

**Gwinnett County Sustainability Commission****Wednesday, March 15, 2023 – 4:30pm**

Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center

75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30046

Conference Room C (Second Floor)

**Present:** Laura Hernandez, Daniel Hilton, Robert Blatecky, Krupesh Patel, Dr. Marshall Shepherd

**1. Call to Order**

Laura Hernandez, Chairperson, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone at 4:30pm.

- The GCSC will have the opportunity to provide recommendations for the qualifications for the County's first Environmental Sustainability Officer. Chairperson Hernandez asked GCSC members to submit any input by March 20.

**2. Approval of Agenda Amended to Include Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program**

{Action: Approved: Shepherd; Second: Hilton; Vote: 5-0; Hernandez-Yes; Hilton-Yes; Blatecky-Yes; Patel-Yes; Shepherd-Yes}

**3. Approval of Minutes**

The February 16, 2023, meeting minutes were approved.

{Action: Approved: Shepherd; Second: Hilton; Vote: 5-0; Hernandez-Yes; Hilton-Yes; Blatecky-Yes; Patel-Yes; Shepherd-Yes}

**4. Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program**

Schelly Marlatt, Executive Director, Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful presented an overview of the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program. The program will provide grants to states, local governments, tribes and territories to develop and implement plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution. ARC will likely be the PI for Metro Atlanta local governments, universities, and other partnerships. Representatives from the GCSC to the Grants Committee will be Dr. Marshall Shepherd and Robert Blatecky.

**5. Overview of Ride Gwinnett and Transit Development Plan**

Natasha Tyler, Gwinnett County Transportation Division Director, presented an overview of Ride Gwinnett and Gwinnett's Transit Development Plan. Some goals of the plan are increase mobility options for all Gwinnett residents; improve access to mobility options to connect people to more places and more jobs; support economic development; make transit easy to use, safe, and comfortable; and minimize environmental impact by reducing cars on the road and using cleaner technology.

## 6. Discussion on Advisory Committees

- Motioned to form advisory committees comprised of citizens and presided over by GCSC members.  
{Action: Approved: Shepherd; Second: Hilton; Vote: 5-0; Hernandez-Yes; Hilton-Yes; Blatecky-Yes; Patel-Yes; Shepherd-Yes}

Below are the Advisory Committees and presiding GCSC member(s):

- Recycling and Waste Reduction Advisory Committee – Laura Hernandez
- Bikability Advisory Committee – Daniel Hilton
- Public Education and Outreach Advisory Committee – Dr. Marshall Shepherd and Krupesh Patel
- Clean Energy and Electric Transportation Advisory Committee – Robert Blatecky

GCSC members are responsible for defining committees' purpose, size and scope of authority; recruiting members; organizing meetings and taking minutes. GCSC members will present updates, questions, and ideas from the Advisory Committees back to the GCSC. GCSC discussed the need to be mindful of the scope and oversight of other boards, authorities, and commissions within the County.

## 7. Public Comments

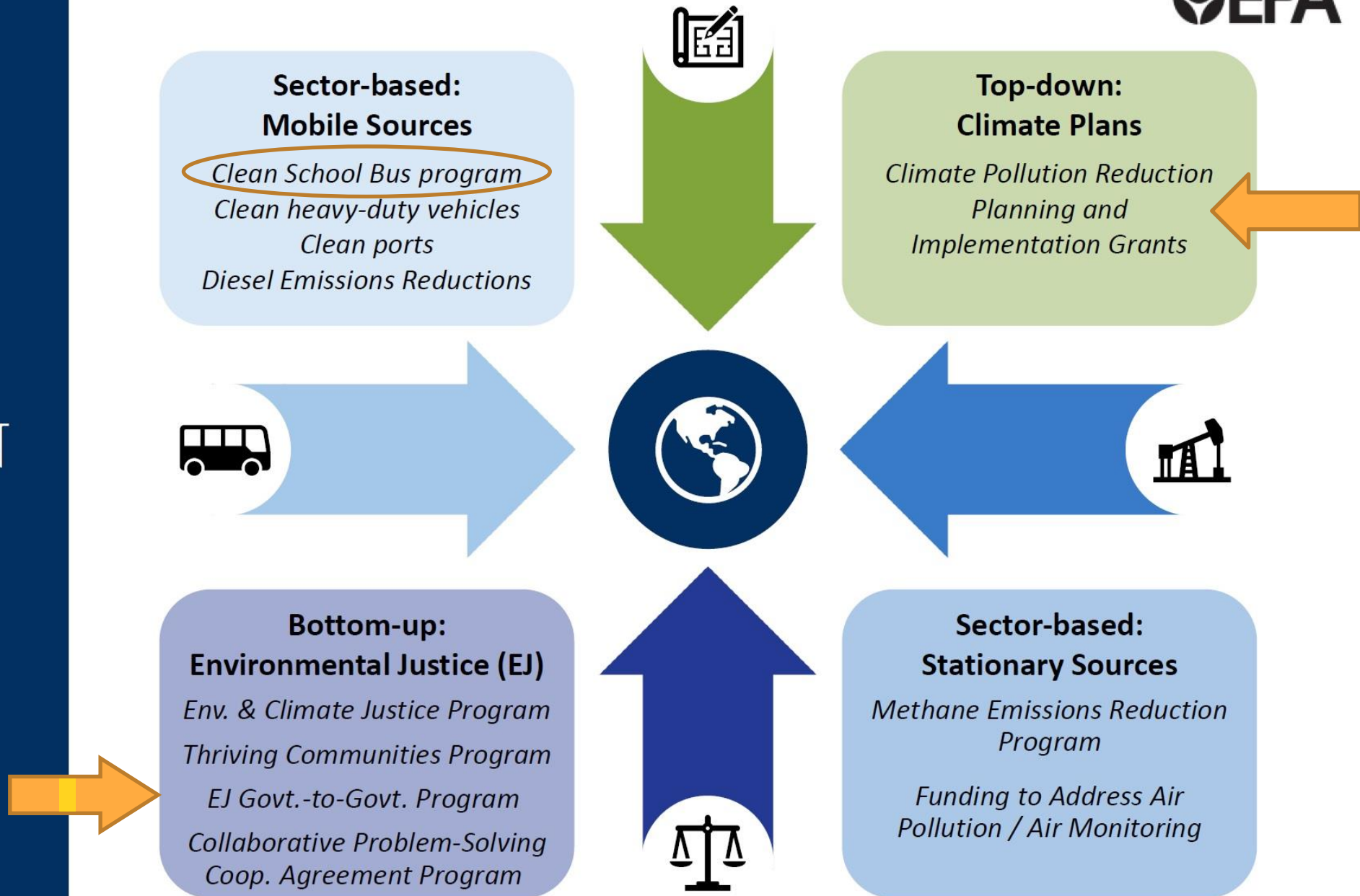
No members of the public provided comments.

## 8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56pm.

{Action: Approved: Hilton; Second: Shepherd; Vote: 5-0; Hernandez-Yes; Hilton-Yes; Blatecky-Yes; Patel-Yes; Shepherd-Yes}

# TACKLING CLIMATE AND AIR POLLUTION FROM MULTIPLE ANGLES



# Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program

**Non-competitive planning grants** to develop strong climate pollution reduction strategies (\$250M)

**Competitive implementation grants** to put (part of) the plan into action (\$4.6B)

Program objectives:

1. Encourage states, air agencies, municipalities, and Tribes to **work together to create comprehensive pathways for reducing pollution** and ensuring that investments maximize benefits, especially for low income and disadvantaged communities.
2. Provide state, local, and Tribal partners with **flexible planning resources** to assess and prepare to deploy resources provided by the Inflation Reduction Act, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, American Rescue Plan, and Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) Act, and to develop new state and local laws and policies to maximize emission reduction.
3. Drive **transformative and scalable decarbonization efforts** in key sectors by enacting innovative policies and programs that can scale across jurisdictions

# Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Funding

- The *Inflation Reduction Act of 2022* (IRA) works to advance environmental justice (EJ) by building on regular engagement with EJ leaders from across the country to identify environmental justice priorities.
- Environmental and Climate Justice Block Grants
  - \$2.8 billion to the EPA for grants and \$200 million for technical assistance.
  - 3-year grants are available for projects related to climate change and air pollution, including air pollution monitoring, extreme heat risk mitigation, resiliency and adaptation, indoor pollution reduction, and community engagement.
  - Tribes, local governments, and universities in partnership with **community-based non-governmental organizations (NGOs)** are eligible, as well as individual or groups of community-based NGOs.
- Future opportunities will be developed to further support underserved and disadvantaged communities.
  - All funds must be awarded by September 30, 2026

# Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently announced initial guidance on the design of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) program that will ultimately award nearly \$27 billion to leverage private capital for clean energy and clean air investments across the country.
- The \$7 billion Zero-Emissions Technology Fund is a competitive grants to states, Tribes, municipalities, and eligible nonprofit entities to enable the deployment of residential rooftop solar, community solar and associated storage and upgrades in low-income and disadvantaged communities
- \$20 billion General and Low-Income Assistance Competitive grants to eligible nonprofit entities that will collaborate with community financing institutions like green banks, community development financial institutions, credit unions, housing finance agencies and others.

# Ride Gwinnett



RIDE GWINNETT

420X

RIDE  
Gwinnett

ATL

RIDE  
Gwinnett

ATL

AMERICANBUS

GILLIG

sport







# Gwinnett County Transit Development Plan



## • What is the Gwinnett County Transit Development Plan?

- Serves as a guiding strategy to evaluate shifting transportation demands based on the County's recent and projected growth.
- Aligns transit services and infrastructure investments with the identified priorities and needs.
- Address mobility challenges and improve the quality of life in Gwinnett and its cities.



## • What are the goals of the TDP?

- Increase mobility options for all Gwinnett residents
- Improve access to mobility options to connect people to more places, more jobs, and support economic development
- Enhance the user's experience by making transit easy to use, safe, and comfortable
- Create vibrant multimodal places that generate a variety of activities
- Minimize environmental impact by reducing cars on the road and using cleaner technology
- Provide robust information about mobility alternatives and their benefits to all residents



## How can I provide Feedback?

### • TODAY:

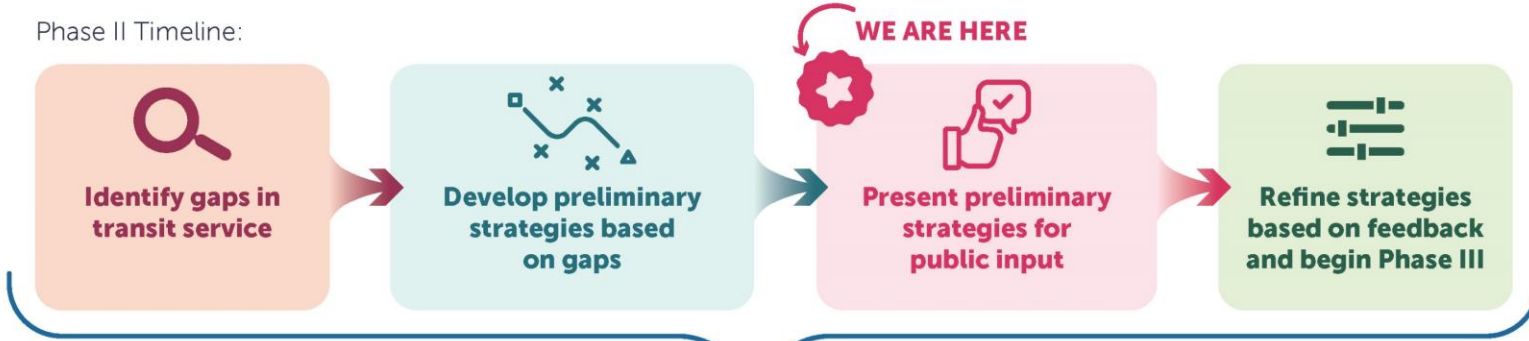
- Help us prioritize preliminary strategies by voting at subsequent stations.
- Fill out a comment card at the end and let us know your thoughts.

### • FUTURE:

- Visit the website to learn more and to stay informed.
- Come to future events and take future surveys.
- Send your ideas and comments to your elected officials

# Transit Development Plan Planning Timeline & Process

Phase II Timeline:



Planning Timeline:



Implementation Timeline:



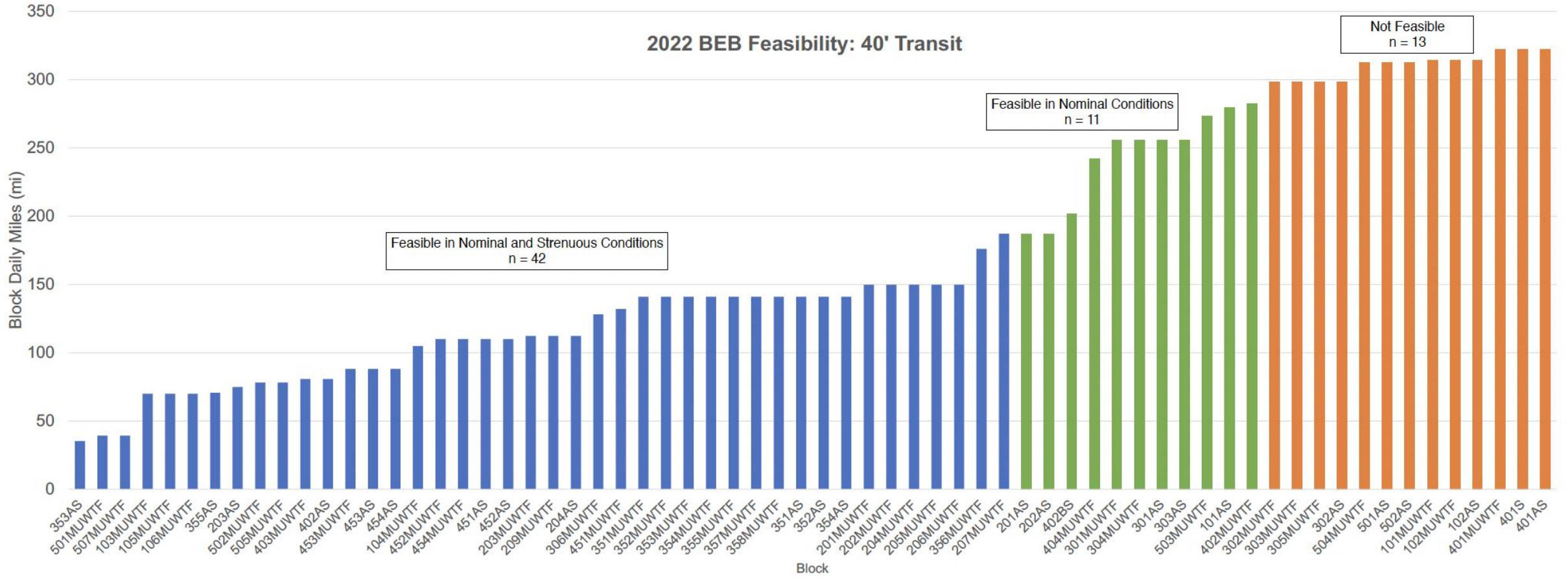
Phase III of Engagement

# Ride Gwinnett Zero Emissions Plan

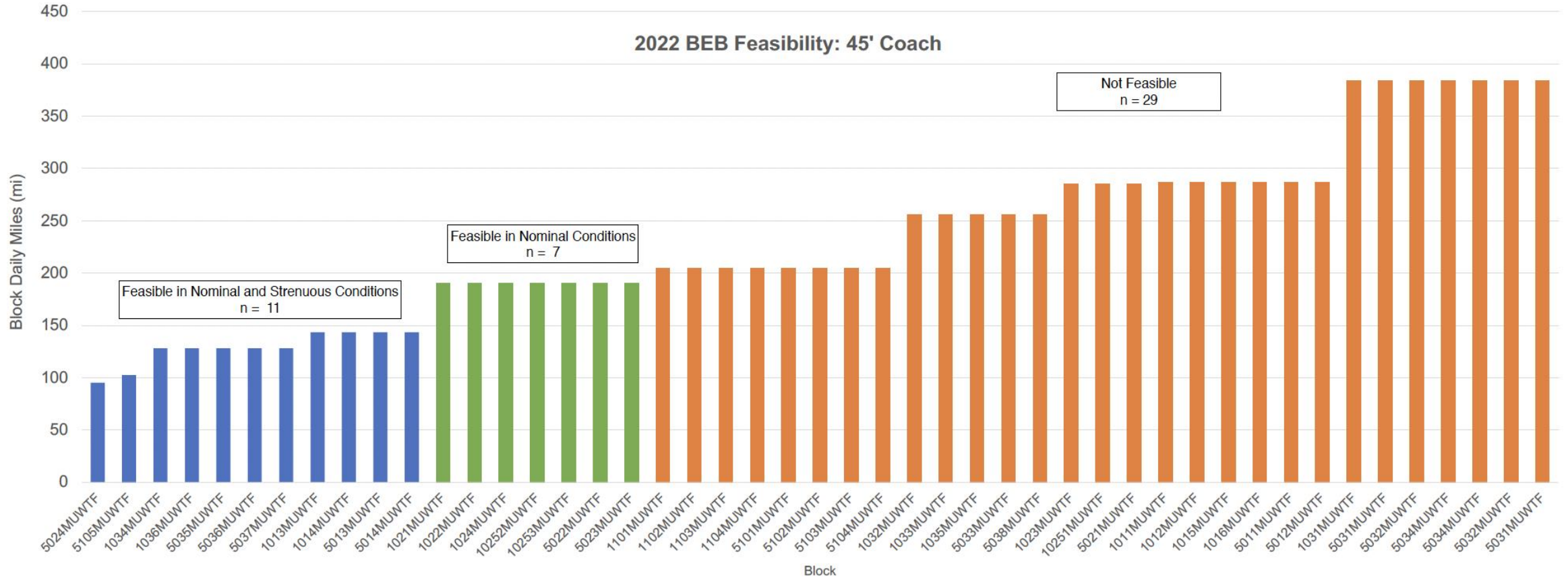


- Fleet Transition Plan
- Operational Reliability
- Specialized Equipment/Facility
  - Maintenance
- Safety Risks

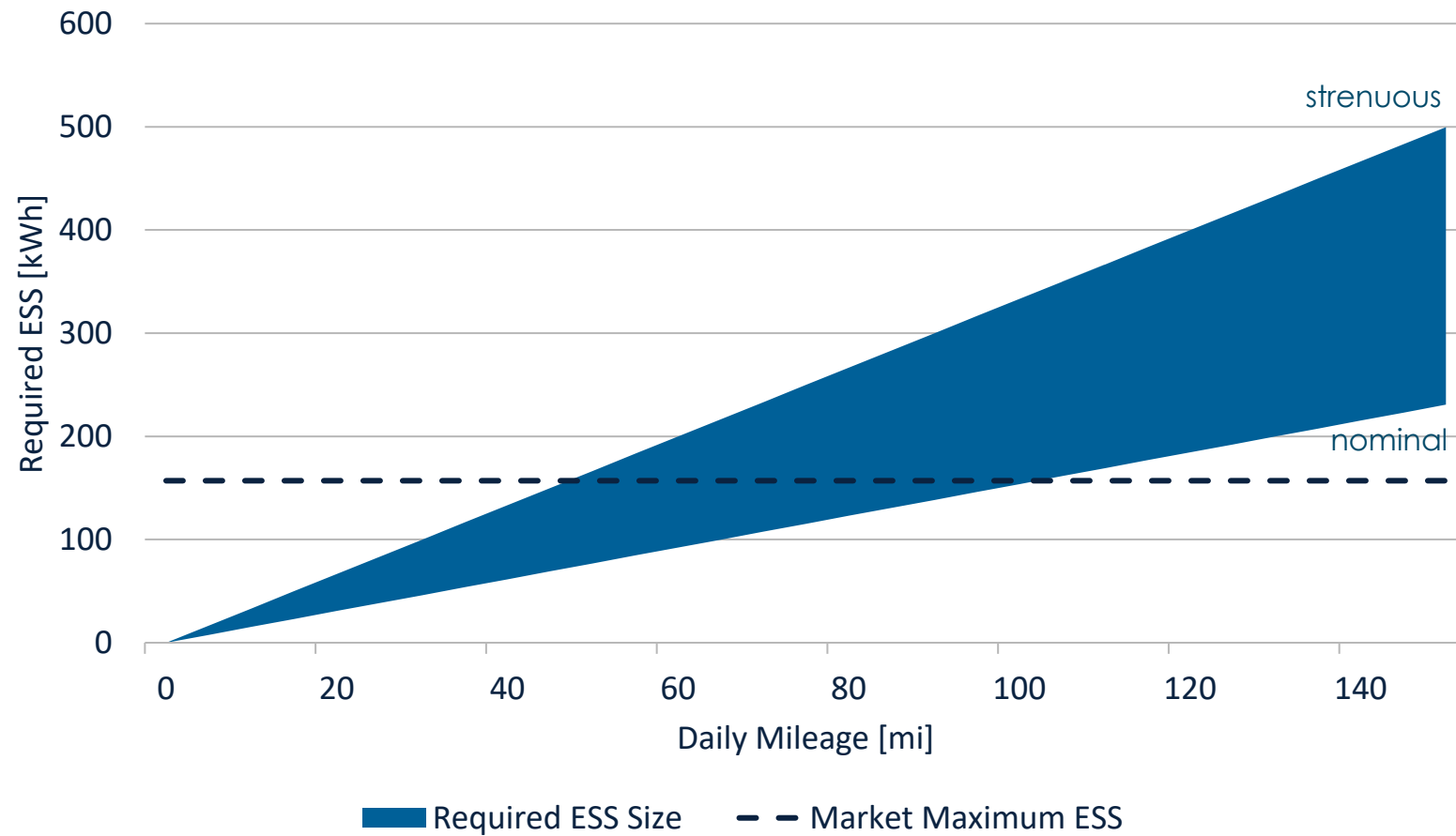
# 2022 BEB Feasibility: 40' Transit



# 2022 BEB Feasibility: 45' Coach

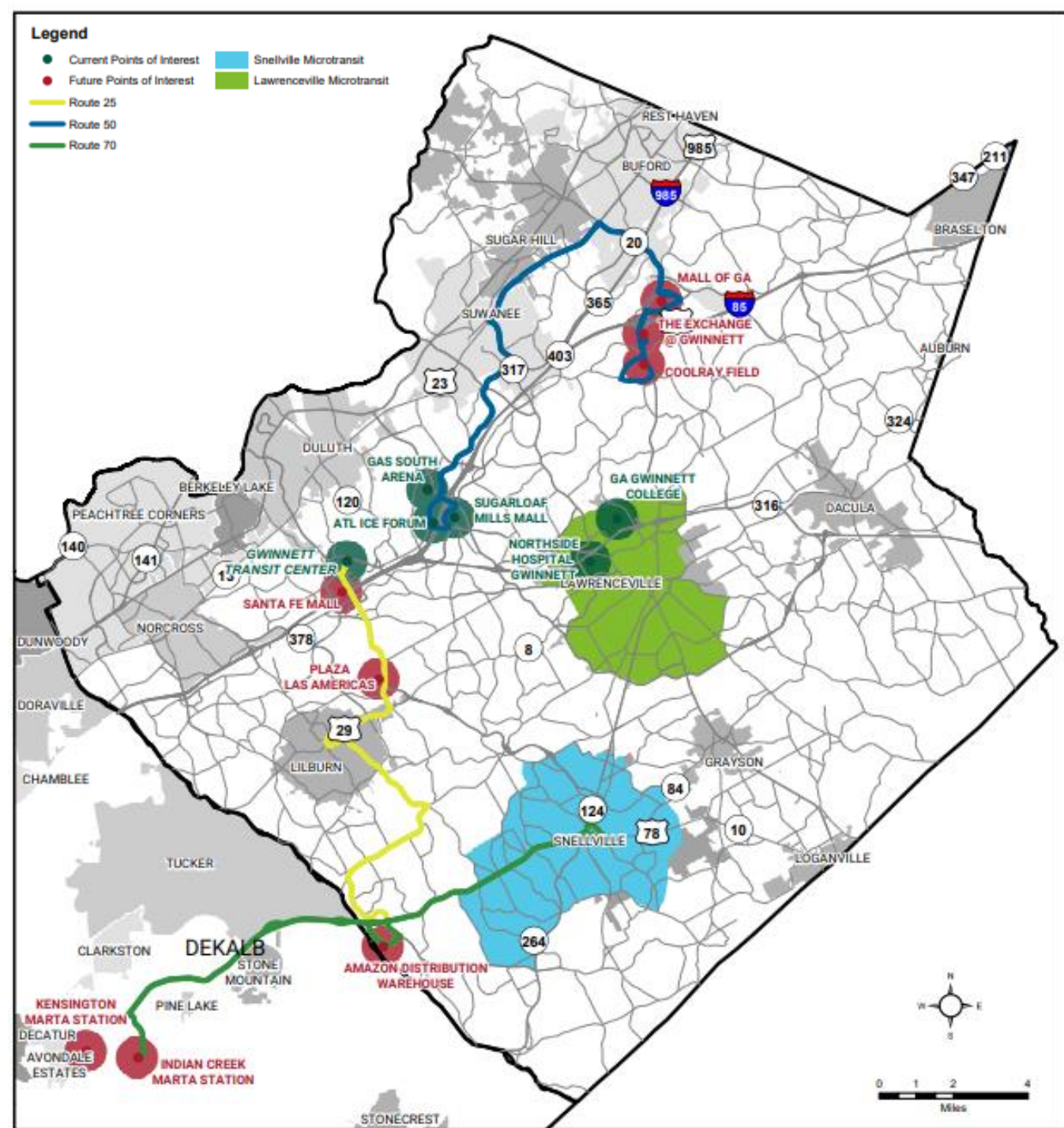


# Cutaway Sensitivity Analysis



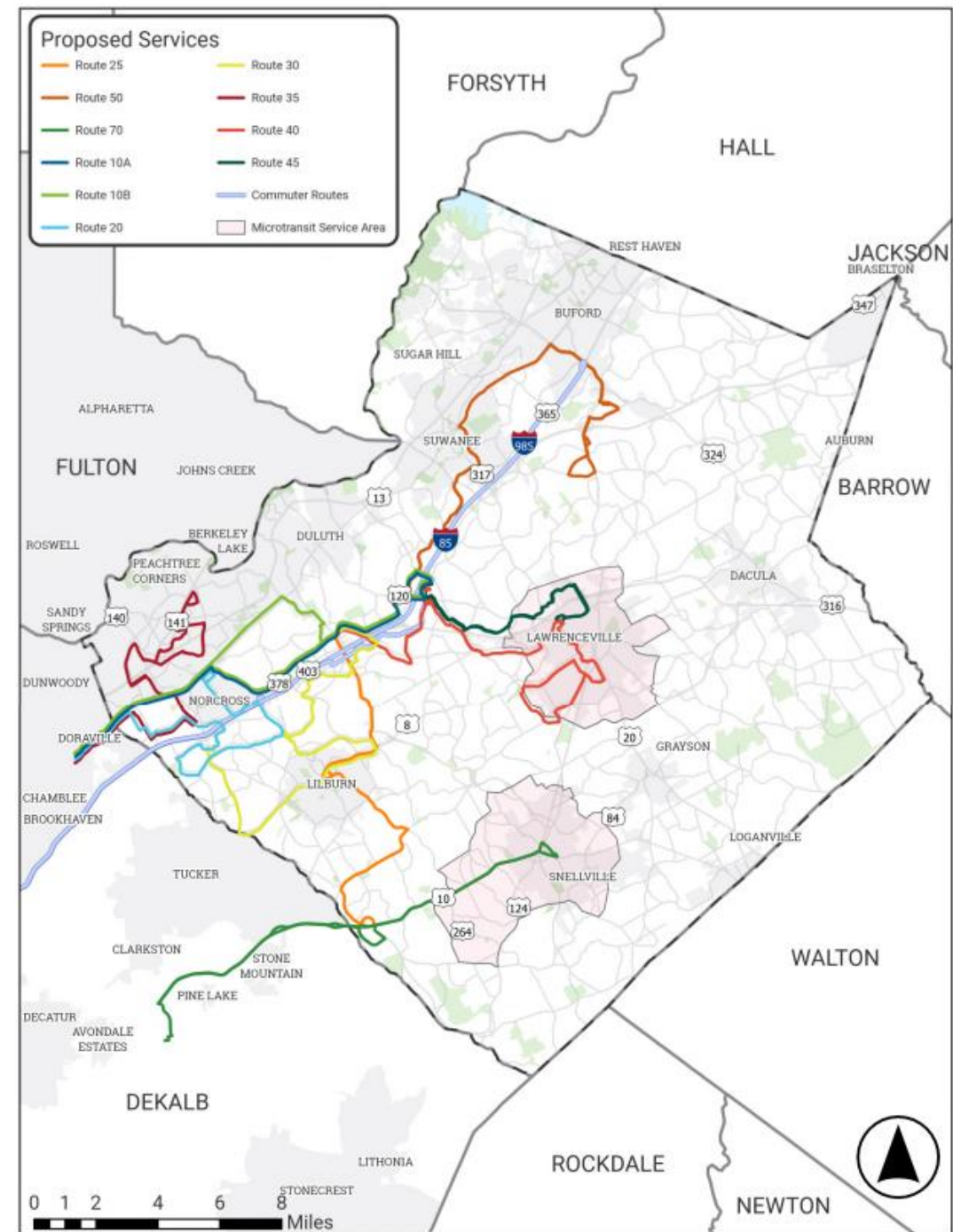
# 2023 Transit Expansion Plan

- Route 25 – Lilburn to Stone Mountain
- Route 50 – Sugarloaf P&R to Buford
- Route 70 – Snellville to Indian Creek MARTA



# Benefits of proposed expansion service

- Improvement of transportation connectivity
- Additional mobility options
- Increased employment and economic opportunities
- More than 50% of Gwinnett residents will have access to Ride Gwinnett





# What is Microtransit?

- On-demand flexible transit option
  - Curb-to-curb rideshare transit service
- Request your ride from mobile application or by calling a dispatcher
- Go from your residence or workplace to anywhere within the zone

# Microtransit Service Highlights

- Proposed microtransit fare - \$3.00 per trip
- Microtransit service days and hours: Mon – Sat 6am – 8pm
- Implementation schedule:
  - Phase 2 - August 2023 - Lawrenceville and Snellville microtransit

# New Local Service Highlights

- Local bus fare - \$2.50 per trip
- Service frequency for new routes - every 50 minutes
- Routes 25 & 70 service days and hours: Mon – Sat, 6am – 9pm
- Route 50 service days and hours: Mon – Sat, 6am – 10pm
- Implementation schedule:
  - Phase 1 - Mid 2023 - Routes 25 and 70
  - Phase 3 - November 2023 - Route 50

# Who We Heard From during Title VI Outreach

1000+

Community Responses

8

Public Meetings

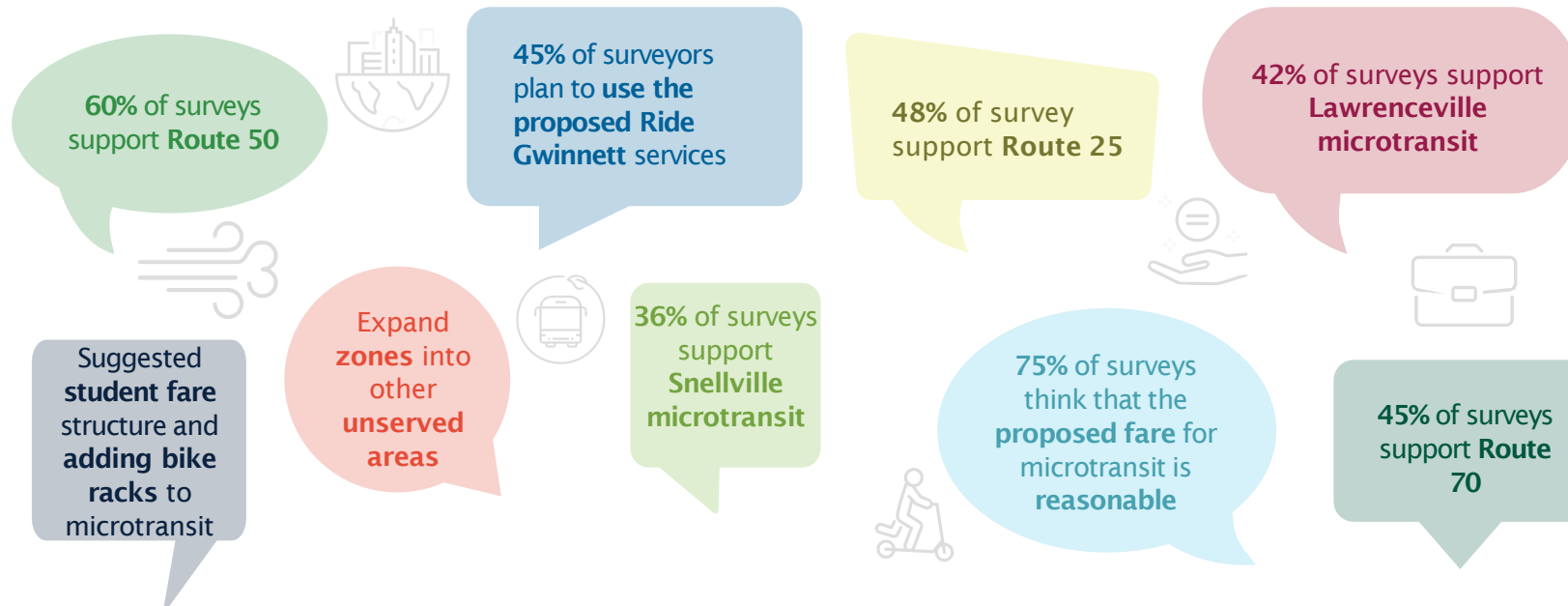
8

Stakeholder Meetings

4+

Regional Partner Meetings

## What We Heard





Questions?



# SUSTAINABLE Gwinnett

## Discussion on GCSC Advisory Committees

3.15.2023

# GCSC Bylaws: Purposes

- To review and consider the environmental sustainability needs of Gwinnett County now and in the future based upon existing and projected growth patterns.
- To review and assess environmental sustainability options for Gwinnett County, including those suggested by members of the community.
- To review and assess the feasibility of differing environmental sustainability options in Gwinnett County.
- To review and assess options for reducing Gwinnett County's environmental impact through its buildings, fleets, and practices.
- [To] provide public education and outreach on sustainability issues and encourage the community to reduce its environmental impact. –Article II (Purposes)

# GCSC Bylaws: Subcommittees

“The GCSC may create such subcommittees and/or advisory committees to carry out its purpose with timeliness and efficiency. The GCSC will state the purpose, size, and scope of authority of any subcommittee or advisory committee upon its creation. Any subcommittee or advisory committee may be terminated at any time. Membership on any subcommittee or advisory committee shall be determined by the GCSC with input from appropriate County staff. The GCSC will name at least one of its members to preside over the subcommittee or advisory committee. Members of any subcommittee or advisory committee may participate in the GCSC meetings as appropriate.” –Article VIII, Section 2 (Subcommittees)



# GCSC Bylaws: Reports

“Any written reports and recommendations, including reports of subcommittees and/or advisory committees, shall be presented to the GCSC for consideration. The GCSC will provide written recommendations to the Board of Commissioners and the County Administrator.” –Article VIII, Section 3 (Reports)

# Vision

- Subcommittees and/or advisory committees could:
  - Serve as working groups for citizens with passion and/or expertise to meet to discuss and advance county progress on specific sustainability subtopics
  - Gather important information and updates and report out findings to GCSC to inform GCSC members' decision-making and recommendations
  - Promote transparency and accountability
  - Uphold the Gwinnett Standard of excellence to help make Gwinnett a regional and national leader in sustainability

# Considerations

- Need to avoid redundancy with other Gwinnett County boards & commissions
- Would be driven by GCSC members and staff support would be limited
- For some topics, alternative public outreach methods, such as listening sessions or tables at community events, may be more effective or appropriate
- Would need to evolve flexibly as conditions change (GCSC members depart, Director of Sustainability establishes new framework, new priorities emerge, etc.)
- Some citizens have already stepped forward with interest in participating

# Reminder: Priority Topics

- The following topics emerged as those of greatest interest and concern for Gwinnett County stakeholders who responded to the 2022 public opinion survey:
  1. Recycling and Waste Reduction
  2. Overdevelopment/Loss of Trees and Greenspace
  3. Green Transportation
  4. Community Outreach
  5. Walkability/Bikability
  6. Litter
  7. Renewable Energy
  8. Business Engagement
  9. Gardens/Agriculture
  10. Water Conservation
- To advance progress but avoid duplicating efforts, the GCSC could consider partnering with related BACs, e.g., the Tree Advisory Committee, Development Advisory Committee, Gwinnett County Transit Advisory Board, Community Outreach Advisory Board, etc.



Gwinnett

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Gwinnett

# For Discussion

- Would subcommittees and/or advisory committees be a useful addition to the GCSC's work, helping us “carry out [our] purpose with timeliness & efficiency”?
- If so, what initial subcommittees and/or advisory committees would we like to vote today to create?
  - Which GCSC member(s) would preside?
  - What would be their purpose, size, and scope of authority?
  - How would membership be determined?
  - How often would they meet?
  - What governance guidelines would we put into place? (Meeting minutes, etc.)
  - How would they report out to the GCSC?

# Proposal

- Recycling & Waste Reduction Subcommittee
  - **GCSC lead:** Laura Hernandez
  - **Purpose:** To review & assess opportunities to divert solid waste in Gwinnett
  - **Size:** A maximum of 10 participants
  - **Scope of authority:** Recommending action to the GCSC and assisting with public education on recycling and waste reduction as appropriate
  - **Membership:** To be determined
  - **Meetings:** Once per month at a day, time, and location to be determined
  - **Reporting framework:** GCSC lead provides update in monthly GCSC meeting