



BATA Regular Meeting Agenda  
115 Hall Street, Traverse City, MI 49684  
Thursday, June 25, 2026  
1:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence
3. Roll Call
4. First Public Comment\*
6. Approval of Agenda/Declaration of Conflict of Interest

7. Consent Calendar

The purpose of the consent calendar is to expedite business by grouping noncontroversial items together to be dealt with in one Board motion without discussion. Any member of the Board, staff or the public may ask that any item on the consent calendar be removed and placed elsewhere on the agenda for full discussion. Such requests will be automatically respected. If an item is not removed from the consent calendar, the action noted in the parentheses on the agenda is approved by a single Board action adopting the consent calendar.

Consideration of Approving the following Minutes

- a. Regular Board Meeting Minutes of May 28, 2026
- b. Special Board Meeting Minutes of May 29, 2026
- c. Special Board Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2026

Consideration of Accepting the following Reports

- d. Local Advisory Council Meeting Minutes of June 1, 2026
- e. Monthly Income Statement
- f. Correspondence – Staff Compliments
- g. BATA Board Tracker

8. Any items removed from the Consent Calendar
9. Executive Director's Report – Chris Davis
10. Chairperson's Report

11. Old Business  
No old business.
12. New Business
  - a. Link Service Recommendations
  - b. Onboarding Process for New Executive Director
13. Second Public Comment\*
14. Directors' Comments and Announcement/Open Floor
15. Adjournment

**\* Public Comment:**

Any interested party or person may address the board on any matter of BATA concern during public comment. Comments will be limited to 5 minutes, and a one-minute warning will be given when needed. Any public comment that becomes disruptive, unduly repetitive, or impedes the orderly progress of the meeting may be terminated by the presiding officer. Once you have completed your public comments the board may ask any clarifying questions. If needed, you will be assigned a member of BATA's staff to follow up directly on any open concerns.

**Next Meeting of the BATA Board of Directors**

Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 1:00 PM  
Hall Street Transfer Station  
115 Hall Street, Traverse City, MI 49684

## **BATA Regular Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**Location:** Hall Street Transfer Station, 115 Hall Street, Traverse City, MI 49684

**Date:** Thursday, May 28, 2026

**Time:** 1:00 PM

### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Wayne Schmidt at 1:05 PM.

### **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

### **3. Roll Call**

- John Somnavilla – PRESENT
- Lance Boehmer – PRESENT (arrived at 1:33 PM)
- Gwenne Allgaier – ABSENT
- Janice Wyant – PRESENT
- Fern Spence – PRESENT
- Sarah Bye – ABSENT
- Wayne Schmidt – PRESENT

### **4. Oath of Office**

Janice Wyant took her official oath of office, as a new BATA Board member.

### **5. First Public Comment\***

No public comment was offered.

### **6. Approval of Agenda/Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Motion by Fern Spence, supported by John Somnavilla, to approve the May 28, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Agenda/Declaration of Conflict of Interest as presented.

- **Ayes: 4**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 4-0**

### **7. Consent Calendar**

The purpose of the consent calendar is to expedite business by grouping non-controversial items together to be dealt with in one Board motion without discussion. Any member of the Board, staff, or the public may ask that any item on the consent calendar be removed and placed elsewhere on the agenda for full discussion. Such requests will be automatically respected. If an item is not removed from the consent calendar, the action noted in parentheses on the agenda is approved by a single Board action adopting the consent calendar.

## Consideration of Approving the Following

- a. Regular Board Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2026
- b. Governance Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2026
- c. Governance Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2026

## Consideration of Accepting the Following Reports

- d. Monthly Income Statement
- e. Correspondence – Staff Compliments
- f. BATA Board Tracker

Motion by Fern Spence, supported by John Somavilla, to approve the May 28, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Consent Calendar as presented.

- **Ayes: 4**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 4-0**

## 8. Any Items Removed from the Consent Calendar.

No items were removed from the Consent Calendar.

## 9. Executive Director's Report

Chris Davis presented the May report and highlighted BATA's successful support of the Bayshore Marathon on May 23, 2026, during which staff provided more than 1,000 rides on the Bayshore line and approximately 400 shuttle rides between Central High School and the end of Old Mission Peninsula. She reported extensive community outreach efforts by staff, including presentations at Rotary, MI Career Quest, NMC Campus Day, the TC Senior Expo, and meetings with MDOT, local executive leaders, and the Statewide Urban Operators meeting. Staff also attended a Traverse Area Human Resources Association benefits broker panel discussion. Chris added that Operations is preparing for National Cherry Festival service enhancements and recognized BATA drivers for their positive attitude in navigating numerous regional construction projects.

## 10. Chairman's Report

No report given at this time.

***Note:** By consensus of the Board, consideration of the Resolution Calling for Public Transportation Millage (Old Business) and the 2026 Tax Rate Request Resolution, L4029 for Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties (New Business) were moved in the order of the agenda to accommodate Board attendance for roll call votes.*

## 11. Old Business

### Fare System Project Update

Eric Linguar provided an update on the EZ Fare system. Key points include:

- Planned installation of ticket vending machines at Hall Street and LaFranier park-and-ride area.
- Staff training is currently underway.
- Equipment installation is expected to begin following the National Cherry Festival.
- Public education and outreach efforts scheduled throughout the summer
- Soft launch anticipated during the week of August 17.
- Full transition to the new system planned following Labor Day.
- Existing fare media will be accepted through the end of the year to allow riders time to transition.
- Board discussion included customer education, public outreach opportunities, and rider assistance during implementation.

### **Resolution Calling for Public Transportation Millage**

Chris Davis presented a resolution calling for a seven-year public transportation millage renewal to appear on the November election ballot. The proposed millage rate is 0.4589 mills, reflecting Headlee rollback adjustments. Legal counsel has approved the resolution.

Motion by Fern Spence, supported by Janice Wyant, to approve the resolution and ballot language as presented.

#### **Roll Call Vote:**

- **Ayes: John Somnavilla, Lance Boehmer, Janice Wyant, Fern Spence, and Wayne Schmidt**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 5-0**

## **12. New Business**

### **Public Transit Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)**

Erik Falcon presented the PTASP update and reported:

- This is a renewal of last year; there are no changes to any of the policies, just updates to the safety metrics.
- No major safety events within demand-response operations during 2025.
- Four reportable fixed-route events, with three being non-preventable collisions.
- Two passenger injuries resulting from one non-preventable collision.
- One transit worker assault incident (pushed by a passenger, suspended from riding for one-year).
- Continued strong staff safety performance and proactive safety committee efforts.
- No major events have occurred in 2026 to date.

Motion by Fern Spence, supported by Janice Wyant, to approve the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan.

#### **Roll Call Vote:**

- **Ayes: John Somnavilla, Janice Wyant, Fern Spence, and Wayne Schmidt**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 4-0**

## **VIA Renewal Agreement**

Eric Linguar presented the proposed renewal of the VIA demand-response software agreement. He reported cost savings through participation in the Neoride consortium and recommended a three-year agreement.

Motion by John Somavilla, supported by Fern Spence, to approve the renewal of the VIA agreement as presented.

- **Ayes: 4**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 4-0**

## **2026 Tax Rate Request Resolution, L4029 for Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties**

Chris Davis presented the annual Tax Rate Request Resolution establishing the adjusted tax rate of 0.4589 mills.

Motion by Lance Boehmer, supported by Fern Spence, to approve the tax rate request resolution.

### **Roll Call Vote:**

- **Ayes: John Somavilla, Lance Boehmer, Janice Wyant, Fern Spence, and Wayne Schmidt**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 5-0**

## **15. Second Public Comment**

No public comment was offered.

## **16. Director's Comments and Announcements/ Open Floor**

- Lance Boehmer reported on the City's Street Advisory Committee activities.
- Chris Davis invited Board members to attend the breakfast event on June 3 from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. at Hall Street in conjunction with Smart Commute Week activities.
- Fern Spence asked about transit access to Pit Spitters games. There is not a dedicated route to those events, but customers can schedule a ride.
- Board members welcomed new Board member Janice Wyant who shared her professional background, community engagement efforts, and why she wanted to serve on BATA's Board.
- Board members requested that staff send Board meeting calendar invitations for the remainder of the meetings this year.

## **17. Adjournment**

Motion by Lance Boehmer, supported by Fern Spence, to adjourn the May 28, 2026, Regular Meeting of the BATA Board of Directors at 1:46 PM. The next BATA Board meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2026 at 1:00 PM at the Hall Street Transfer Station, 115 Hall Street, Traverse City, MI 49684.

Meeting Minutes Submitted by:           *Chris Davis*          

Meeting Minutes Approved on: \_\_\_\_\_

Gwenne Allgaier, Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

## **BATA Special Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**Location:** BATA Headquarters, 1340 Hammond Road West, Traverse City, MI 49686

**Date:** Friday, May 29, 2026

**Time:** 1:30 PM

### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Wayne Schmidt at 1:30 PM.

### **2. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

### **3. Roll Call**

- John Somnavilla - PRESENT
- Gwenne Allgaier - ABSENT
- Sarah Bye - PRESENT
- Fern Spence- PRESENT
- Lance Boehmer – PRESENT
- Janice Wyant - ABSENT
- Wayne Schmidt - PRESENT

### **4. Public Comment**

No public comment was made at this time.

### **5. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Fern Spence and supported by Lance Boehmer to amend the May 29, 2026, Special Board Meeting agenda and add line 7a. with the topic of deliberation to the agenda.

- **Ayes: 5**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 5-0**

### **6. New Business**

#### **a. Executive Director Candidate A – Patrick Preusser**

Kate Green introduced Mr. Preusser to the full board and gave an introduction on the assignment that each candidate was given. The assignment that was given was to look at BATA in the future, 2036 and that he has been the executive director for the past 10 years,

what milestones have been achieved during that time and what the future possibilities are for BATA.

Mr. Preusser presented his presentation to the board.

Key Points Include:

- The transition from rural to small urban transit.
- Leading by listening first, building together, thoughtful modernization, and leading with stewardship.
- Building a reliable, sustainable, and aligned organization.
- Technology upgrades, data informed operations, preventive and predictive maintenance.
- Accessibility became how BATA defines services and success overall.
- Strengthened relationships with TTCI, tourism partners, and community organizations.
- Financial strength improved.
- Investing in our people and community.

After the presentation, Fern Spence and Lance Boehmer commented on the Park n Ride and how that is very beneficial for riders. The knowledge that Mr. Preusser has of how that system works is very useful. John Somnavilla commented that the presentation reflected BATA's current strengths and recognized the contributions that have helped shape the organization.

The Board moved into the question-and-answer segment of the interview. Mr. Preusser was asked a series of questions that focused on leadership style, finance and funding, board relations, and strategies for strengthening the organization.

Key Points Include:

- Designing high quality service for the riders.
- Listening and learning from the management team.
- Working collaboratively and closely with the board, staff, and community.
- Alignment in the service, capital and financial planning.
- Delivering on 2026 Strategic Plan that is already in place.
- Experience in overseeing grant work, both state and federal.

Mr. Preusser presented his closing statement and thanked the board, the leadership team, and employees that he has had the opportunity to interact with during his time here. Mr. Preusser said that he is thankful for the time he had to learn about the organization, the

community, and the region. There is a great foundation at BATA with community support and dedicated employees. BATA goes beyond just transit; it helps people remain connected to essential services and everyday life. Mr. Preusser again thanked the board and the opportunity to be part of this process.

b. Executive Director Candidate B – Matt McCauley

Kate Green introduced Mr. McCauley to the full board. Mr. McCauley was also given the assignment of a presentation of what BATA looks like 10 years in the future and what milestones have been achieved during that time and what the future possibilities are for BATA.

Mr. McCauley made his presentation to the board.

Key Points Include:

- Culture and team empowerment
- Technology – route optimization, safety, maintenance, and dynamic forecasting.
- Community partnerships – riders and municipalities, transit collaboration, connecting people to human services and commerce.
- Sustainable funding.
- Goals for the future include- zero emissions, microtransit, and mobility as a system.

After the presentation Lance Boehmer and Fern Spence commented on the TOD and how important that is to develop residential units along a planned transit corridor.

The Board moved into the question-and-answer segment of the interview. Mr. McCauley was asked a series of questions that focused on leadership style, finance and funding, and board relations, and strategies for strengthening the organization.

Key Points Include:

- Creating connections between roles and responsibilities in departments towards even more efficiency.
- Making BATA a transportation of choice.
- Listening and learning from the management team and staff.
- Knowledge of funding at state and federal levels.
- Working collaboratively and closely with the board.

Mr. McCauley presented his closing statement to the board. Mr. McCauley highlighted the importance of strategic planning and collaboration among the Board, staff, community stakeholders, and leadership. Mr. McCauley emphasized prior experience in the transportation sector, established regional and state relationships, and a demonstrated

record of securing resources and advancing organizational goals. Mr. McCauley also expressed a strong commitment to the region and a desire to leverage their experience and professional network to support BATA's continued growth and success.

## **7. Second Public Comment**

No public comment was made at this time.

### **a. Deliberation**

The Board reviewed and discussed the qualifications of the two Executive Director candidates. Discussion included each candidate's education, professional experience, leadership qualities, overall knowledge of the position and organization, interview performance, and presentation materials provided during the selection process. The Board also considered information obtained through reference checks and discussed strengths and areas where additional development or experience may be beneficial for each candidate. Board members shared their observations and impressions regarding the candidates' ability to fulfill the responsibilities of the Executive Director position and meet the current and future needs of the organization.

Moved by Lance Boehmer and supported by Sarah Bye to authorize Chairperson Wayne Schmidt, in conjunction with legal counsel, to negotiate an employment agreement with Patrick Preusser for the position of Executive Director.

### **Roll Call Vote**

- **Ayes: John Sommovilla, Lance Boehmer, Fern Spence, Sarah Bye, and Wayne Schmidt.**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 5-0**

Wayne Schmidt commented that another meeting will take place within the next two weeks to discuss contract negotiations. Date to be determined.

Lance Boehmer and John Sommovilla commented that the current contract between BATA and Human Resource Partners needs to be reevaluated, and a possible addendum be made due to the costs and dynamics of the process.

Moved by John Sommovilla and supported by Lance Boehmer to review the current contract with HR Partners and consider a possible addendum.

- **Ayes: 5**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 5-0**

## 8. Directors Comments/Open Floor

No comments made at this time.

## 9. Adjournment

Moved by Lance Boehmer to adjourn the Special Board Meeting of May 29, 2026, of the BATA Board of Directors at 6:00 PM.

Meeting Minutes Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Minutes Approved on: \_\_\_\_\_

Gwenne Allgaier, Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

## **BATA Special Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**Location:** Hall Street Transfer Station, 115 Hall Street, Traverse City, MI 49684

**Date:** Thursday, June 11, 2026

**Time:** 1:00 PM

### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Wayne Schmidt at 1:03 PM.

### **2. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

### **3. Roll Call**

- John Sommavilla – PRESENT
- Gwenne Allgaier – PRESENT
- Sarah Bye – PRESENT
- Janice Wyant – PRESENT
- Fern Spence – PRESENT
- Lance Boehmer – PRESENT
- Fern Spence – PRESENT
- Wayne Schmidt – PRESENT

### **4. First Public Comment\***

No public comment was offered.

### **5. Approval of Agenda/Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Motion by Fern Spence, supported by Lance Boehmer, to approve the June 11, 2026, Special Board Meeting Agenda/Declaration of Conflict of Interest as presented.

- **Ayes: 7**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 7-0**

### **6. Closed Session**

- a. Closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(h) to discuss an attorney's written opinion that is exempt from disclosure under state and federal law.

Motion by Lance Boehmer, supported by Fern Spence, for the BATA Board of Directors to go into Closed Session at 1:05 PM to discuss an attorney's written opinion that is exempt from discussion disclosure under section 13(1)(g) of the Freedom of Information Act, which exempts from public disclosure information or records to the attorney-client privilege.

Roll Call Vote:

- **Ayes:** John Sommovilla, Gwenne Allgaier, Sarah Bye, Janice Wyant, Fern Spence, Lance Boehmer, and Wayne Schmidt
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 7-0**

Motion by Lance Boehmer, supported by Fern Spence, to adjourn Closed Session and reopen the Special Meeting at 1:40 PM.

- **Ayes: 7**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 7-0**

### **7. Approval of the Updates to the Job Description of the Executive Director.**

Motion by Fern Spence, supported by Janice Wyant, to approve the updates to the job description of the Executive Director.

- **Ayes: 7**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 7-0**

### **8. Approval of the Employment Agreement with Patrick Preusser for the Position of Executive Director**

Motion by Lance Boehmer, supported by Sarah Bye, to approve the employment agreement with Patrick Preusser and authorize the Board Chairman to execute the agreement upon receipt of a satisfactory criminal background check.

- **Ayes:** John Sommovilla, Gwenne Allgaier, Sarah Bye, Janice Wyant, Fern Spence, Lance Boehmer, and Wayne Schmidt
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 7-0**

### **9. Human Resource Partners Contract**

a. Consideration of Addendum to Current Human Resource Partners Contract

Motion by Lance Boehmer, supported by Sarah Bye, to consider an addendum to the current Human Resource Partners contract. The Board discussed the extra work that Human Resource Partners did above and beyond the original contract, including travel expenses to bring the new Executive Director and his spouse from Colorado to visit the region.

- **Ayes: 7**
- **Nays: 0**

- **Motion Carries: 7-0**

Chairperson Schmidt thanked the Board for their extra work throughout the Executive Director search process.

**10. Second Public Comment\***

No public comment was offered.

**11. Director’s Comments and Announcements/Open Floor**

- Jim Somnavilla requested the Board ensure that a two-week onboarding schedule is drafted and approved by the Board prior to the new Executive Director’s arrival on July 22, 2026. It was recommended that the plan include scheduled meetings with local leaders/dignitaries, Board members, and key Directors, and that the job duties help guide the onboarding plan. Chairman Schmidt will ask Chris Davis to draft an onboarding plan to share with the Board at the June 25, 2026, Regular Board Meeting.
- Fern Spence asked about onboarding for Board Members, because she did not receive onboarding. The other Board members said they received onboarding (Administration confirmed that Fern did receive orientation on June 5, 2025, at the Firefly Restaurant with Chris Davis).

**12. Adjournment**

Chairman Schmit adjourned the meeting at 1:53 PM. The next BATA Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 1:00 PM at the Hall Street Transfer Station, 115 Hall Street, Traverse City, MI 49684.

Meeting Minutes Submitted by: *Kelly Walter*

Meeting Minutes Approved on: \_\_\_\_\_

Gwenne Allgaier, Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

## BATA - Local Advisory Council Minutes

Monday, June 1, 2026, 12:01 – 1:15pm

Hall St Transfer Station

### In attendance:

- **Linda Joppich:** LAC Chair / Community Representative
- **Matt Morritz:** Community Representative
- **Caleb Lindgren:** Goodwill Northern Michigan
- **Lana Payne:** Grand Traverse Commission on Aging
- **Mandy Joppich:** Community Representative
- **Lena Vander Meulen:** Leelanau County Senior Services
- **Dee Newman Wilkinson:** Area Agency on Aging
- **Susan Odgers:** Community Representative
- **Lacey Edgecomb:** Senior Center Network
- **Mitch Treadwell:** Traverse City Commissioner
- Keir Rasmussen/BATA Technology
- Eric Lingaur/BATA Communications
- Bill Clark/BATA Outreach
- Chris Davis/BATA Human Resources & interim Director

### 1. Welcome to the 2026 Local Advisory Council Spring Meeting!

- Introductions & News from your world?
  - Lacey with the GT Senior Center is helping seniors learn how to use BATA and riding at least once a week. Dee with the Area Agency on Aging emphasized how riding buses in a college town gave her great experiences on transit. Lena with Leelanau Senior Services mentioned the upcoming Leelanau Senior Expo on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and outlined her hope for a future partnership with BATA for senior grocery trips. Chris with BATA discussed BATA's staffing needs, shortages, and recent hiring successes. Eric with BATA welcomed everyone on a nice first day of Smart Commute Week while Traverse City Commissioner Mitch concurred that this is a great week that people look forward to all year. Linda is a "Friend of Transit," has served on BATA's board of directors, and helped BATA create the Route 12 where she is currently very impressed with its operation in this heavy construction period. Mandy concurred that the drivers on this route and others know a great deal and are trustworthy to always be there for you. Matt has been riding BATA for 26 years and relies on BATA. He strongly recommends an organization named "Better Together" that united individuals with various disabilities. Online participants included Lana with GTCOA, who is bummed to be missing our lunch but happy to be a part of the group today remotely. Susan is a part of the Community Foundation and writes a column in the Record Eagle and recommends working with the Safe Streets Coalition and forwarding concerns to the City and MDOT for pedestrian issues that Dee brought up earlier. Caleb with Goodwill Inn thanked the group for including Goodwill on these discussions. Bill with BATA thanked everyone for being here on our first day

of Smart Commute Week where residents collectively walk, bike, bus, carpool, or even paddle instead of drive whenever they can for a change of pace.

## 2. BATA prepares for summer of 2026

- Discussion of tweaks for Summer 2026
  - Summer Bike-n-Ride is on, there is a new end point at East Bay Park-n-Ride at TBACU, Route 14 will run on Saturdays while Route 5 will not, and there are a few new bus stops added to our network. Most of our big summer construction projects are nearing completion.
  - Mandy and Linda asked if the deviation allowances on Route 12 will return to normal after the construction? Yes, deviations will be incorporated again once the time challenges of the construction are over.
  - Kudos were expressed to drivers and staff with all the weather and construction – “They must navigate all of that and they are amazing!”
  - BATA outreach is always happy to enlist BATA Buddies to continue to encourage and expand that program to help people get more comfortable using public transit.
    - Susan suggested the Widows and Widowers group and others

## 3. August 2026 Fare System Changes

- How will it work?
  - New fare cards that are good on ALL of BATA buses will be used beginning on August 17. Riders will no longer be sold the current style beginning that day and will no longer be able to use them on buses after December 31.
    - Old fare values can be moved to new fare cards beginning in August.
    - Programs with the COA, TCAPS, workforce employers, library, etc. will be transitioned to the new system.
      - Some of these groups will have the ability to sign their members up for BATA accounts and even to add funds to their accounts.
      - The new system will give more options to check balances on cards, cancel lost cards, find out how much funds are out on cards, handle balances remotely, etc.
    - BATA wishes to do as many public education sessions as possible anywhere that we can be.
      - It is stressed that although this new fare system is DIFFERENT, it may serve our riders BETTER once they use it. Getting past the difference is the hardest part of the transition.
  - Riders can also use credit cards, smart phones, and possibly other chip-read cards and devices. Some of these features will begin later in the fall.
  - Reduced fare cards can be incorporated directly into their fare cards for faster and more discreet boarding.
  - Riders can use cash as well but will have the option to exchange cash for fare cards at vending machines, at Hall Street’s window, or at select merchants around the region. Currently, there are no set plans to discontinue the acceptance of cash on buses.
- How to best communicate this to YOUR people?
  - Outreach events, BATA Buddies, training staff, website instructions, etc.

4. Summer website updates – we discussed the upcoming changes at our last LAC meeting and have used the ideas and suggestions that members provided to us to create a website that is useful and easy to navigate that will be launched later this summer.
5. Update on BATA’s Search for an Executive Director
  - Chris stated that 40 to 50 applications were received nationwide and last Friday they interviewed two finalists. One of them has risen to the top and details of the contract and starting date will be coming soon.
  - Joe Underwood's term expired in December and a new seventh board member was appointed, Janice Wyatt.
  - We have five drivers starting Monday, plus advertising and job fairs to boost recruiting. We've kept the standards up and we have our turnover rate low. We don't normally have a class in July just because of all the demands but with more recruits, we're having a class this July!
6. Introduction to the fall 2026 BATA millage on the November 3<sup>rd</sup> ballot
  - The question was asked, “What is the same and what is different about the millage?”
    - a 7-year millage renewal which will run 2028 to 2034
    - not to exceed .4589 millage
  - Millage Ideas from Susan: Go to Central Neighborhood and talk to riders there with outreach and education sessions. Perhaps Q&A interviews with riders.
7. Discussion, adjourn, and thanks!
  - Mitch suggested making sure we have competitive job benefits and continue to negotiate.
  - Matt would like to thank Wayne for seeing Better Together ads.
  - Susan says that drivers are great educators and understandable the riders, she encourage people to come to Hall Street for more information about BATA.
  - The meeting was adjourned at 1:12PM.

2026 Local Advisory Council Membership

- **Linda Joppich:** LAC Chair / Community Representative
- **Matt Morritz:** Community Representative
- **Dan Buron/Cobe Farris/Caleb Lindgren:** Goodwill Northern Michigan
- **Lana Payne:** Grand Traverse Commission on Aging
- **Mandy Joppich:** Community Representative
- **Lena Vander Meulen:** Leelanau County Senior Services
- **Melissa Shea/Dee Newman Wilkinson:** Area Agency on Aging
- **Demarie Jones:** Disability Network Northern Michigan
- **Susan Odgers:** Community Representative
- **Lacey Edgecomb:** Senior Center Network
- **Mitch Treadwell:** Traverse City Commissioner

CC: Christina Coger/MDOT, Keir Rasmussen/BATA, Eric Lingaur/BATA, Bill Clark/BATA

## BATA Income Statement May 2026

	May 2026		\$ Over (Under)	May 2025
	Actual	Budget	Budget	Actual
<b>Income</b>				
Fare Box Revenue	\$ 396,134	\$ 383,333	\$ 12,801	\$ 392,411
Local Service Contracts	258,834 <b>1</b>	372,288	(113,454)	305,950
Auxiliary Trans Revenue	248,153 <b>2</b>	159,067	89,086	145,632
Non-Trans Revenue	105	4,000	(3,895)	158,141
Local Revenue	2,010,397 <b>3</b>	2,097,726	(87,329)	2,030,393
State Formula & Contracts	3,166,367 <b>4</b>	2,806,975	359,392	3,196,191
Federal Operating Grants	1,944,318 <b>5</b>	1,672,639	271,678	1,827,891
Other Revenue	443,166 <b>6</b>	166,667	276,500	521,280
Refunds and Credits	125,159	33,333	91,826	197,569
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 8,592,634</b>	<b>\$ 7,696,029</b>	<b>\$ 896,605</b>	<b>\$ 8,775,458</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
Salaries & Wages	\$ 4,666,032	\$ 4,831,827	\$ (165,795)	\$ 4,575,857
Paid Leave	448,080	448,073	7	343,928
Fringe Benefits	1,532,686 <b>7</b>	1,442,537	90,149	1,412,472
Services	709,528 <b>8</b>	703,766	5,762	557,013
Fuel & Lubricants	332,328 <b>9</b>	395,867	(63,539)	391,687
Materials & Supplies	338,548 <b>10</b>	286,191	52,357	294,829
Utilities	214,757 <b>11</b>	228,713	(13,955)	228,712
Insurance	514,794	530,670	(15,876)	566,947
Misc Expense	44,995 <b>12</b>	42,672	2,323	46,862
Operating Leases & Rentals	1,050	1,200	(150)	2,534
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 8,802,797</b>	<b>\$ 8,911,515</b>	<b>\$ (108,718)</b>	<b>\$ 8,420,842</b>
<b>Net Income before Depreciation</b>	<b>\$ (210,163)</b>	<b>\$ (1,215,487)</b>	<b>\$ 1,005,323</b>	<b>\$ 354,616</b>
Depreciation	2,391,130	1,270,157	1,120,973	772,417
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ (2,601,293)</b>	<b>\$ (2,485,643)</b>	<b>\$ (115,650)</b>	<b>\$ (417,801)</b>

**BATA Income Statement Notes**  
**May 2026**

	<u>Account(s)</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Revenue</b>
<u>1</u>	Local Service Contracts	Contract with Grand Traverse Industries, billed actual hours beginning in FY26. Billed within 10 days after the end of the month. (\$36k O/S)
<u>2</u>	Auxiliary Trans Revenue	Big advertising contracts executed.
<u>3</u>	Local Revenue	Winter tax levy funds, County settlements received in June.
<u>4</u>	State Formula & Contracts	Actual based on eligible expenses thru May 2026, reimbursement rate of 34.8467% for FY26
<u>5</u>	Federal Operating	Based on current year expenses, requesting funds from FTA quarterly. Reimbursement rate of 18%. Next request of funds will be mid July.
<u>6</u>	Other Revenue	Interest Revenue from investments, averaging 3.7175% (flat from March) as well as refunds/insurance claims
	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Expenses</b>
<u>7</u>	Fringe Benefits	Slightly higher costs identified in healthcare, capturing more costs in Admin group than budgeted. Also changes throughout the year based on new enrollments. Worker's comp claims higher than budgeted this year.
<u>8</u>	Services	Service Contracts will be paid throughout the year when due, budget based on average over 12 months, several big IT contracts paid early in year and beginning to level out.
<u>9</u>	Fuel & Lubricants	Budget reflects new propane contract pricing, \$0.29 less per gallon for FY26. New Contract started December 2025 through December 2027.
<u>10</u>	Materials & Supplies	Custodial Supplies/Vehicle parts are trending higher and will continue to be monitored
<u>11</u>	Utilities	Billing is a month behind, budget is a 12 month average
<u>12</u>	Misc Expense	Dues for most partners paid, dues slightly higher than budget increased over last year

## STAFF COMPLIMENTS – June 2026

\*Jay Windham - A passenger wrote to thank Jay for somehow figuring out that she needed a walker, when the passenger had no idea. He said Jay was aware, observant, diplomatic, pro-active, intelligent, wise, and a genius. The passenger is 80 years old and in very bad health. She said she can now stay out longer, and Jay prolonged her life and probably even saved it!

\*Matthew Kaple – Thanks to Mat for quickly responding to replacing an older woman’s mailbox when a driver accidentally damaged it!

\*Brian Steed – A passenger called to say how super nice Brian was and how great he drove and how very careful he was. She lives in Pennsylvania and can’t wait to come back and ride the bus again!

\*Dispatch and Drivers – A passenger called to compliment our dispatchers and drivers on how amazing, polite and considerate they are. She said the dispatchers are lovely, courteous, personable and so helpful even when the passenger asks a lot of questions. She said not once have they lost their patience with her or gotten annoyed. She said BATA is doing an amazing job hiring people to work at BATA.

\*Stacey Wyler, Bain Donegan – A passenger called to compliment Stacey and Bain when she lost her glasses, and they worked together to get them to her. The passenger is very grateful!

\*Cheryl Treadwell – A pregnant passenger wrote to say that Cheryl is a lovely driver. She gives grace and love to every rider. She said Cheryl never judges, she’s patient, and basically a mom to everyone she meets.

\*Jim Danek – Thanks to Jim for taking the time to listen to an issue a passenger was having, understand the circumstances, and work toward to solution that supported both the rider and BATA operations. Jim used empathy, communication and problem solving to find a path forward for everyone involved.

\*Shout out to everyone who assisted with the Bayshore Marathon. We appreciate the early morning hours involved. You all made BATA shine!  
THANK YOU!!

\*Josh Stone – Shout out to Josh to thank him for resolving an issue with some passengers not receiving texts for their link rides. He figured out a solution and communicated it to others.

\*Adam Peplinski – A person called to say that Adam observed two special needs passengers waiting for their bus and it was starting to get cold and they were very early for their ride. Adam noticed they weren't scheduled for later and offered to pick them up early. They were very happy and the person who witnessed this said people like Adam make a huge difference in our community.

\*Ken Hammond – Thanks to Ken for helping with resolving propane issues, moving buses in and out of the barn, stepping in whenever assistance is needed and responded to dispatch with quick solutions and a positive attitude and responsiveness.

\*Nicholas Andresen – Thanks for helping your fellow driver when she was involved in an accident with nine passengers on board on a Saturday and the back up was taking care of something else.

Chris Davis

# BATA Board Tracker

Board Meeting Date Discussed	Board or Staff Member	Topic	Status
6/27/2024	Adam BeVier	Link Service	Will revisit again at a later date. New Business agenda item 6/25/2026.
6/25/2026			

## JUNE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

### INTERNAL:

- \*Worked with Operations Staff on 6/15/26 service changes and stop improvements.
- \*Hosted the Try Transit Day breakfast for over 160 people at BATA's Hall Street Transfer Station and provided 1,455 free rides across our fixed route system.
- \*Conducted new BATA Board member orientation with Janice Wyant.
- \*Met with BATA's Wellness Team.
- \*Presented anniversary service pins to employees at the monthly Comms meetings.
- \*Co-chaired BATA's Safety Team meeting.
- \*Met with BATA's new hires.
- \*Extensive planning is going well for Cherry Festival week.
- \*All EV chargers at HQ and Hall Street have been commissioned with each of the EV vans.
- \*Spring mechanical inspections using our new MaintainX software have been completed.
- \*Five new propane buses and one diesel bus expected to arrive in September.
- \*The 13<sup>th</sup> season of Bike-n-Ride kicked off Memorial Day weekend.
- \*Started backend user experience testing with EZ Fare.

## EXTERNAL:

- \*Attended the Executive Leaders Meeting at the Governmental Center.
- \*Attended a preliminary virtual meeting with representatives from HUB International prior to going out for rate renewals.
- \*Met with HUB International staff regarding BATA's Workers' Comp and Accidents.
- \*Met with our Federal Transit Administration (FTA) representative.
- \*Hosted the Local Advisory Council at the Hall Street Transfer Station.
- \*Attended a meeting with local interns at the Hagerty Garage.
- \*Attended Traverse Area Human Resource Association (TAHRA's) Board of Directors meeting.
- \*Attended a legal session sponsored by TAHRA.
- \*Attended a planning session for the Michigan Negotiators Association (MNA).
- \*Attended the weekly noon Rotary meetings.
- \*Provided additional transportation support for the Bayshore Marathon.
- \*Provided information to seniors at the Leelanau Senior Expo.
- \*Meeting with seasonal workers on how to navigate to work at Interlochen Arts Academy, Glen Arbor, and Grand Traverse Resort.

CHRIS DAVIS

# BATA Link

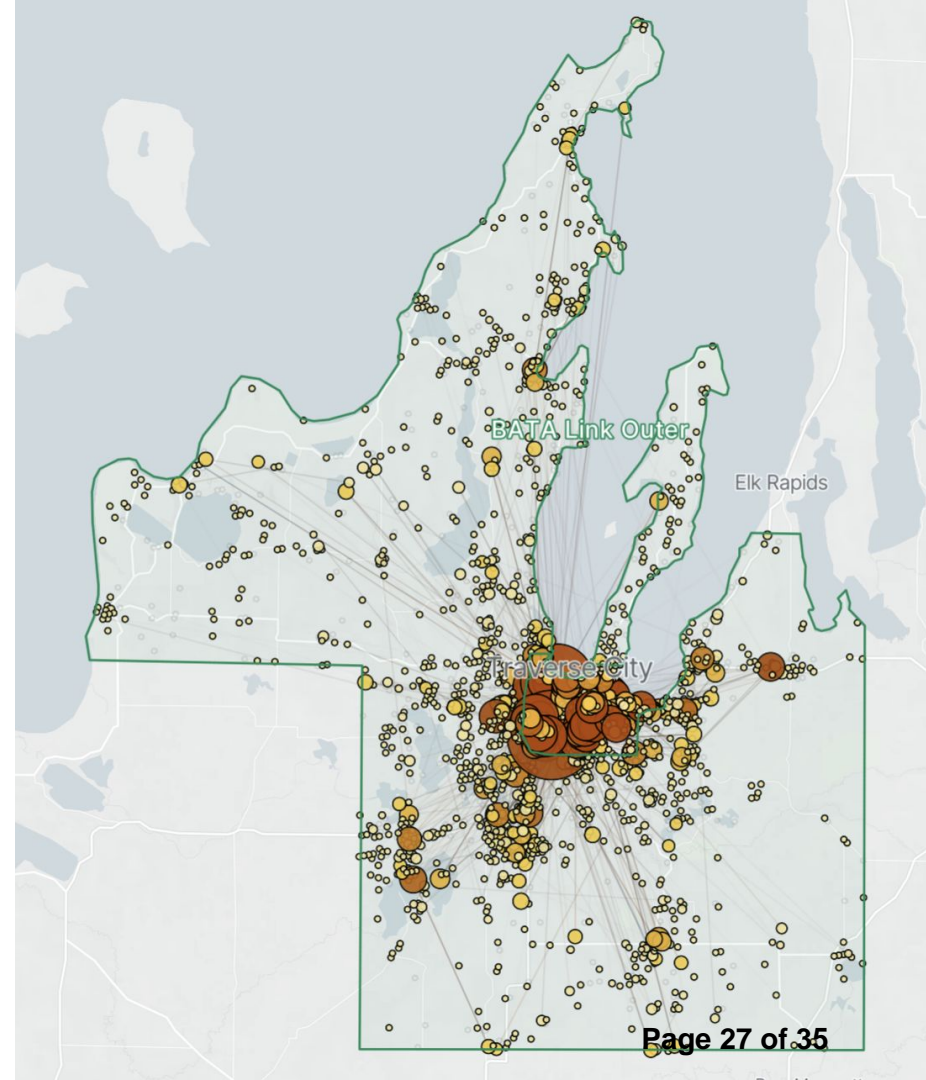
## 2026 Service Improvements

June 25, 2026

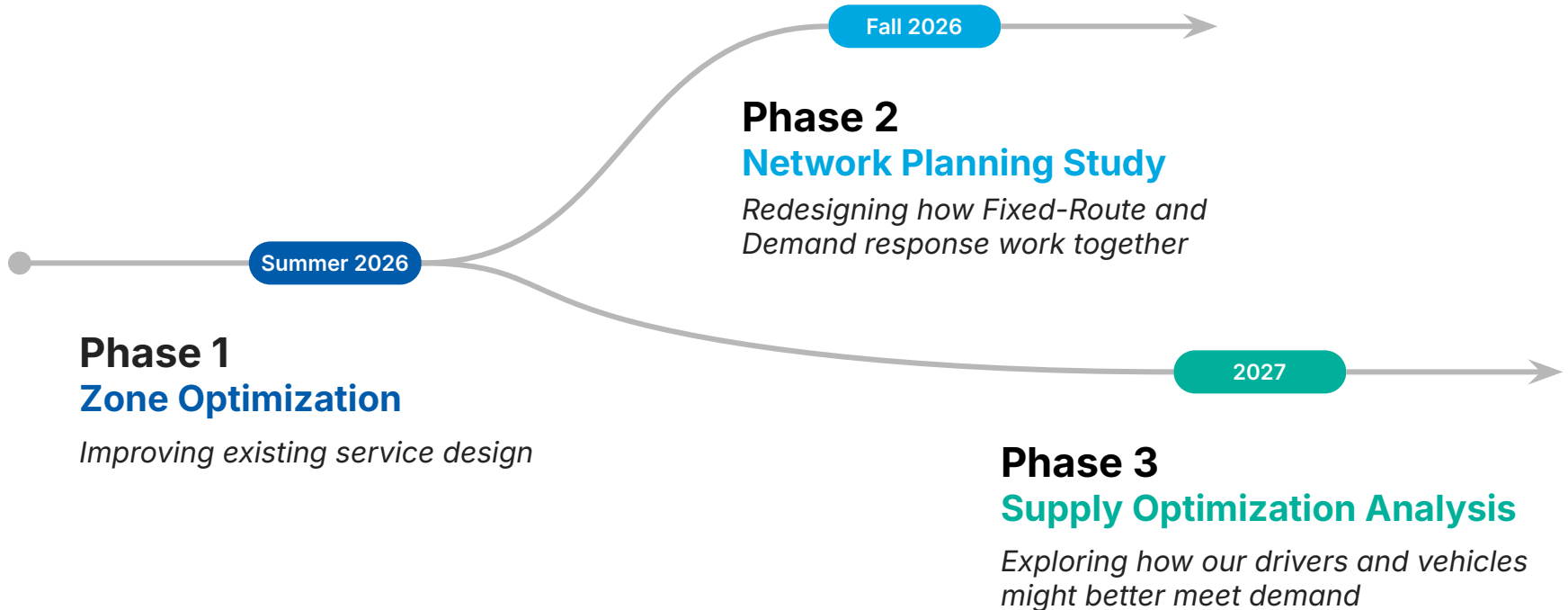


# BATA Link combines two services; each with unique rider needs and expectations

	Small Urban Zone	Large Rural Zone
<b>Trip Type</b>	Quick, casual trips around town (e.g. groceries)	Longer, pre-planned trips in/out of town (e.g. doctor's appt)
<b>Behavior</b>	Supplements fixed route service	Functions like a Dial-a-Ride
<b>Goal + Main KPI</b>	Must be <u>convenient</u> (low ETAs)	Must be <u>reliable</u> (high PB availability)



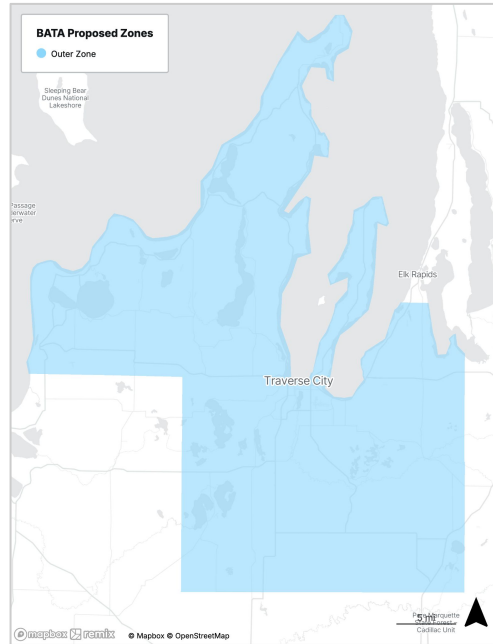
# We now have the data to further optimize service and build momentum ahead of November's millage



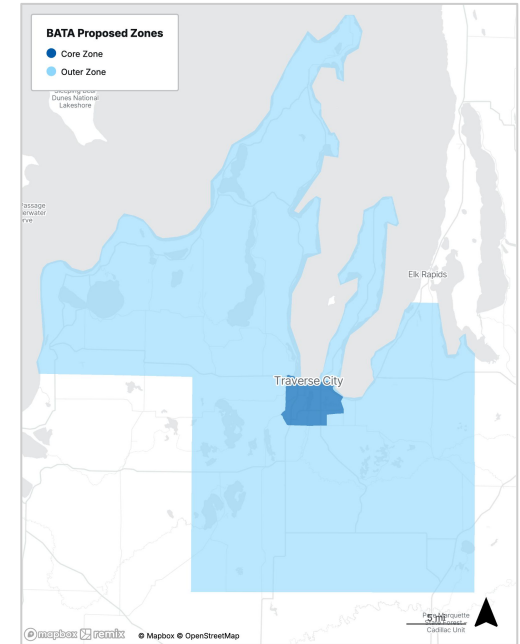
# Phase 1

## Zone Optimization

- Introducing a two-zone structure can improve service reliability, particularly for disabled, elderly and rural riders
- Small urban core zone would offer on-demand only; large rural zone would offer pre-scheduled only
- Proposed setup mirrors how customers are already using Link
- Once implemented, additional vehicles will help BATA meet quality of service goals and increase ridership



On-demand or pre-booked throughout service area.



On-demand in core zone, pre-booked in outer zone.

# Phase 1 Zone Optimization

	Current Service	New Design	Potential Impact
<i>Completed Rides</i>	430 <sup>1</sup>	510 <sup>2</sup>	↑18%
<i>Vehicles in Max Service</i>	17	17	↔
<i>Productivity</i>	2.7	3.2	↑17%

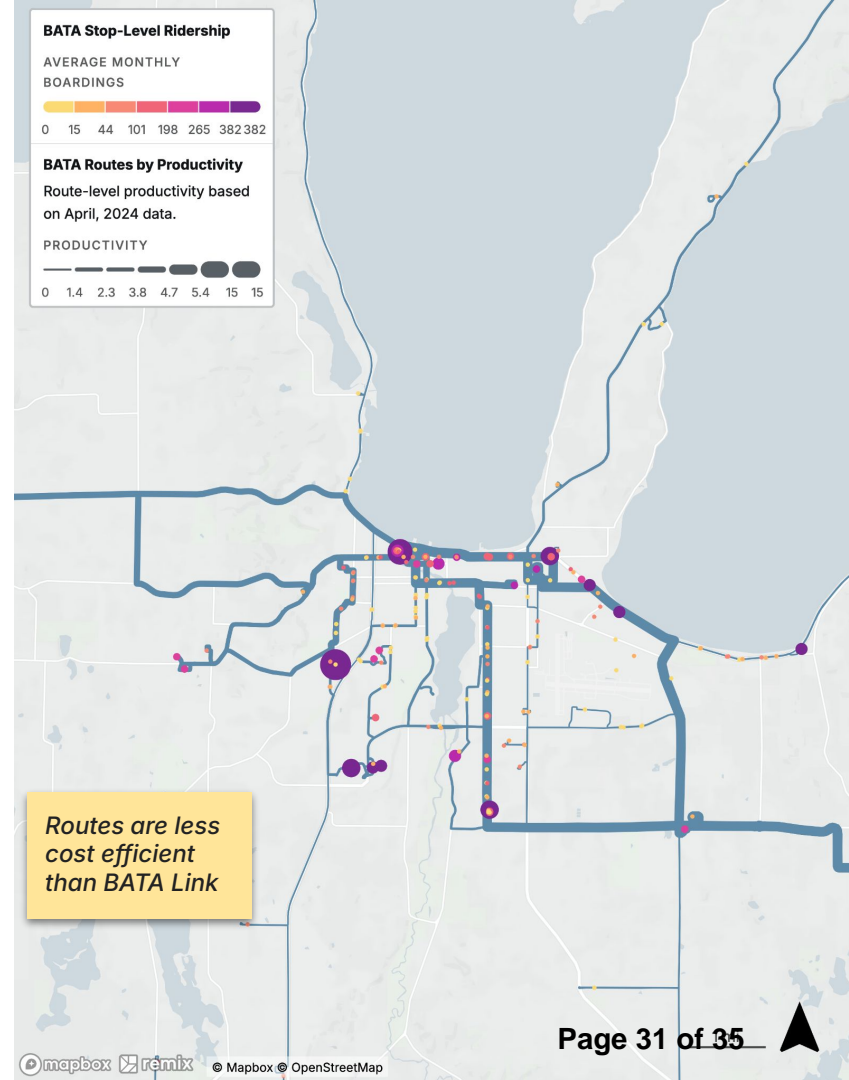
<sup>1</sup> Weekday rides

<sup>2</sup> Assumes seat availability remains at ~80 - 90% (similar to current levels). However, if demand is lower than expected, seat availability will likely exceed 90% with fewer completed trips.

# Phase 2 Network Review

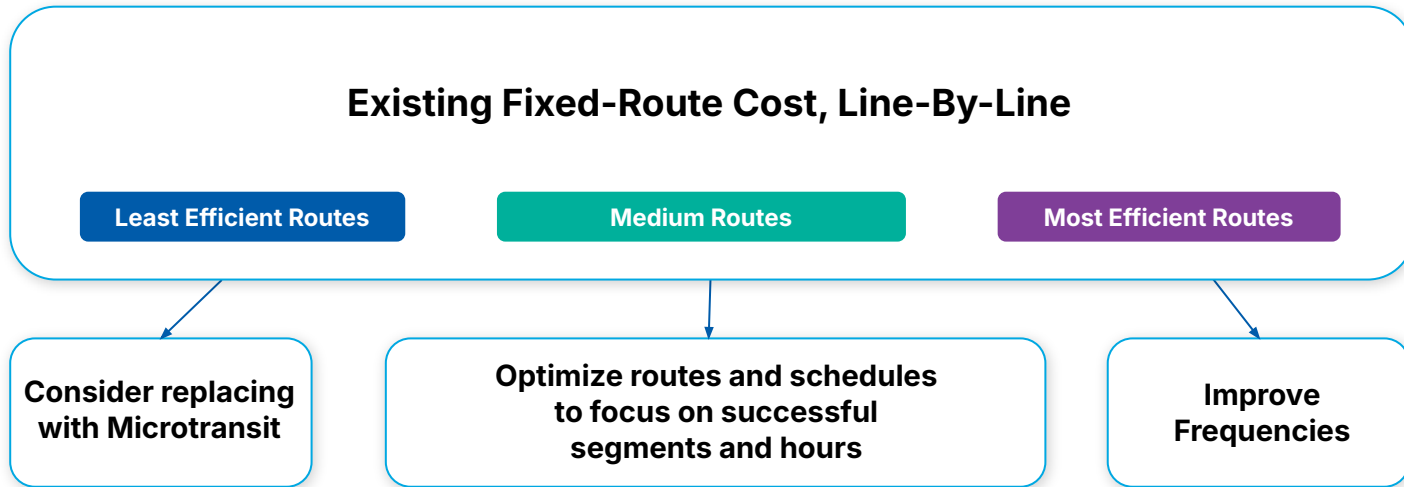
The Bay Area Transportation Authority provides coverage across 13 fixed routes. 46% of stops see  $\leq 1$  boardings and 77% of stops see  $< 5$  boardings per day, and many routes have low productivity. For customers, low frequency can mean long travel times. There is likely opportunity to optimize service.

Top 6 Routes		Bottom 6 Routes	
Route	Productivity	Route	Productivity
31	14.6	7	3.8
Bayline	6.0	12	3.0
2	5.5	13	2.4
11	5.4	5	2.3
West	4.7	14	1.6
1	4.2	10	1.4



## Phase 2

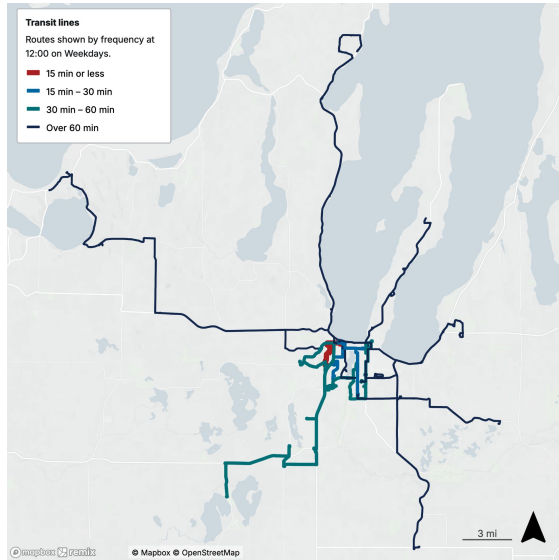
**We recommend investing in high performing routes, and adjusting or replace lower performing routes**



## Phase 2

# Network Planning Study

Via can help investigate strategies with **no impact on budget**:



### Convert Local Routes to Microtransit

Compared to low-productivity routes with limited frequency, microtransit may conserve budget and improve customer experience.

### Invest in Fixed-Route Frequency

Use savings to offer more opportunities for high-frequency transit service where demand is greatest.

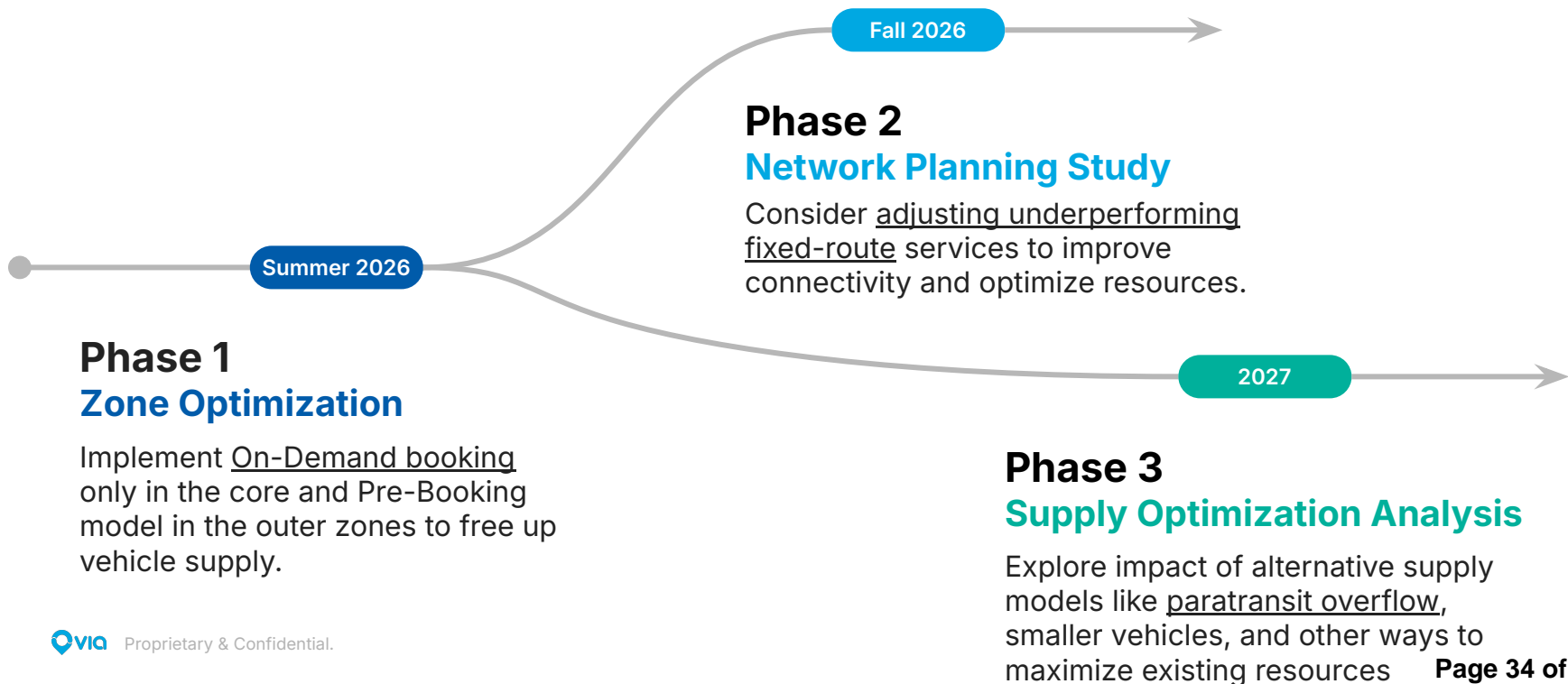
### Review and Optimize Fixed-Route Schedule

Reallocate resources to match demand and leverage overflow supply.

### Use Mode Preference Feature

A user's transportation options are shown based on restrictions for where and when a service is available.

# We now have the data to further optimize service and build momentum ahead of November's millage



# Via Strategies can support BATA with expert service planning studies at every phase of network optimization.

Via Strategies is a dedicated transit planning and consulting practice that draws on Via's expertise as the world's leading developer and operator of advanced public mobility systems.

Our advisory services help transit agencies, local governments, operators and other clients develop and optimize multimodal transportation networks.



Comprehensive network redesigns



Paratransit studies



Microtransit optimization



Public engagement



Transit feasibility studies



Network resilience strategies



Implementation/funding strategies



Mobility hub/infrastructure planning



ZEV transition planning