

## Board of Director's Meeting Agenda

**Meeting Date/Time:** April 17, 2025 - 6:30pm – 9:00pm

**Location:** Ann Arbor District Library (4<sup>th</sup> Floor)

Virtual attendance available via [Zoom](#) Passcode: 983308

**Members:** Kathleen Mozak (Chair), Mike Allemang (Treasurer), Jesse Miller (Secretary), Chris Allen, Simi Barr, Rich Chang, Julie Grand, Susan Pollay, Kyra Sims, Georgia Valentine

Agenda Item	Info Type	Details	Page #
<b>1. OPENING ITEMS</b>			
1.1 Approve Agenda	D	Mozak	
1.2 Public Comment	O		
1.3 General Announcements	O		
<b>2. CONSENT AGENDA</b>			
2.1 Board Meeting Minutes March 20, 2025	D		3
2.2 Committee Meeting Summaries	D		9
<b>3. OWNERSHIP LINKAGE</b>			
3.1 Ownership Linkage Task Force Updates	O	Chang	Verbal
<b>4. MONITORING</b>			
<b>5. POLICY DEVELOPMENT</b>			
5.1 Policy Language Discussion (if needed)	O	Mozak	Verbal
<b>6. BOARD EDUCATION / DISCUSSION</b>			
6.1 On-Board Survey Results	O	Anderson/Clark	14
6.2 YTC Update	O	Yang	34
6.3 Transit Funding Part I <span style="color: red;">PPT Pg 60</span>	O	Reed	53
6.4 Economic Climate & Agency Implications <span style="color: red;">PPT Pg 68</span>	O	Carpenter/Reed	54
<b>7. OPERATIONAL UPDATES</b>			
7.1 Legislative Updates	O	Pfeifer	Verbal
7.2 CEO Report	O	Carpenter	55
<b>8. EMERGENT ITEMS</b>			
8.1 CEO Contract Update	D	Mozak	Verbal
<b>9. CLOSING ITEMS</b>			
9.1 Action Item Recap	O	Holt	
9.2 Topics for Next Meeting Environmental Sustainability (2.11) Governance Process Policies (3.5-3.8) Q2 Financial Report YTC Update BTC Update  Future: Determining Reasonableness		Thursday, May 15, 2025  <i>Riverside Arts Center</i>	
9.3 Public Comment	O		
9.4 Adjournment			

\* M = Monitoring, D = Decision Preparation, O = Other

***If additional policy development is desired:***

Discuss in Board Agenda Item 3.0 Policy Monitoring and Development. It may be appropriate to assign a committee or task force to develop policy language options for board to consider at a later date.

**Emergent Topics**

Policy 3.1.3 places an emphasis on distinguishing Board and Staff roles, with the Board focusing on “long term impacts outside the organization, not on the administrative or programmatic means of attaining those effects.” Policy 3.1.3.1 specifies that that Board use a structured conversation before addressing a topic, to ensure that the discussion is appropriately framed:

1. What is the nature of the issue? Is the issue within the scope of the agency?
2. What is the value [principle] that drives the concern?
3. Whose issue is this? Is it the Board’s [Policy, 3.0 and 4.0] or the CEO’s [running the organization, 1.0 and 2.0]?
4. Is there already a Board policy that adequately covers the issue? If so, what has the Board already said on this subject and how is this issue related?  
Does the Board wish to change what it has already said?

## Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date/Time:** March 20, 2025 - 6:30pm – 9:00pm

**Location:** Ann Arbor District Library (4<sup>th</sup> Floor)

**Members Present:** Kathleen Mozak (Chair), Chris Allen, Simi Barr, Rich Chang, Julie Grand, Susan Pollay, Kyra Sims, Georgia Valentine

**Members Attending Virtually** – Mike Allemang (Treasurer), Jesse Miller (Secretary)

Chairwoman Mozak called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

Agenda Item
<b>1. OPENING ITEMS</b>
<b>1.1 Approve Agenda</b> <p>No additions or changes noted to the agenda.</p> <p>Ms. Pollay motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Barr.</p> <p>No discussion on the motion.</p> <p>All in favor of approving the agenda:</p> <p>Mr. Mike Allemang (Virtual): Yes Mr. Chris Allen: Yes Mr. Simi Barr: Yes Mr. Rich Chang: Yes Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes</p> <p>The motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously</p>
<b>1.2 Public Comment</b> <p>No Public Commenters.</p>
<b>1.3 General Announcements</b> <p>Chairwoman Mozak introduced Ms. Georgia Valentine who was recently appointed as a Board member representing Ypsilanti Township. She shared that March 18<sup>th</sup> was Transit Employee Appreciation Day and thanked employees in the transit industry for their support and commitment to the communities they serve.</p> <p>Chairwoman Mozak brought to the attention of the Board that two members were participating virtually but only one would be able to vote virtually. She briefly outlined that Mr. Allemang is allowed ADA accommodation under the OMA as a virtual voting participant. However, Mr. Miller does receive the accommodation, therefore he will be a non-voting participant.</p>

## **2. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **2.1 Board Meeting Minutes February 20, 2025**

### **2.2 Committee Meeting Summaries**

Mr. Chang motioned to accept the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Barr.

No discussion on the motion.

All in favor of accepting the Consent Agenda:

Mr. Mike Allemang (Virtual): Yes  
Mr. Chris Allen: Yes  
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes  
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes  
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes  
Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes  
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The motion to accept the Consent Agenda passed unanimously.

*\*\* Ms. Grand and Ms. Sims joined the meeting at 6:33pm.*

## **3. OWNERSHIP LINKAGE**

### **3.1 Ownership Linkage Task Force Updates**

Mr. Chang provided updates on the recent meeting with the Mayor and City Manager of Ypsilanti and the planned upcoming meeting with the Mayor of Ann Arbor. These meetings are part of establishing regularly scheduled ownership linkage discussions.

## **4. MONITORING**

### **4.1 Financial Conditions & Activities (2.5)**

Ms. Reed shared an overview of the Financial Conditions & Activities monitoring report which was submitted as fully compliant. She noted Board members had submitted positive survey results and had no additional comments on the monitoring report. The Finance Committee reviewed the monitoring report and recommended the Board accept the report as (A).

Mr. Allen motioned to accept the Financial Conditions & Activities (2.5) monitoring report as (A) *a reasonable interpretation for all policy items and that the evidence demonstrates compliance with the interpretations*, seconded by Ms. Grand.

No discussion on the motion.

All in favor of accepting Financial Conditions & Activities (2.5) monitoring report as (A):

Mr. Mike Allemang (Virtual): Yes  
Mr. Chris Allen: Yes  
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes  
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes  
Ms. Julie Grand: Yes  
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes  
Ms. Kyra Sims: Yes  
Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes  
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The motion to accept the Financial Conditions (2.5) monitoring report as (A) passed unanimously.

#### **4.2 Cash & Investments (2.6)**

Ms. Reed shared an overview of the Cash & Investments monitoring report which was submitted as fully compliant. Board survey responses were all favorable with no additional comments for discussion. The Finance Committee reviewed the monitoring report and recommended the Board accept the report as (A).

Mr. Allemang complimented Ms. Reed and staff for the thoroughness of the data within the report. He noted that while the data is reviewed within the yearly monitoring report, it is also provided within the quarterly financial reporters.

Mr. Allen motioned to accept the Cash & Investments (2.6) monitoring report as (A) *a reasonable interpretation for all policy items and that the evidence demonstrates compliance with the interpretations*, seconded by Ms. Sims.

No discussion on the motion.

All in favor of accepting Cash & Investments (2.6) monitoring report as (A):

Mr. Mike Allemang (Virtual): Yes  
Mr. Chris Allen: Yes  
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes  
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes  
Ms. Julie Grand: Yes  
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes  
Ms. Kyra Sims: Yes  
Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes  
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The motion to accept the Cash & Investments (2.6) monitoring report as (A) passed unanimously.

#### **4.3 Global Executive Limitations (2.0)**

Mr. Carpenter provided an overview of the Global Executive Limitations monitoring report and shared that the report included a considerable change in the interpretations and data provided. The Service Committee reviewed the monitoring report and recommended the Board accept the report as (A).

Mr. Barr recommended to accept the Global Executive Limitations (2.0) monitoring report as (A) *reasonable interpretation for all policy items and that the evidence demonstrates compliance with the interpretations*, seconded by Ms. Pollay.

No discussion on the motion.

All in favor of accepting Global Executive Limitations (2.0) monitoring report as (A):

Mr. Mike Allemang (Virtual): Yes  
Mr. Chris Allen: Yes  
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes  
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes  
Ms. Julie Grand: Yes  
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes  
Ms. Kyra Sims: Yes  
Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes  
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The motion to accept the Global Executive Limitations (2.0) monitoring report as (A) passed unanimously.

## **5. POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

### **5.1 Policy Language Discussion (if needed)**

No policy language discussion.

## **6. BOARD EDUCATION / DISCUSSION**

### **6.1 Ridership & Coverage**

Mr. Yang provided a presentation of ridership vs. coverage and its importance for future planning. He outlined the pros and cons of prioritizing ridership vs. coverage and the impact of frequency, along with Board discussion on challenges and opportunities of balancing ridership and coverage goals. Board members engaged in a robust discussion on the impact and opportunities for transit services and transit hubs with new local developments.

## **7. OPERATIONAL UPDATES**

### **7.1 FY25 Q1 Service Report**

Mr. Brooks presented the Q1 Service Report – highlights included improvements in boardings, on-time performance and a decrease in complaints. He also shared the challenges in meeting flex ride service demands over the holidays. Board members discussed the data provided within the report and the importance of understanding industry standards when setting internal goals. Mr. Brooks will be looking at available data for benchmarking and comparing ridership trends with other agencies.

### **7.2 Low-No Update**

Ms. Reed shared that the grant application for the Low-No Grant award has officially been submitted to the FTA – it will go through FTA Region 5 and then to Washington, DC in a process that takes several weeks. The USDOT has provided some clarification on how Executive Orders will be applied to the grant and potential adjustments may be needed if the application does not comply. The application included hydrogen and hybrid buses and there is a possibility the hydrogen buses may not meet the criteria, which will require an amendment to the grant.

Board members discussed what input may be needed from the Board and Mr. Carpenter will review the Board's original decision from October 2023 to determine voting language used.

The FTA review could take months, and the Board will be updated as information is received.

### 7.3 Legislative Updates

Mr. Pfeifer provided a recap of the March 12<sup>th</sup> Michigan Transit Legislative Day in Lansing that he attended with Mr. Carpenter and Chairwoman Mozak. They were able to meet with local legislators to discuss transit funding and priorities. He also provided an update on early state budget negotiations.

### 7.4 CEO Report

Mr. Carpenter provided a brief overview of the CEO report with Board members asking for more details related to bus lanes and bus rapid transit updates mentioned within the report.

## 8. EMERGENT ITEMS

## 9. CLOSING ITEMS

### 9.1 Action Item Recap

- All three monitoring reports were approved and will be added to the website
- Mr. Brooks will be reviewing / adding fixed route benchmarks and industry standard benchmarks to the Service Report metrics
- Staff will be reviewing the Board's decision from October 2023 regarding the Low-No grant approval.

### 9.2 Topics for Next Meeting

Communication & Support to the Board (2.9)

Environmental Sustainability (2.11)

Transit Funding Part I

Future:

Determining Reasonableness

### 9.3 Closed Session (Pursuant to Sec.8(d) MI OMA)

Chairwoman Mozak took a roll call vote to go into Closed Session for strategy connected to real estate projects and information on the Collective Bargaining process overview pursuant to Section 8(d) of the Open Meetings Act.

Roll call vote to enter Closed Session:

Mr. Mike Allemang (Virtual): Yes

Mr. Chris Allen: Yes

Mr. Simi Barr: Yes

Mr. Rich Chang: Yes

Ms. Julie Grand: Yes

Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes

Ms. Kyra Sims: Yes

Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes

Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The Board voted unanimously to go into Closed Session at 8:29 pm.

The Board voted unanimously to move out of closed session at 9:59pm.

Mr. Mike Allemang (Virtual): Yes  
Mr. Chris Allen: Yes  
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes  
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes  
Ms. Julie Grand: Yes  
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes  
Ms. Kyra Sims: Yes  
Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes  
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

#### **9.4 Public Comment**

No public Commenters.

#### **9.5 Adjournment**

Ms. Sims motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Chang.

There was no discussion on the motion.

All in favor of adjourning the meeting:

Mr. Mike Allemang (Virtual): Yes  
Mr. Chris Allen: Yes  
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes  
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes  
Ms. Julie Grand: Yes  
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes  
Ms. Kyra Sims: Yes  
Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes  
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The motion to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously.

Chairwoman Mozak adjourned the meeting at 10:00pm

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah Holt



## Governance Committee Meeting Notes

**Meeting Date/Time:** Thursday, March 27, 2025 – 3:00 – 5:00pm

**Members:** Kathleen Mozak (Chair), Mike Allemang, Rich Chang

**Staff:** Dina Reed, Forest Yang, George Brooks, Jeff Pfeifer, Rosa-Maria Kamau, Deb

Holt

**Location:** REMOTE – Via Zoom

Chairwoman Mozak called the meeting to order at 3:01pm

Agenda Item
<b>1. OPENING ITEMS</b>
<b>1.1 Agenda (Additions, Approval)</b>  Chairwoman Mozak requested adding 2.2 Board Committee Structure as an agenda item – no other changes were noted.  <b>1.2 Communications</b>  No new communications were noted.
<b>2. BOARD DEVELOPMENT</b>
<b>2.1 Recruitment / Training / Attendance</b>  The committee discussed Board member recruitment for an upcoming vacancy. Chairwoman Mozak shared upcoming training opportunities: Policy Governance Boot Camp will be occurring in May in Ann Arbor and Govern for Impact will be holding an upcoming symposium in late spring. The committee also reviewed Board member attendance and monitoring report survey participation.  <b>2.2 Board Committee Structure</b>  The committee discussed several options for appointing a new Service Committee chair. They will continue the discussion at the next meeting.  <b>2.3 OLTF</b>  Mr. Chang shared that OLTF has had a chance to meet with all 3 community leaders and will be scheduling meetings in the future. He and OLTF will be meeting soon to discuss the next steps in scheduling meetings with moral owners.

## **2.4 Annual Plan of Work**

The committee reviewed / recapped topics within the Annual Plan of Work – several have already been presented at the Board level.

## **3. POLICY MONITORING & DEVELOPMENT**

### **3.1 Determining Reasonableness**

The committee discussed compiling emails and input on reasonableness and moving forward with guidance from the Governance consultant. They determined next-steps are to invite the consultant to the April Governance Committee meeting and then bring the discussion forward before the Board for final review/input.

### **3.2 Guidance on Sustainability Policy**

The committee discussed the process of creating the initial Sustainability Policy in 2023. The sustainability policy monitoring report will be presented in May and the data and interpretations in the report will assist in determining if the policy should be under Ends or as an Executive Limitation.

## **4. STRATEGY & OPERATIONAL UPDATES: CEO**

### **4.1 CEO Expense Report**

Ms. Holt shared an overview of the CEO's to-date expenditures for FY2025.

## **5. EMERGENT ITEMS**

### **5.1 Legislative Updates**

Mr. Pfeifer shared that staff are working with a transportation advocacy team to gather information and provide input related to the Transportation Reauthorization Bill. Staff are also monitoring opportunities for future federal earmarks. At the state level, negotiations with budget planning will begin in the next few months.

## **6. CLOSING ITEMS**

### **6.1 Committee Agendas**

The Service Committee had no pressing agenda items, the committee determined the meeting will be cancelled. The Finance Committee also had no pressing agenda items, Mr. Allemang determined the meeting will be cancelled. The committee reviewed the Board meeting agenda and determined no changes were noted.

### **6.2 Action Item Recap**

- Board Committee Structure discussion to continue at April Meeting
- Compile emails/info on Reasonableness and invite Governance Consultant to April Governance committee
- Staff will send out cancellations / notifications that Service and Finance committees are cancelled for April. No changes were noted for the Board meeting agenda.

### **6.3 Topics for Next Meeting**

Governance Process Policies (3.5-3.8)  
Board Committee Structure

Future:

Advocacy & Regionalism, Governance Training  
Options, Policy Manual Mock-Up

### **6.4 Adjournment**

Chairwoman Mozak thanked the committee and staff and adjourned the meeting at 4:03pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah Holt

DRAFT

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## Service Committee Meeting Notes

**Meeting Date/Time:** April 1, 2025, 3:00 – 5:00pm

**Members:** Simi Barr, Rich Chang, Jesse Miller, Susan Pollay

**At the March 27, 2025 Governance Committee Meeting, it was determined that due to a brief agenda and no pressing items of discussion, the April 1, 2025 Service Committee Meeting would be cancelled.**

DRAFT

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## Finance Committee Meeting Notes

**Meeting Date/Time:** April 8, 2025, 3:00 – 5:00pm

**Members:** Mike Allemang (Chair/Treasurer), Kyra Sims, Chris Allen, Julie Grand

**At the March 27, 2025 Governance Committee Meeting, it was determined that due to a brief agenda and no pressing items of discussion, the April 8, 2025 Finance Committee Meeting would be cancelled.**

DRAFT

## 2024 Fixed-Route Onboard Survey

**Meeting: Board of Directors**

**Meeting Date: April 17, 2025**

<b>INFORMATION TYPE</b>
Other
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)</b>
Receive for information
<b>ISSUE SUMMARY</b>
<p>Since 2009, TheRide has gathered feedback from its fixed-route riders every two years (excluding an interruption by the coronavirus pandemic). TheRide employs a consulting firm to gather this information onboard buses via written surveys, including rider population demographics, trip purpose, usage, duration, and service satisfaction ratings.</p> <p>TheRide staff is submitting a presentation of the results from the latest iteration of the onboard survey taken in 2024 for the Board's information and discussion.</p>
<b>BACKGROUND</b>
<p>Trends in the demographics and riding behaviors of the riders are monitored to help guide staff optimize the efficiency of current services, distribute resources accordingly, and plan the design of future services. Onboard surveying is one of the key tools used in gathering these types of information about current riders.</p>
<b>PRIOR RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS &amp; POLICIES</b>
N/A
<b>IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budgetary/Fiscal: Included as part of FY2024 budget</li> <li>• Social: N/A</li> <li>• Environmental: N/A</li> <li>• Governance: N/A</li> </ul>
<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S)</b>
N/A
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>
1. TheRide 2024 Passenger Survey presentation

# TheRide 2024 Passenger Survey

Conducted in October 2024 by  CJI Research

# About the Survey

Survey was conducted in October 2024 onboard TheRide buses

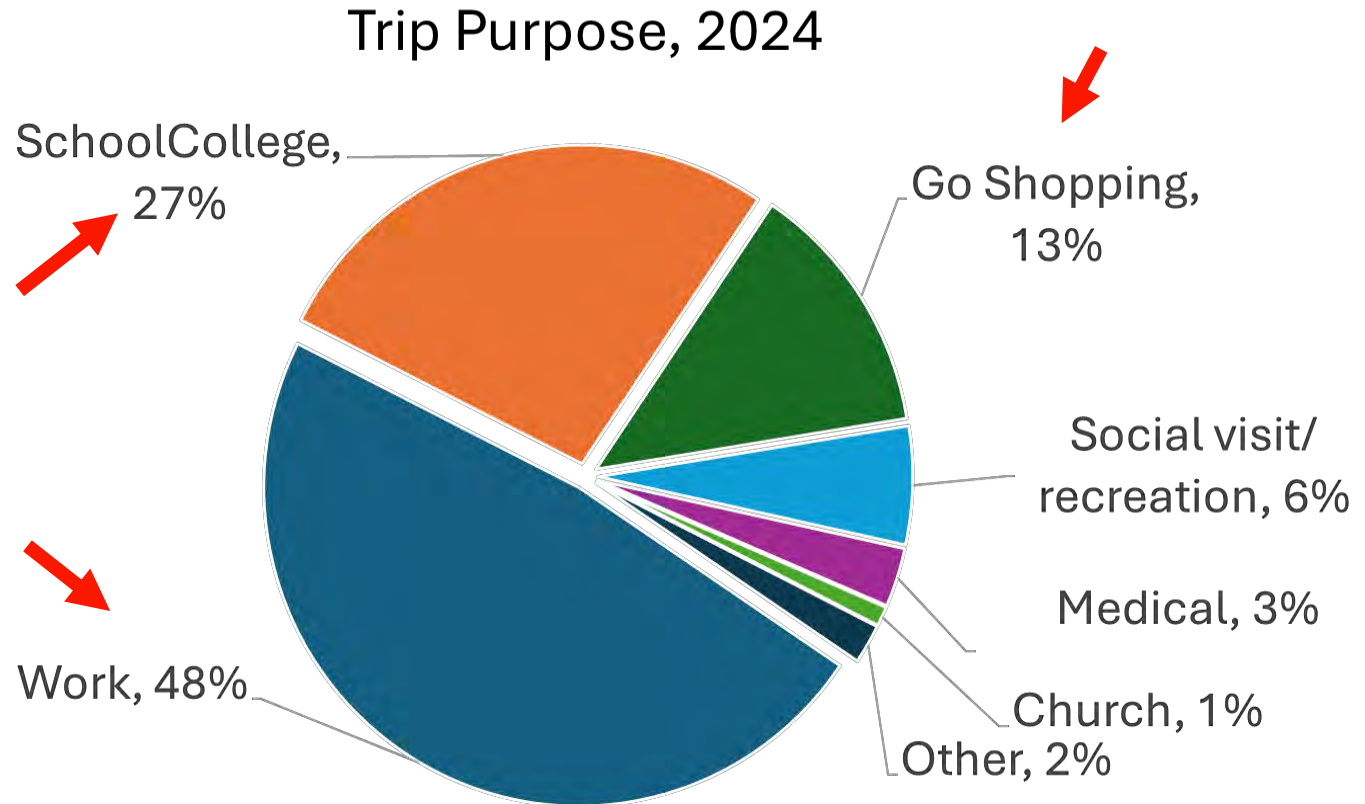
Total of 1,707 surveyed

Margin of error, +/-2.4%



# Using TheRide

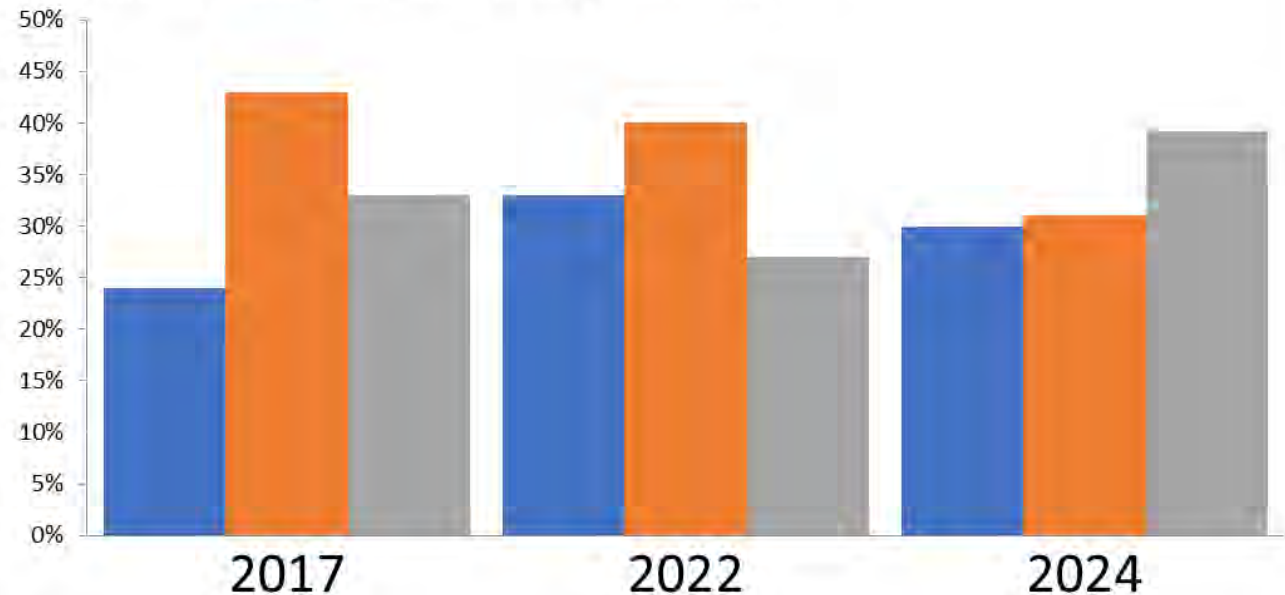
# Trip Purpose



# Trends in Frequency of Using TheRide

**Q2 Frequency of Using TheRide, 2017 - 2024**

(Sources, TheRide onboard surveys, 2017-2024)



■ One to three days

24%

33%

30%

■ Four or five days

43%

40%

31%

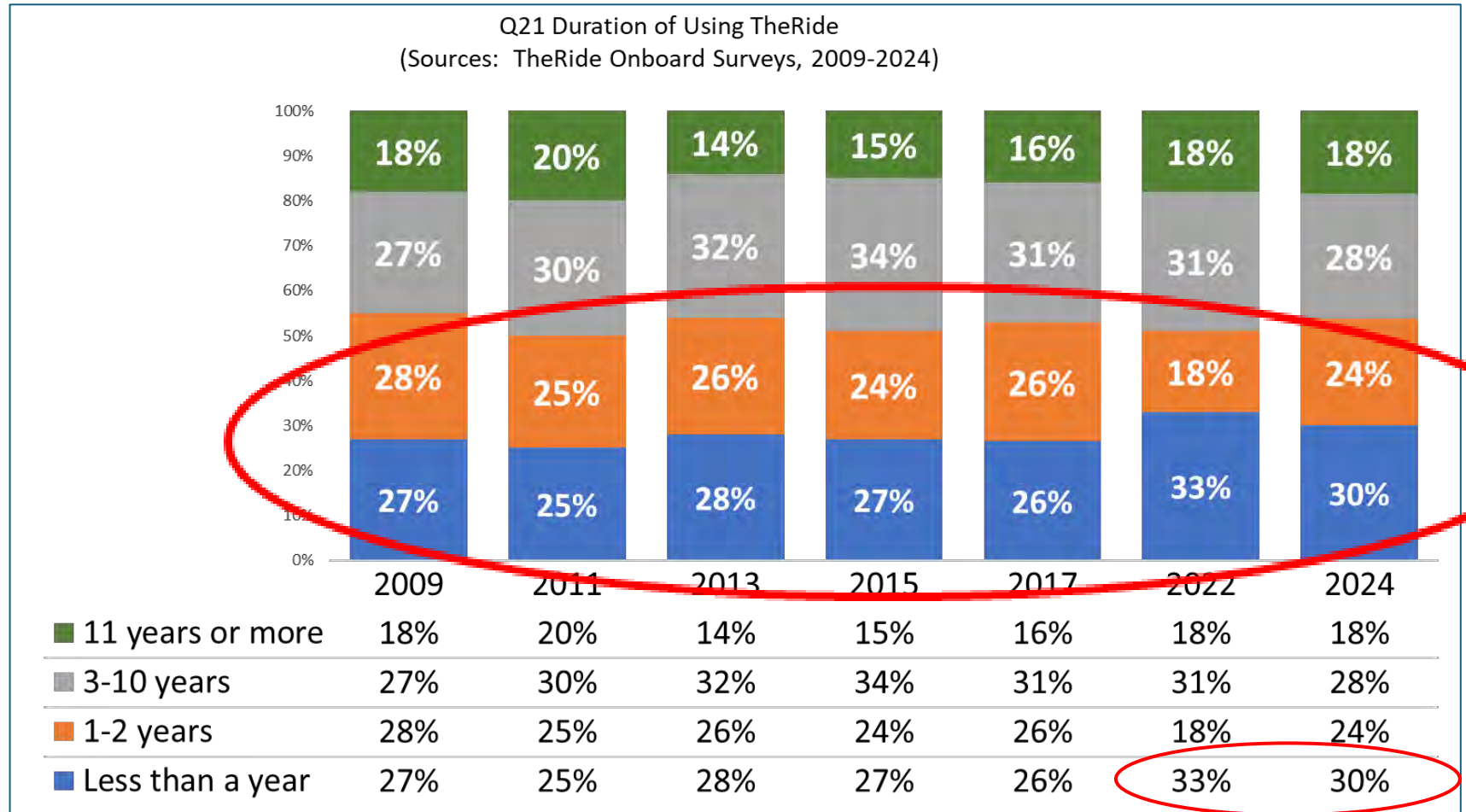
■ Six or seven days

33%

27%

39%

# Customer Turnover

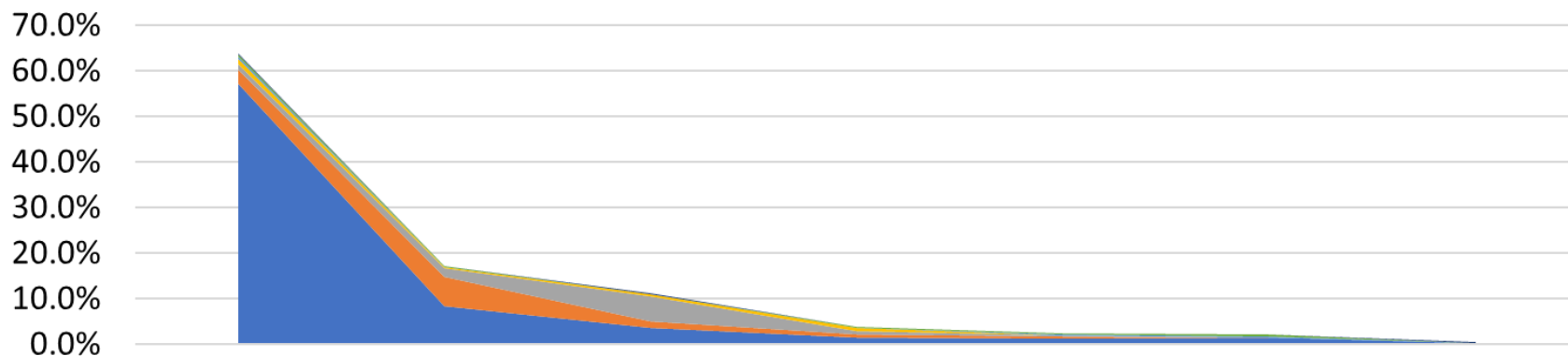


# Origin Destination Pairs - Cities and Townships

(Percentages are of the total sample)

Trips Between Pairs of Origin/Destination Cities/Twps

(Source: TheRide Onboard Survey, 2024)



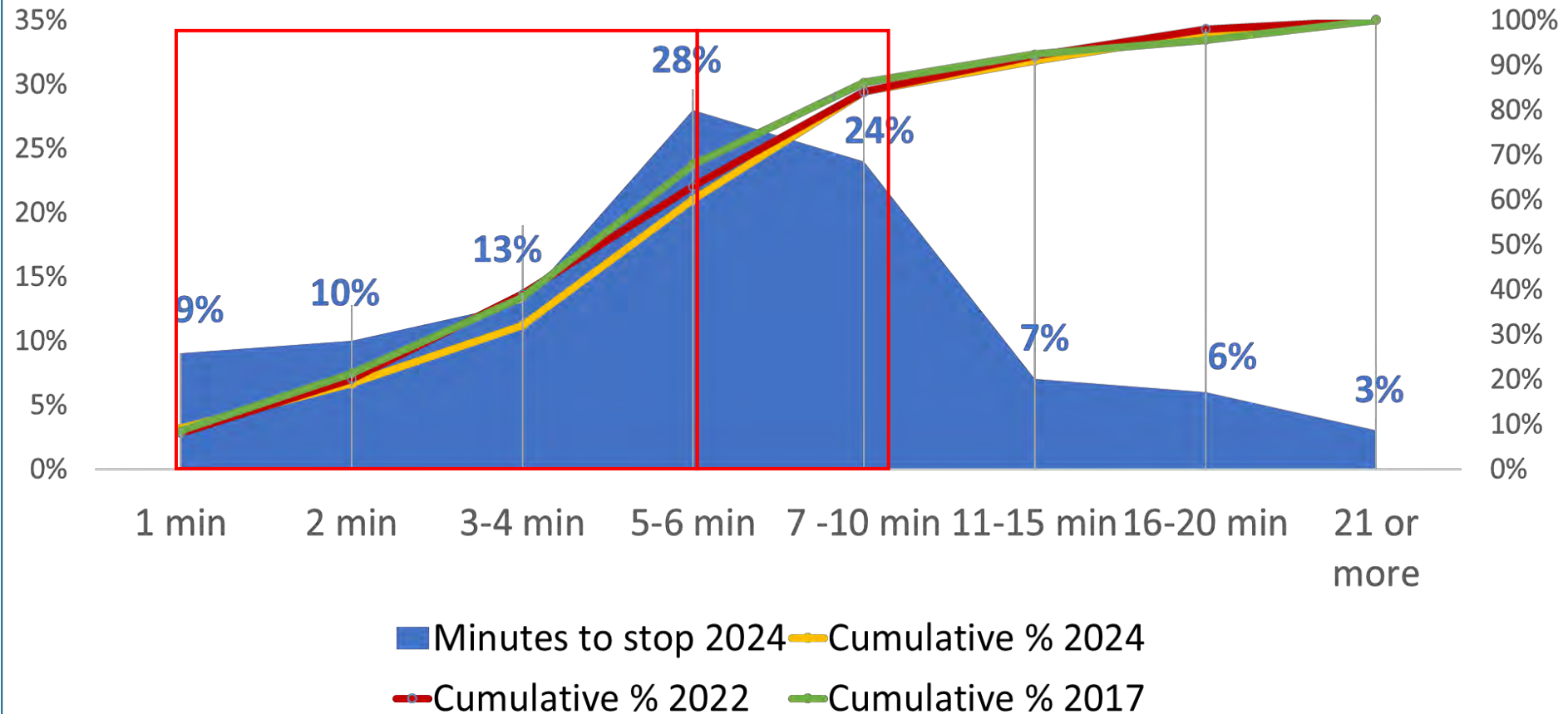
	Ann Arbor	Ypsilanti City	Ypsilanti Twp	Pittsfield Twp	Superior Twp	Scio Twp	Other
Other	0.3%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Superior Twp	0.4%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%	0.0%
Scio Twp	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	0.4%	0.0%
Pittsfield Twp	1.2%	0.2%	0.5%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Ypsilanti Twp	1.3%	2.0%	5.6%	0.7%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Ypsilanti City	3.1%	6.4%	1.4%	0.6%	0.5%	0.0%	0.1%
Ann Arbor	57.0%	8.3%	3.5%	1.4%	1.1%	1.3%	0.1%

# Perceived Duration of the Time It Takes to Get to the Bus Stop.

Ann Arbor:  
Ypsilanti City:  
Ypsilanti Twp.:

Mean 8, median 5  
Mean 9, median 7  
Mean 10, median 6

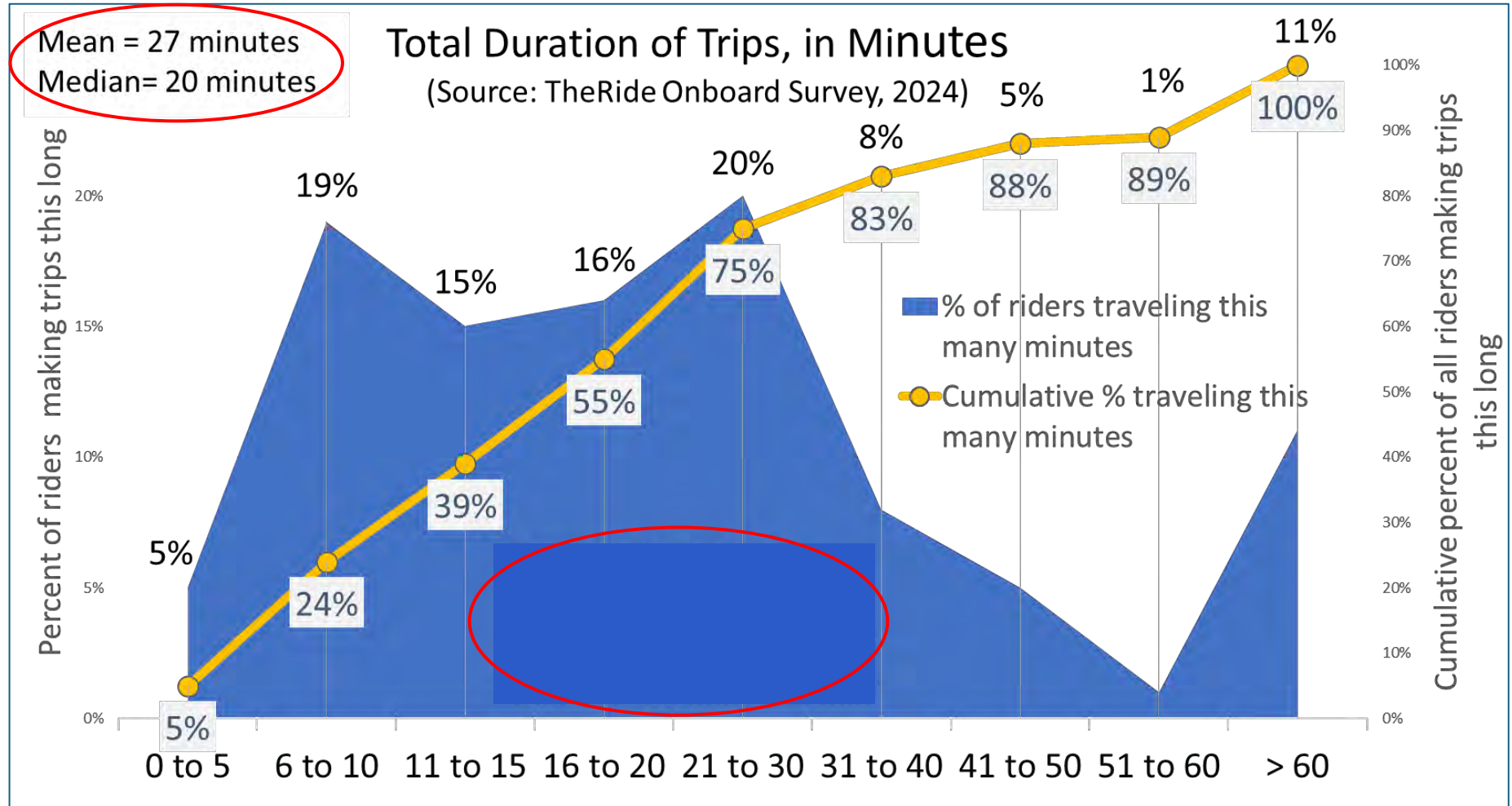
Minutes to the bus stop  
(Source: TheRide Onboard Survey, 2024)



# Perceived Total Trip Duration

Ann Arbor:  
Ypsilanti City:  
Ypsilanti Twp.:

Mean 24, median 20  
Mean 34, median 30  
Mean 35, median 30



# Customer Satisfaction



# Satisfaction Ratings

## Satisfaction with Service

(Source: The Ride Onboard Survey, 2024)

("Not" sure and "No experience" responses excluded)

Q16m TheRide service overall



Q16d Safety from accidents



Q16a Driver courtesy with passengers



Q16e Personal security while using TheRide



Q16c Cleanliness of bus interiors



Q16b Overall quality of customer information



Q16i Directness of routes



Q16g Distance to bus stops you use most often



Q16k Total duration of your trip



Q16h Enough service where you want to go



Q16i Dependability of making transfers



Q16l Predictability of bus arrivals



Q16f Shelter at stops you use



■ Dissatisfied

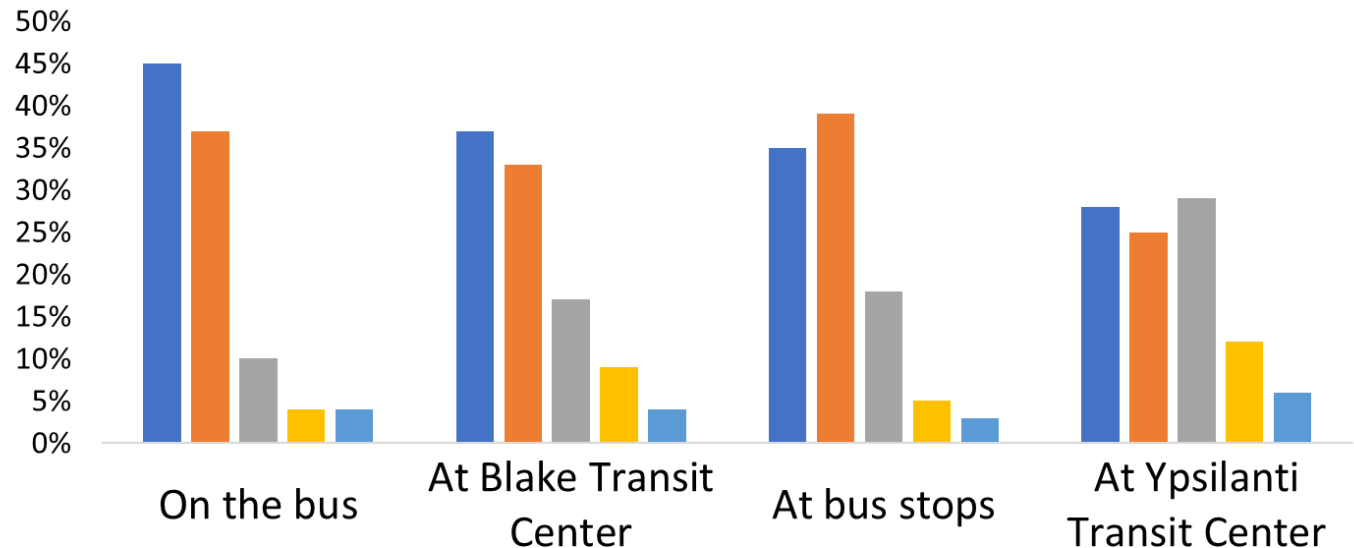
■ Neutral

■ Satisfied

# Sense of Security

Q19 When using TheRide, how secure do you feel in each of these places?

(Source: TheRide Onboard Survey, 2024)

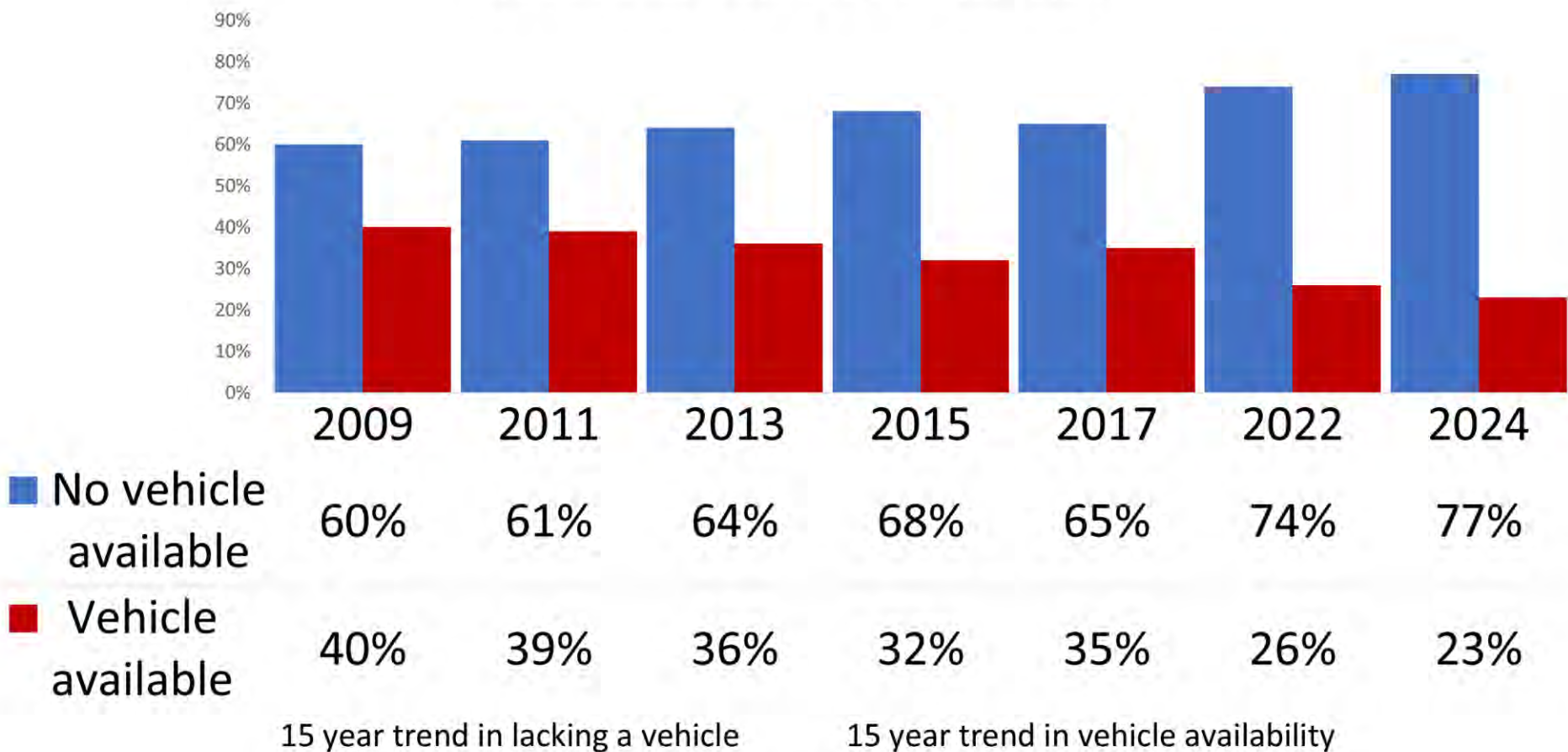


Very secure	45%	37%	35%	28%
Secure	37%	33%	39%	25%
I don't think about it	10%	17%	18%	29%
Insecure	4%	9%	5%	12%
Very Insecure	4%	4%	3%	6%

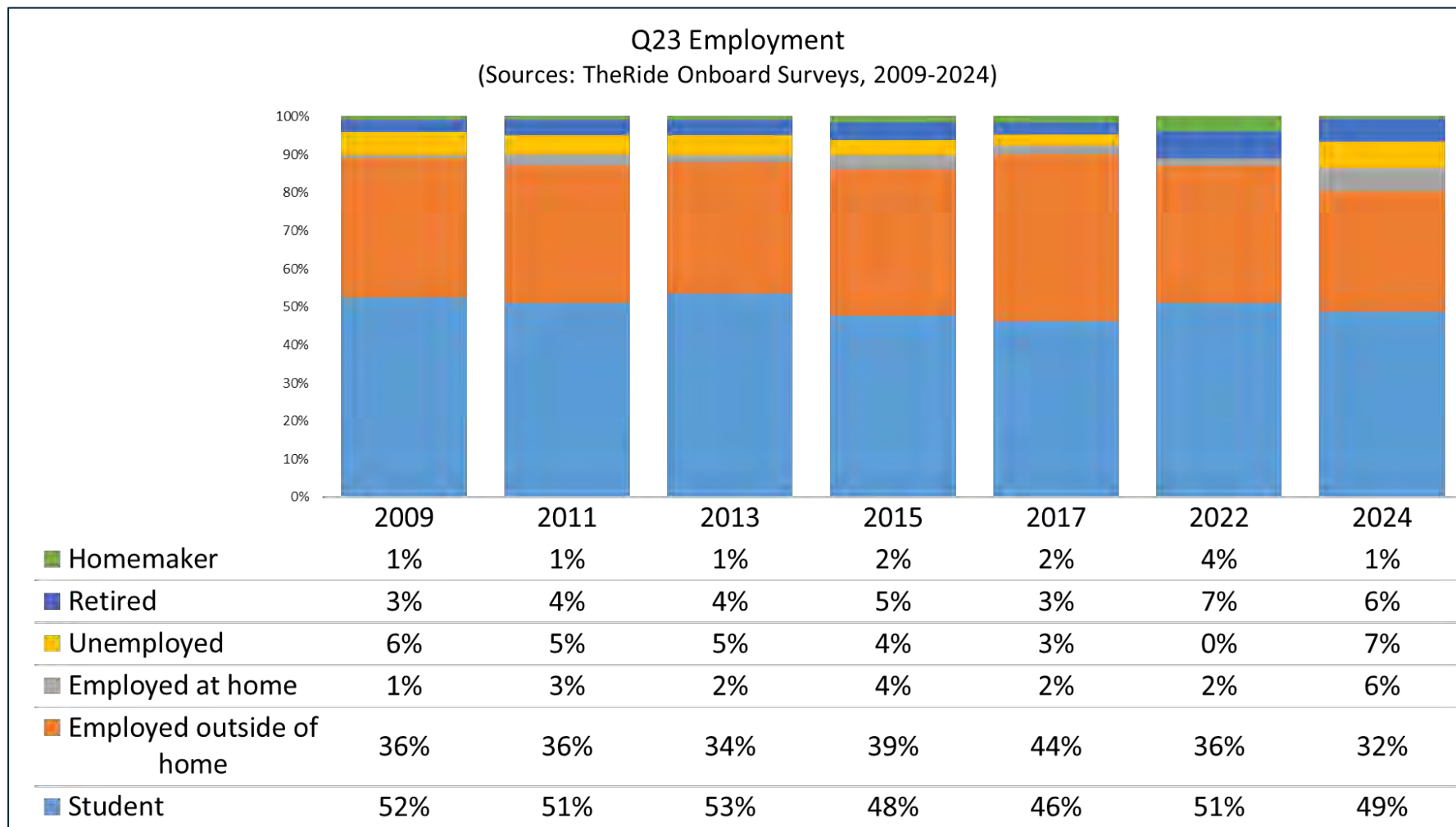
# Demographics

# Trend in Vehicle Availability

Q18 Was a vehicle available to you to make this trip?  
(Source: TheRide Onboard Surveys, 2009 - 2024)

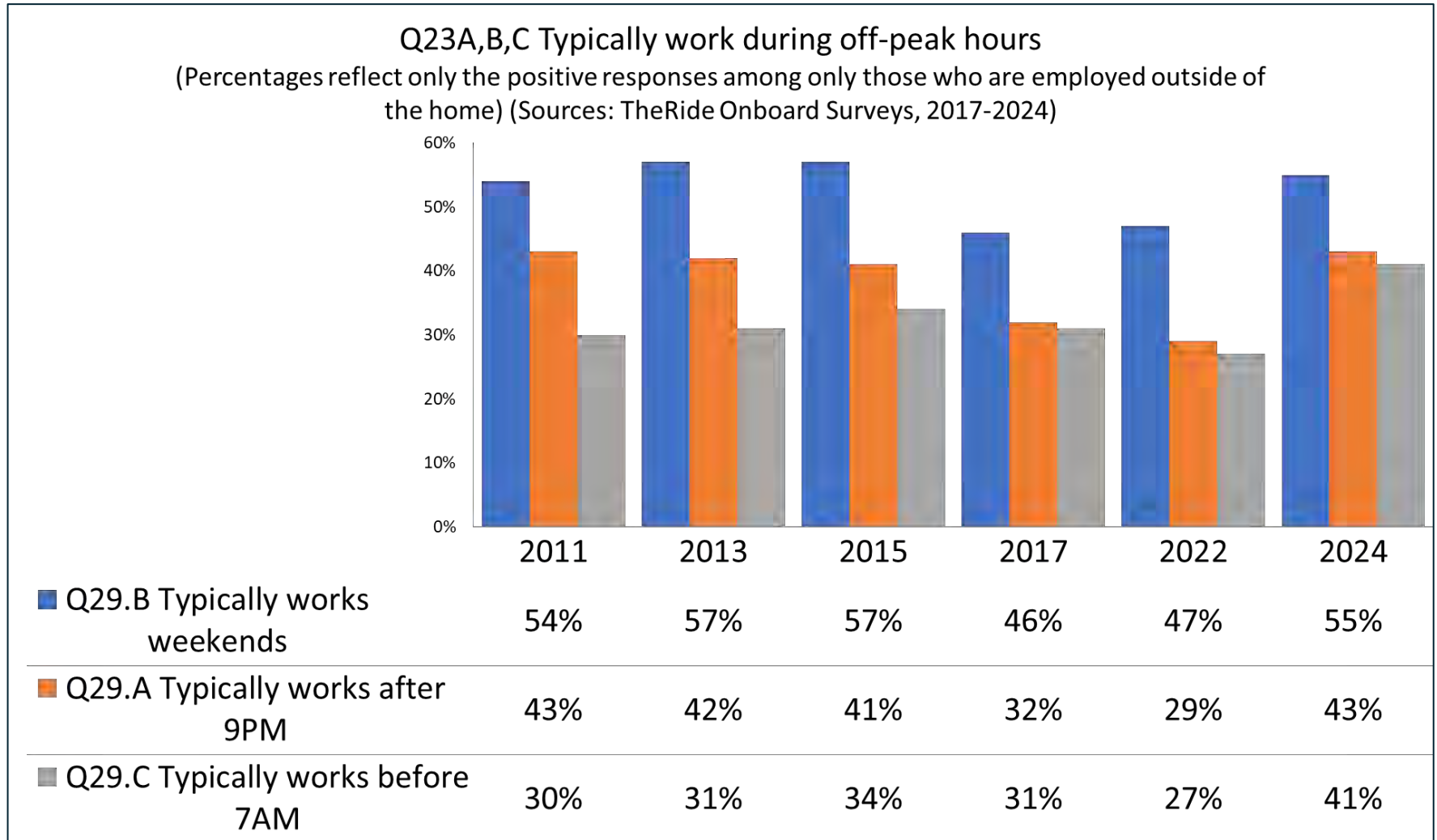


# How Riders Identify Their Employment , 2009 - 2024



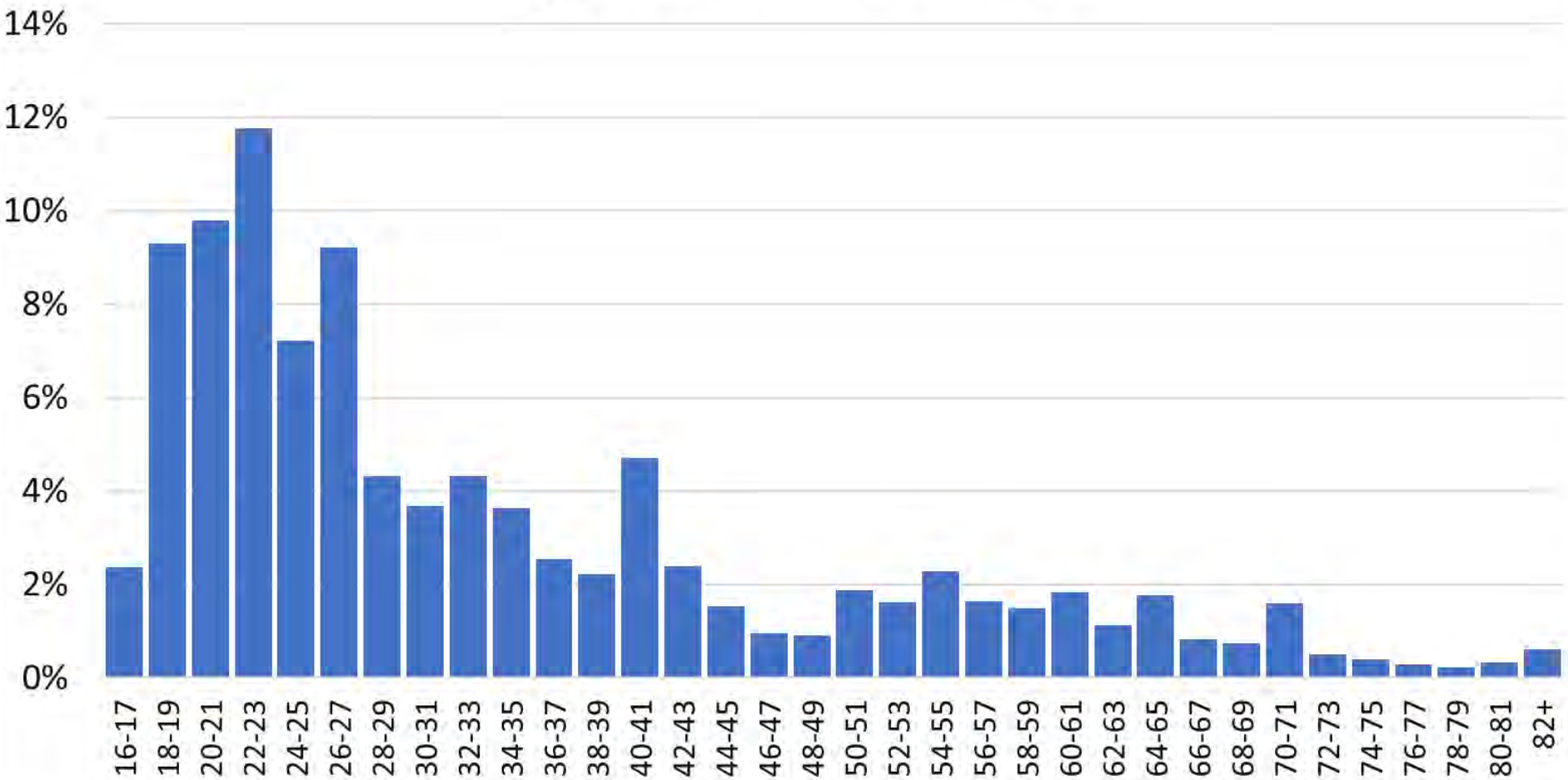
# Peak and Off-Peak Work

(Percentages based on only those employed outside the home)



# Four Age Stages

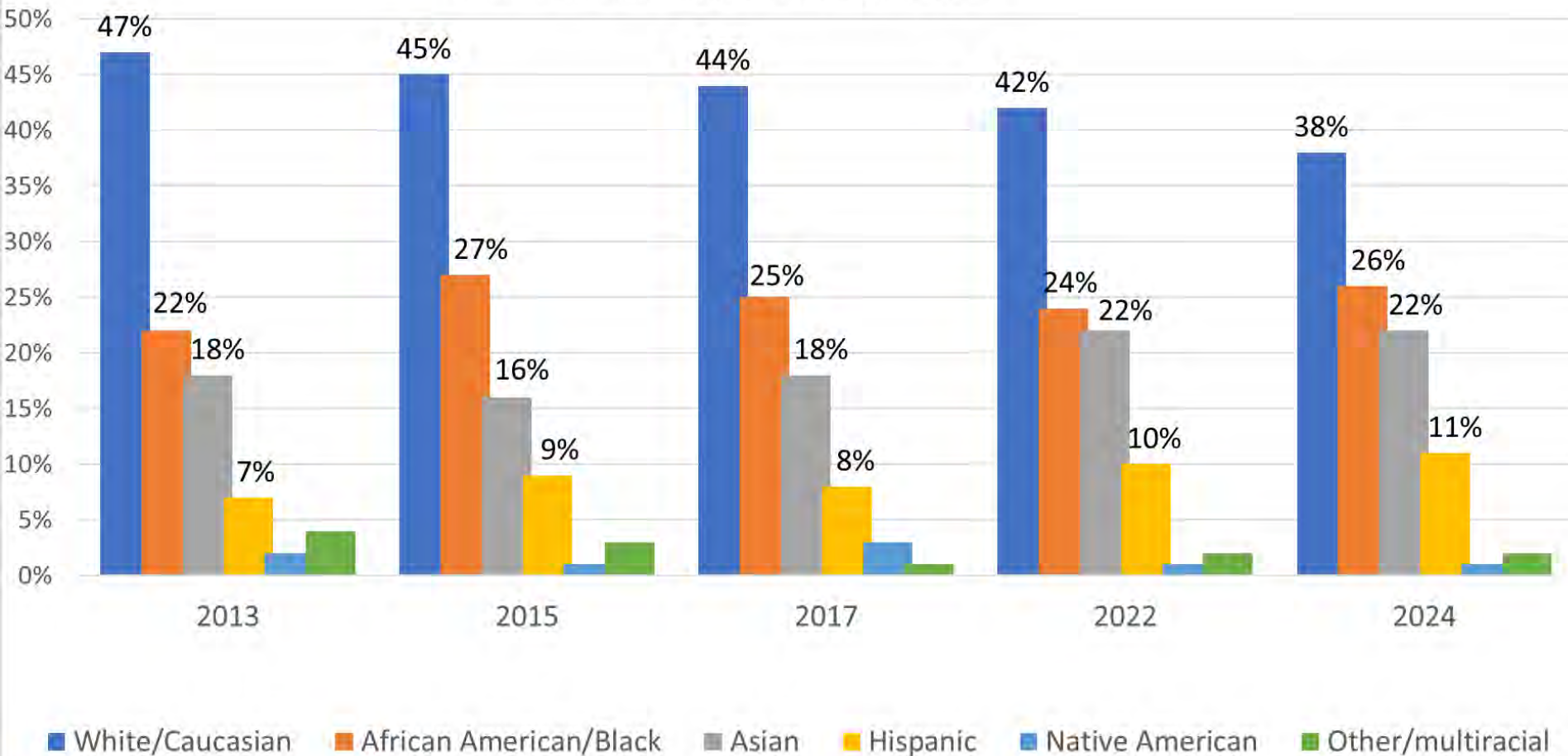
## Age of TheRide's Riders





# Racial and Ethnic Self-Identification, 2013-2024

Q29 & Q30 Race and Ethnicity  
(Source: The Ride Onboard Surveys, 2013-2024)





# TheRide 2024 Passenger Survey

END

## Ypsilanti Transit Center Reconstruction Update

**Meeting: Board of Directors**

**Meeting Date: April 17, 2025**

INFORMATION TYPE
Other
RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)
Receive for information – update on the YTC Reconstruction project, information on the public engagement period (April 17 – May 23), and review the latest concepts.
PRIOR RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS & POLICIES
<p>The Ypsilanti Transit Center Reconstruction capital project has been included in TheRide 2045 Long-Range Plan, as well as numerous previous annual budgets approved by the Board.</p> <p>On September 19, 2024, the Board of Directors approved a FY 2025 budget that includes \$1.24 million for the YTC planning, architecture, and engineering.</p> <p>On May 16, 2024 and July 18, 2024, staff provided the Board of Directors updates on the YTC Reconstruction Project.</p>
ISSUE SUMMARY
<p>The YTC redevelopment project has reached a final recommended design for the new YTC including the building. Staff are presenting this information to the Board at the start of the next phase of public engagement. We invite the Board and the public to review the recommended designs and provide feedback during the coming month.</p> <p>All are invited to provide feedback through one of the many channels available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit <a href="http://TheRideYTC.org">TheRideYTC.org</a> to review information at an online open house and to provide your feedback</li> <li>• Public Drop-In Meeting: Thursday, April 24, 2024, 2:00pm – 6:00pm, Ypsilanti Transit Center 220 Pearl St. Ypsilanti, MI 48197</li> <li>• Attend TheRide’s Board of Directors Meeting: Thursday, May 16, 2024, 6:30pm</li> <li>• Write a letter: Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority, Attn: YTC Feedback, 2700 S. Industrial Highway, Ann Arbor, MI 48104</li> <li>• Call: 734-794-1882</li> <li>• Email: <a href="mailto:YTCInfo@TheRide.org">YTCInfo@TheRide.org</a></li> </ul>
BACKGROUND
<p>The Ypsilanti Transit Center project, which is a part of TheRide’s 2045 Long-Range Plan, focuses on constructing a new transit center in Ypsilanti to serve the greater Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti area. The proposed new transit center in Ypsilanti would address needs for the growing community including a larger building, more efficient internal and external layout, additional amenities, security enhancements and a greater number of bus bay spaces. The current YTC facility is located on the southwest corner of the Pearl,</p>

Washington, Adams Streets block, with six sawtooth bus bays located along Pearl Street. Washington Street is also used for layovers and stand-by.

Since September 2023, the consultant team has worked with AAATA staff, other stakeholders, and the public to develop conceptual layouts and site programming for the new Ypsilanti Transit Center. The site concept presented to the Board in July 2024 became the final recommended option in August 2024. The concept continues to go through significant refinement and the environmental review process, but the project is coming into focus. Ongoing work includes:

- **NEPA/Environmental Review:** After receiving a determination in April 2024 that the class of action for the YTC will be a Categorical Exclusion with Documentation, design work coupled with extensive technical analysis was used to develop the report. The latest draft of this report was transmitted in December 2024 and is still under review by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and other review agencies, such as the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The project team continues to address questions that arise from the reviewing agencies with the hope that final clearance is received in the coming months.
- **Design and Public Engagement:** While awaiting further comment on the environmental documentation, work continues to refine the site layout and architectural features of the new YTC building. Another round of public engagement will occur from April 17-May 23, 2025 to share the latest concepts. This also affords staff the opportunity to demonstrate how past feedback has been incorporated into the current layout and design. Additional meetings are scheduled with the City of Ypsilanti City Council and other local boards and commissions to show the latest concepts and provide a project update.
- **Timeline and Next Phases:** Lastly, AAATA staff wants to be well positioned to transition to the next phases of the project upon approval of the Categorical Exclusion with Documentation. The next phases of the project include final schematic design, detailed design development, construction documentation and administration, and construction delivery methodologies. Construction is still projected to begin in late 2026 or 2027 subject to funding.

#### IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)

- **Budgetary/Fiscal:** The planning and construction of the new Ypsilanti Transit Center has been included in AAATA's 10-year capital plan as part of the FY 2025 budget.
- **Social:** The first public engagement period for the YTC project ran from April 22 – May 22, 2024. Another round of public engagement will occur from April 17 – May 23, 2025.
- **Environmental:** The FTA has recommended a Categorical Exclusion with Documentation for the NEPA class of action, and the impact will be documented through the ongoing review process.
- **Governance:** N/A

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. Ypsilanti Transit Center Reconstruction: – Board of Directors (presentation)



# Ypsilanti Transit Center Reconstruction

## Project Update

AAATA Board of Directors  
Board Meeting  
April 17, 2025



# Overview

- Progress Update
- Review of Site Development and Conceptual Renderings
- Project Cost Estimate
- Next Steps



# Progress Update



# Major Work Completed

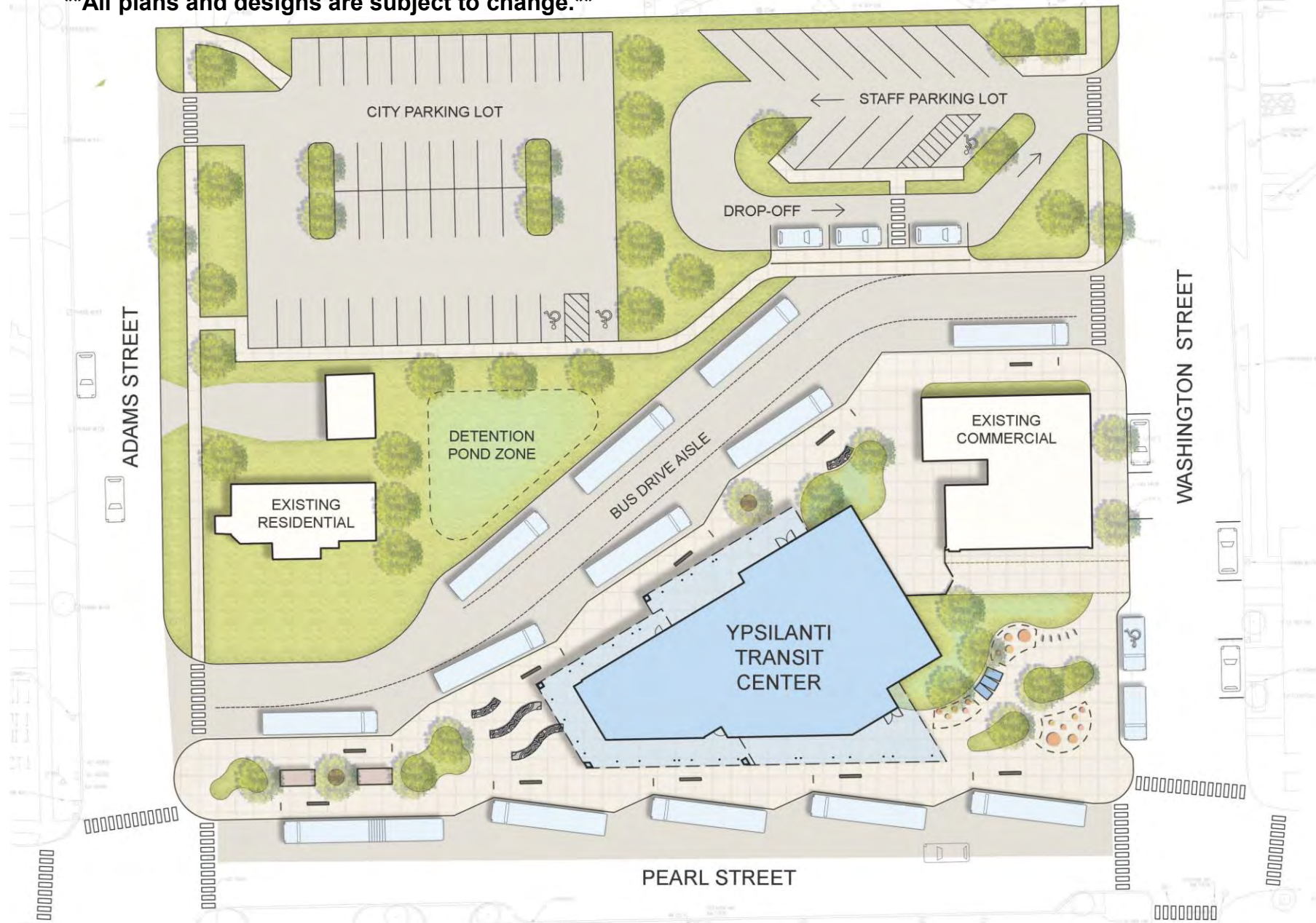
- November 2023 Kick-off
- Validation of 2018 study
- April-May 2024 Public & Stakeholder Engagement
- July/August 2024 Site Concept Selection
- Fall 2024/Winter 2025 Facility and Site Concept Refinement
- Continuous collaboration with FTA, partners, stakeholders, and public



# Preliminary Site Development & Conceptual Renderings



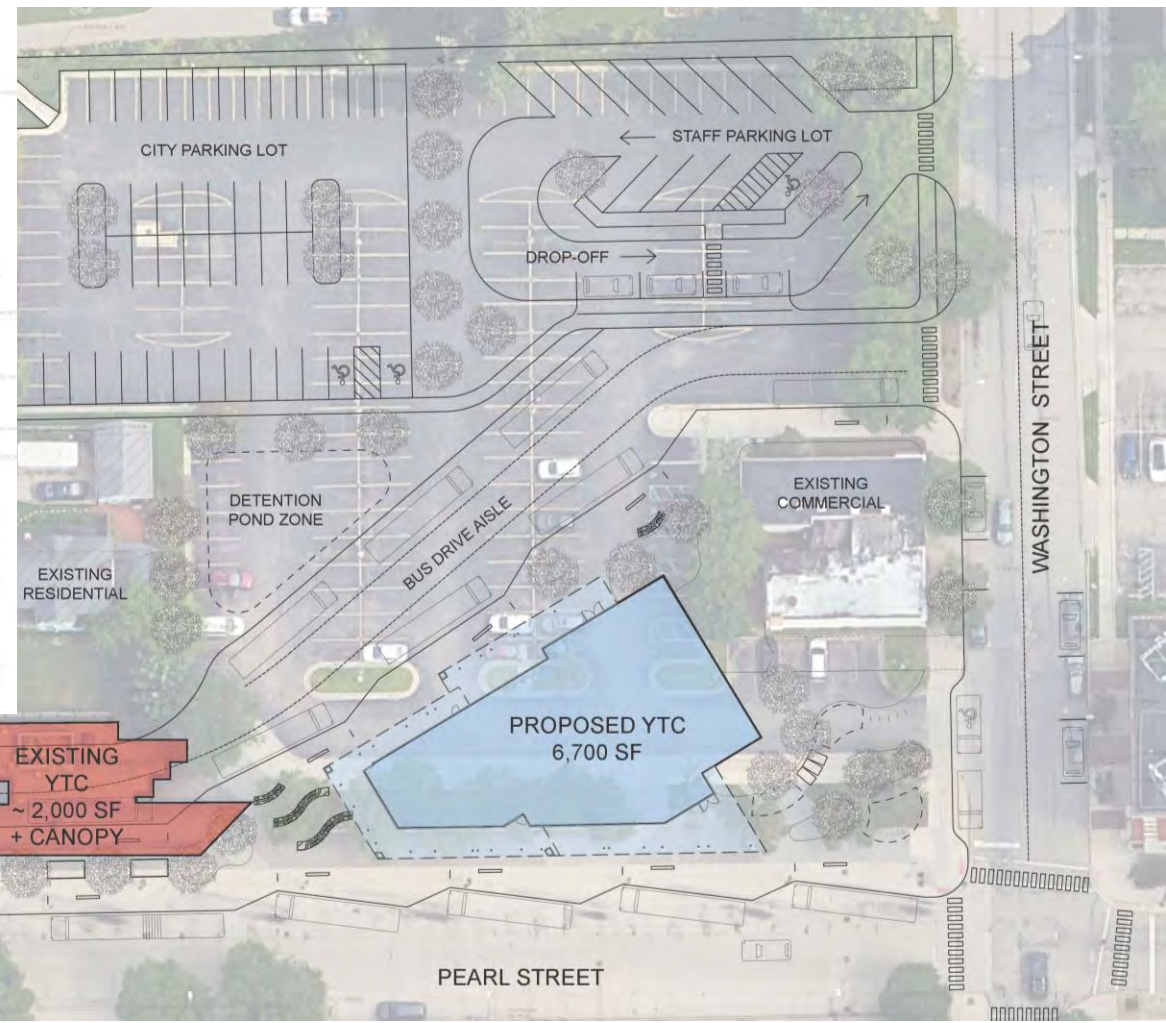
**\*\*All plans and designs are subject to change.\*\***







**\*\*All plans and designs are subject to change.\*\***







**\*\*All plans and designs are subject to change.\*\***





**\*\*All plans and designs are subject to change.\*\***







**\*\*All plans and designs are subject to change.\*\***





**\*\*All plans and designs are subject to change.\*\***



# Project Cost Estimate



# Project Cost Estimate

**~\$19 Million**

- Includes:
  - Remaining Design & Engineering
  - Building & Site Development
  - Sustainability Features, such as solar panels, green building materials, and Green Globes certification
- Does Not Include:
  - Land Acquisition Costs

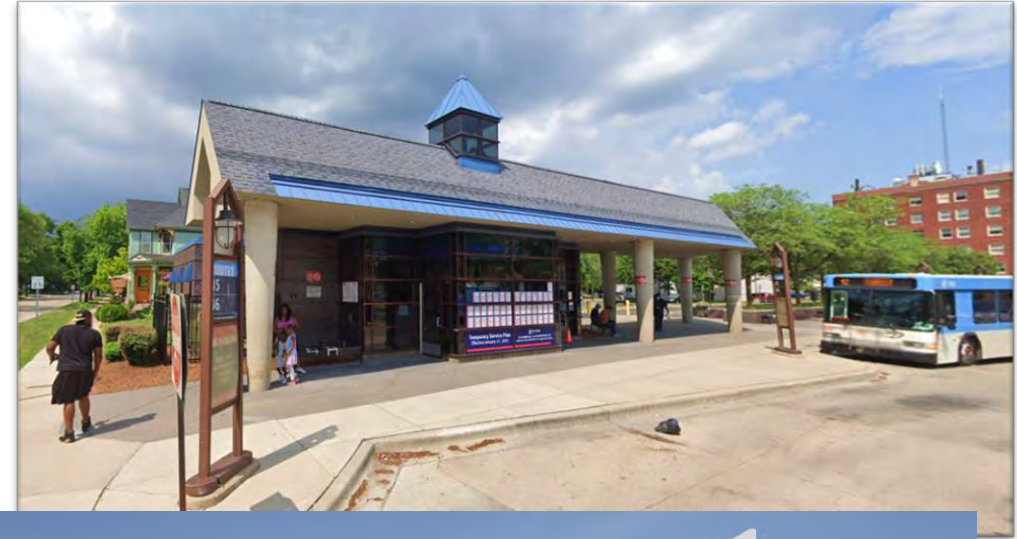


**\*\*All plans and designs are subject to change.\*\***

# Next Steps

# Next Steps

- Address comments from public engagement and finalize Categorical Exclusion with Documentation
- Begin next phases of design
- Continue to pursue funding opportunities
- Continue to collaborate closely with project partners
- Develop project delivery and implementation strategy





# Thank You!

Please Visit **TheRideYTC.org**



**Email:** [YTCinfo@theride.org](mailto:YTCinfo@theride.org)

**Call:** (734) 794-1882

**In-Person:**

Public Drop-In Meeting, April 24 2-6p.m., YTC

AAATA Board Meeting, May 15 6:30p.m., Riverside Arts Center



## Funding Primer: Federal Funding for Transit

Meeting: Board of Directors

Meeting Date: April 17, 2025

INFORMATION TYPE
Other
RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)
Receive for Information
ISSUE SUMMARY
<p>Per the Board's request, staff is presenting background information on transit funding. Staff will provide a series of educational discussions over the next several Board meetings regarding Federal, State and Local funding that are critical to the financial stability of AAATA and to achieving the Board's Ends.</p> <p>The information is intended to provide context for the potential impacts of Federal, State and Local legislative and regulatory changes that are beyond the control of the agency but are likely to have financial impacts on the agency.</p> <p>For this Board meeting, staff will provide a high-level overview of transit funding sources and begin more detailed discussions related to <u>Federal</u> funding sources. The following agenda item will provide complementary information on how these sources are being effected by recent federal changes. Future meetings will include a more detailed discussion of State and Local funding.</p>
PRIOR RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS & POLICIES
<p><i>2.5 Financial Conditions and Activities: With respect to the actual, ongoing financial condition and activities, the CEO will not cause, allow or fail to address the development of fiscal jeopardy... the CEO shall not:</i></p> <p><i><u>2.5.2 Operate in a manner that would jeopardize federal and state funding...</u></i></p> <p><i>2.7 Asset Protection: The CEO shall not allow corporate assets to be unprotected, inadequately maintained, or unnecessarily risked.</i></p>
ATTACHMENTS
To be provided at Board meeting.

## Federal Policy & Economic Climate Overview

**Meeting: Board of Directors**

**Meeting Date: April 17, 2025**

<b>INFORMATION TYPE</b>
Other
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)</b>
Receive for information & discus.
<b>ISSUE SUMMARY</b>
<p>The public transit industry, like most, is having to react to shifting federal decisions. Generally, risks have increased but are unclear and hard to predict.</p> <p>As a companion to the earlier overview of how federal transit funding works, in this brief presentation senior staff will provide an overview of the evolving federal policy changes, the implications on the economic climate, and areas of focus and risks for TheRide. These two agenda items will complement each other. We encourage board members to ask questions. No actions or decisions are expected.</p>
<b>BACKGROUND</b>
<p>Since January 2025 the federal government has announced and reversed numerous policy changes, creating an uncommon amount of uncertainty for many institutions including public transit agencies. Given that a majority of the AAATA's capital funding comes from federal sources, there is a potential for negative impacts; specially loss of funding could delay pursuit of policy goals. Changes to social and environmental priorities may be at odds with values of some Owners. The general economic climate is being affected by trade policies which may influence the economy within which the agency operates. The CEO is responding to these changes per the Board's existing policies.</p>
<b>PRIOR RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS &amp; POLICIES</b>
2.5.2 (The CEO shall not...) Operate in a manner that would jeopardize federal or state funding...
<b>IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budgetary/Fiscal, Social, Environmental, Governance: TBD</li> </ul>
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>
To be provided at Board meeting.

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## CEO Report

**Meeting: Board of Directors**

**Meeting Date: April 17, 2025**

<b>INFORMATION TYPE</b>
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Other

<b>LONG-RANGE PLAN STATUS UPDATES</b>
---------------------------------------

### **BLAKE TRANSIT CENTER EXPANSION**

TheRide continues to work with the Ann Arbor Housing Commission (AAHC) and their co-developer (Related Midwest) on the joint development of the old Y-Lot site adjacent to the BTC (350 S. Fifth). AAHC and Related Midwest are working quickly to develop a site plan for the project, and TheRide is working closely with their architects on the design of the transit platform expansion and other transit amenities around the site.

Given the complexity and highly different needs for the transit portion of the project, TheRide and AAHC will likely submit two site plans for the property – one primarily for the housing development and one that focuses on the transit portion only. Modifications to TheRide's existing platform will be necessary to accommodate the expansion and these will likely be submitted with the transit-focused site plan for 350 S. Fifth. The team is working closely with City staff, DTE, the DDA, and other stakeholders to ensure that the design meets all codes and regulations. The AAHC would ideally like to start construction in spring 2026, though this may be dependent on what environmental review process is required.

A separate study led by the DDA to redesign 4th Avenue from Liberty St. to William St. is ongoing. This project aims to create a more pedestrian and transit friendly street. The project team is working closely with the 350 S. Fifth development team so that both the housing project and 4th Avenue timelines and final designs are well coordinated.

### **YPSILANTI TRANSIT CENTER PLANNING**

Public engagement for the YTC is April 17-May 23, 2025, and aims to inform stakeholders and the community on the facility design and function, the general footprint and floor plan, and the initial plan for the surrounding site. A draft conceptual rendering of the YTC facility will also be made public during the upcoming engagement period. Schematic Design will continue as the team gathers feedback during engagement, with the goal of moving into the next phase of design in late spring or early summer. The project team has been engaging employees throughout the organization – relying on them and a core group of users to help inform decisions. The environmental review process continues, and most technical work and written documentation are complete for the Categorical Exclusion with Documentation. However, the project still awaits technical and legal reviews of the documents and coordination on the Section 106 process with the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), which must be



completed by FTA. The timeline for finishing the environmental documentation is uncertain, but the project team is hoping to complete it around the same time as the project moves into the next phase of design. AAATA staff are working with the consultant team to move into the next project phases seamlessly under a new contract. As currently scoped, this will include final schematic design, design development, construction documentation, and construction administration. Project delivery methods for construction are also under consideration.

### **SERVICE STANDARDS UPDATE**

In line with FTA Title VI guidelines, AAATA creates service standards to help guide how various types of public transportation services are provided to riders. Transit agencies are required to produce data-based standards which monitor services to prohibit discrimination on the grounds of race, color, or national origin. Staff is undertaking a project to review and make recommendations for updating AAATA's Service Standards based on current industry best practices and changing local environment to better address the needs of the community, including service availability (coverage), on-time performance, frequency of service, hours of operation, bus stop spacing and amenities, passenger loads (overcrowding), and service productivity, among others. Any future major service changes will take these standards into account. A public engagement period will be held to provide the public with the opportunity to learn about and offer feedback on AAATA's Service Standards. AAATA is accepting feedback April 15-May 23.

### **ADVOCACY UPDATES**

#### **FEDERAL & STATE DEVELOPMENTS**

The CEO and Manager of Public Affairs will provide a federal and state update at the board meeting.

### **EXECUTION OF CONTRACTS OVER \$250K (Policy 2.9.1.5.D)**

There were no contract executions over \$250k to report.

### **OPERATIONAL UPDATES**

#### **TRANSIT OPERATOR GRADUATION/RECRUITMENT**

AAATA currently has an operator count of 199. A class of 5 operators is set to graduate on Friday, April 11th. A new posting went live on April 7th to begin hiring for two upcoming MCO classes. The first is scheduled to begin on May 27th with 5–8 individuals, and the second on June 17th, also with 5–8 individuals.

#### **LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LAC)**

The LAC met on March 11th and discussed LAC workplan and received a service update. The LAC also met on April 9<sup>th</sup> and received updates from the Planning and Innovation team regarding bus stops and received a federal funding update from the Public Affairs and Community Engagement department.

#### **ANN ARBOR CITY COUNCIL**

The City asked AAATA to cancel their April presentation to council. The next presentation will be on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### **TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (ANN ARBOR)**

The commission met on March 11<sup>th</sup>. It discussed road reconfigurations, bike networks, and its recommended advocacy agenda for Council.

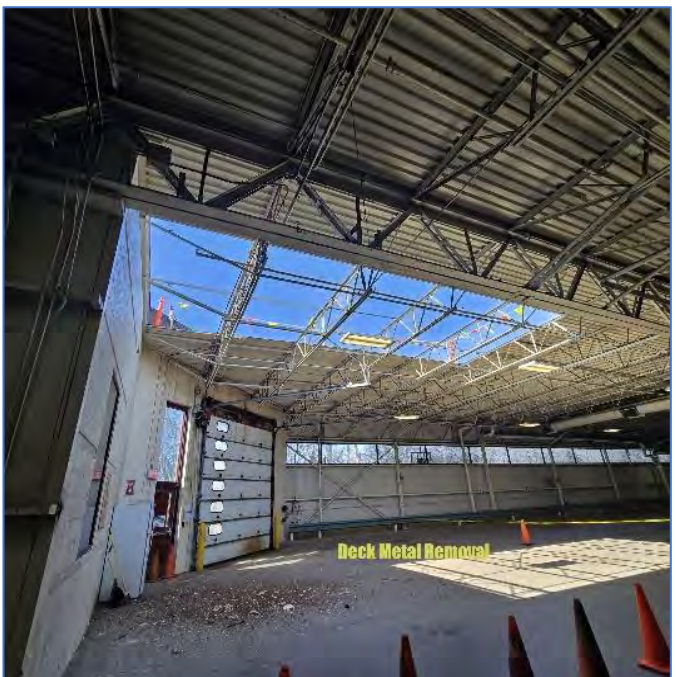
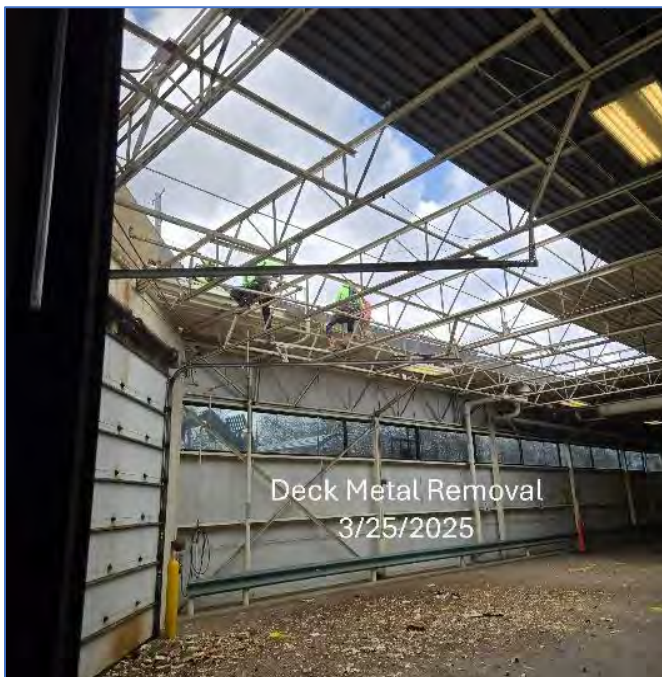


### **WATS POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The March 2025 WATS policy meeting was held on March 19<sup>th</sup>, where safety target improvements were voted on, as well as FY25 Transportation Improvement Plan amendments on modifications.

### **ROOF PROJECT AT DGOC**

The Fleet Roof/HVAC Construction Project began on March 17<sup>th</sup> and will continue through July 2025. The project is currently ongoing, with contractors, cranes, and vector trucks on-site at 2700. As a result, staff parking availability was temporarily interrupted. The overall project will continue into the summer months.





## BUS ROADEO

The International Bus Rodeo was held in Austin, Texas from April 4-8. AAATA MCO Reggie Trussell took part in the competition and finished 14<sup>th</sup> out of over 70 contestants. AAATA also had a team of mechanics participate in the competition.



## COMMUNITY AND EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

Transit Employee Appreciation Day is held on March 18<sup>th</sup>, but due to the ongoing roof project, AAATA celebrated on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Employees were gifted a travel coffee mug, and a luncheon was held for employees.



TheRide held their annual Opening Day BBQ on April 4<sup>th</sup>, to celebrate the start of the baseball season and the warmer spring and summer weather. A BBQ was held for employees, featuring delicious hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, coleslaw, and various desserts.



MCO John Freeman celebrated 25 years of service on March 27<sup>th</sup>.



# Transit Funding Primer and Federal Funding Discussion

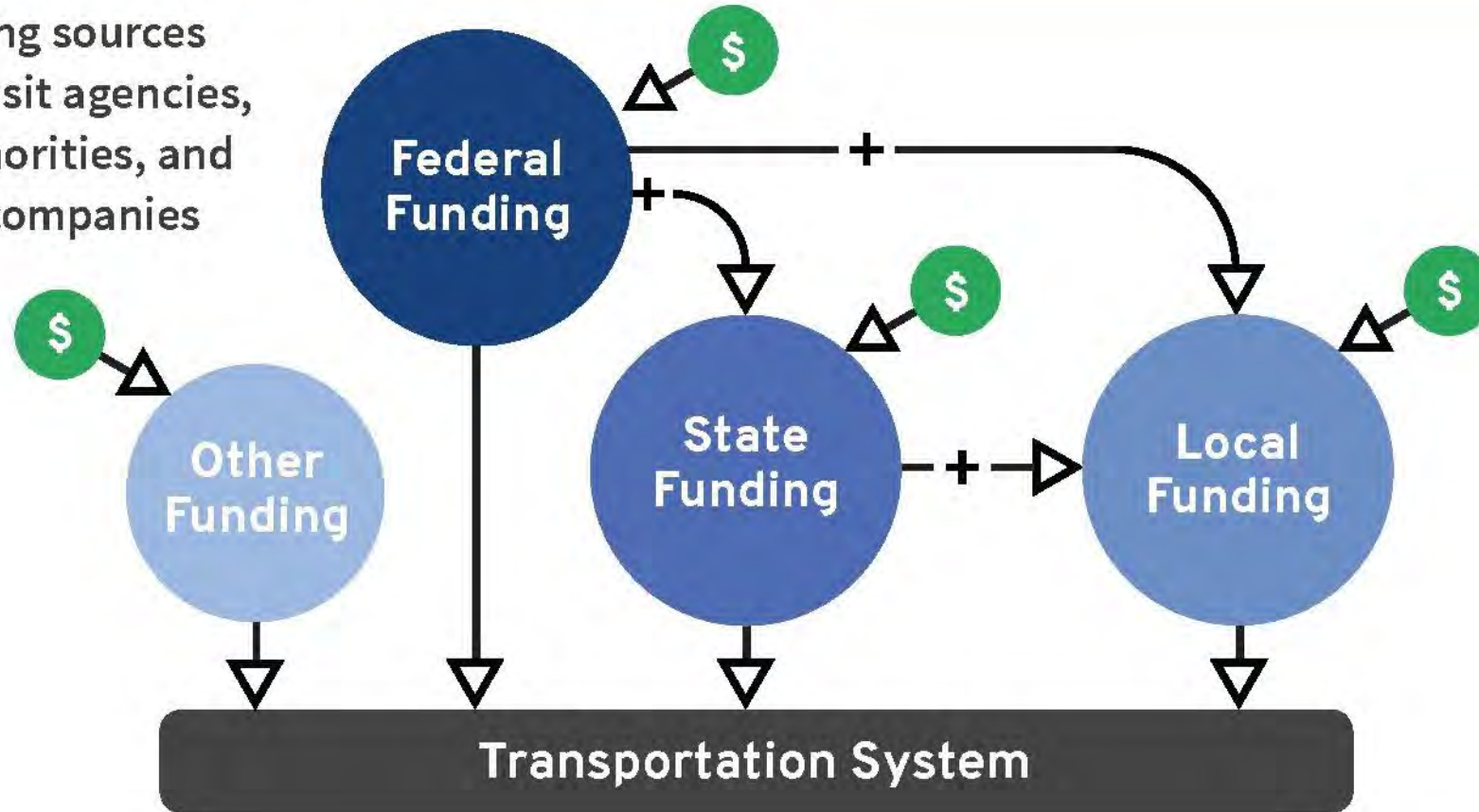
Dina Reed  
Deputy CEO, Finance and Administration  
[dreed@theride.org](mailto:dreed@theride.org)



# Public Transit Funding Overview

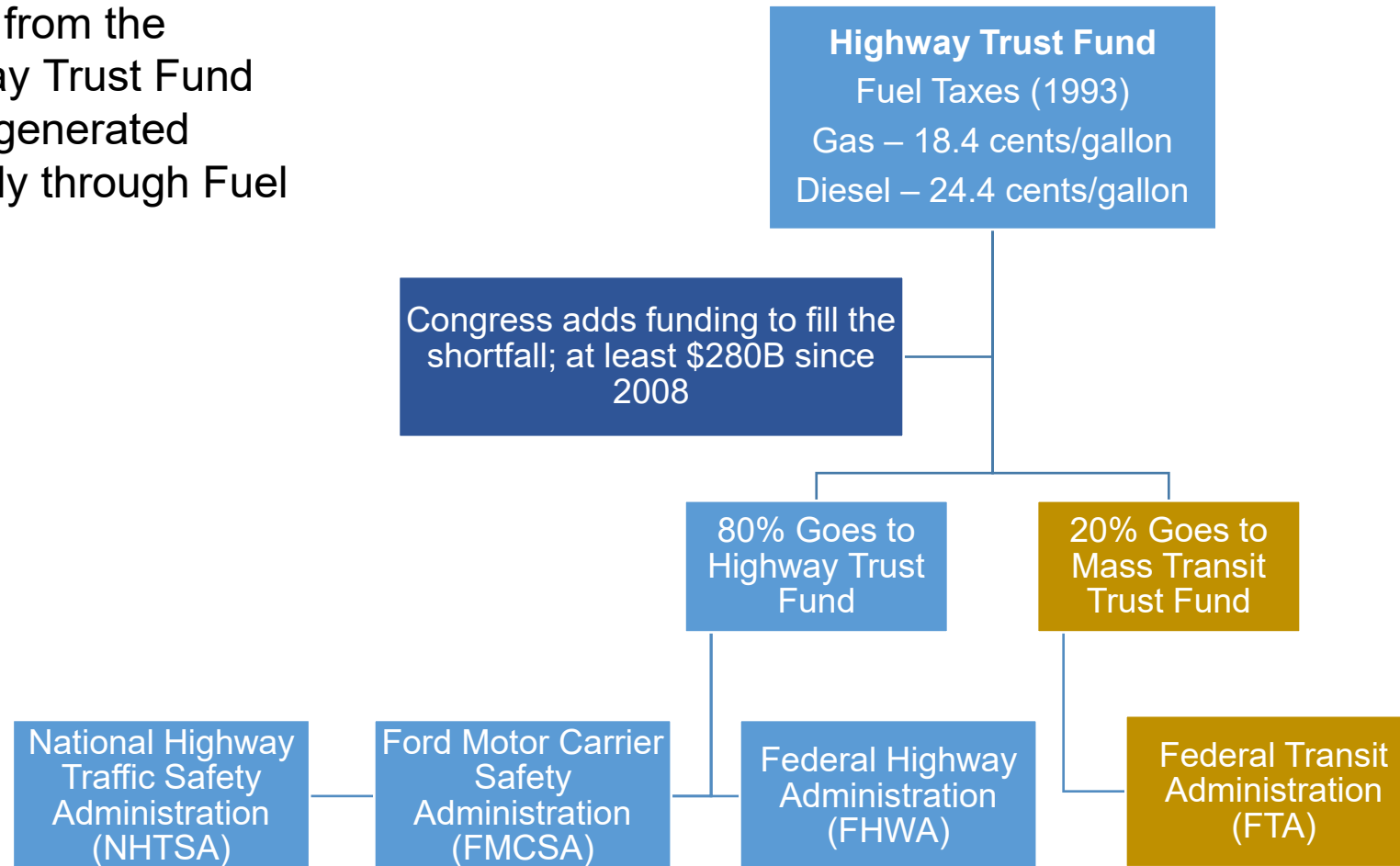
## Funding Transportation

**Other funding sources include transit agencies, airport authorities, and freight rail companies**



# Sources of Federal Transit Funding

Most Federal Funding comes from the Highway Trust Fund and is generated primarily through Fuel Taxes

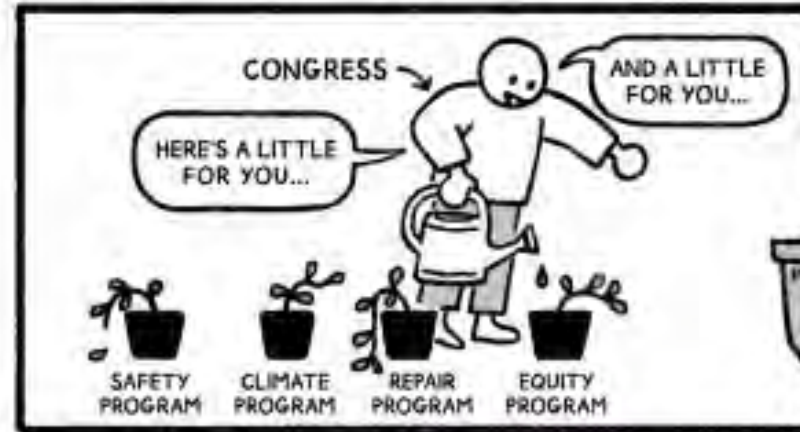


# Transportation Reauthorization

## What is it?

Surface transportation reauthorization (sometimes referred to as simply “reauthorization”) is a shorthand term for the legislative process where the federal surface transportation program is renewed, setting all policies, priorities, and funding levels for multiple years to come.

WHEN CONGRESS TRIES TO SOLVE BIG TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS



BY JEAN WEI FOR Transportation for America

## Why is it important?

Through reauthorization, the federal government sets policy and provides funding for the nation's highway, transit, safety, and rail programs for multiple years at a time.

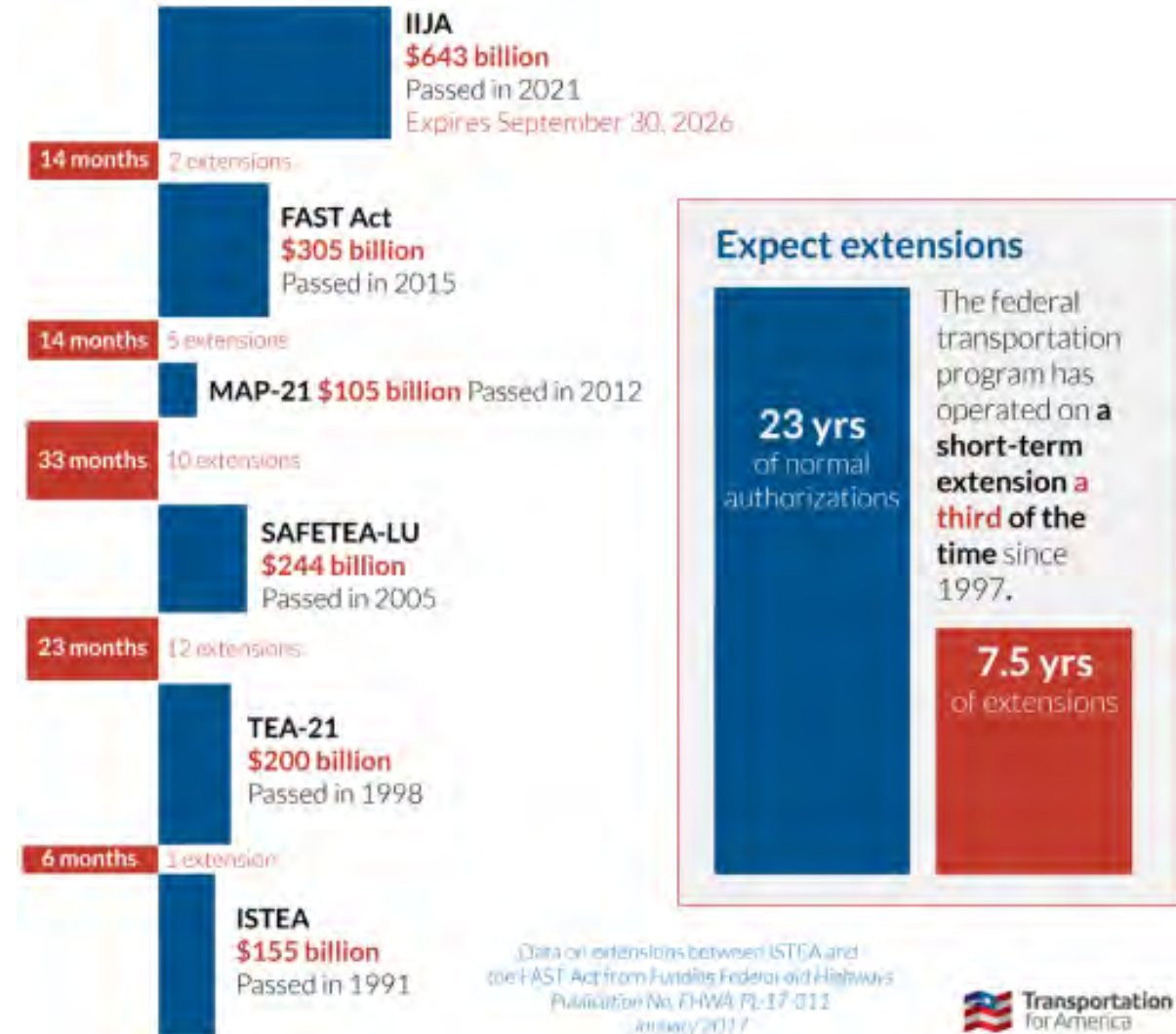


# Reauthorization Risks for Transit Agencies

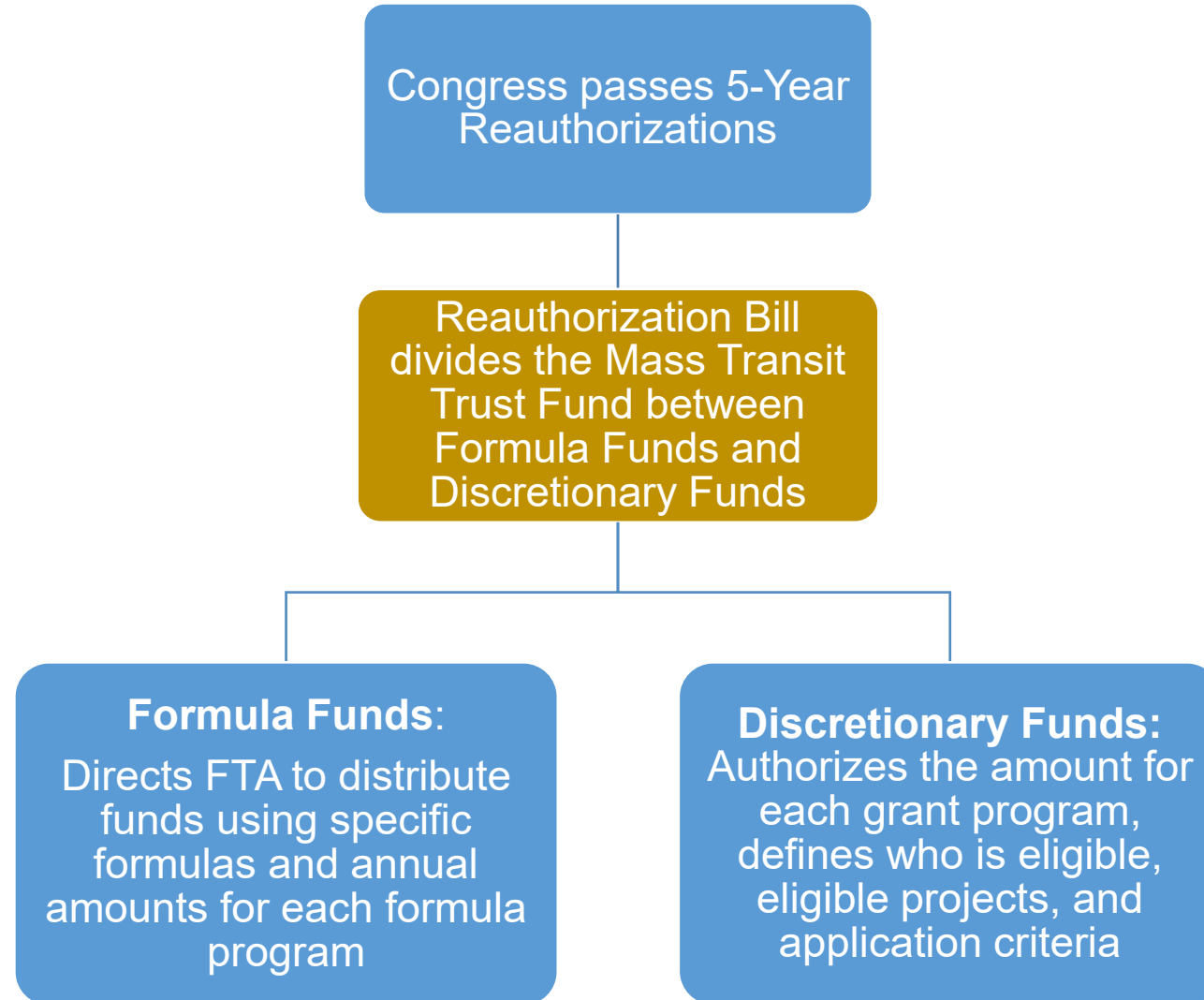
## Recent Reauthorizations

Have **never** passed on time and have always required numerous short-term extensions. Extensions are likely to happen again when the IIJA expires in 2026.

Delays cause uncertainty and risk for transit agency project planning.



# Reauthorization Divides Funding into Buckets



# Types of Funding and Criteria

## Formula Funding

- Apportioned to each urbanized area through annual Split Letter
- Based on annual National Transit Database submissions by transit agencies
  - 25% Population
  - 25% Population Density
  - 50% Vehicle Miles

- 5307 { • Urbanized Area
- 5339 { • Bus and Bus Facilities
- 5310 { • Enhanced Mobility for Seniors & Individuals w/ Disabilities
- CMAQ { • Air Quality Capital Funding

## Discretionary Funding

- FTA issues Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) sets deadline, criteria, and priorities
- Statutory Criteria – set by law and are required to receive funding
- President's Priorities – set by the current administration to rank applications that meet the statutory criteria

- 5339 { • Bus and Bus Facilities Low-No Emission
- CIG { • Capital Investment Grants/"New Starts"
- Other { • Congressionally Directed Spending/  
• "Earmarks"

# Closing Remarks & Questions

# Thank You!

# Federal Policy & Economic Climate Updates

April 17

# Agenda

- Purpose: Overview & discussion of changes at federal level
- Admin Actions to date & impacts to transit
- Next federal funding bill
- Economic conditions



# Federal Government & Transit

- Transit industry dependent on federal grants
  - Capital budget: 80%-90% federal formula
  - Maintain fleet & facilities, expand
  - Low-No (fuel efficiency & emissions reduction)
- Strings attached to the money
- Legal framework & enforcement
- No impacts to TheRide to date





# Federal Actions To Date

- Executive Orders: DEI, climate action, DOGE, immigration, tariffs...
- Grants as Leverage: universities, sanctuary cities
- Federal staff cuts



# Federal Actions To Date

New preferences for discretionary grants

- Against: DEI, climate action, vaccine/mask mandates
- Pro: Families, marriage/birth rates, user pay, cooperation with immigration enforcement
- ROI more than intangibles
- Probably rural & highway projects



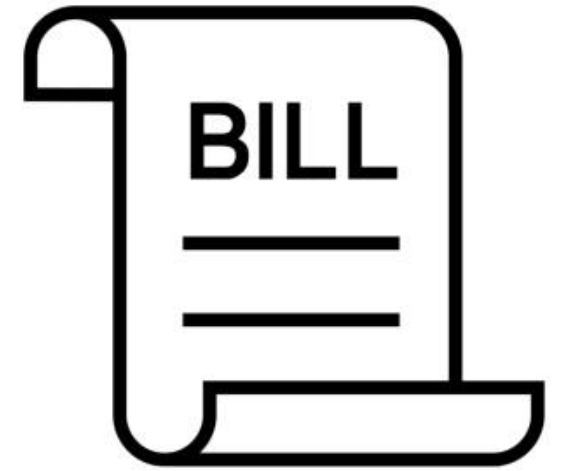
# Federal Funding for Transit

- Final year of 5-year federal funding bill
- Formula & discretionary funds available through Sept 2026
  - Earmarks uncertain
  - Formula funds not delayed



# Surface Transportation Funding Bill

- Where federal transit funding starts
- Next bill: Sept 2026-2031
  - Opportunity for changes
  - Will reopen funding levels for transit, roads
  - Popular across parties
  - Discussions starting already
  - New rail proposals in crosshairs
  - TheRide going to DC: May



# Broader Economy

- Economic Climate
  - Tariffs could slow economy and/or cause inflation
  - Growing debt, interest rates, etc
  - Decline in confidence
- Implications for TheRide's business
  - Could increase costs
  - Hardship could drive demand
  - Feds less able to assist
- Social Implications



# Final Thoughts

- No direct impacts to TheRide yet
- Lots of uncertainty & speculation
- Staff strategic plans being overhauled, DC activities increasing
- CEO will navigate per board policies
- Does board want to consider additional policy?
  
- Q/A

# Federal Policy & Economic Climate Updates

April 17