



## TheRide 2045 Long-Range Plan Q&A

### About the Project

**Q: What is the Long-Range Plan?**

**A:** The Long-Range Plan, also called TheRide 2045, is the plan that develops a vision for public transit in the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti area.

**Q: What is TheRide 2045?**

**A:** TheRide 2045 is the name of TheRide's Long-Range Plan, which is a plan that develops a vision for public transit in the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti area for the next 25 years.

**Q: What is included in TheRide 2045 Long-Range Plan?**

**A:** TheRide 2045 will look at how demand for transit may change over the next 25 years, and how best to handle those changes. Recommendations may include changes to the transit network, building new infrastructure, using new technologies or introducing new services to support the community. The plan will be more specific in the near term and more general in the long term.

**Q: Who is leading the long-range plan?**

**A:** TheRide has contracted a specialized transit consulting firm called Left Turn Right Turn to lead the development of the TheRide 2045 Long-Range Plan. They are working closely with TheRide throughout the process.

**Q: How long will it take to finalize the long-range plan?**

**A:** The long-range plan is scheduled to be finished tentatively in the spring of 2022.

**Q: Why are you developing a plan that is so far into the future?**

**A:** Any public transit project, like buying new buses, changing how we deliver service or building new infrastructure, needs large investments and long timelines to complete. By planning 25-years into the future, TheRide can make sure that every long-term decision it makes builds toward a single vision and use limited resources in a cost-effective manner.

**Q: How do you know how to plan 25 years into the future?**

**A:** The future is always uncertain. Based on trends in transit demand and technologies, we can foresee some of the investments that we will need. When we start thinking about the new technologies that are just available today, we can start to reimagine how service, technology and popular opinion may fit together. The plan must be firm enough so TheRide can plan its budgets but be flexible enough to adapt to the unknown.

**Q: Will Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on Washtenaw Ave be included in the plan?**

**A:** TheRide 2045 will incorporate many community preferred projects. The plan will reflect the entire transit system. Our public and stakeholder engagement will help us to decide which projects need to move forward and in what order. As part of that, we will closely evaluate the opportunity to introduce new services, such as BRT, to provide better transportation options to the community.

**Q: How much does this plan cost?**

**A:** The cost of the TheRide 2045 Long-Range Plan will depend on the projects that are decided. The projects will be sequenced so TheRide steadily builds toward its 2045 vision without spending too much at one time.

**Q: Does the long-range plan include another millage?**

**A:** TheRide receives federal, state, and local funding to operate and build its service. Local funding is received through a millage rate on property values. TheRide 2045 is a long-range plan, that will guide which investments to make and when. By planning longer term, we are able to distribute the tax burden over time while ensuring growth to meet the needs of our evolving community.

## About Public Engagement

**Q: How do I get involved?**

**A:** Public engagement will be held throughout the course of TheRide 2045 Long-Range Plan. Updates will be on the project website (<https://www.theride.org/about/projects/theride-2045>).

TheRide is currently accepting feedback on the plan through November 19.

**Q: How can I get updated on the plan progress?**

**A:** You can get the most up-to-date information on the plan progress by signing up for email updates on the project website (<https://www.theride.org/about/projects/theride-2045>).

**Q: How do I provide feedback on the Long-Range Plan?**

**A:** Any member of the public is welcome to attend and share ideas at public meetings, pop-up sessions, online surveys and through the project comment form at TheRide.org.

- Project website: <https://www.theride.org/about/projects/theride-2045>
- Email: [2045@TheRide.org](mailto:2045@TheRide.org)
- Call: 734-794-1882
- Mail:

Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority  
c/o TheRide 2045  
2700 S. Industrial Highway  
Ann Arbor, MI 28104

**Q: Are you going to have public meetings?**

**A:** Public engagement will be held throughout the course of TheRide 2045 Long-Range Plan. Updates will be on the project website (<https://www.theride.org/about/projects/theride-2045>).

TheRide is hosting virtual and public meetings:

TheRide is hosting both virtual and in person meetings\* in October and November 2021: Virtual public engagement meetings will be conducted through Zoom at the following times:

Date	Time
Tuesday, October 26	6:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 28	12:00 p.m.
Wednesday, November 3	12:00 p.m.
Thursday, November 4	6:00 p.m.

In person meetings\* (drop-in sessions) will be held at TheRide’s Transit Centers:

Date	Time	Location
Monday, November 8	1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Ypsilanti Transit Center
Tuesday, November 9	1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Blake Transit Center

\*In-person meetings/drop-ins are subject to COVID-19 safety protocols and are subject to change. Face masks must be worn at in-person events.

**Q: How can the public learn more?**

**A:** There are several opportunities to learn more about TheRide2045:

- Participate in public engagement sessions
- Visit the project website (<https://www.theride.org/about/projects/theride-2045>)

You can get the most up-to-date information on the plan progress by signing up for email updates on the project website (<https://www.theride.org/about/projects/theride-2045>).

If you have any further questions about the long-range plan, please feel free to contact us as at:

- Project website: <https://www.theride.org/about/projects/theride-2045>
- Email: [2045@TheRide.org](mailto:2045@TheRide.org)
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**Q: After the public input, what are the next steps?**

**A:** After TheRide receives all of the community’s comments on the Long-Range Plan, TheRide will use feedback to drive further analysis, and start narrowing in on a single community-driven vision for transit. Draft recommendations will be available for public feedback early 2022.

## About the Public Advisory Group

**Q: What does the Public Advisory Group do?**

**A:** The Public Advisory Group is a volunteer focus group made up of 12 members of the public that have an interest in the long-term well-being of TheRide. PAG members were selected from more than 80 applications to match the demographics of the service area and TheRide's customers as closely as possible. This includes race, geographic area, age, gender, employment, and other characteristics to ensure a diverse and representative group of customers. Members provide on-going input for development of TheRide 2045 Long-Range Plan to ensure it meets the community's and customers' vision for transit. Members attend regular workshops throughout the process to give their feedback on the plan as it develops.