing the face of transportation in Georgia.

Some rural and urban areas of the state already have private shuttle services for workforce connections.

Performance-driven, outcome-based approach to transportation planning required by USDOT.
Public and Stakeholder Engagement
Public Engagement Activities

Public Engagement

- Project website
- Flyers
- Fact sheets
- Survey

Targeted Outreach

- EJ / LEP Communities
- Aging populations
- Advocacy groups
- Non-profit organizations

Public Information Open Houses

- Will seek input on plan recommendations
- Will hold three public meetings across the State
Public Survey
June 18 - August 16

Objectives:
• Needs and priorities of public transit users
• Rider experiences
• Issues and barriers to using public transit

Methods:
• Paper Survey
• Online Survey
  • Available in 4 different languages
• Targeted Outreach
  • Social media advertising & partnerships
  • Traditional media coverage
  • Partnered with local advocacy groups
  • Media kits

Responses:
• 2,971 completed surveys
• 126 Counties
• Collected 800+ emails for project updates

Help GDOT plan for the future of transit in Georgia.
Your input is needed!

www.GDOTtransitsurvey.org

#iam2050
Public Survey – Web Version

- Targeted Facebook Ads
- 92,818 people reached
- Media Kit for SSC & TAC
- Press Release

- Partnership for Southern Equity

- @GADeptofTrans is conducting a Statewide Transit Plan to identify needs and prioritize investments for public transit across Georgia. Help them understand your transit priorities by taking this short survey: gdottransitsurvey.org. #iam2050

- Select Moultrie - MCC Development Authority shared ACCG Georgia Counties’s post

- Jul 11 - Please help GDOT plan for future transit. It is critical for rural communities and citizens to be sure your input is captured so the need can be identified. See the survey link below.

- River Valley Regional Commission

- July 30 at 2:36 PM - GDOT is proud to conduct the Statewide Transit Plan, working with local jurisdictions and transit providers to identify needs and prioritize investments for public transit across Georgia. Help them understand how you use transit by taking this short survey: www.gdottransitsurvey.org #transit #gdot #GAtransit

- Partner communication assistance
Public Survey – Paper Version

- Printed & Shipped to all Rural Providers outside ATL
- Posters & Flyers
- Prepaid Return Postage
Public Survey Responses

Initial Survey Highlights:

Over 2,900 responses from across Georgia participated online and through paper surveys.

Outside of Metro Atlanta 48.4% of respondents are “interested in using transit but it’s not convenient nor available in their area or need to learn more”

Improving access to employment and educational opportunities identified as the most important reason to provide Transit service

“Ensuring Transit is safe” identified as the most important consideration for Transit improvements
Transit Provider Questionnaire

Objectives:
• Identify needs at the local provider level
• Identify destinations or routes in high demand
• Identify travel needs that cross jurisdictional boundaries
• Identify issues and challenges to providing public transit
• Identify local or regional planning efforts

Initial Highlights:
Top 3: State of Good Repair Needs
• Purchase of new vehicles
• Regular maintenance schedules
• More highly trained mechanics

Top 3: Technologies Providers are Considering
• Wifi on vehicles or at stops
• Partnerships with ride-hailing, scooter and/or bike share companies,
• Smartphone app/website for transit passes or booking a trip
Stakeholder and Public Engagement Program
Transit Provider Questionnaire

Personnel Needs
- Pay
- Time
- Qualified

Service Needs
- Bus
- Route
- Coverage
- Driver
- Service
- Area
- Need

Operational Needs
- Hire
- More
- Cost
- Current
- Future

GDQOT
Georgia Department of Transportation
Outreach Activities to Date

Statewide Steering Committee (SSC)
Kick-Off & Visioning Session: May

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
Virtual Meeting & Follow up: June
Provider Questionnaire: July
Interviews: August - September
Focus Groups: August – September
- Rural Providers
- Urban Providers
- Regional Transit Planning
- Technology
- Counties not Served by Transit
- Transit Equity and Community Advisory Group

Other Activities
- Public Survey
- Project Website & Social Media Presence
- ATL/ARC Transit Operators Group
- GTA 2018 – Project Introduction
  - GPA 2019 – Project Update
  - GARC – Project Update
  - GAMPO - Project Update
  - GTA 2019 – Draft Recommendations
TAC – Focus Groups

Counties without Public Transit

Transit Equity & Community Advisory

Transit Technology
Community and Stakeholder Feedback

01. Service hours and schedules do not support all job roles; impacting workforce access and economic development.

02. Transportation Network Companies do not currently service all geographies; drivers not trained to meet the needs of all riders.

03. Rider Experience & Information: Transit availability, trip planning, fare structure, and etc.

04. Regional/cross jurisdictional transit service needed for healthcare, education, and employment trips.
Transit Needs Assessment
Needs Assessment

Objectives:
• Document local, regional, and statewide public transit needs
• Estimate cost and recommend strategies to meet needs

Inputs:
• Local plans and TDPs
• Public survey
• Provider questionnaire
• Stakeholder interviews
• TAC focus groups
• Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) Report 161: need and demand forecasting methodology (ACS data)

Outputs:
• Locally identified needs
• Areas of highest transit demand
• Identified activity centers (employers, education, health centers)
• Quantified regional and statewide needs
Performance Measures
### Example Performance Measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Measurement</th>
<th>Source</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide a safe and sustainable public transit network</td>
<td>Reduce transit-related safety incidents and injuries</td>
<td>Number of injuries involving transit vehicles per 100,000 transit vehicle miles</td>
<td>National Transit Database</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leverage technology &amp; innovation to support public transit ridership and performance</td>
<td>Increase awareness and visibility of public transit services available</td>
<td>Percentage of operators with an app</td>
<td>Transit Operator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optimize public transit programs to best meet public transit systems’ and travelers’ needs</td>
<td>Support and maintain regional operations and assets to deliver transit efficiently</td>
<td>Number of counties part of a regional or multi-county system</td>
<td>Transit Operator</td>
</tr>
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Upcoming Activities
Schedule

- Stakeholder and Public Engagement
  - 2019: Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep
  - 2020: Jan, Feb, Mar

- Existing Conditions and Future Trends
  - 2019: Jan, Feb, Mar

- Outcome-Based Performance Measures
  - 2019: Apr, May
  - 2020: Jan, Feb, Mar

- Needs and Gaps Recommendations
  - 2019: Jun, Jul
  - 2020: Jan, Feb

- Investment Strategies
  - 2019: Aug, Sep, Oct
  - 2020: Nov, Dec

- Draft and Final SWTRP
  - 2019: Nov, Dec

= Completed stakeholder engagement meeting
Next Steps

- Interviews and best management practices
- Share public survey results
- Transit profile sheets
- Outcome-based performance measures
- Needs assessment
- Investment strategies
- Draft SWTRP Report
- Public Open Houses
Contact

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http://www.dot.ga.gov/IS/Transit/TransitPlan
Audience Questions

What recommendations would you like included in the Statewide Transit Plan?
Audience Questions

How would you invest in transit for 2050?