

# **Regional Transit Planning Committee**

Steve Brock, Chair

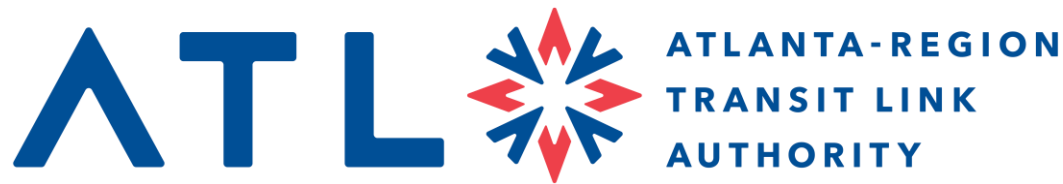
May 12, 2025

# **Regional Transit Planning Committee Meeting**

## **Thursday, May 12, 2025**

### **Proposed Agenda**

- I. Call to Order - Steve Brock, Chair
- II. Proposal for Award of Remaining FY24 Transit Trust Fund
- III. ARTP Update
- IV. Adjournment



# **Proposal for Award of Remaining FY24 Transit Trust Fund**

Abby Marinelli  
Director Of Planning  
May 12, 2025

# FY24 TTF Balance

- ▶ TTF Trustee requires FY24 funds be “utilized by FY27”

	<b>FY24</b>
TTF Appropriation to ATL	\$12,597,313
Allocations by the ATL Board to date	\$10,383,708
<b>Balance for the Atlanta region</b>	<b>\$2,213,605</b>

- ▶ ATL staff recommend two projects for the spend down of FY24 TTF funds:
  - Atlanta Beltline, Inc. Automated Vehicle – World Cup Pilot Connecting to the Westside Trail
  - Xpress In-Person Employment Center Transit Study

# Beltline/Beep Pilot Project

- ▶ The Beltline is requesting funds to support the deployment of a Beep automated shuttle pilot project for the 2026 World Cup, connecting to the Westside Trail
- ▶ The pilot would operate for 1 year
- ▶ The total estimated cost of the pilot project is approximately \$3 million
- ▶ Due to timing of the pilot and eligibility considerations, federal funds are not a viable option

# Beltline Award

- ▶ ATL staff recommend a TTF award of **\$1.75 million**
  - \$1.75M for a \$3M total project cost represents **58%** of the total project cost
- ▶ ATL staff are developing project metrics that will be required to be reported semi-annually by ABI starting in December 2025, such as:
  - Ridership data (how many passengers, origins, destinations)
  - Service data (trips, how many vehicles, operating hours)
  - Safety data (incidents inside and outside the vehicle)
  - Details of interventions by human operators



Atlanta  
Beltline

# Autonomous Transit: A Pilot Project

Atlanta Beltline and Beep  
May 12, 2025





Atlanta  
Beltline



# Our Vision

To be the catalyst for making Atlanta  
a global beacon for equitable,  
inclusive, and sustainable life.

22

MILES

of pedestrian-  
friendly rail transit

1,100

ACRES

of environmental  
cleanup

33

MILES

of multi-use  
urban trails

1,300

ACRES

of new  
greenspace

\$10B

in economic  
development

50K

PERMANENT  
JOBS

5,600

UNITS

of affordable  
workforce housing

48K

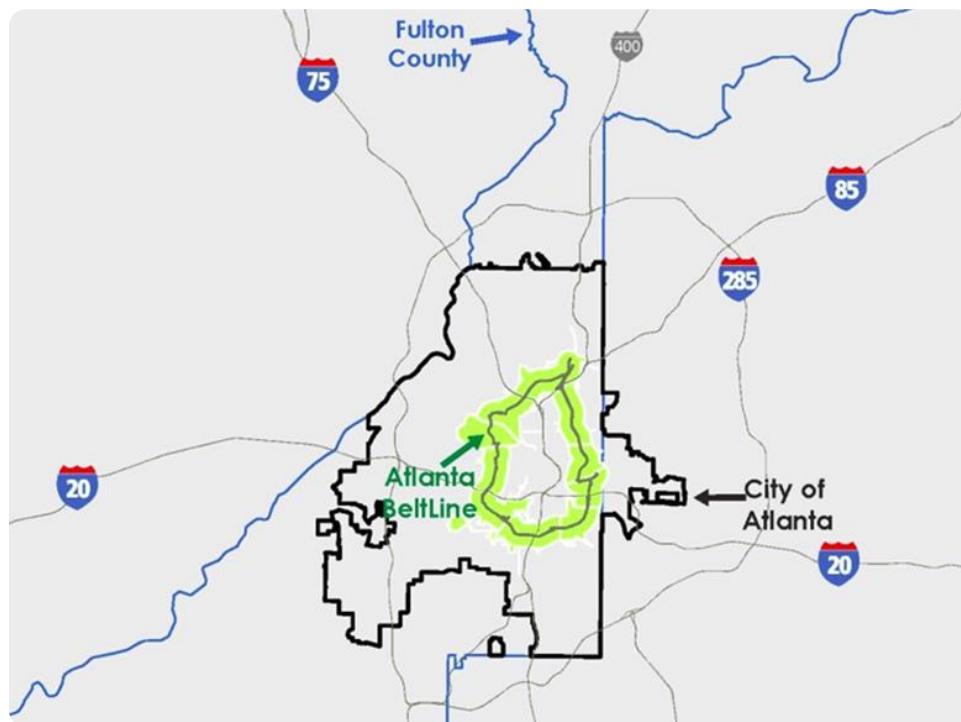
CONSTRUCTION  
JOBS





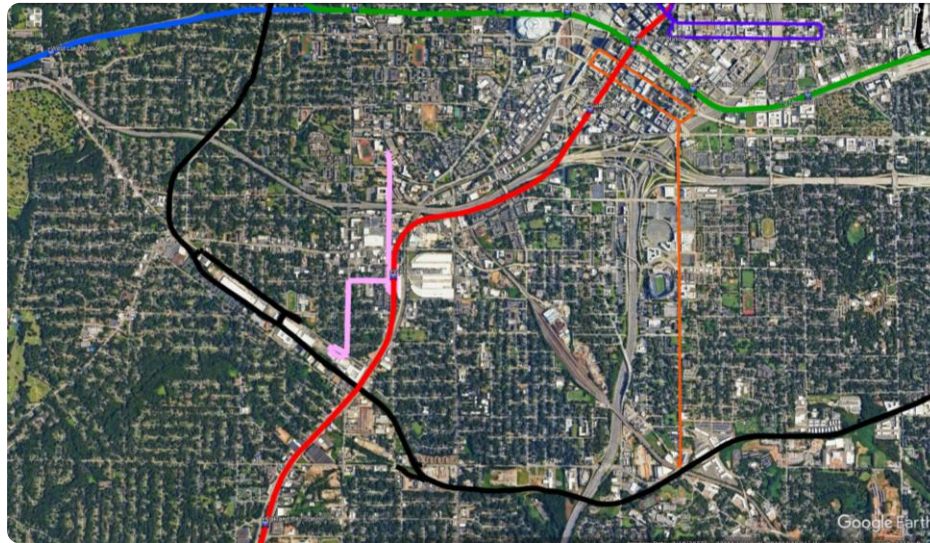
Atlanta  
Beltline

# Beltline Geography



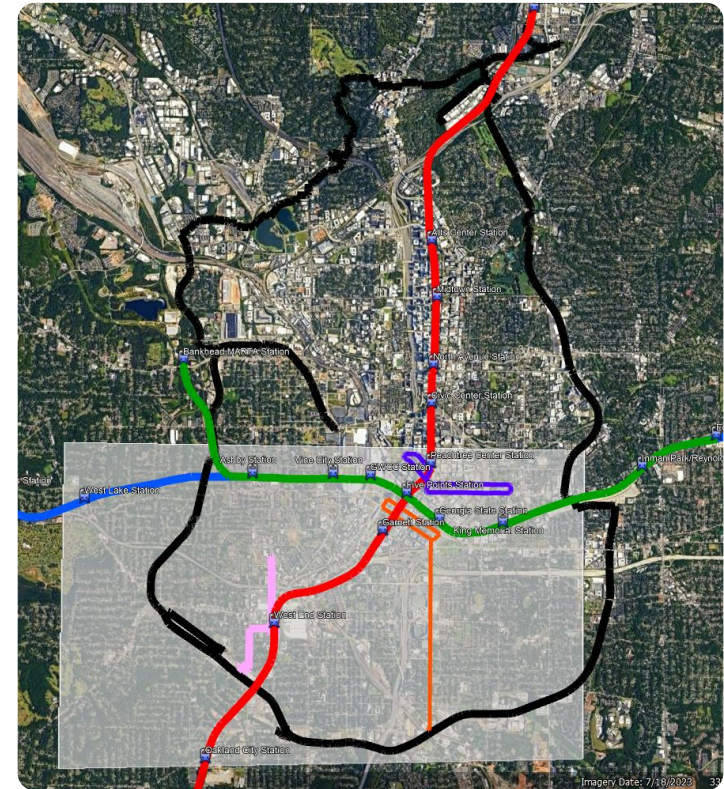
- **Visitors**
  - 1M+ daily trips to Beltline Area
    - half-mile to both sides of corridor
  - 2.5M+ Trail Trips Annually
    - Westside Trail: ~15% (375K+)
- **Economic Development**
  - 2005 Tax Digest: \$542M
  - 2024 Tax Digest: \$4.2B
  - Multiplier: 7.75x

## T3: Tourism Through Transit



## FIFA Activation

- **MARTA: Long-haul mobility for tourists**
- **Beep: First/Last mile connectivity for tourists**
- **Lee+White: Beltline regional entertainment district**





## Autonomous Transit Beltline Pilot



Service Operation



# Pilot Project Goals



- Create connectivity between MARTA and Beltline with <15 min headways
- Give AUC students direct access to the Beltline
- Create workforce programs for local students/residents and showcase future ready jobs

## Service Enhancements



- Support the local economy with high frequent access to the Beltline, surrounding entertainment and hospitality
- Create marketable exposure for innovative mobility in and around the World Cup with national and international presence
- Emphasize the progress/TOD of the Beltline

## FIFA World Cup Showcase

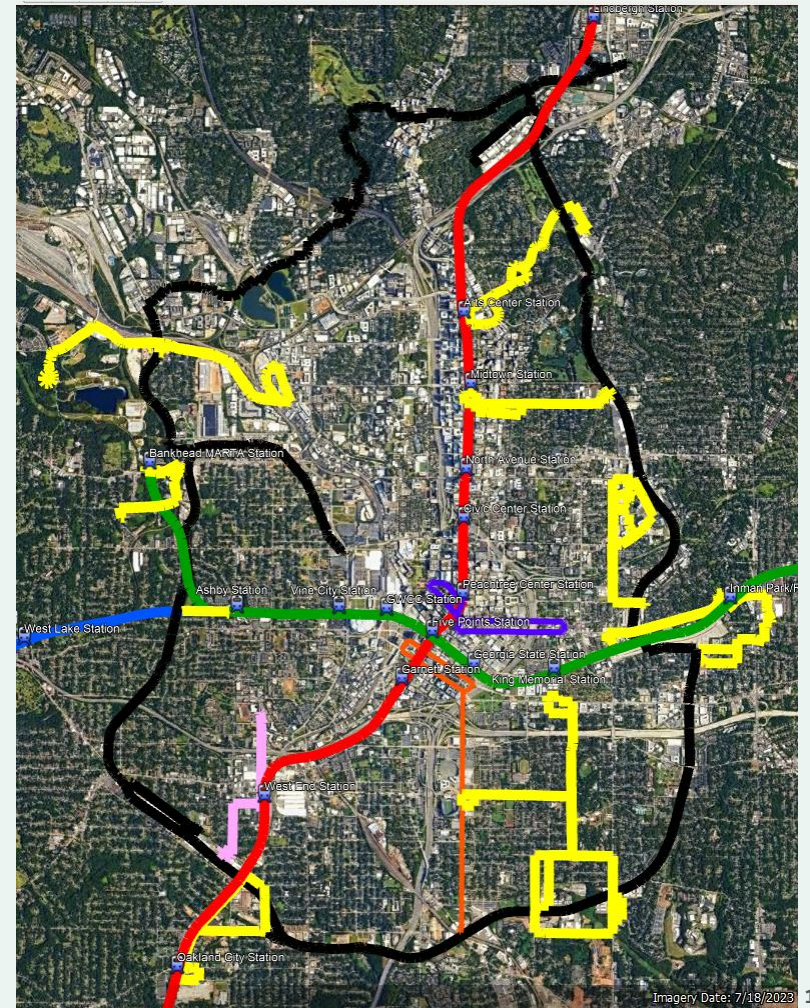


- Host a first responder training, press event, and engage with community events and STEM days
- Explore research opportunities in collaboration with the AUC campus and GT
- Provide surveys to capture the voice of the rider

## Community Engagement

# Route Selection

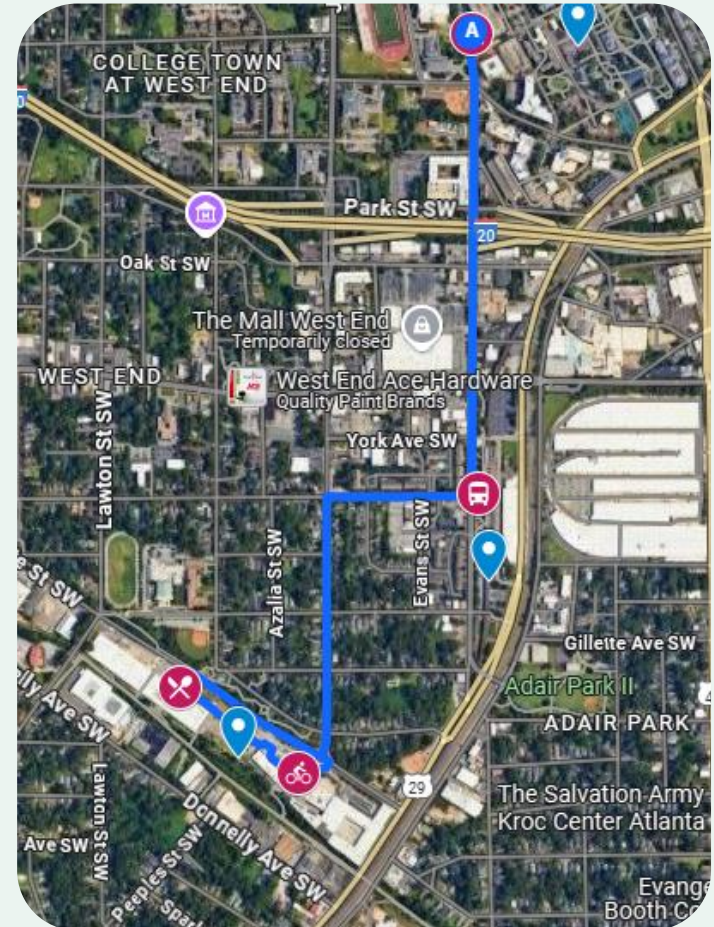
- Beep and Beltline have explored applications of autonomous mobility along the Beltline since 2023
- The process included an evaluation of numerous route concepts connecting to area attractions and/or MARTA stations
- Evaluations considered demand profiles, operational environments, the technology's maturity, and infrastructure readiness





# Site Selection

- **Term:** 12-months
- **Rolling Stock:** 4 vehicles
- **Service Area:** ~2 miles (end to end)
- **Service:** 10 hrs/day
  - *To align with AUC/MARTA schedule*
- **Key Destinations:**
  - Atlanta University Center
  - MARTA West End Station
  - Atlanta Beltline Southwest Trail
    - Lee + White Entertainment District



Vehicle/Technology



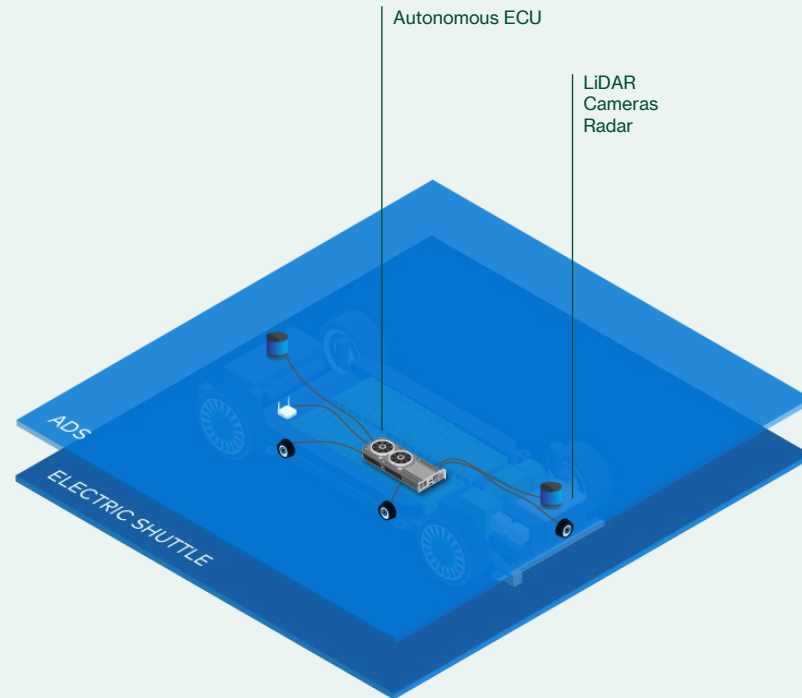
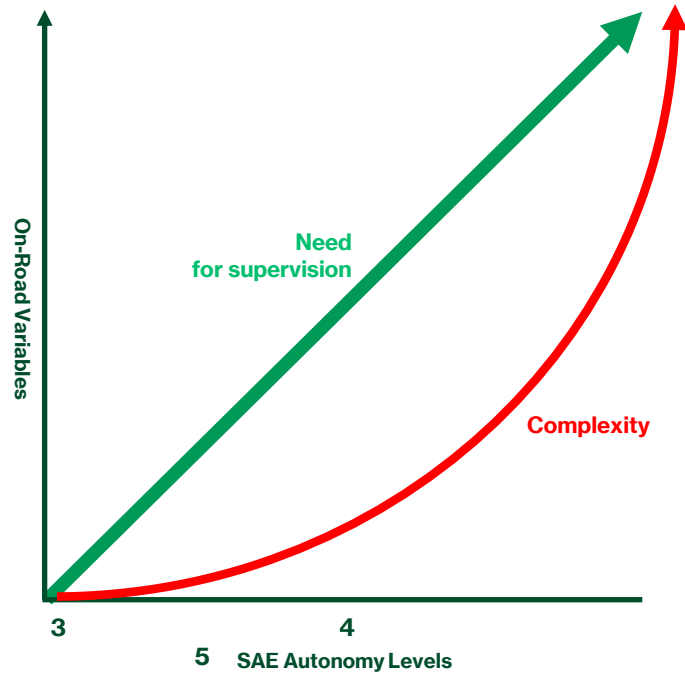


## “ACES” – Automated, Connected, Electric, Shared

- Fully electric
- FMVSS and Buy America compliant
- Operational Range: 7-8 hours
- Seating Capacity: Up to 10 (included wheelchair)
- Covered with manufacturer warranty

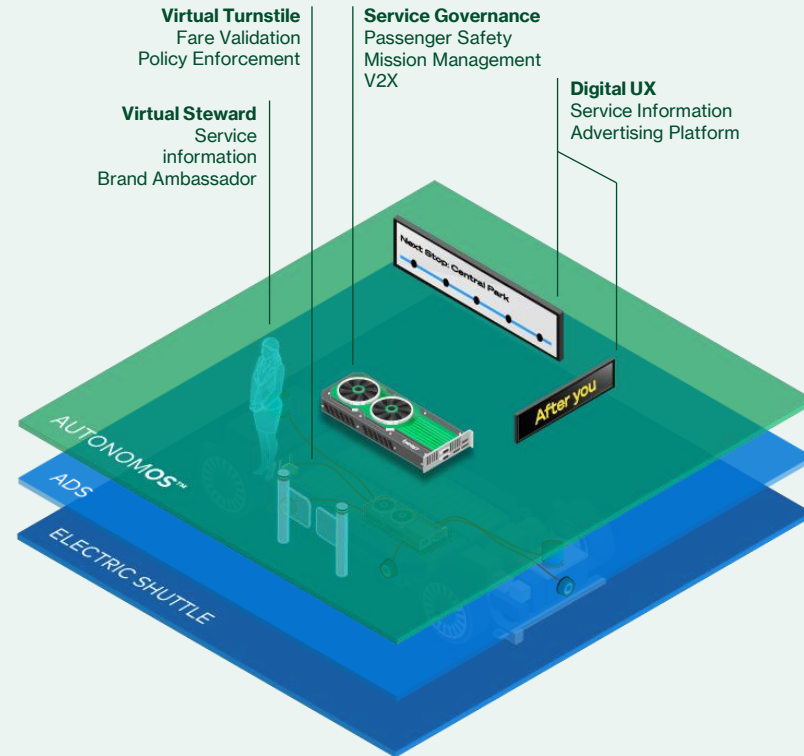
### Behind the technology

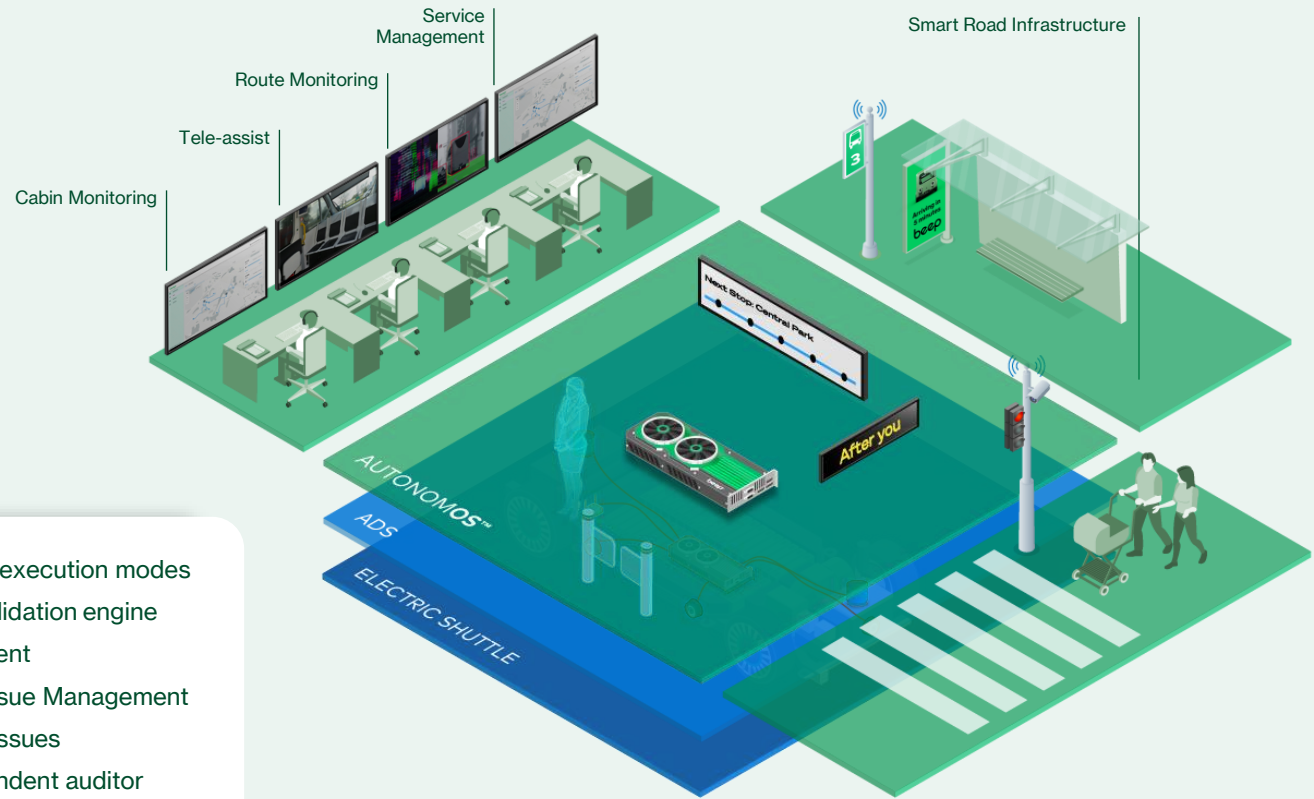
- Upfitted with a system that features a series of multi-spectrum sensors that ensure capabilities such as perception, precise localization, and correct and immediate response to road conditions
- The system operates in conjunction with Beep’s AutonomOS™ enhancing the rider experience and remote governance to ensure a high level of performance.





- AI-enhanced human supervision for passenger safety  
Medical Emergency detection, including:
  - Trip and falls
  - Fainting
  - Health events
- Uncivil passenger behavior detection, including:
  - Weapons on board
  - Out of the norm items
  - Suspicious activity
- Remote alerting on incident and event detections

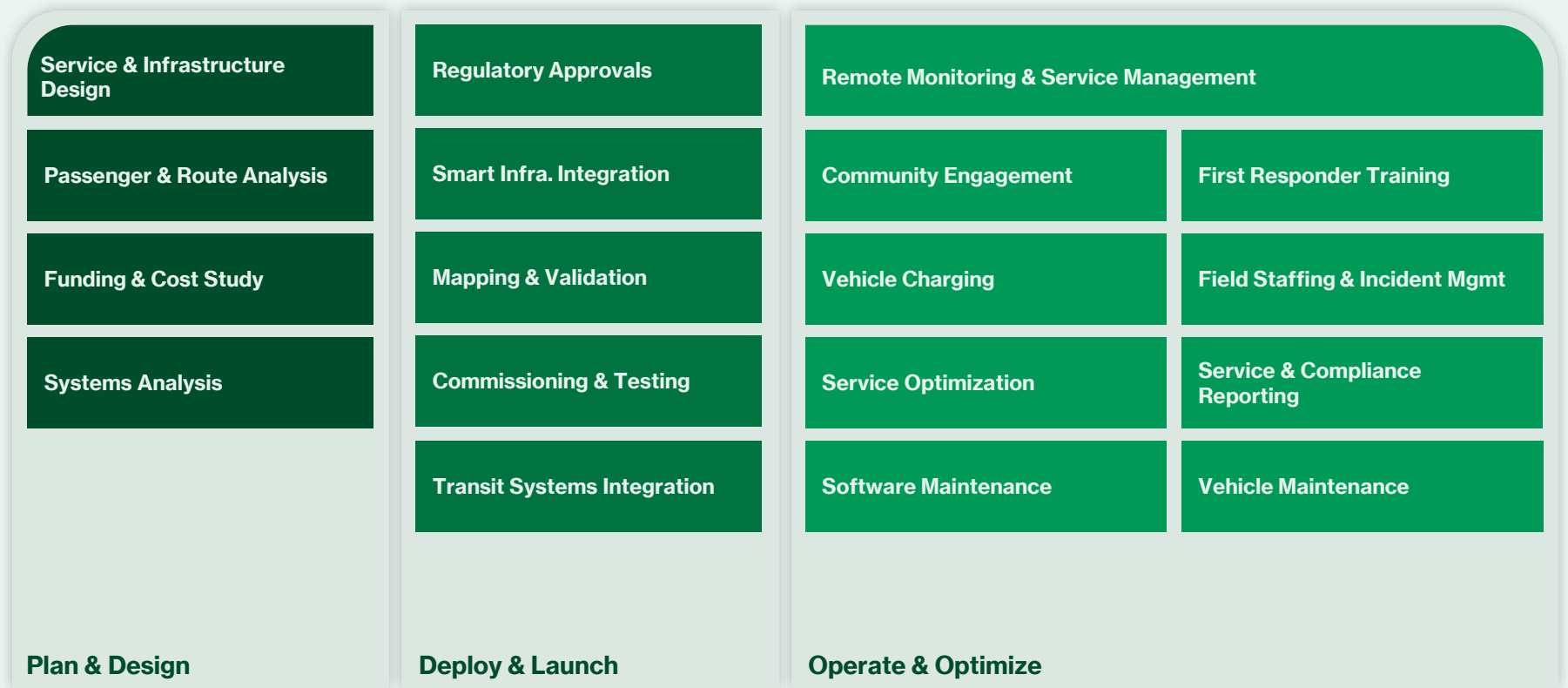




- Route creation, planning, and service execution modes
- AI assisted service plan creation & validation engine
- AI Optimized Performance Management
- Intelligent Operations Monitoring & Issue Management
- Tele-Assist for on-road and in-cabin issues
- SOP Policy Enforcement - AV independent auditor
- Fleet Management and Orchestration

Turnkey Services

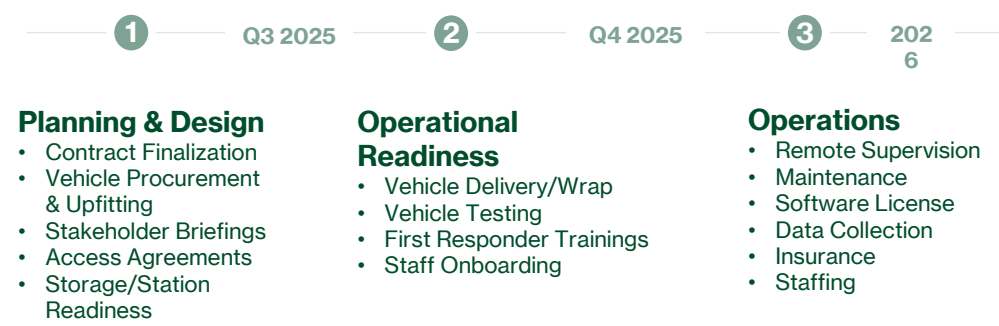
# Service Portfolio



# To Determine Success

- **Data Collection:**
  - Collect weekly data on ridership and trends
  - Provide surveys to capture the voice of the rider with overall experience, vehicle design, service quality
- **Community Engagement:**
  - Collaborate with advocacy groups and engage with mobility related organizations
  - Host a first responder training, press event, and engage with community events and STEM days
- **Education:**
  - Explore research opportunities in collaboration with the AUC campus and GT
  - Identify potential for workforce programs for local students/residents
- **Final Report:**
  - Understand the way AVs can support varying demand profiles like with the World Cup and its impact on surrounding areas
  - Establish learnings for AV readiness that can influence federal grant pursuits to expand or add service
  - Recommend infrastructure modifications to enhance safety redundancies and optimized use-cases

# Next Steps Forward



## Investment

- **Project Cost: ~\$3,000,000**
- **Funding Request: 70% cost-share (\$2.1 million)**







Atlanta  
Beltline

# Thank You



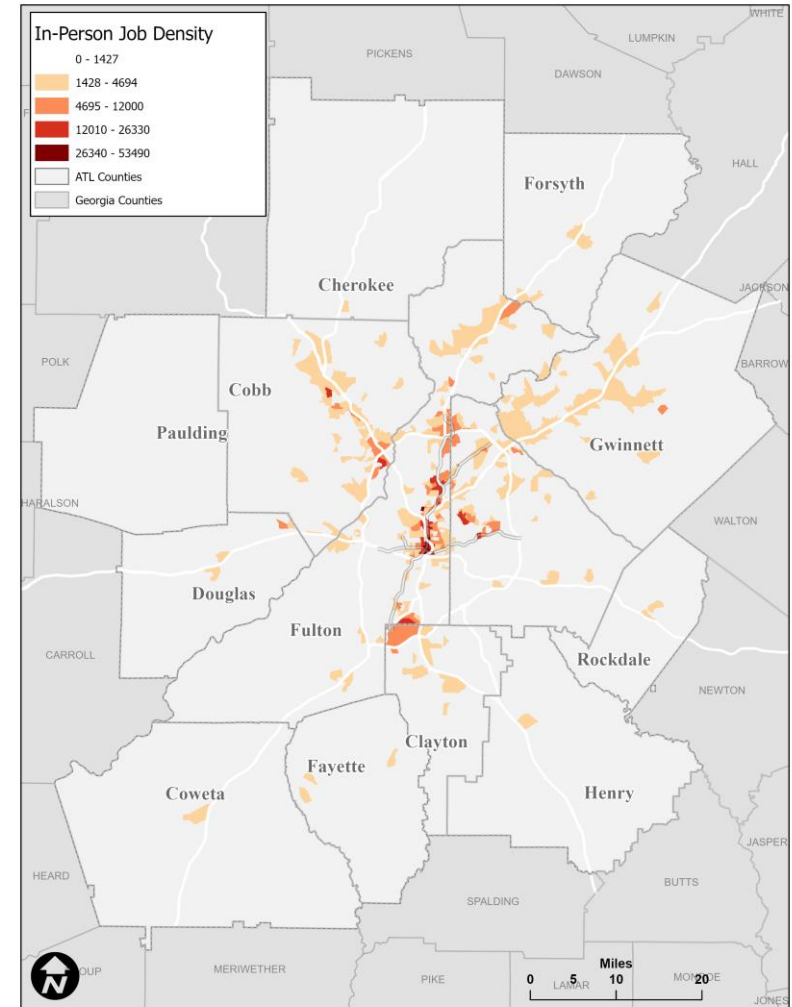
# FY24 TTF Balance

	<b>FY24</b>
TTF Appropriation to ATL	\$12,597,313
Allocations by the ATL Board to date	\$10,383,708
<b>Balance for the Atlanta region</b>	<b>\$2,213,605</b>
Proposed ABI World Cup Pilot Award	(\$1,750,000)
<b>New Balance for the Atlanta region</b>	<b>\$463,605</b>



# Xpress In-Person Employment Center Transit Study

- ▶ The Strategic Blueprint and RtR have identified In-Person Employment Centers (IPECs) as potential destinations for Xpress service in the future
- ▶ ATL staff recommend an IPEC Study completed in two phases:
  - Phase 1: Identification of IPECs, Customers, and Potential Transit Services
  - Phase 2: Service-level study with detailed costs and routes (*to be proposed for funding at a later date*)



# Xpress IPECs Transit Study (Phase 1) Award

- ▶ Based on previous studies recently completed, ATL staff expect Phase 1 of the Xpress IPECs Transit Study to cost \$800,000
- ▶ ATL staff recommend a TTF Award of \$463,605 to be matched with federal funds
  - \$463k contributes **58%** towards the total project cost.
- ▶ All TTF-funded planning studies will report metrics related to progress of plan development
- ▶ Scope elements include the identification of IPEC locations, a supply and demand analysis, corridor selection, and a financial analysis

# Current TTF Balances

	<b>FY24</b>
TTF Appropriation to ATL	\$12,597,313
Allocations by the ATL Board to date	\$10,383,708
<b>Balance for the Atlanta region</b>	<b>\$2,213,605</b>
ABI World Cup Pilot Award	(\$1,750,000)
Xpress IPECs Study (Phase 1) Award	(\$463,605)
<b>New Balance for the Atlanta region</b>	<b>\$0</b>

# Proposed Schedule

- ▶ ATL Board will act at the June Board meeting on the proposed awards
- ▶ If the ATL Board awards the funds at the June Board meeting, award contracts will be signed shortly thereafter
- ▶ Awards are made on a reimbursement basis with funds available to be drawn down as soon as the contract is signed
- ▶ ABI pilot project runs during the World Cup, for 1 year
- ▶ Xpress IPECs Transit Study (Phase 1) begins in June 2025 and ends in December 2025
- ▶ The first progress reports will be due in December 2025 and reported to the Board at the February 2026 Board meeting

# Next Steps

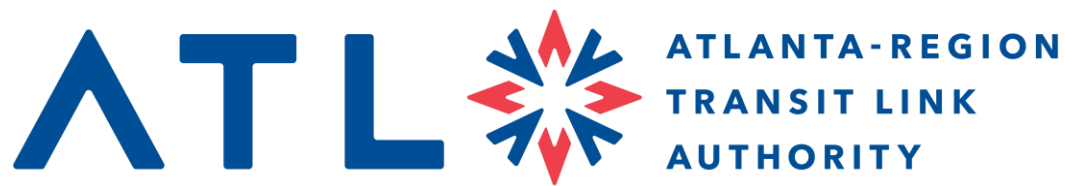
- ▶ ATL staff will present the Action item to the Board at the regularly scheduled June Board meeting.



**Questions?**

**Thank you**





# ARTP Update

Abby Marinelli

Director Of Planning

May 12, 2025

# The Atlanta Regional Transit Plan

- ▶ Per O.C.G.A. § 50-39-12(a), the ATL “shall develop, annually review, and amend, as necessary, a regional transit plan”
- ▶ Additionally, O.C.G.A. § 50-39-12(b) requires a 6-year and 20-year component
- ▶ This structure mirrors the federal requirements for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the accompanying Transportation Improvement Program

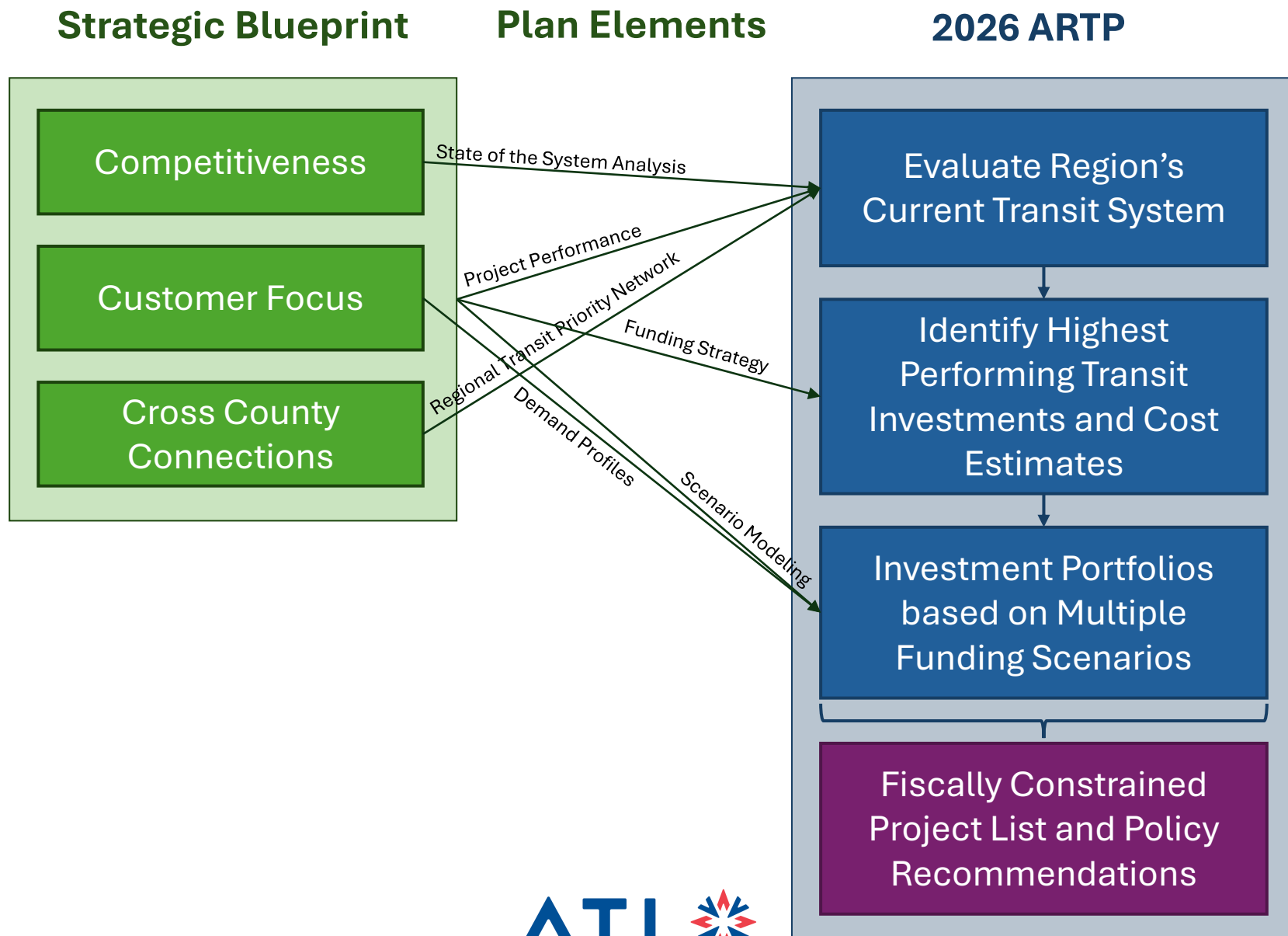
# Previous ARTPs

- ▶ ATL has had 2 full adoptions of the Atlanta Regional Transit Plan (“ARTP”)
  - 2019
  - 2020
- ▶ The 2020 ARTP is in effect now, with 3 amendments
  - Amendment 1: April 2022
  - Amendment 2: December 2023
  - Amendment 3: April 2024
- ▶ Amendments have updated the list of “adopted” projects to support various local initiatives as required by law, including Transit SPLOST referenda

# ARTP Update

- ▶ ATL staff will soon undertake the development of the next update of the ARTP
  
- ▶ Significant differences as compared to the previous plans:
  - financially constrained
  - blend regional policy with local priority
  - address post-pandemic travel patterns
  
- ▶ The ARTP will build on the regional policy priorities of the Strategic Blueprint, including the 3 Pillars:
  - Competitiveness
  - Customer Focus
  - Cross-County Connectivity

# Strategic Blueprint to ARTP



# ARTP Outcomes

- ▶ The ARTP will develop a long-range regional transit system plan and a set of projects that indicates performance within a financially constrained investment list and additional potential performance from other scenarios
  - Including technology and innovations for improved efficiencies and performance
  - Policy and project combinations that are cost-effective, solution-oriented, and actionable
  
- ▶ The ARTP will establish procedures for updating the Plan and for Board review of Transit SPLOST project lists

# ARTP Timeline

Now	Scope Development Underway
Late Summer	Project Kick Off
Ongoing	Updates to the Board
Summer 2026	Draft Plan Available for Public Engagement
Winter 2026	Plan Documents Complete



**ADJOURN**