



# ***FY 2023-2032 Transit Development Plan***

## **Executive Summary**

**August 2022**







## Table of Contents

Introduction.....	2
Space Coast Area Transit Services.....	3
Transit Development Plan Process .....	4
Mobility on Demand Concept .....	4
Public & Stakeholder Outreach .....	5
Transit Vision, Mission & Goals .....	6
Situation Appraisal.....	6
10-Year Transit Improvements .....	7
10-Year Financial Plan.....	9
Plan Implementation .....	10
Next Steps.....	11

## Introduction

Space Coast Area Transit is the public transportation provider in Brevard County, Florida. The system operates as a department within Brevard County government under direction of the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners. As a recipient of Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Block Grant funding, Space Coast Area Transit must maintain a Transit Development Plan (TDP) to provide a vision for its services over the next 10 years. This executive summary accompanies Space Coast Area Transit’s 10-year TDP for the FY 2023–2032 planning horizon.



### *Transit Development Plan Overview*

- Required elements outlined in Chapter 14-73, F.A.C.
- 10-year planning horizon
- Major update completed every 5 years
- Annual progress reports submitted between major updates
- Due to FDOT by September 1st to receive annual block grant funding



# Space Coast Area Transit Services



## Fixed-Route Bus/Trolley

- 23 routes
- 1,100+ bus stops
- Four main transfer sites:
  - \* Cocoa Transit Center
  - \* Titus Landing
  - \* Melbourne Square Mall
  - \* Hammock Landing
- Three park-and-ride lots



## Demand Response / Paratransit (Door-to-Door)

- Complementary ADA service within ¾ mile of a fixed route
- State-funded Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) program for eligible persons



## Vanpool Programs

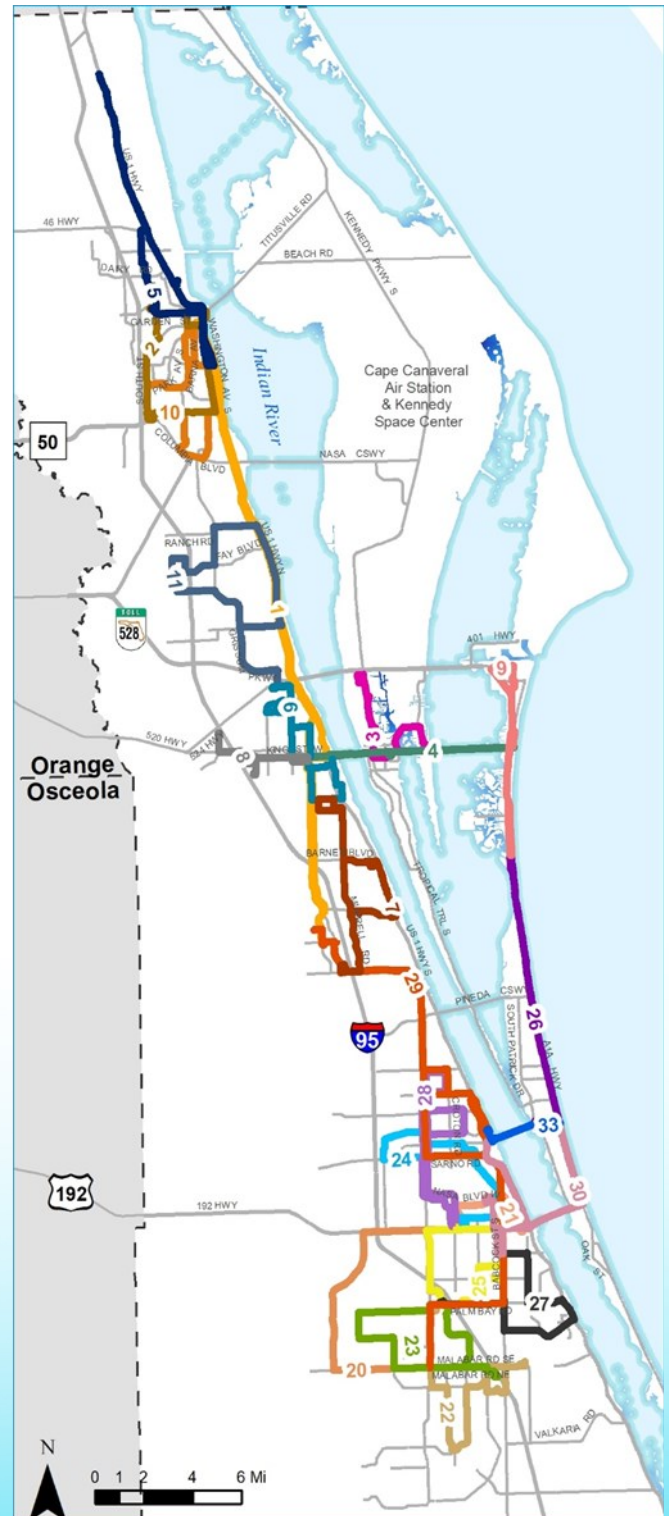
- Commuter vanpool program—Groups of 7-15 people lease a van at a fixed monthly cost
- Agency vanpool program—Non-profit agencies lease vans to provide transportation for disadvantaged residents



## Volunteers In Motion

- Program serving individuals unable to use other agency services
- Provides transportation for necessary trips
- Volunteer-based (Space Coast Area Transit provides program coordination and support)

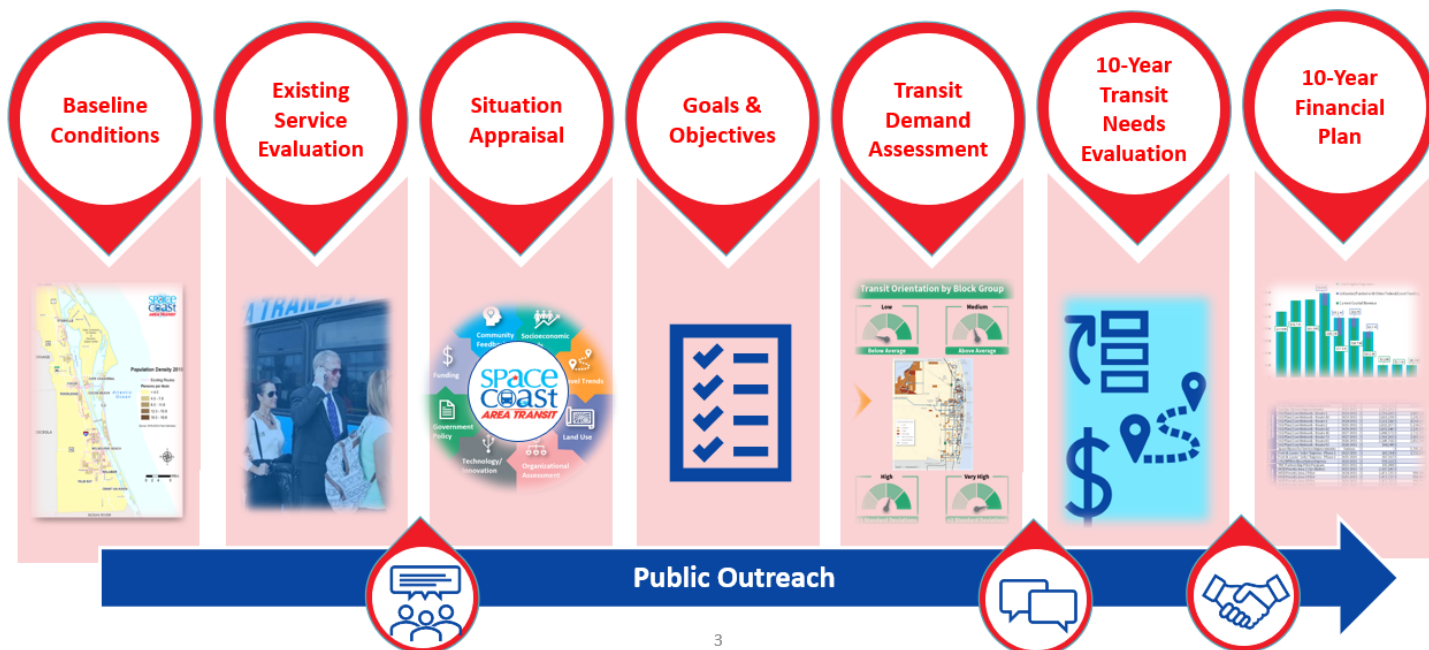
## Space Coast Area Transit Fixed-Route System



Source: Space Coast Area Transit, FGDL



# Transit Development Plan Process



3

While preparing this TDP, Space Coast Area Transit also conducted a Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA). This detailed assessment of the fixed-route system identified near-term operational improvements to increase efficiency, potentially reduce costs, and improve rider experience. Recommendations from the COA are incorporated into the TDP's 10-year plan.

## Mobility on Demand Concept

A service concept called Mobility on Demand (MOD) was evaluated during this TDP. MOD is a real-time shared ride service available to the public within a defined service zone. With recent technology advancements, MOD is emerging as a popular service alternative in areas where fixed-route service may not work well or be cost-effective.

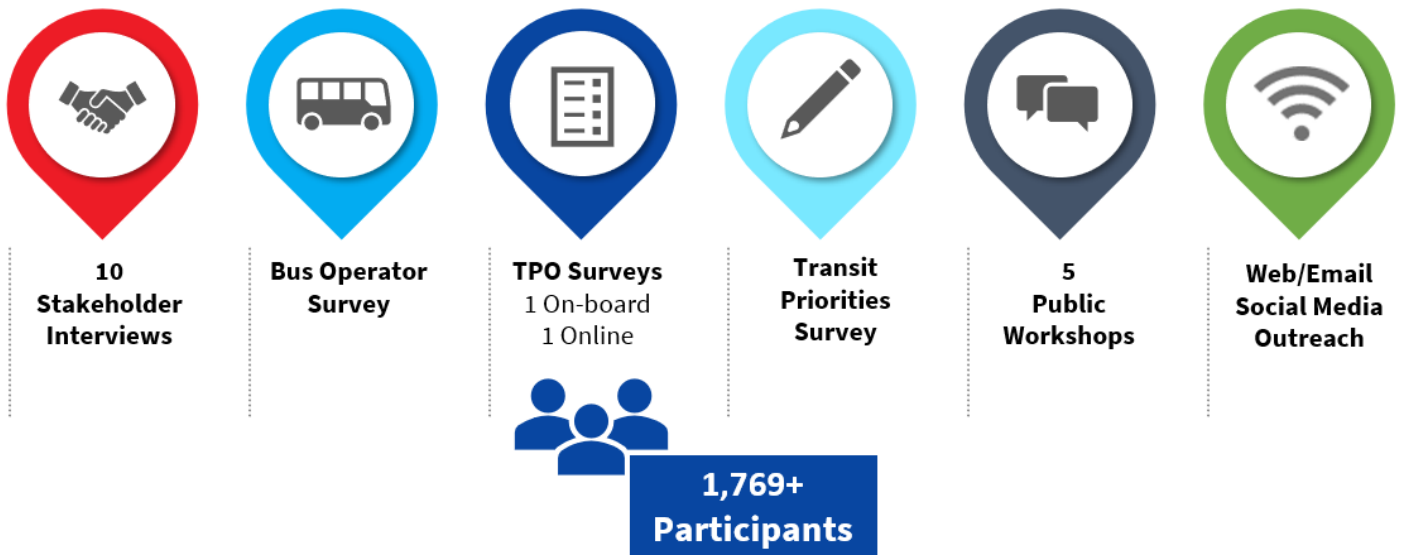
### WHAT IS MOBILITY ON DEMAND?

- Door-to-door flex service within a defined service zone
- Open to the public (no approval required)
- Provides first/last mile connections to fixed-route transfer points or bus stops
- Rides requested via mobile app or by phone

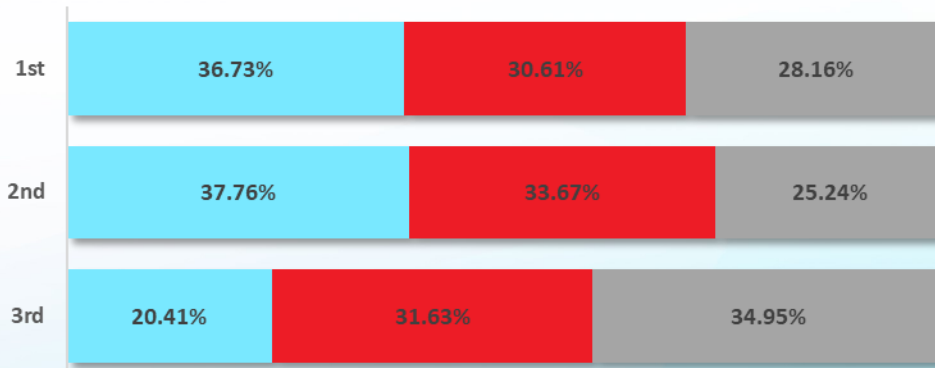


# Public & Stakeholder Outreach

Public outreach was a key component to completing the Space Coast Area Transit TDP. Different types of activities were used to engage the community and obtain crucial feedback to inform the 10-year plan. This also provided opportunities to introduce the MOD concept and gauge public interest in this technology-based service. Results from two recent transit surveys conducted by the Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) regarding transit needs and priorities in Brevard County were also leveraged during this TDP. Collectively 1,750+ participants were engaged through the process.

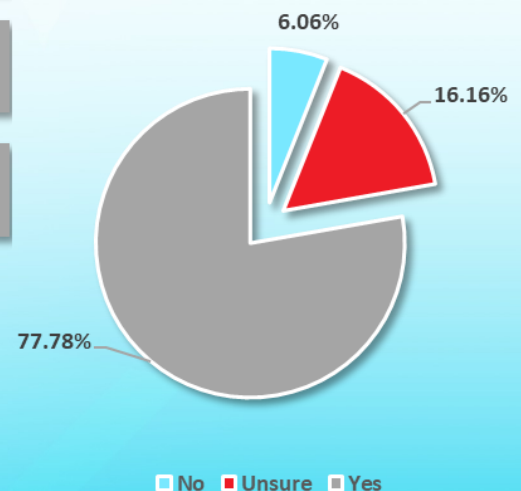


## Transit Service Improvement Priorities



- Fixed-route bus service should be extended to 9 PM weekday evenings.
- Fixed-route bus headways should be improved to 30 minutes on weekdays.
- Fixed-route bus service on Sundays should be provided on all routes.

## Interest in Using MOD Services



# Transit Vision, Mission & Goals

## Transit Vision

*To provide all persons living, working, or visiting Brevard County the opportunity to use transit as a safe, affordable, convenient, and sustainable way of traveling.*

## Transit Mission

*Respond to existing and emerging user markets by maintaining current transit service levels while gradually enhancing fixed-route services in the most productive corridors, providing flexible on-demand services in high-need areas where fixed-route service may not be the optimal choice, and implementing sustainable service delivery options, as feasible.*



### Goal 1

Support an **integrated and coordinated** transportation system.



### Goal 2

Enhance **mobility choice** and **access to opportunity** through public transportation.



### Goal 3

Use **technology and innovation** to enhance service delivery.



### Goal 4

Ensure **accountability and fiscal responsibility**.



### Goal 5

Expand **marketing and outreach strategies** to increase ridership and awareness of Space Coast Area Transit.

## Situation Appraisal

A situation appraisal for Space Coast Area Transit was conducted to assess and document key aspects of the agency's operating environment based on information gathered for the TDP.

The appraisal examines the strengths and weaknesses of the system, any existing barriers or threats to the provision of transit service in the county, and key opportunities for addressing those threats and/or enhancing the perception of transit within the operating environment.

### Situation Appraisal Elements



# 10-Year Transit Improvements

The TDP process identified service, capital, and policy/programming improvements over the next 10 years without consideration of funding constraints. These improvements were derived from five major



## Community Needs & Vision

Multiple direct and indirect outreach techniques were used to obtain public input on transit needs throughout the TDP development process.



## Situation Appraisal

Findings were considered in identifying potential transit alternatives, including ongoing plans and projects and input from agency staff.



## Goals & Objectives

Transit goals, objectives, strategies, and targets re-emphasize the agency's existing priorities and outline new priorities for improvements based on transit needs.



## Transit Demand Assessment

The demand analyses, together with the baseline conditions assessment and performance reviews, assisted in identifying areas with transit-supportive characteristics.



## COA (Operations Analysis)

An assessment was conducted to identify short- and mid-range strategies to improve service and operational efficiencies, enhance connectivity, increase customer satisfaction and ridership.

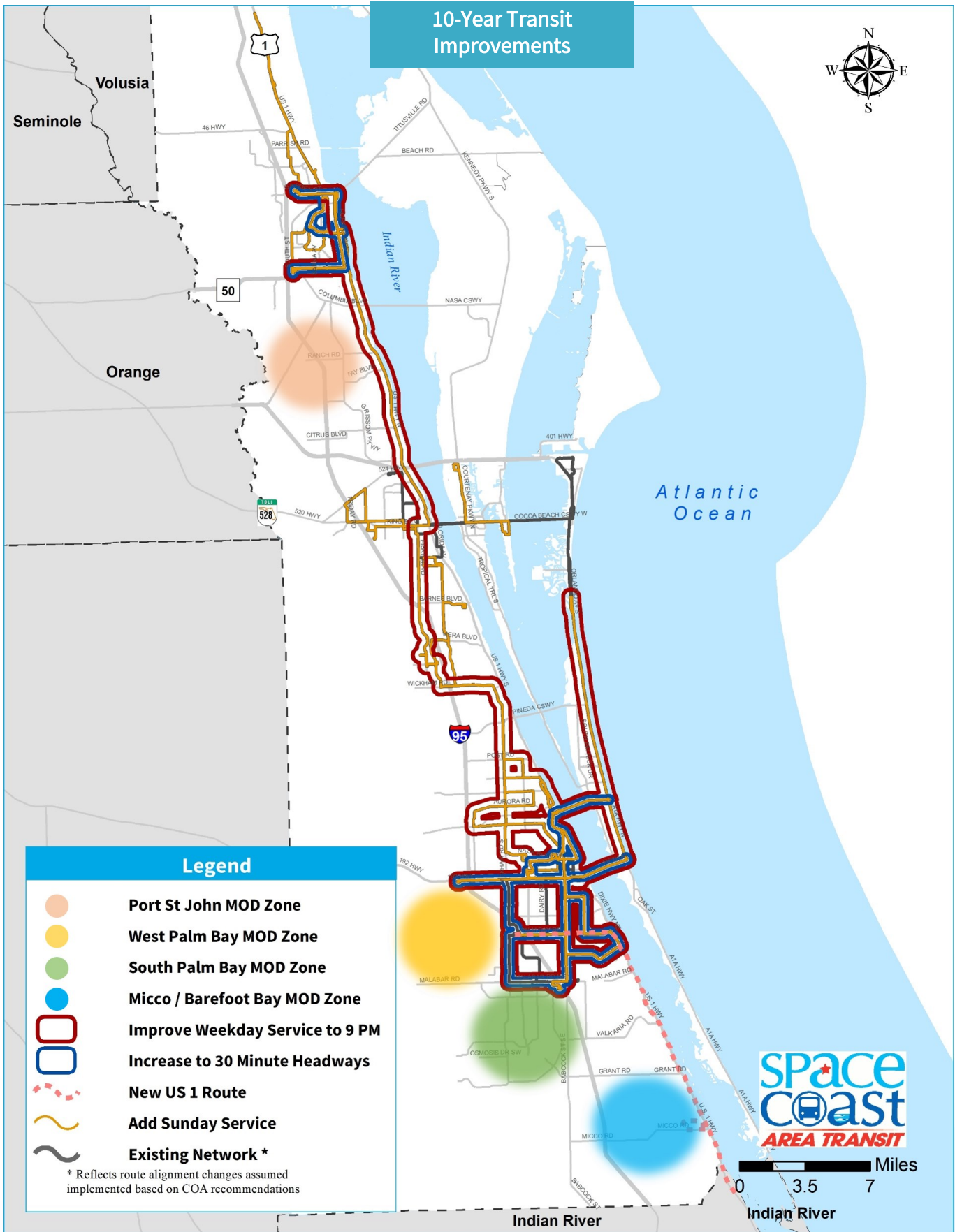
### Operating Needs

- ✓ COA short-term network improvements
- ✓ Route consolidations/coverage expansion
- ✓ Continuous Saturday service
- ✓ Weekday service to 9 pm for key routes
- ✓ Weekday 30-minute service for key routes
- ✓ Sunday service for all routes
- ✓ MOD feasibility study/service pilots
- ✓ Continuous service on AIA
- ✓ US 1 route (Palm Bay to Micco)

### Capital/Planning Needs

- ✓ Technology/hardware
- ✓ Capitalized maintenance program
- ✓ Bus stop improvements
- ✓ Centralized admin/operations facility
- ✓ New Cocoa transfer facility
- ✓ New/replacement revenue vehicles
- ✓ Low-emissions fleet transition
- ✓ Replacement support vehicles
- ✓ Various planning studies/initiatives







# 10-Year Financial Plan

The 10-year financial plan guides and supports decision-making by Space Coast Area Transit/the Brevard County Commission regarding service, capital, and other improvements over the next 10 years.

The 10-year plan is balanced for FY 2023 based on the agency's proposed operating and capital budget; beyond the first year, the plan includes annual costs for service and capital improvements programmed for implementation within the next 10 years, together with supporting revenues that are reasonably expected to be available to fund their implementation. As this is not a budget, the identified implementation plan may be adjusted as priorities shift, funding assumptions change, or additional funding becomes available.

## 10-Year Transit Plan Highlights



**\$165.2 million** to operate the redesigned and expanded system.



**\$213.4 million** for capital expenses, including technology, vehicles, etc.



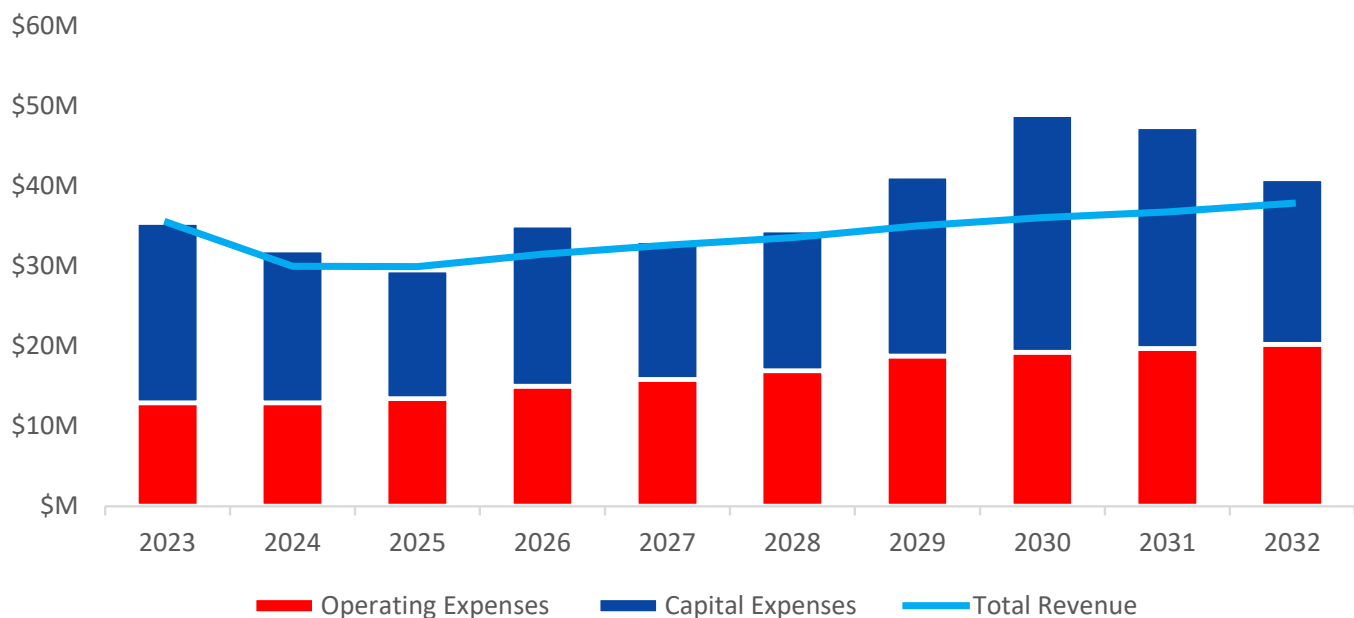
**\$339.1 million** in revenue from existing and potential new sources.



**\$39.5 million** in unfunded needs over the 10-years.

*This plan does not establish a financial commitment by Brevard County and the Board of County Commissioners must approve each fiscal year budget annually.*

## 10-Year Plan Expenses vs Revenues



## 10-Year Plan Unfunded Improvements

Operating/Capital Improvement	Implementation Year(s)	% Unfunded	Total Amount Unfunded
Continuous Saturday Service	2024-2032	100%	\$2,989,060
Add Sunday Service	2025-2032	100%	\$5,128,364
Extend Weekday Service to 9 pm	2026-2032	100%	\$3,469,993
Increase Weekday Service to 30-Minutes	2027-2032	100%	\$7,889,002
Implement MOD Pilot Zones 1-2	2027-2032	50%*	\$2,585,911
New US 1 Route/MOD Pilot Zones 3-4	2028-2032	50%*	\$927,000
New Cocoa Transfer Center - Construction	2025	50%*	\$12,428,950
New Centralized Facility Design & Construction	2029-2031	100%	\$4,486,918
Unfunded Replacement/New Vehicles	2024-2032	100%	
Estimated Unfunded Expenses**	--	--	\$39,905,199

\*Assumes 50% funding through FDOT grant programs, requiring 50% unfunded local match.

\*\*The total amount of unfunded needs in this table vs the 10-year plan summary is slightly higher due to a small funding surplus calculated in FY 2025.

## Plan Implementation Action Items



Leverage Potential Near-Term Cost Savings from the COA



Recruit and Retain Operators



Regain Ridership Levels and Diversity Ridership Markets



Explore Technological Advancements and Emerging Service Concepts



Continue to Engage FDOT and Space Coast TPO as Partners



Secure Support for Funding Opportunities

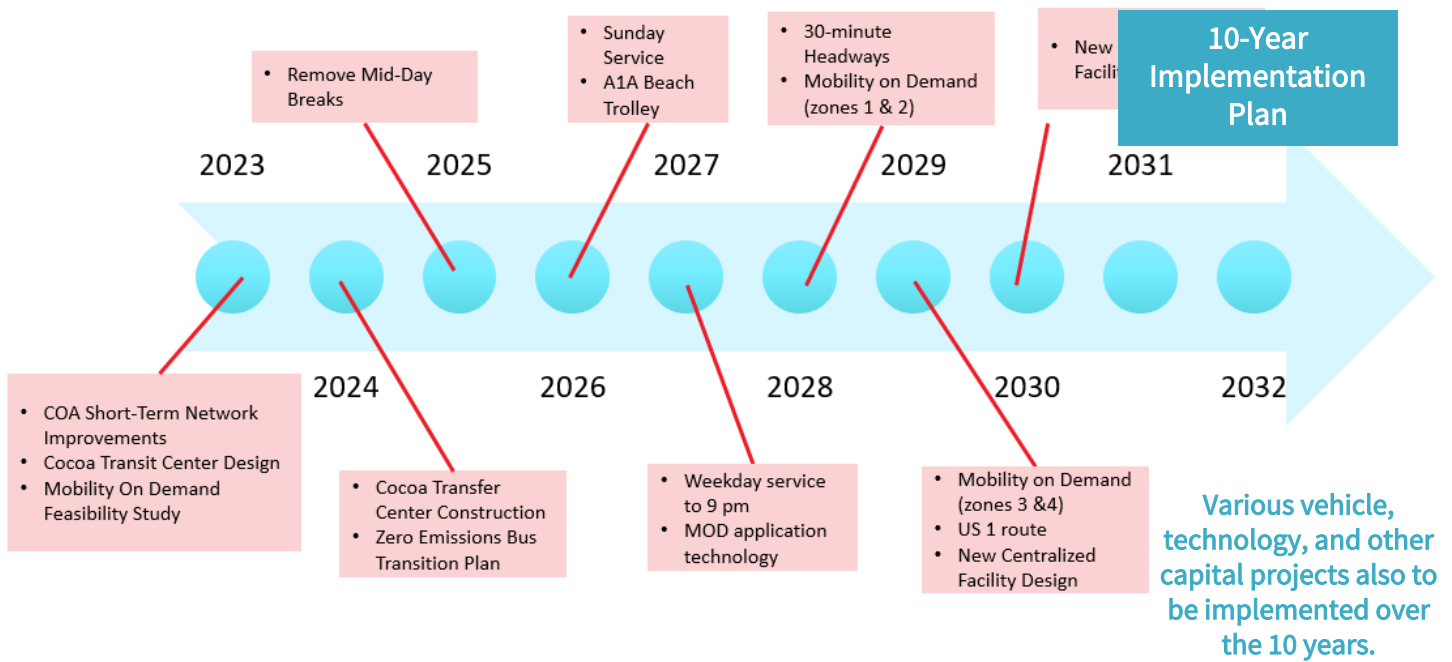


Leverage the TDP as a Marketing and Educational



Continued Community Engagement





## Next Steps

The 10-year TDP provides the opportunity for Space Coast Area Transit to affect positive change for its citizens and visitors, laying out a strategic transit vision for the community, and specific actions towards achieving that vision.

With its diversity, location, and the community's strong support for transit, Brevard County is well-positioned to collaborate with stakeholders and its partners to help make the TDP's vision for public transit a reality.

## Acknowledgements

Thank you to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners, Space Coast Area Transit staff, members of the TDP Review Committee, the Space Coast TPO, and all stakeholders and members of the public for their support and input throughout the development of this transit plan.



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