

Transit Planning Committee

Steve Brock, Chair

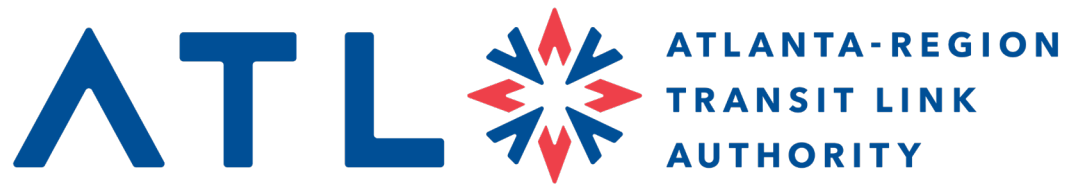
June 6, 2024

Regional Transit Planning Committee Meeting

Thursday, June 6, 2024

Proposed Agenda

- I. Call to Order – Steve Brock, Chair
- II. Approval of the Meeting Minutes for April 4, 2024
- III. Approval of the Agenda for June 6, 2024
- IV. FY26 Bond List Update – Abby Marinelli
- V. Strategic Blueprint – Abby Marinelli
- VI. ATL’s Review of Cobb County Referendum List – Abby Marinelli
- VII. Cobb County Referendum List Ridership Estimates – Morgan Simmons,
Cobb County DOT
- VIII. Adjournment



FY26 Bond List

Abby Marinelli

June 6, 2024

ATL's Bond List Requirement

- ▶ Per OCGA § 50-39-4(j), ATL is required to submit a bond list.

“The authority shall annually submit a report of projects of regional and state significance from the regional transit plan to the Office of Planning and Budget, the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for consideration by such parties for inclusion in the bond package for the upcoming fiscal year budget...”

ATL's Bond List Requirement

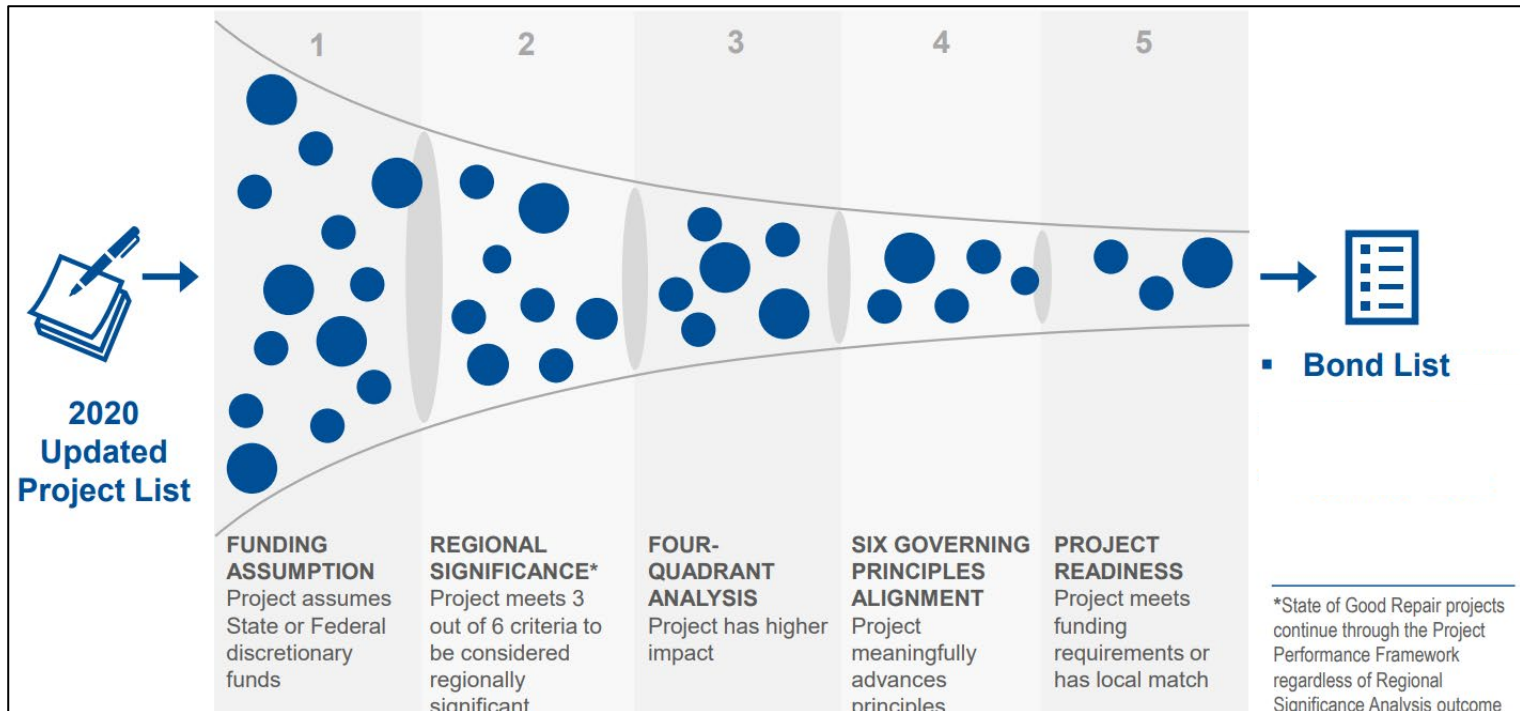
- ▶ Per OCGA § 50-39-4(j), ATL is required to submit a bond list.

“The authority shall annually submit a report of projects of regional and state significance from the regional transit plan to the Office of Planning and Budget, the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for consideration by such parties for inclusion in the bond package for the upcoming fiscal year budget...”

- ▶ Per Ga. Const. Art. VII, § IV, general obligation bonds require:
 - State ownership of the bonded asset
 - Spend down of bond funds within 5 years

FY26 Bond List Development

- ▶ As part of the 2020 ARTP, a funnel-style project selection process was developed to assist in Bond List creation.

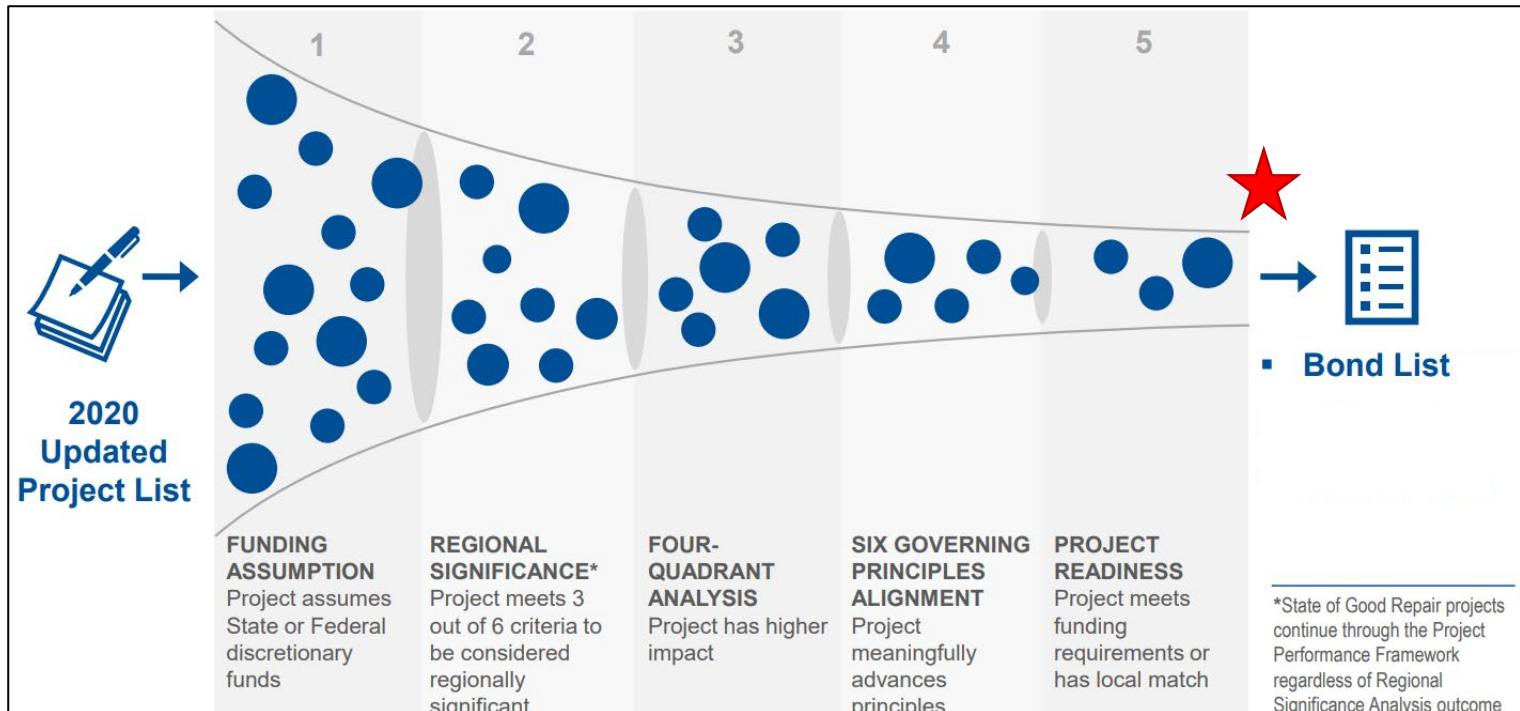


FY26 Bond List Development

▶ As part of the 2020 ARTP, a funnel-style project selection process was developed to assist in Bond List creation.

★ Additional conversations with project sponsors provide information about ability of the project to meet bond requirements

- 5-year spend down period
- State ownership of asset



FY26 Bond List Development

Total Projects*	440
Less: Projects not seeking Federal or State funds	(90)
Less: Projects not regionally significant	(143)
Less: Projects with lower impact and alignment with Governing Principles	(59)
Less: Projects not ready for funding spend down	(128)
<hr/> Potentially Eligible Projects	20

*Includes all projects from the 2020 ARTP and Amendments 1-3

Potentially Eligible Projects

- ▶ 20 potentially eligible projects from Cherokee, Cobb, Douglas, Forsyth, Gwinnett, and MARTA*
 - Mobility hubs, transit centers, and transfer stations
 - Fleet upgrades
 - Park-and-ride lots
 - Maintenance and Administration facilities

- ▶ ATL to discuss project readiness and suitability for bonds with projects sponsors in June and July 2024.
 - Projects must meet 5-year spend down requirement
 - Asset must be owned by the state

*See handout for project list

Going Forward

- ▶ ATL is currently developing the Strategic Blueprint and will initiate the 2024 ARTP development process later this summer.
- ▶ New project selection processes and KPIs will be developed to support the 2024 ARTP.
- ▶ ATL staff anticipates an FY27 Bond List that reflects the goals of the Strategic Blueprint and the 2024 ARTP.

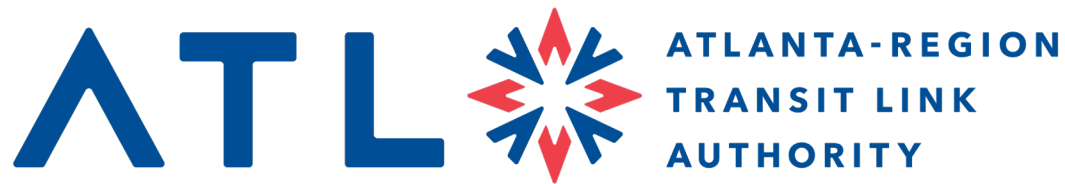
Next Steps

- ▶ ATL staff to meet with project sponsors to determine final suitability for bond request
- ▶ ATL Board will review and consider staff's final recommendations at the August Board meeting
- ▶ Submission to OPB due September 1; ATL staff will submit Board's decision from the August Board meeting



Questions?

Thank you



Strategic Blueprint

Abby Marinelli

June 6, 2024

ATL's Long-Range Plan Requirements

- ▶ ATL's enabling legislation requires the production of a long-range plan that includes a 6-year and a 20-year horizon.
- ▶ The FY25 Georgia Budget includes additional direction regarding the long-range plan:
 - “The Atlanta-region Transit (ATL) Authority shall only create updates to the Regional Transit Plan that address multi-county travel demand for transit-dependent customers that demonstrates improvement to the State's economic development.



Strategic Blueprint Development

Purpose:

- ✓ Guide decision-making in the update of the Atlanta Region Transit Plan (ARTP) to follow key pillars:
 - cross-county options
 - customer-focused
 - competitiveness

- ✓ Create an inclusive transit strategy that:
 - promotes seamless mobility
 - enhances customer satisfaction
 - sustains economic success in Atlanta

- ✓ Coordinate with local transit providers to align regional service and local offerings, to enable a cohesive and seamless system

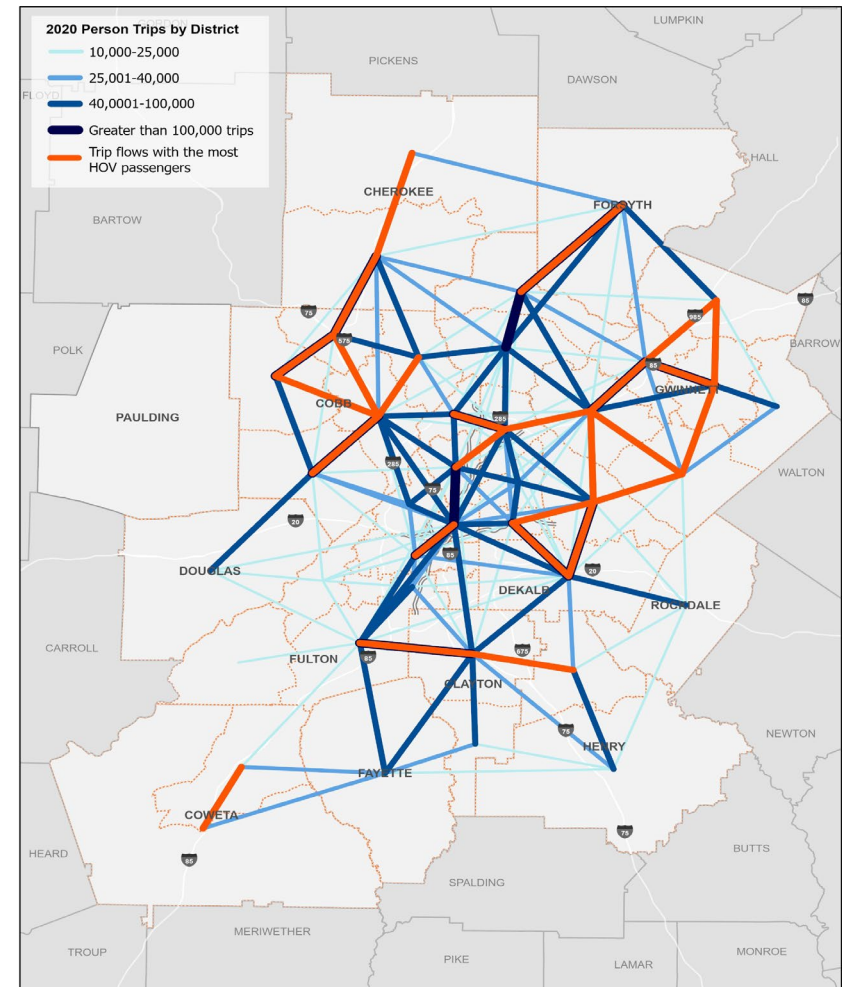
Strategic Blueprint Development



Cross-County Options

- Projects addressing cross-county transit and service demand
- The map and chart highlight strong cross-jurisdictional travel flows between counties in the region

Between Districts		Total Person Trips	Total HOV Person Trips	Share of HOV Trips
Forsyth	North Fulton - N	126,483	59,542	47%
Clayton - North	South Fulton - E	120,004	49,519	41%
Cherokee - South	Cobb - N	103,537	48,411	47%
Gwinnett - W	DeKalb - E	94,432	43,407	46%
DeKalb - N	North Fulton - South	116,022	38,362	33%
Gwinnett - W	DeKalb - N	94,321	38,219	41%
Clayton - North	Henry - North	76,499	37,301	49%
DeKalb - E	Gwinnett - S	65,943	33,818	51%



MARTA Counties

At least one Non-MARTA County



Strategic Blueprint Development



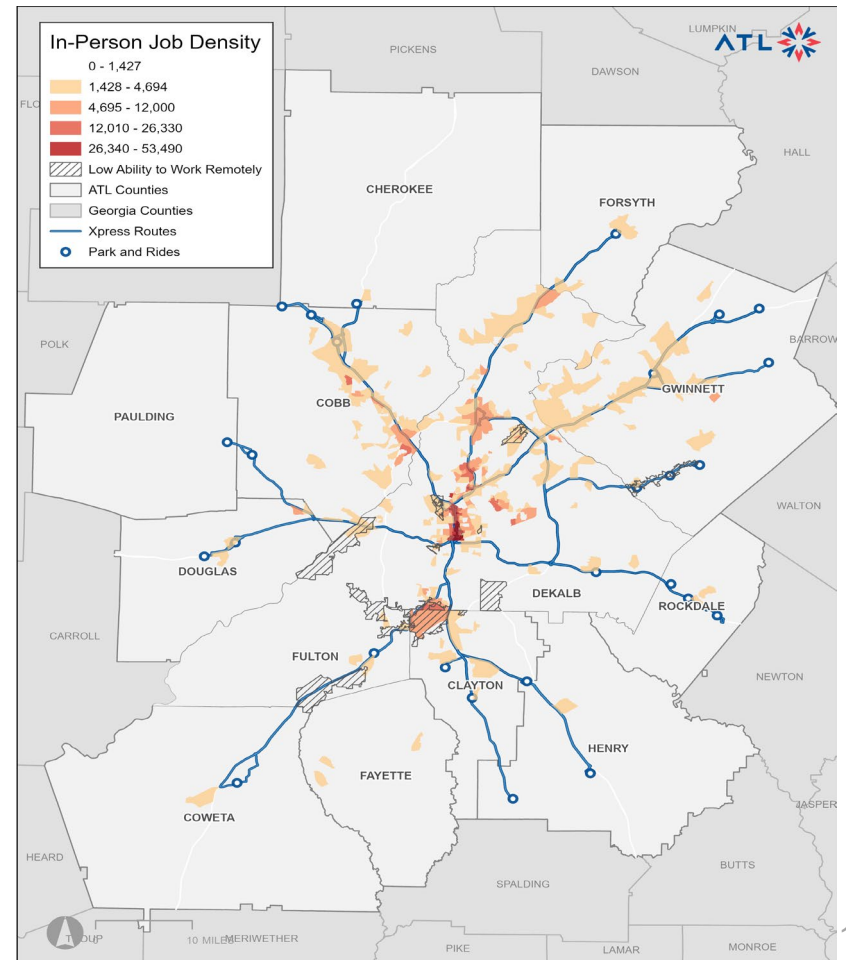
Customer-Focused

▶ The Strategic Blueprint will identify key transit customers and define how those customers interact with transit service.

▶ Customer-focused projects are those aimed to support the travel demand for customers who are most likely to use transit and connect the origins and destinations to which they are most likely to travel

▶ Key destinations:

- Work and IPECs
- School/University
- Recreation
- Healthcare
- Daily needs like grocery stores



Strategic Blueprint Development



Competitiveness

Investment in capital and operations with a focus on our region's economic competitiveness

	Houston	Dallas	Austin	Charlotte	Phoenix	Atlanta
Population (2022)	7.4 M	7.9 M	2.4 M	2.8 M	5.0 M	6.2 M
GDP (2021)	\$537.1 B	\$598.3 B	\$193.8 B	\$207.9 B	\$316.1 B	\$399.2 B
Existing High Capacity Miles	15	93	32	19	0.001	48
High Capacity Miles Added (% Change)	16 (+107%)	28.4 (+31%)	57 (+178%)	70 (+389%)	42 (+4,200%)	47 (+98%)
Capital Program Size	\$7.5 B (\$395 M per year)	\$8.3 B (\$415 M per year)	\$11 B (\$846 M per year)	\$13.5 B (\$675 M per year)	\$31.5 B (\$900 M per year)	<i>\$6.2 B – \$31 B (\$310M-\$1.5B per year)</i>
Allocation to High-Capacity Transit	\$5.9 B (\$295 M per year) 79% of budget	\$6.1 B (\$300 M per year) 72% of budget	\$10.3 B (\$792 M per year) 94% of budget	\$11.3 B (\$565 M per year) 84% of budget	\$22.1 B (\$631 M per year) 70% of budget	<i>\$4.5 B - \$26 B 70-85% of budget</i>
Program Size as percentage of GDP per year	0.07%	0.07%	0.44%	0.32%	0.28%	<i>0.08% - 0.39%</i>
Program size per capita annually	\$50.53	\$52.13	\$345.86	\$243.93	\$179.66	<i>\$49.45 - \$247.25</i>
High-Capacity Budget per capita	\$39.75	\$37.68	\$323.85	\$204.18	\$126.05	<i>\$34.62 - \$210.17</i>
Number of Entities	1	3	2	3	2	10

Funding estimates for Atlanta represent 10 non-MARTA counties passing a 20-year sales tax of a half penny to a full penny

Note: grey-shaded boxes are an estimated range based on population growth and a flat inflation projection of 2.5%



Strategic Blueprint Deliverables

- ▶ Industry research, best practices, and competitor review
 - Based on ATL's Competitor Region analysis already produced
- ▶ Mission, Goals, and Objectives for the ARTP
- ▶ Investment Approaches
 - Leveraging the Transit Trust Fund, federal funds, and state funds
 - Highlighting opportunities for public-private partnerships
- ▶ Action steps going forward

Strategic Blueprint as the basis for the ARTP

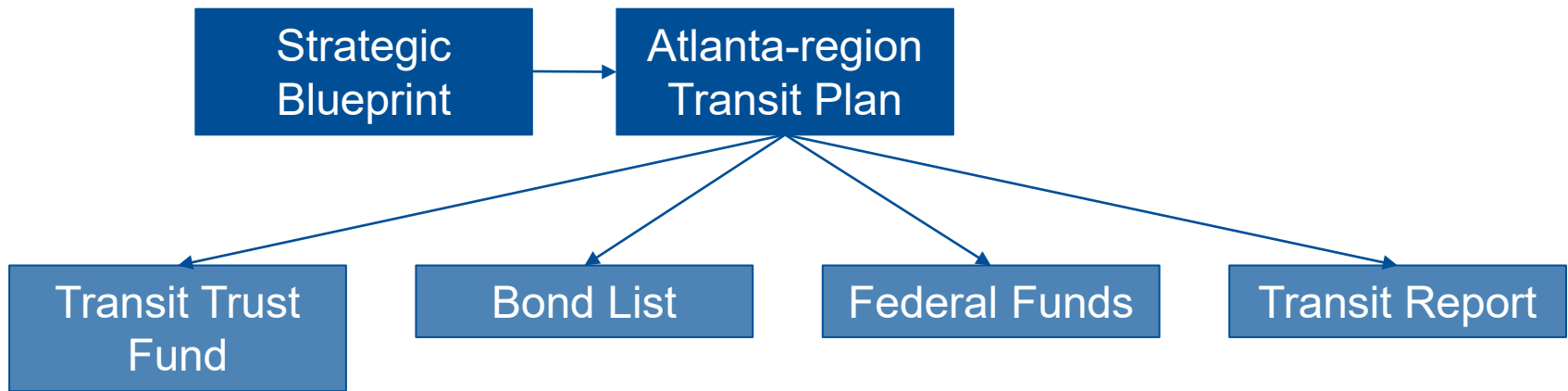
- ▶ The deliverables for the Strategic Blueprint will feed into the ARTP development process.

Anticipated Timeline for Strategic Blueprint and Atlanta-Region Transit Plan Development

May 2024	Strategic Blueprint Kick-off
August 2024	Hand off between Strategic Blueprint team and ARTP Development team - Draft Strategic Blueprint available at August Board meeting
December 2024	Draft of ARTP available
May 2025	Final ARTP delivered

ATL's Coordinated Work Program

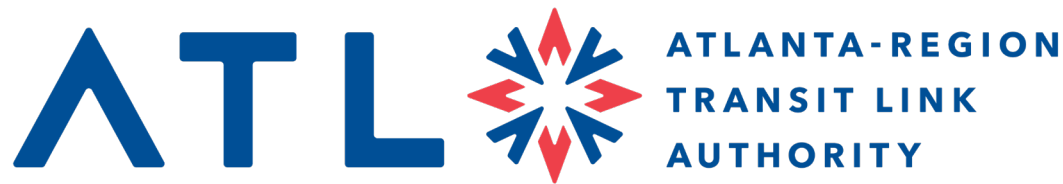
- ▶ The Strategic Blueprint lays the foundation for a coordination and cohesive work program for the ATL going forward.





Thank you.

Questions?



ATL's Review of the Cobb County Referendum List

Abby Marinelli

June 6, 2024

2024 Cobb Referendum

- ▶ Per ATL's enabling legislation, counties in the ATL's 13-county jurisdiction can hold referenda to impose transit special purpose local option sales taxes (SPLOST).
- ▶ Cobb County is in the process of meeting the statutory requirements to hold a referendum in November 2024.

Cobb's Referendum Schedule

April 4, 2024 | **ATL Board approved ARTP Amendment #3**

- Amd #3 incorporates new and updated Cobb projects into the ARTP (the required source document for referendum projects)¹
- ATL Board requested ridership estimates for the Referendum Project List prior to acting on the submission

May 20, 2024 | **ATL received Cobb Referendum Project List**

- Initiated the 20-day clock for review and approval by the ATL Board

June 6, 2024 | **ATL Board to consider Cobb Referendum Project List**

November 5, 2024 | **Date of referendum, if held, in Cobb County**

1: Also included Douglas county projects



ATL Review Process

▶ Per OCGA § 48-8-269.45(C)

- Upon receipt of such notice from a county, the authority shall approve or deny any or all projects within a submitted transit project list and the proposed operator of any transit projects if such project of projects are services which require an operator. **In making a determination upon whether to approve transit projects, the authority shall take into consideration any other transit projects the authority has approved for any neighboring counties, any transit projects in progress in any neighboring counties, and any additional federal or state funding that may be available for any projects.** The authority shall make a determination and send notification to a county approving or denying the submitted transit projects and operators, if applicable, **no later than 20 days from the receipt of such list.**

ATL Review Process

▶ Per OCGA § 48-8-269.45(C)

- Upon receipt of such notice from a county, the authority shall approve or deny any or all projects within a submitted transit project list and the proposed operator of any transit projects if such project of projects are services which require an operator. **In making a determination upon whether to approve transit projects, the authority shall take into consideration any other transit projects the authority has approved for any neighboring counties, any transit projects in progress in any neighboring counties, and any additional federal or state funding that may be available for any projects.** The authority shall make a determination and send notification to a county approving or denying the submitted transit projects and operators, if applicable, **no later than 20 days from the receipt of such list.**

Criteria

1

ATL Review Process

▶ Per OCGA § 48-8-269.45(C)

- Upon receipt of such notice from a county, the authority shall approve or deny any or all projects within a submitted transit project list and the proposed operator of any transit projects if such project of projects are services which require an operator. **In making a determination upon whether to approve transit projects, the authority shall take into consideration any other transit projects the authority**

Criteria

1

Criteria

2

has approved for any neighboring counties, any transit projects in progress in any neighboring counties, and

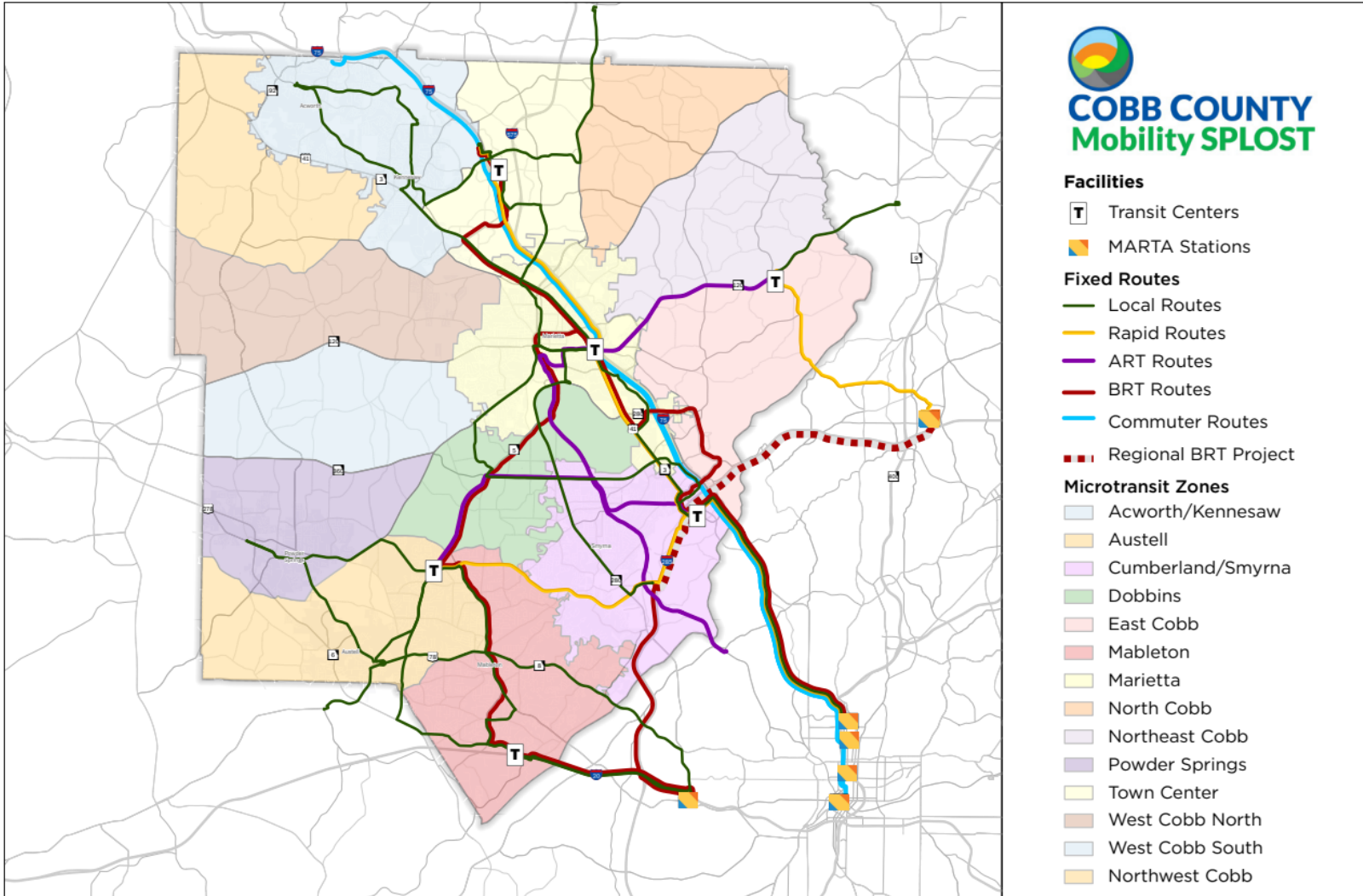
any additional federal or state funding that may be available for any projects.

The authority shall make a determination and send notification to a county approving or denying the submitted transit projects and operators, if applicable, **no later than 20 days from the receipt of such list.**



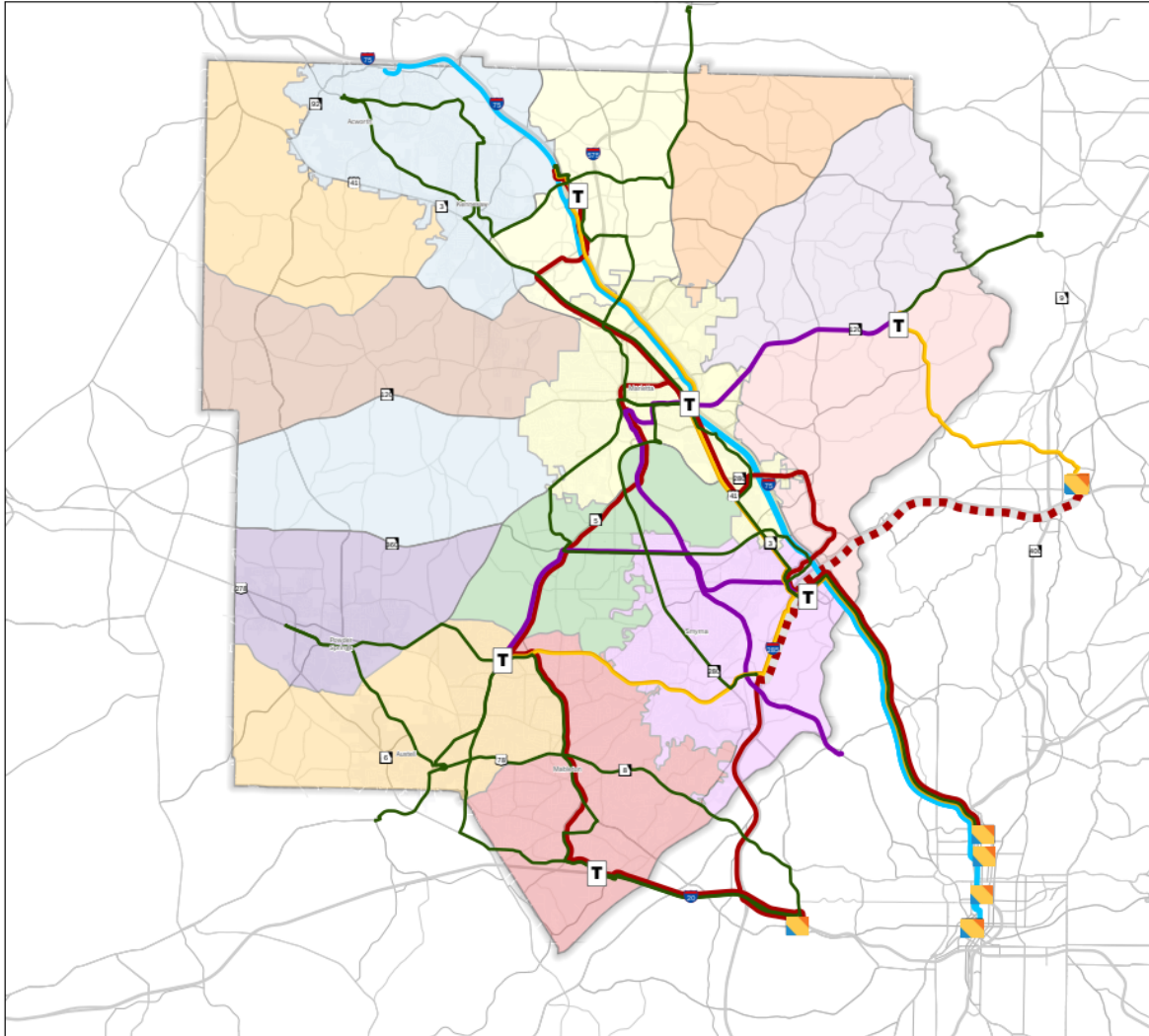
Criteria 1: Approved or In-Progress Projects in Neighboring Counties

Criteria 1: Approved or In-Progress Projects¹ in Neighboring Counties



1: "Projects" as defined in OCGA § 50-39-2(14)

Criteria 1: Approved or In-Progress Projects in Neighboring Counties



▶ Connecting projects in 2020 ARTP as amended

- I-285 Top End
- Multiple connections to MARTA heavy rail
 - HE Holmes
 - Arts Center
 - Midtown
 - Civic Center
 - Five Points
 - Bankhead
 - Dunwoody
 - Airport
- Vanpool

The background features a large, light blue, stylized sun with rays emanating from the center. The rays are thick and have rounded ends, creating a soft, abstract pattern.

Criteria 2: Consideration of Additional Federal or State Funding

Criteria 2: Consideration of Additional Federal or State Funding

► Financial constraints in Cobb County’s MSPLOST Program of Projects, December 2023

The Cobb County MSPLOST Program project list is separated into several categories. This document briefly describes the purpose of each capital improvement and operating service and the *anticipated* corresponding funding. The MSPLOST has been developed to address the transportation needs that affect the future of Cobb County. If approved by Cobb County voters in November 2024, MSPLOST tax collection for this program will begin on April 1, 2025, and end on March 31, 2055.

Project MSPLOST Collection over 30 Years: \$10,866,938,000

	Project Types	Estimated Costs*
1	High-Capacity Transit (BRT, ART)	\$5,979,000,000
2	Local, Rapid & Commuter Service	\$2,804,000,000
3	Transit Vehicles, Facilities, and Amenities	\$2,024,000,000
4	Transit Technology	\$ 237,000,000
5	Microtransit On-demand	\$1,956,000,000
6	Transit Supportive – Bike/Pedestrian Access Improvements	\$ 500,000,000
7	Transit Supportive Operational Improvements	\$ 500,000,000
8	Aspirational unfunded	To Be Determined

* In addition to MSPLOST collection, projects are anticipated to be funded by revenues from hotel motel tax, farebox, state/federal grants and local revenue bonds.

Criteria 2: Consideration of Additional Federal or State Funding

- ▶ Financial constraint methodology is covered in the CobbForward Comprehensive Transportation Plan that is the basis for the Referendum Project List projects.
- ▶ The MSPLOST Program of Projects details project descriptions, costs, and justifications.

Project List Cost Estimate - \$14.5 Billion (YOE*) over 30 years

- ▶ YOE: Year of Expenditure – “Transit costs are given in year of expenditure (YOE) due to necessary phasing of capital and operating and maintenance (O&M) costs through implementation. This is the preferred method of financial reporting by FTA.” *CobbForward Recommendations Report, 2022*

Criteria 2: Consideration of Additional Federal or State Funding

Project List Cost Estimate - \$14.5 Billion over 30 years

MSPLOST Revenue Estimate - \$10.9 Billion over 30 years Other Funds

79%

21%



Criteria 2: Consideration of Additional Federal or State Funding

Project List Cost Estimate - \$14.5 Billion over 30 years

MSPLOST Revenue Estimate - \$10.9 Billion over 30 years Other Funds



1: FTA Capital Improvement Grant program

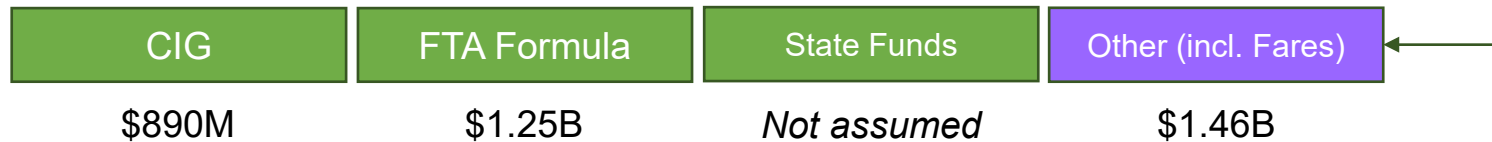


Criteria 2: Consideration of Additional Federal or State Funding

Project List Cost Estimate - \$14.5 Billion over 30 years

MSPLOST Revenue Estimate - \$10.9 Billion over 30 years

Other Funds



► Key Assumptions (Federal):

- FTA formula funds assume 2% YoY increase (consistent with Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)
- Assumed award of \$890M FTA CIG
- Other possible federal grants not assumed (i.e.: Bus and Bus Facilities, CMAQ, STBG, Low-No, MEGA, RAISE, etc.¹)
- CIG projects assumed, funded non-concurrently to enhance application competitiveness across the region (FTA CIG assumptions consistent with historic awards across the nation)

► Key Assumptions (State):

- Cobb used conservative approach to estimating revenue increases over time, including 2% YoY increase to existing agency revenue
- Other potential state funds not assumed (i.e.: GO bonds, Transit Trust Fund, etc.)

1: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/grants>



Staff Recommendation

ATL Staff Recommendation

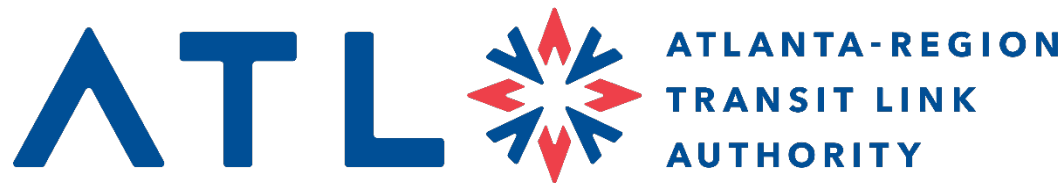
- ▶ Upon review, ATL staff find that Cobb County's Referendum Project List meets the statutory criteria outlined in OCGA § 48-8-269.45(C), and, therefore, ATL staff recommend the ATL Board approve the 2024 Cobb County Transit SPLOST Referendum Project List.

- ▶ Action item for consideration at today's Board meeting.



Questions?

Thank you



Cobb County Referendum List Ridership Estimates

Morgan Simmons

Deputy Director, Cobb County DOT

June 6, 2024

COBB COUNTY MOBILITY SPLOST ATL BOARD MEETING

June 6, 2024

Morgan L. Simmons, AICP
Deputy Director
Cobb DOT



RECENT ATL BOARD REQUEST AND PENDING ACTION

- Submit a list of projects to the ATL that includes all services within the proposed sales tax referendum (Required of HB 930):

“...The authority shall approve or deny any or all projects within a submitted transit project list and the proposed operator of any transit projects if such project or projects are services which require an operator.

In making a determination upon whether to approve transit projects, the authority shall take into consideration any other transit projects the authority has approved for any neighboring counties, any transit projects in progress in any neighboring counties, and any additional federal or state funding that may be available for any projects.”

- Submit high-level ridership projections associated with the list of projects contained within the sales tax referendum (Requested by ATL Board on April 4, 2024)



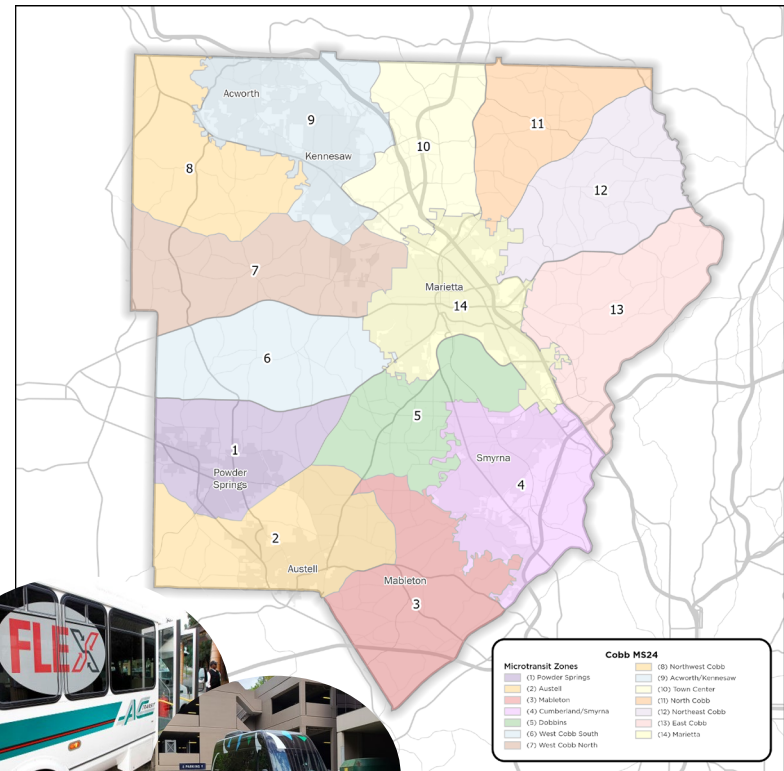
COBB COUNTY MILESTONES

- December 12, 2023:** Cobb County BOC resolution for MSPLOST proposed program of projects and authorizing staff to proceed with development of ballot referendum
- February 1:** ATL first read of Cobb County's proposed ARTP amendment
- March 27:** Letter to qualified cities of date, time, place, purpose of official meeting
- April 4:** ATL Amendment of ARTP with Cobb County modifications
- April 8:** Official meeting with qualified cities
- May 14:** Cobb County BOC resolution for intent to call for referendum
- May 20:** Cobb County DOT provide notice to ATL of intent to call for referendum and submit requested project list
- June 6:** ATL Board meeting for consideration of Cobb County's intent to call for referendum



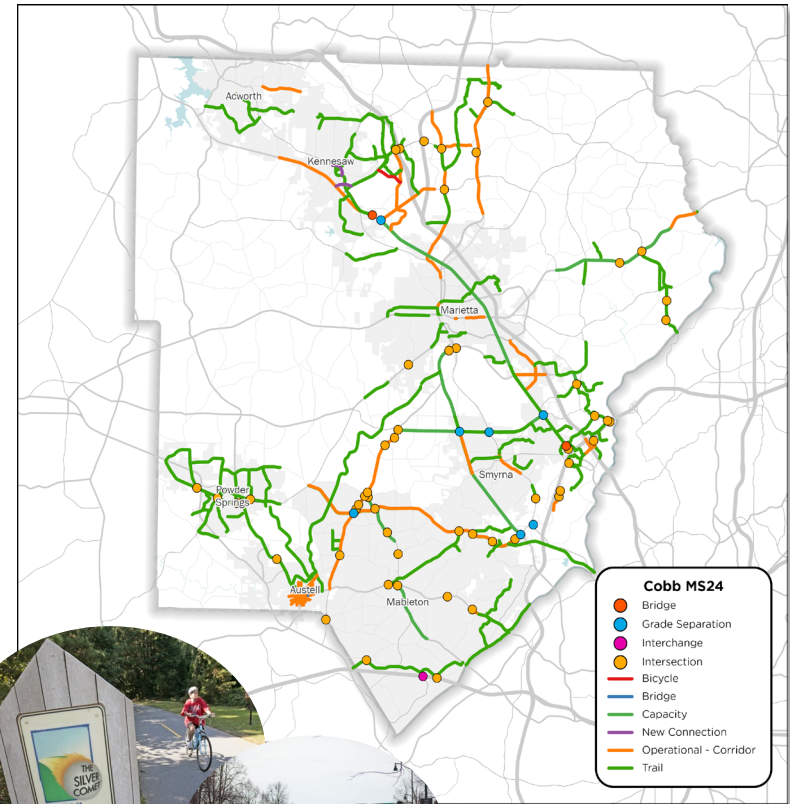
CONSIDERATIONS

- The only available Ridership (STOPS) model to the region is pre-COVID
 - Updated post-COVID model is currently in development within the region
 - STOPS model currently relies on the pre-Covid transit networks, on-board survey, and ridership counts for other regional agency systems
 - Is not reflective of recent or proposed future changes to other agency systems
- Projected microtransit ridership not able to be modeled in STOPS, at this time
 - Microtransit is a relatively new mode of service, with increasing popularity regionally and nationally
 - Available STOPS model is currently not capable of adequately incorporating potential effect of Microtransit on fixed-route service



CONSIDERATIONS

- Projected paratransit ridership not included in the modeling outputs
- Impacts of land use changes not accounted for in projections
 - Transit-oriented development around BRT stations may improve access to transit, which is not accounted for in the model this time.
- Substantial investment in transit supportive projects not accounted for in modeling
 - Transit operations projects may improve efficiency of transit
 - Transit access projects may help patrons better reach transit



METHODOLOGY

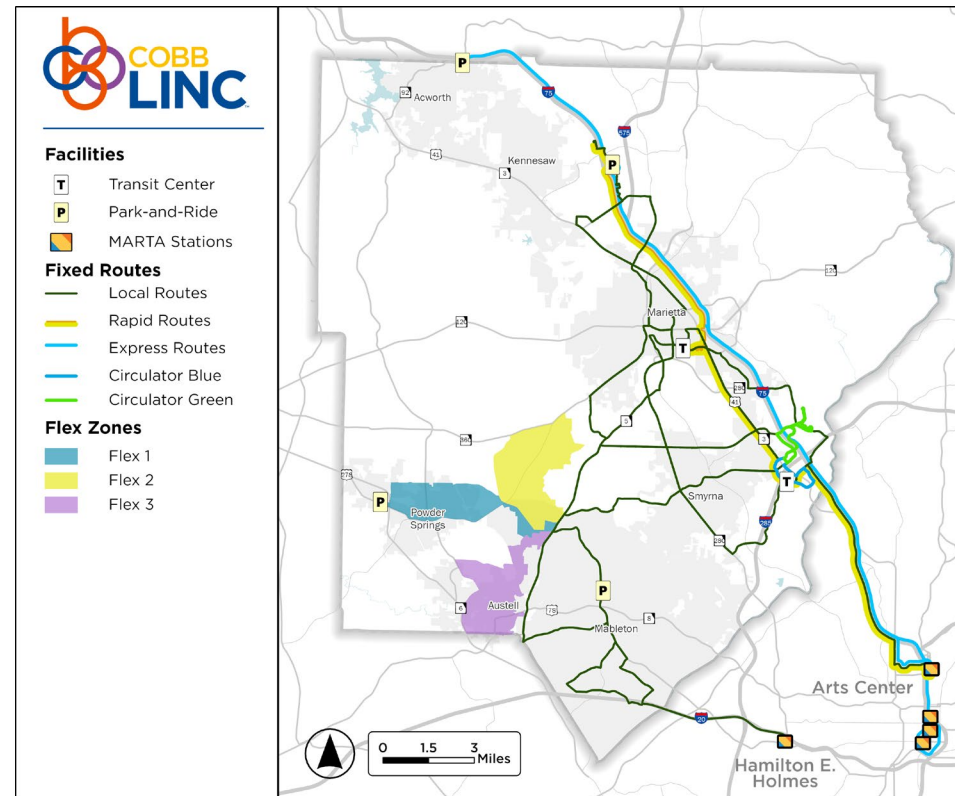
- **Pre-Covid/Existing Model**
 - Current CobbLinc network for Cobb County (Source: Cobb County)
 - Pre-Covid networks, on-board surveys for other regional agencies (Source: ARC)
 - 2020 population/employment estimates (Source: ARC)
 - Represents current conditions in operation today
- **Pre-Covid/Future MSPLOST Model**
 - Future MSPLOST network for Cobb County (Source: Cobb County)
 - Pre-Covid networks for other regional agencies (does not assume implementation of changes in other systems, Source: ARC)
 - 2050 population/employment projections (Source: ARC)
 - Represents expected ridership at full-build out



DRAFT RIDERSHIP ESTIMATIONS – PRE-COVID/EXISTING

Transit Network →	Current
Population/Employment Data →	2020
Local	8,900
Commuter	600
ART & Rapids	900
BRT	-
Total Average Weekday Ridership	10,400

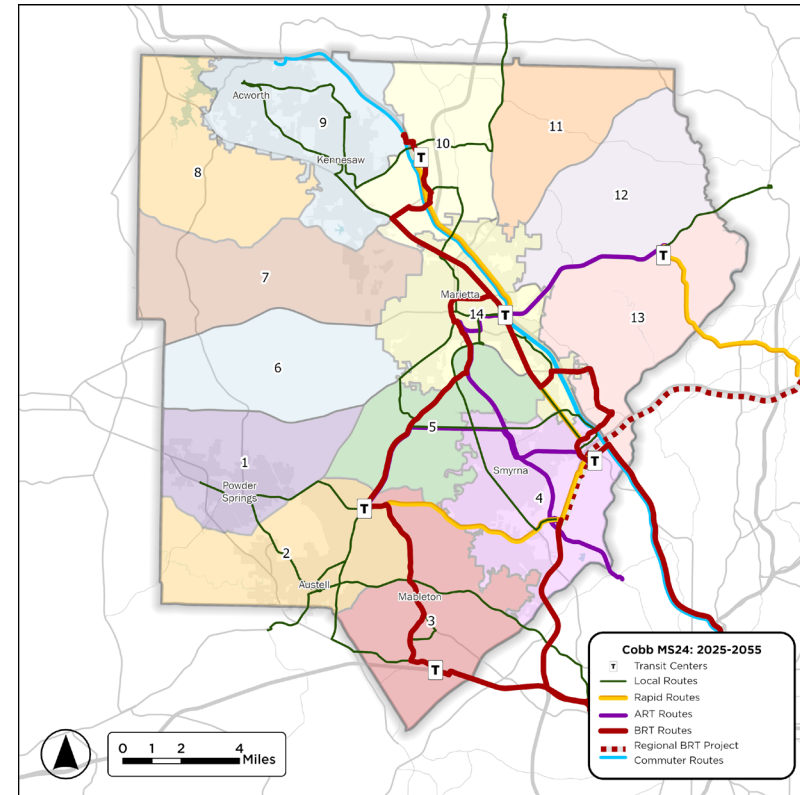
- Ridership estimated based on existing service (Current Network Provided by Cobb County) with 2020 population/employment (ARC, STOPS Model Input)
- Ridership does not include paratransit service
- Flex zone ridership not included



DRAFT RIDERSHIP PROJECTIONS – PRE-COVID/FUTURE

Transit Network →	Current	MSPLOST
Population/Employment Data →	2020	2050
Local	8,900	10,450
Commuter	600	2,200
ART & Rapids	900	8,850
BRT	-	19,100
Total Average Weekday Ridership	10,400	40,600

- Ridership estimated based on proposed Mobility SPLOST service network (Provided by Cobb County) with 2050 population/employment projections (ARC, STOPS input)
- Ridership does not include paratransit service
- Microtransit ridership not included



NEXT STEPS

- **June 6:** ATL Board meeting for consideration of Cobb County's intent to call for referendum
- **June 11:** Cobb County BOC resolution to call for referendum on November ballot by majority vote
- **June 15:** DOT coordination with Elections Director to advertise referendum for four weeks
- **June – November:** County public education of referendum details
- **November 5:** General Election with potential Mobility SPLOST referendum





ADJOURN

**The ATL Board Meeting
Will Begin Momentarily**