

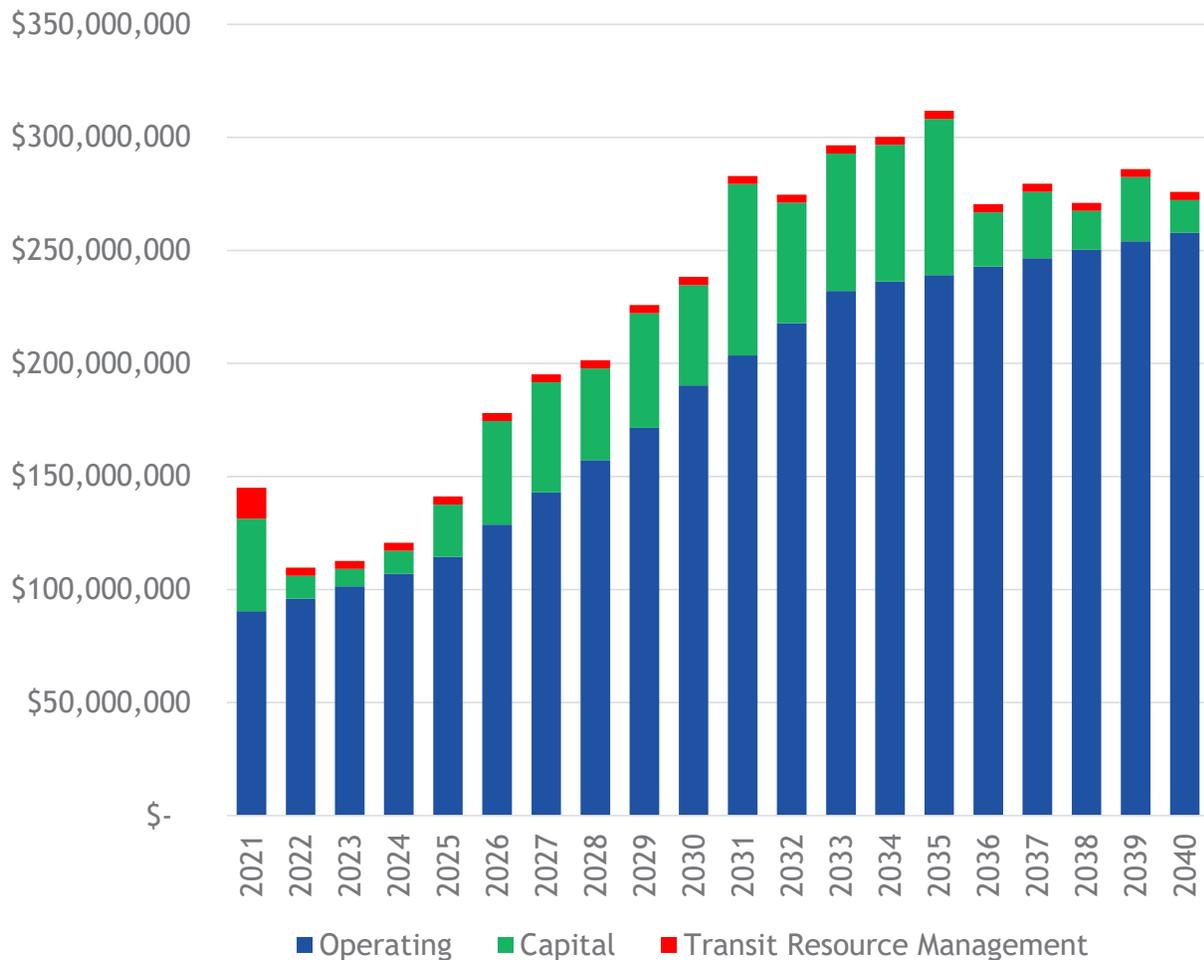


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Strategic Investment

The Strategic Investment Schedule provides for enhanced transit services, capital investments, and resources needed to achieve the Plan’s vision, goals, and strategies. Figure 8-1 reflects the scheduled investments through 2040. It assumes a continued mix of funding from the federal, state, and local levels, and will require an incremental increase in funding over time.

Figure 8-1 Strategic Investment Schedule



Source: TAM Plans (2018-2019), supplemented with NTD 2018 Revenue Vehicle Inventory. Expansion needs based on Service Needs Model and Identified Additional Needed Resources.

*Does not include rail vehicles. EMBARK has seven streetcar vehicles, which are not expected to be replaced before 2040. All values in 2020 dollars.

As a result of this Strategic Investment Schedule, transit systems in Oklahoma will meet the mobility needs of all Oklahomans in a coordinated, economical, and safe manner. Figure 8-2 summarizes the expected outcomes based on the investment schedule through 2040.

Figure 8-2 Strategic Investment Outcomes

	2025 Meeting Critical Needs	2030 Expanding Service	2035 Meeting the Benchmark	2040 Reaching Mobility for All
Expected Incremental Outcome	Meet critical service needs Bring fleet to SGR	Increase service to begin addressing service gaps	Increase service to meet benchmark	Increase service to meet all needs based on transit propensity and population growth
Operating	Fill crucial service gaps	Expand coverage and levels of service	Provide service consistent with peer states	Meet all service needs
Capital	Fleet replacement to ensure SGR Technology procurement to improve service	Maintain SGR Fleet expansion Maintenance facility expansion Passenger facility enhancement	Maintain SGR Fleet expansion Maintenance facility expansion Passenger facility enhancement	Maintain SGR Fleet expansion Maintenance facility expansion Passenger facility enhancement
Resource Management	Public education Transit system training & education Mobility Management Single-source platform Local transit planning support	Public education Transit system training & education Mobility Management Local transit planning support	Public education Transit system training & education Mobility Management Local transit planning support	Public education Transit system training & education Mobility Management Local transit planning support

The following pages detail the incremental improvements to public transit in Oklahoma over a 20-year period, with milestones to be accomplished every five years. The investment schedule of each five-year timeframe is designed to build upon one another and meet the strategies developed in Chapter 6.



2025: Meeting Critical Needs

Investment during the five-year period (2021-2025) is focused on meeting the critical needs of Oklahoma's transit systems. These include filling crucial service gaps, bringing the fleet into SGR, and developing a resource management toolbox to assist in the future development of transit in Oklahoma.



Mobility Management

A statewide mobility management program will be established with a statewide coordinator and regionally-based Mobility Managers. The program will provide for the better coordination of transit services among and between agencies, reduce duplicative services, and maximize the transit resources available to meet service needs. Managers will work together to assist riders in understanding their mobility options and ensure an approach that begins and ends with the needs of the rider. Mobility management is the foundation in meeting the mobility needs of all Oklahomans and will continue and expand throughout the 20-year period.



Transit Safety Needs

The current fleet will be brought into SGR, which increases safety, reduces cost, and allows current service levels to be maintained. Transit agencies will integrate safety measures, deploy technologies, and implement standards that foster a culture of safety and cleanliness. Once the fleet is in SGR, it will be maintained with continued safety improvements throughout the 20-year period.



Public Transit Service Enhancements

The crucial service gaps that exist today in Oklahoma's transit service will be addressed. Approximately 64% of medical trips, 46% of employment trips, 54% of education/job training trips, and 46% of social/recreational trips are currently not being met. This causes an increase in the cost of medical care and reduces economic activity in the state. The immediate service enhancements will address critical medical, employment, and economical needs of users and provide for service expansion moving forward.



Transit Agency Marketing, Education and Information

Partnerships will be created to develop public educational campaigns on a regional and statewide basis to inform the public on transit options and availability. Statewide and regional educational programs will also be developed to ensure transit agencies, administrators, and drivers are trained to provide the best and safest transit service possible. Educational campaigns and programs will continue throughout the 20-year period.



Transit Technology Infrastructure

Transit agencies statewide will implement advanced technology that modernizes scheduling and planning and provides for a seamless trip from the user side. A single source of scheduling information and a statewide scheduling platform, coupled with public-facing technology enhancements, will improve access to and coordination of public transit services. Technology use by public transit agencies will continue to be enhanced throughout the 20-year period.



Transit Planning Support

Transit planning assistance and funding will ensure local transit systems develop five-year implementation plans to direct service enhancements and expansion. The plans will make certain that the Strategic Investment Schedule is properly implemented and results in the expected outcomes. The local planning process will continue throughout the 20-year period, with required updates and modifications at the beginning of each five-year period.



Human Service and Public Transportation Coordination

Coordination of transit services will provide increased access to healthcare, food, and other daily needs, to improve the quality of life for Oklahomans. The statewide NEMT program will ensure individual transportation needs are met, all safety standards and federal requirements are adhered to, and the role of public transit systems in providing NEMT services is respected.



Sources of Funding

In this five-year period, policymakers, transit professionals, and other transit stakeholders should consider the long-term funding options to develop diverse and flexible secure sources of funding to provide for the full implementation of the Strategic Investment Schedule.

2030: Expanding Service

Investment during the five-year period (2026-2030) is focused on beginning to fill the transit service gaps that exist in Oklahoma when compared to peer states.



Public Transit Service Enhancements

Substantial service expansion will begin. Urban transit agencies will improve service by including longer service hours, more frequent service on existing routes, and new routes in underserved areas. Demand-response service will be available in more areas across the state, along with limited fixed-route service within and between communities. Transit agencies will operate more on-demand service with shorter response times for riders in rural areas. Most rural residents will have access to demand-response or on-demand public transit. In some cases, fixed-route service could replace demand-response service to provide connections to activity centers in rural areas. New services will focus on serving commuter trips, while other services will run throughout the day.

The fleet will expand as required to accommodate the service increase for both urban and rural service. New and

expanded maintenance facilities will be required statewide to maintain vehicles. In some cases, existing facilities will be expanded; in other cases, new facilities will be built at transit agency sites, and regional maintenance facilities will be built to share maintenance resources. Other capital investments will include enhancing and expanding passenger facilities at bus stops to provide a safe, more comfortable, and convenient customer experience.



Regional Commuter Needs

Connections between transit agencies and private intercity carriers will be implemented. The state's public transit services will link to each other and to intercity carriers, and a central source of intercity bus information will be created. Enhanced connections will include timed transfers between different systems and services. Additional transfer points between services and resource-sharing among systems and carriers will deliver needed regional connections that are not currently provided.



2035: Meeting the Benchmark

Investment during the five-year period (2030-2035) is focused on filling all of the transit service gaps that exist across the state. Increasing access to transit will allow Oklahoma transit agencies to provide a level of service comparable to peer states.



Public Transit Service Enhancements

Urban systems will invest in transit priority measures to reduce travel time along busy corridors. Investments in mobility hubs, bike access, new technology, and safety improvements will provide a more comfortable and seamless experience for riders. Additional improvements will include more service on weekends, early and late-night service, and increased mid-day frequencies. Extending some services to the geographic extent of a metropolitan area will allow for more seamless connections to and from adjacent rural areas.

More daily travel needs will be met by rural and tribal transit agencies. Days and hours of on-demand service will be expanded. Agencies operating on-demand and demand-response service will purchase additional vehicles and hire more drivers to shorten rider response times. Transit agencies that provide fixed-route service in non-urban areas will increase the days and times of their operations.

Full fleet modernization will be complete. This level of investment will ensure that vehicles are replaced at the end of their useful life and new vehicles are added to provide more passenger trips. Maintenance facilities and passenger amenities will meet expanded fleet and service levels.



Regional Commuter Needs

Transit agencies will operate additional regional service that is coordinated with neighboring systems, allowing new services to provide viable travel options for commuters throughout the state. Regional services will close gaps for rural residents to travel to destinations for jobs, services, or other needs. Adding these links will serve the growing share of older adults who are aging in place that need intercity connections to reach healthcare services. “Imagine That” routes will be in service to meet tourism, recreational, and social transit needs.



Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship

Coordination and integration of active transportation modes will be in place. Improved infrastructure will allow alternative fuel sources to be used by transit agencies. Sustainable vehicles will make up a substantial portion of the statewide fleet.

2040: Reaching Mobility for All

Investment during the five-year period (2035-2040) is focused on meeting the mobility needs of all Oklahomans by enhancing service to address propensity need and population growth, making Oklahoma a Top Ten state in transit.

Urban, rural, and tribal transit agencies will have the adequate level of resources to ensure a network of public transit systems that meet all mobility needs. All operation and capital needs and gaps have been filled, and the statewide fleet has been expanded and upgraded.

Maintenance facilities and passenger amenities meet the needs of increased service areas and access to transit. Advanced technology options ensure safety and provide ease of scheduling and a seamless trip for the passenger. Planning support, education, and marketing is ongoing for all transit agencies and users.

As a result:

- All mobility needs will be met for all Oklahomans in a safe, affordable, reliable, consistent, and coordinated fashion.
- Trips that riders want or need to take on public transit will be served.
- Mobility needs are met because of multimodal connections.
- Transit services will be effectively coordinated throughout the state.
- Integrated information about public transit services will be easily available in a single-source location.

CONCLUSION

The Needs Assessment in Chapter 7 identified gaps in transit agencies' ability to meet public transit needs across the state. While these unmet needs cannot be addressed overnight, the Strategic Investment Schedule provides a tiered funding plan that meets milestones throughout the 20-year period. The outcomes provide a snapshot of how public transit will look with increased levels of investment from a variety of secure funding sources. The schedule depicts incremental expansion and enhancement of current transit services in tandem with new capital and programs. This Schedule is a guide for the state and local transit agencies as they make investment decisions.



