

Transit Vision and Goals

Stakeholder Interviews

Project team members conducted three separate group interviews with nine valued members of the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) on May 18th, May 19th, and May 20th, 2022. These virtual interview sessions included several informal discussion topics related to the Regional TDP and gauged how potential implementations would affect stakeholders and community members.

Key themes from the stakeholder interview sessions include:

- Driver shortages and concerns about qualified driver retention
- Need for more wheelchair accessible vehicles
- Senior riders rely heavily on community and religious groups for transit announcements and available transit services
- Concern that senior riders would not embrace an electronic app for scheduling and fare payment

Public Survey

A web-based survey was available to the public from May 18th to June 30th, 2022. The survey asked respondents about goals for the region's transit service.

Transit goals by number of highest-priority votes are shown below:

- 23 Providing mobility options for those who are unable to drive and/or do not have access to a car
- 14 Providing connections to jobs
- 10 Providing medical trips to healthcare appointments
- 6 Providing transit throughout the Southwest Georgia Region
- 2 Connecting to other transit systems outside the region
- 2 Supporting economic development
- 1 Easing traffic congestion
- 0 Helping reduce pollution/emissions by providing an alternative to single-occupancy vehicles

Transit Vision Statement

Along with findings from the Existing Conditions Report, stakeholder and public input informed the development of a guiding vision statement for the Regional TDP:

Transit service will offer a safe transportation option to access jobs, healthcare, and workforce training, provide cross-county trips to meet the needs of the region's projected demographics, and improve quality of life for the Southwest Georgia Region.

Transit Goals

Additionally, individual goals for the Regional TDP guide the development of transit alternatives that meet the region's needs:

Connect to Essential Services

Provide local and regional transit connections to essential services and daily needs, including jobs, hospitals and medical facilities, and activity centers

Meet Future Service Demand

Ensure system capacity meets the transportation needs of the region's growing senior population

Build Awareness

Coordinate with area transit providers, major employers, and other agencies to promote public awareness of available transit options