

NOTICE OF MEETING

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

DATE: November 3, 2021

TIME: 9:30 am

PLACE: [VIRTUAL Public Meeting via Zoom](#) Meeting ID: 996 0401 8827 - Passcode: 794604

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order/Introductions
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes – August 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes (attached) – Action
4. Public Participation
5. Communications and Announcements
6. Old Business
7. New Business
 - A. TheRide Transit Master Plan - Presentation (Forest Yang, TheRide - Yuval Grinspun, Left Turn Right Turn)

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

City of Ann Arbor • Ann Arbor DDA • Ann Arbor Township • City of Chelsea • City of Dexter
Dexter Township • Eastern Michigan University • Michigan Department of Transportation • City of Milan • Northfield Township •
Pittsfield Township • City of Saline • Scio Township • Southwest Washtenaw Council of Governments • Superior Township • The Ride
University of Michigan • Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners • Washtenaw County Road Commission • City of Ypsilanti • Ypsilanti Township •
• Ex Officio: Federal Highway Administration • Southeast Michigan Council of Governments •

An Intermunicipality Committee organized under Act 200 of Public Acts of Michigan (1957)
representing Washtenaw County

8. Agency Reports

Ann Arbor DDA
City of Ypsilanti
Ypsilanti Township
City of Ann Arbor
City of Saline
Dexter Township
WCRC
Non-motorized

Pittsfield Township
The Ride
MDOT Planning
MDOT Region/TSC
City of Dexter
U of M
Environmental
People with Disabilities

City of Milan
Washtenaw County
City of Chelsea
SEMCOG
EMU
FHWA
Equity
Senior

9. Adjournment

The Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS) financed the preparation of this document through grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Transportation and contributions from local government, public transit, and educational unit members of the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study. The views and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the U. S. Department of Transportation.



WASHTENAW
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TRANSPORTATION
STUDY

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MEETING MINUTES

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

DATE: October 6, 2021

TIME: 9:30 am

PLACE: This meeting was held virtually via Zoom in accordance with executive orders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Members Present: Washtenaw County – Nathan Voght, Chair
City of Ypsilanti - Bonnie Wessler, Vice-Chair
City of Ann Arbor - Eli Cooper (for Raymond Hess)
Disability Representative - John Waterman
Environmental Representative - Evan Pratt
Eastern Michigan University – Dieter Otto
MDOT University Region - Mike Davis
Non-motorized Representative - Sarah Walsh
City of Saline – Jeff Fordice
TheRide – Caitlin Conway (for LaTasha Thompson)
Washtenaw County Road Commission - Matt MacDonell

Members Absent: Ann Arbor DDA – Amber Miller
City of Chelsea - John Hanifan
Dexter Township - Vacant
City of Dexter – Dan Schlaff
Equity Representative - Weneschia Brand
City of Milan - Stanley Kirton, Second Vice-Chair
Pittsfield Township - Vacant
Senior Representative - Ruth Ann Jamnick
University of Michigan – Steve Dolen
Ypsilanti Township - Jason Iacoangeli

Others Present: WATS – Ryan Buck, Nick Sapkiewicz, Suzann Flowers, Emily Lake
WCRC - Michele Ford, Brent Schlack
TheRide - Scott Robinson, Bryan Smith

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• Ex Officio: Federal Highway Administration • Southeast Michigan Council of Governments •

Stantec - Cassandra Winner
MDOT - Richard Bayus, Kari Martin
Public - Jim Mogensen

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Voght called the meeting to order at 9:33 AM and led the group in introductions.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Ms. Walsh made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, Mr. Otto supported the motion, motion approved.

3. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Wessler made a motion to approve the August 4, 2021 meeting minutes, Ms. Wessler supported the motion, motion approved.

4. Public Participation

Mr. Mogensen noted that the Equity analysis groups transit as a whole, and this may make it difficult to prioritize investments such as the Ypsilanti transit center. TheRide has restored service levels but is still missing routes on the east side of Ypsilanti and the Gold Ride reduced fare structures require proof of low-income through a non-profit which may be difficult. AARP offers alternative options for residents over the age of 50.

5. Communications and Announcements

Mr. Sapkiewicz provided the following updates:

- The 2020 Annual Report and Obligated Projects Listings is now available on the WATS website
- Final surveys for Route Ypsilanti will be going out this week.
- Chelsea POP treatments are being installed.
- Applications for the 2023-2026 TIP have been submitted and are being reviewed by staff. Flyers will be going up in buses and libraries around the County to solicit public feedback. There will also be some in person opportunities to comment.
- Asset management work is wrapping up.
- MDOT has submitted sample sections for 2021 HPMS data collection.
- The FAST Act was recently extended until October 31st.
- Congratulations to Superior Township for receiving a \$35,000 grant from SEMCOG's Equity and Sustainability program to be focused on non-motorized connections for low-income housing.

6. Old Business

No old business.

7. New Business

A. First Call FY-2022 LRP Amendments - Action

Ms. Flowers informed the Committee that People's Express (PEX) has submitted a project to be added to the Long Range Transportation Plan (RLP). The LRP amendment would be locally funded in the amount of \$3 million to add a parking facility for electric vehicles.

Mr. Pratt made a motion to approve the Long Range Transportation Plan amendments, supported by Mr. Otto, motion approved.

B. First Call FY 2022 TIP Amendments - Action

Ms. Flowers provided a list of 10 amendments to the 2020-2023 TIP. Amendments include significant changes to cost, scope, project limits, new grant awards, etc. New investments in the 2020-2023 TIP total \$24,767,181.

Ms. Lake provided an overview of the Environmental Justice (EJ) and Opportunity Index review. Current investment in EJ areas is \$104M, or 17% of the total TIP value. Current investment in low and very low opportunity areas is \$52M, or 8% of the total TIP value.

Mr. Cooper made a motion to approve the first call FY 2022 TIP amendments as presented, supported by Mr. MacDonell, motion approved.

Mr. Voght noted that it would be helpful for WATS staff to include the percent of land area covered by communities of concern in the next analysis.

C. First Call FY 2022 TIP Modifications - Information

Ms. Flowers provided a list of 13 minor modifications to the TIP for the FY 2022 first call. Modifications include minor cost changes, changes to scope and limits of projects, etc.

D. Public Transit Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) - Action

Mr. Sapkiewicz provided information regarding TheRide's Public Transit Agency Safety Plan. The plan describes TheRide's safety policies, risk management, safety assurances, and safety promotion. Developed using FTA safety guidance, the plan identifies obtainable targets for fatalities and injuries.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Robinson noted that the plan follows guidelines from FTA on obtainable targets but that TheRide will continue to work to improve safety and aim for zero fatalities and injuries.

Discussion ensued regarding whether WATS should reflect the regional safety transit plan, in which SEMCOG accepted plans presented with a goal of reducing regional transit targets for fatalities and injuries by ten percent.

Mr. Pratt made a motion to receive, accept, and adopt TheRide's Transit Safety Plan as part of the 2045 Long Range Plan, with an aspiration to reduce the regional transit targets for fatalities and injuries by ten percent as adopted by SEMCOG, supported by Ms. Wessler, motion approved.

E. PEAC Students - Presentation

Mr. John Waterman and students of Programs to Educate All Cyclists (PEAC) provided a presentation on the Nothing About Us Without Us program funded through SEMCOG as a planning project to make sure the voices of individuals with cognitive impairments are heard.

Students presented on the importance of winter maintenance on sidewalks, lighting, designated paths for bicycles, detour routes for pedestrians during construction, safe signalized crossings at intersections, and making the planning process more accessible for people with different intellectual needs.

8. Agency Reports

A. City of Ypsilanti

Ms. Wessler reported:

- The City has received great feedback for Route Ypsilanti and looks forward to implementing more low-cost tactical urbanism interventions over the next few years.
- Construction projects in Oakwood and W Cross St are wrapping up.

B. City of Ann Arbor

Mr. Cooper reported:

- The City has released an RFP for an implementation plan of the Vision Zero transportation plan update that was adopted over the summer.
- The Healthy Streets 2021 program will stay in place until the snow falls. More quick builds will be deployed in Spring 2022.

C. City of Saline

Mr. Fordice reported:

- The City of Saline is wrapping up their streets and utilities projects, with plans to continue work on gas mains in the future.
- Beginning a sidewalk connector project on Macon Rd. in the near future.

D. Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC)

Mr. Schlack reported:

- The WCRC is wrapping up 2021 construction projects and planning for designs of 2022 projects.
- The WCRC website includes up to date project status updates.

E. TheRide

Ms. Conway reported:

- TheRide is back to full service
- The Gold Ride fare structure has changed to \$20 or \$5 for riders that qualify as low-income.
- Additional fare changes will be coming in January to reduce prices of passes and encourage more ridership.

F. MDOT University Region

Mr. Davis reported:

- A plan review is scheduled for the City of Ypsilanti road diet and I-94 pathway projects, to include a bridge preventive maintenance project, and railing at the

Grove Rd over I-94 bridge. Public meetings for the project were a success with over 30 people in attendance. MDOT continues to investigate where to include bollards and better bicycle facilities heading north towards the City.

- The sidewalk infill project on M-17 adjacent to Dom's is on the Spring let list for CON in 2022.

Ms. Martin reported:

- MDOT is working to hire a consultant for the M-14/Barton interchange and has an upcoming planning and environmental linkages study.
- In Spring 2022 MDOT will begin the design phase for improvements on US-23 between I-94 and M-14, to possibly include auxiliary lanes between interchanges and reconstruction of the US-23/M-17 interchange.
- The flex route extension from M36 to I-96 is in the design phase, with 2022 letting and 2023 reconstruction. The project includes non-motorized improvements and a connection to the Lakelands Trail.

G. People with Disabilities Representative

Mr. Waterman reported:

- Please maintain pathways for individuals with disabilities as leaves can make paths slippery in the fall months.

H. Environmental Representative

Mr. Pratt reported:

- The recent opening of a B2B trailhead near N Territorial and M-52 included a new parking lot on DNR property that was named after former WATS Director Robert Tetens.

I. Washtenaw County

_____ Mr. Voght reported:

- ReImagine Washtenaw is beginning work on the design phase of sidewalk infill along Washtenaw Avenue. Topology and base maps have been completed with OHM Advisors. There will be a presentation to the Ypsilanti Township Board of Trustees in November to discuss the design phase and budget concerns.

9. Adjournment

Chair Voght adjourned the meeting at 11:12 AM.



Long-Range Plan

TheRide 2045 is a long-range plan for public transit services in the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti area. After you look at these slides, tell us what you think the future transit system should look like.



For more information
visit TheRide.org

Overview

- Long-Range Plan Process
- Elements of the Plan
 1. Fixed-Route Bus
 2. Regional and Park & Ride
 3. Paratransit
 4. Other services



Goals for the Plan

Community Values Drive Transit's Goals:

- Increase social equity, access to jobs, education, and housing
- Help the environment and reduce air pollution
- Support existing and new businesses

Focus Areas



Transit network



Higher-order transit



New types of services



Infrastructure



Technology



Fleet



TheRide 2045 Project Timeline



Phase 1: Guidance (Feb – July)

Create a strategy including goals, principles and the method for the plan.
Establish Public Advisory Group.



Phase 2: Analysis (Mar – Aug)

Study the current and future state for TheRide services. Review peer agency and city plans, and changes to population and employment.



Phase 3: Development (Jul – Feb '22)

Pull ideas together into different scenarios that work towards plan goals. Integrate feedback from the public and stakeholders.



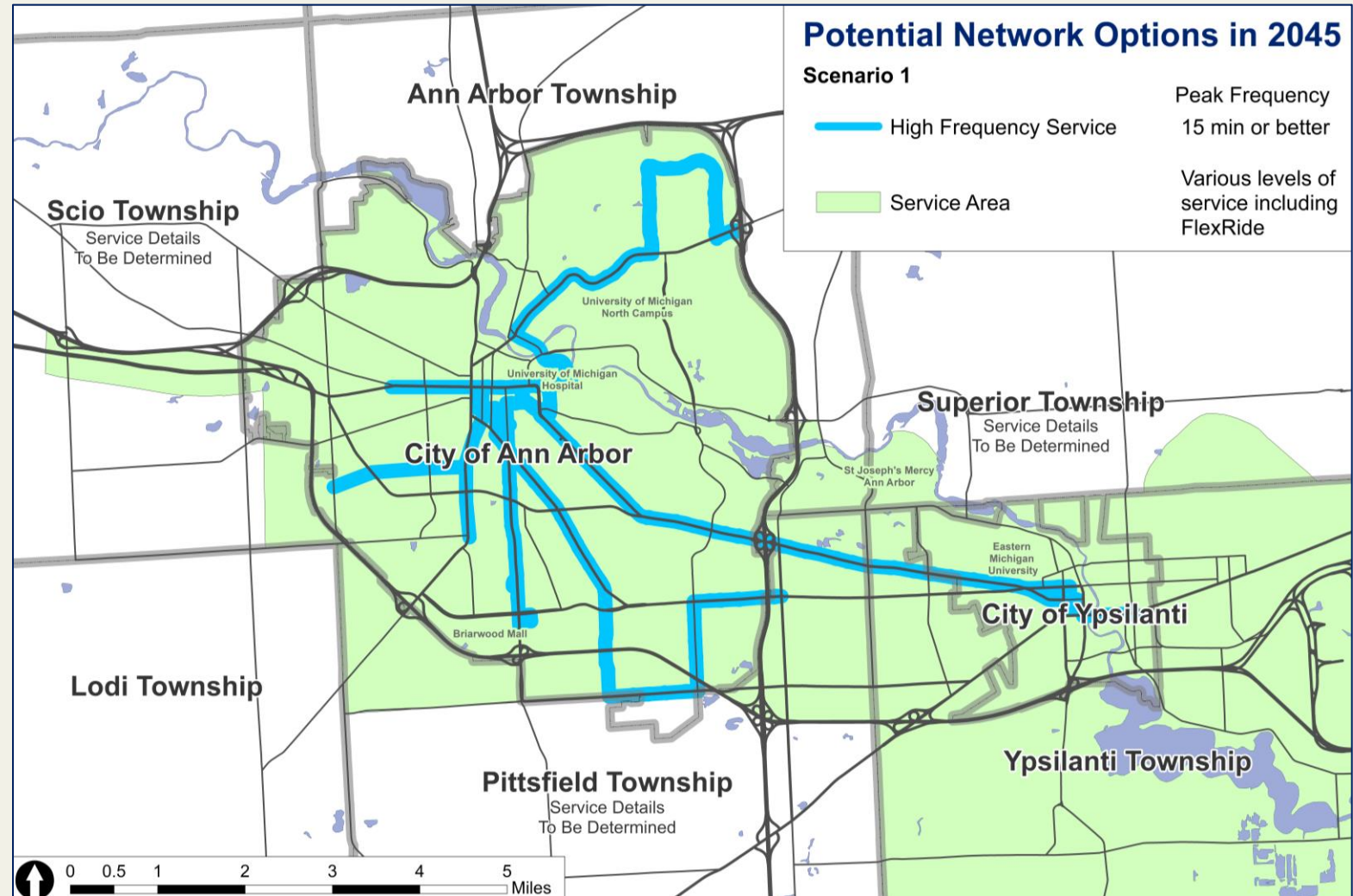
Phase 4: Finalization (Jan – Apr '22)

Provide the public with a detailed, realistic plan, then use their feedback to make recommendations to TheRide's Board of Directors.



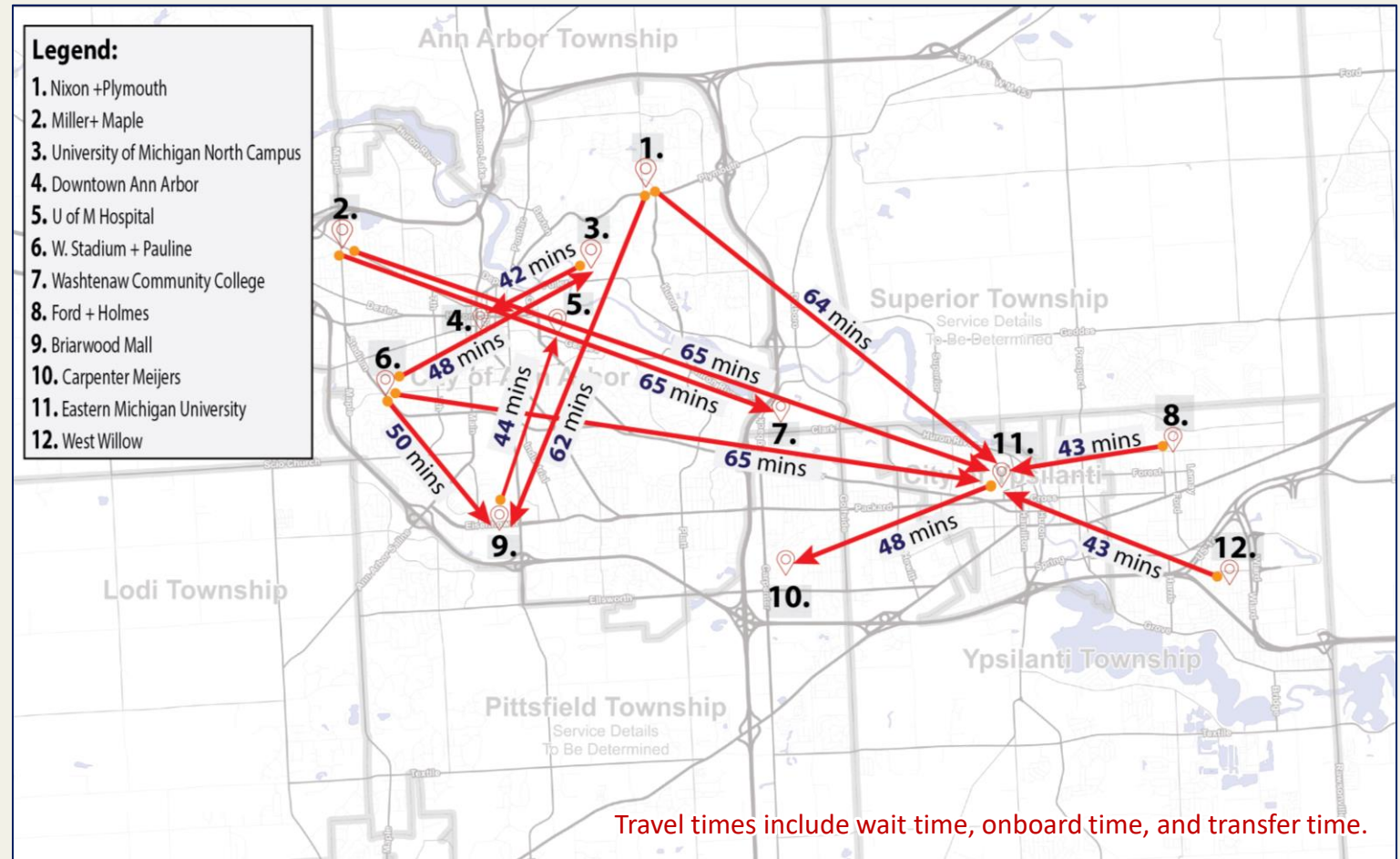
Scenario 1 Baseline (status quo)

- Minimal to no increase in local millage
- Minor adjustments over next 25 years
- Upgrades to Blake Transit Center and Ypsilanti Transit Center (all scenarios)
- 63% of population
82% of jobs are close to high-frequency service (15 mins or better)



Scenario 1 Travel Times

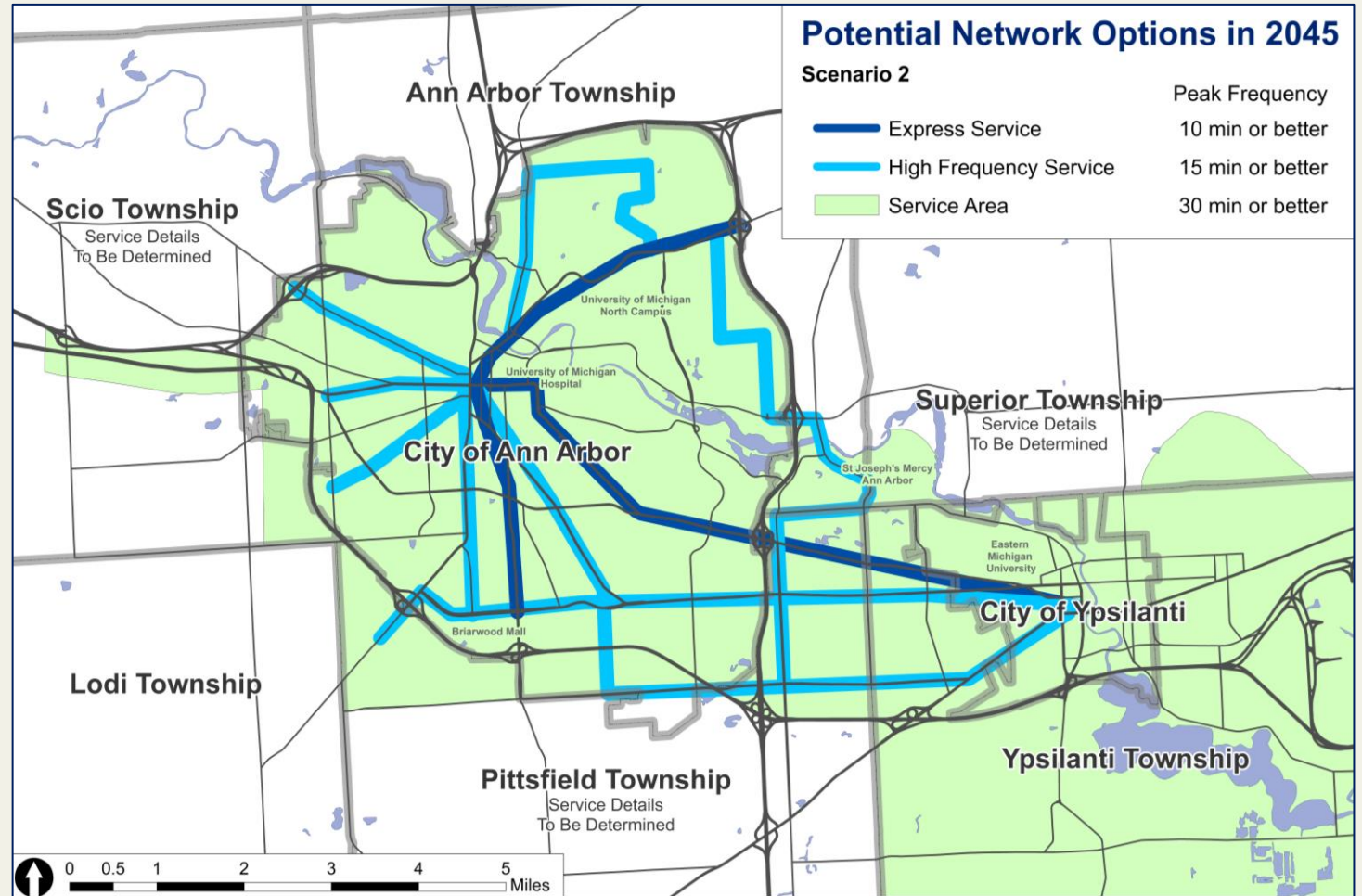
- Service does not keep up with growth in population and employment
- Customers find using transit less attractive resulting in more people using cars instead of transit
- It does not improve transit access to jobs or housing for people living in poverty





Scenario 2 Minor Enhancement

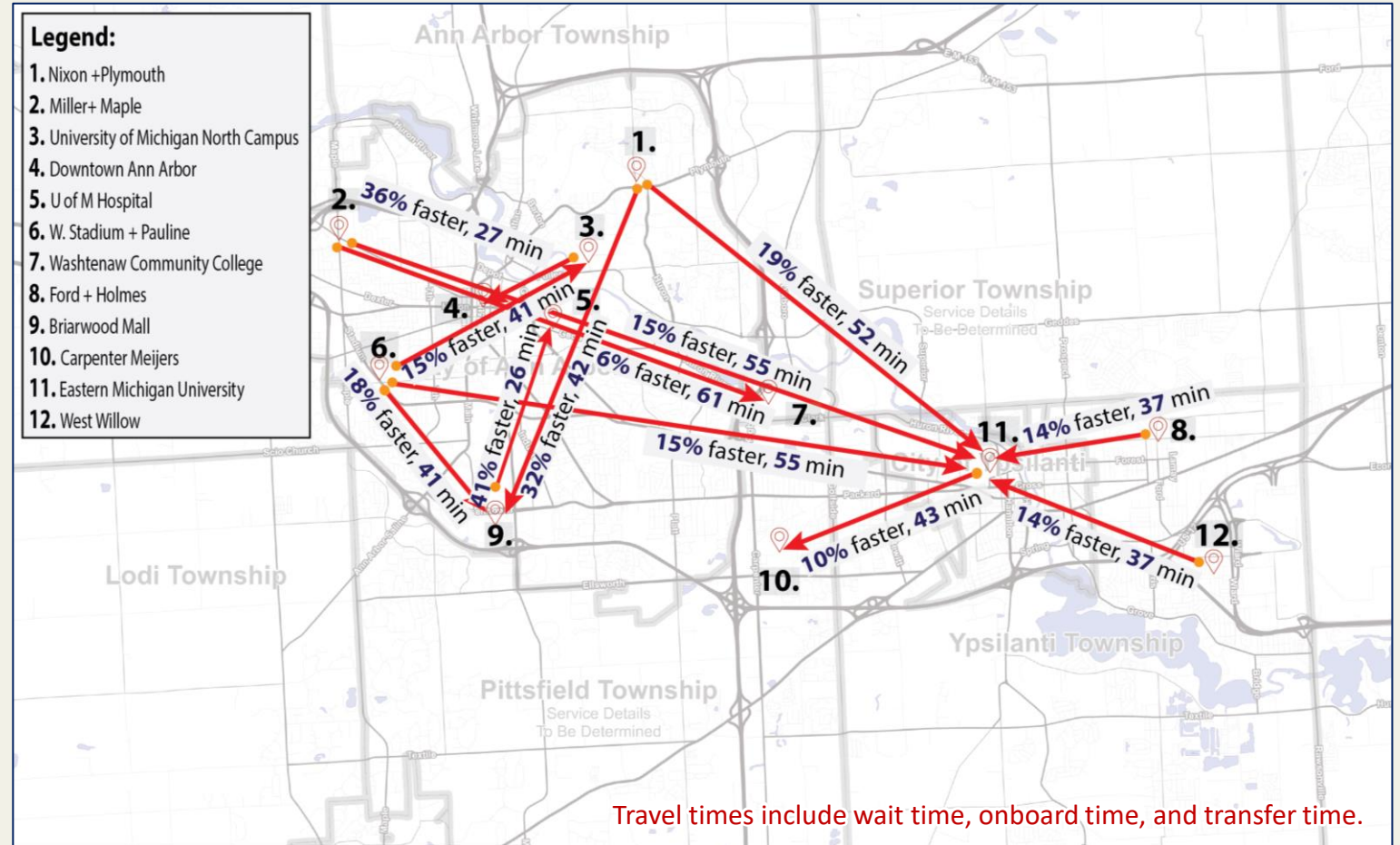
- Small increase to local millage
- Minor enhancements
 - New express services
 - Concentrate service on major corridors
 - Buses on time more often
 - More off-peak service including NightRide
- 77% of population
93% of jobs are close to high-frequency service (15 mins or better)





Scenario 2 Minor Enhancement

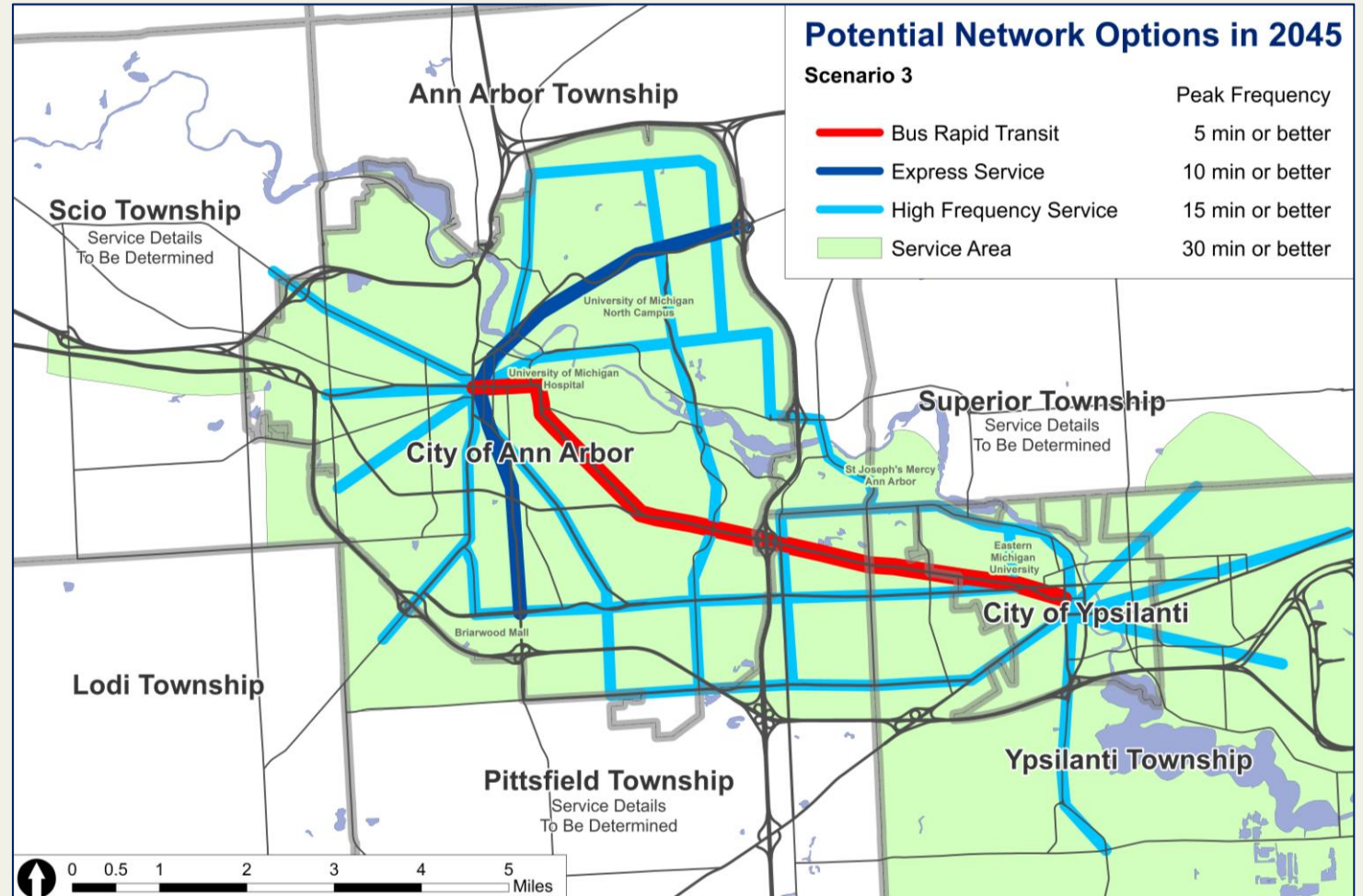
- Travel times are 12% faster than Scenario 1
- Service keeps up with growth in population and employment
- Better connectivity stimulates some economic growth
- Small improvement in transit access to jobs or housing for people living in poverty





Scenario 3 Modest Enhancement

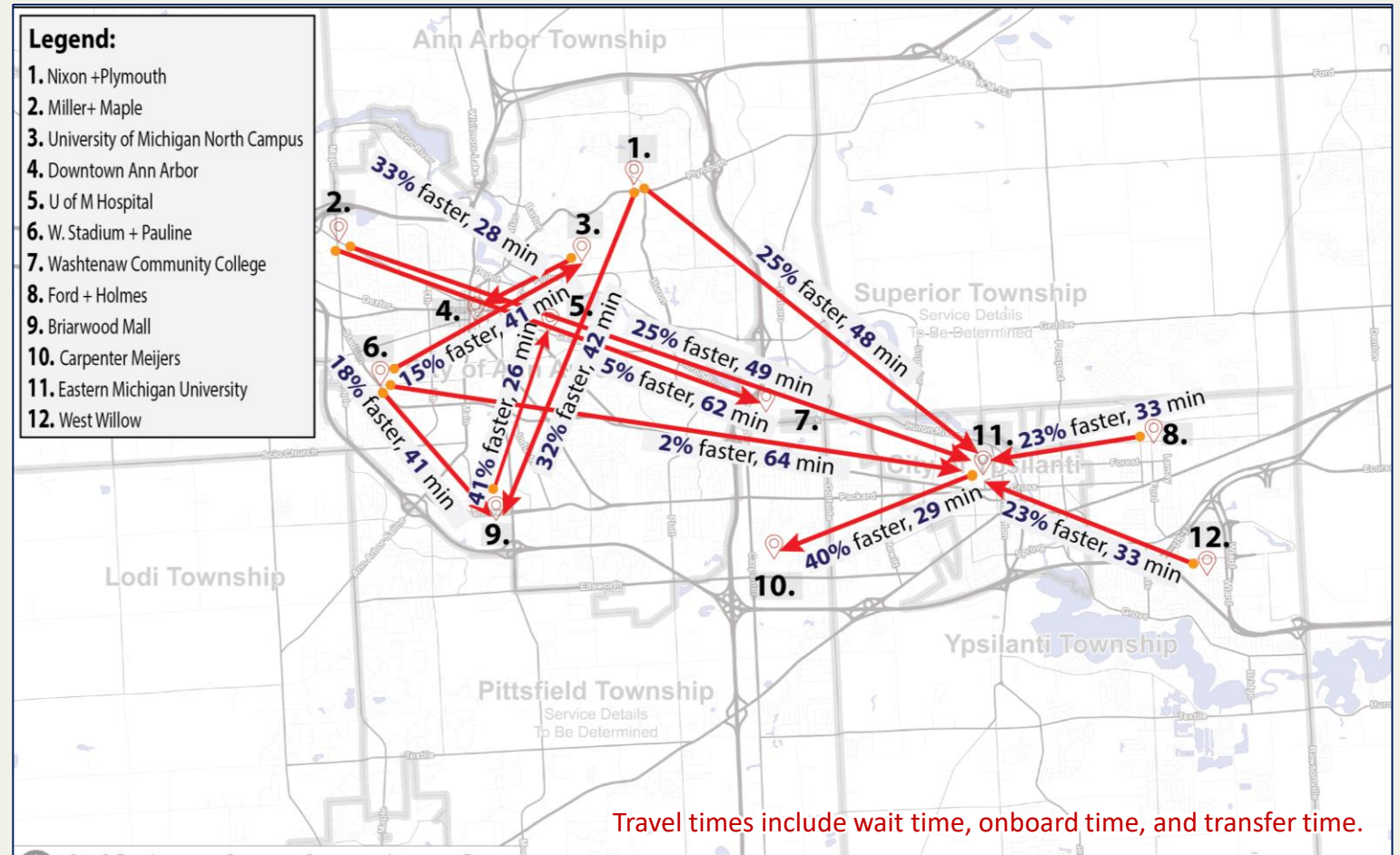
- Modest increase to local millage
- Better service all around, with new types of transit:
 - Bus Rapid Transit
 - High frequency service in more places
 - Better transfers
 - Buses on-time more often
 - More off-peak service including NightRide
- 86% of population and 96% of jobs are close to high-frequency service (15 mins or better)





Scenario 3 Modest Enhancement

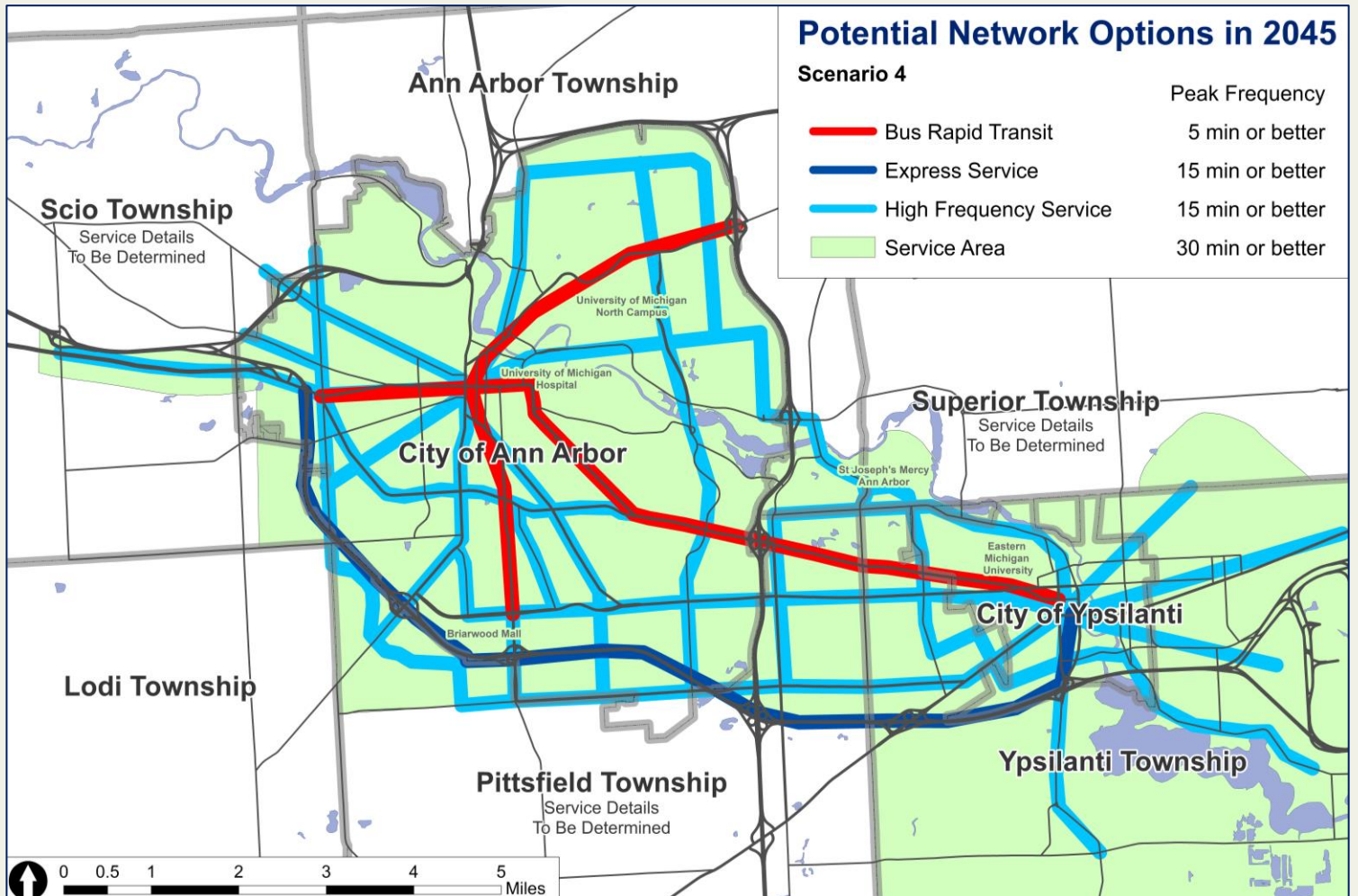
- Overall, travel times are 24% faster than Scenario 1
- Service improves beyond growth in population and employment
- Customers find using transit more attractive resulting higher ridership
- Larger improvement to transit access to jobs or housing for people living in poverty





Scenario 4 Major Enhancement

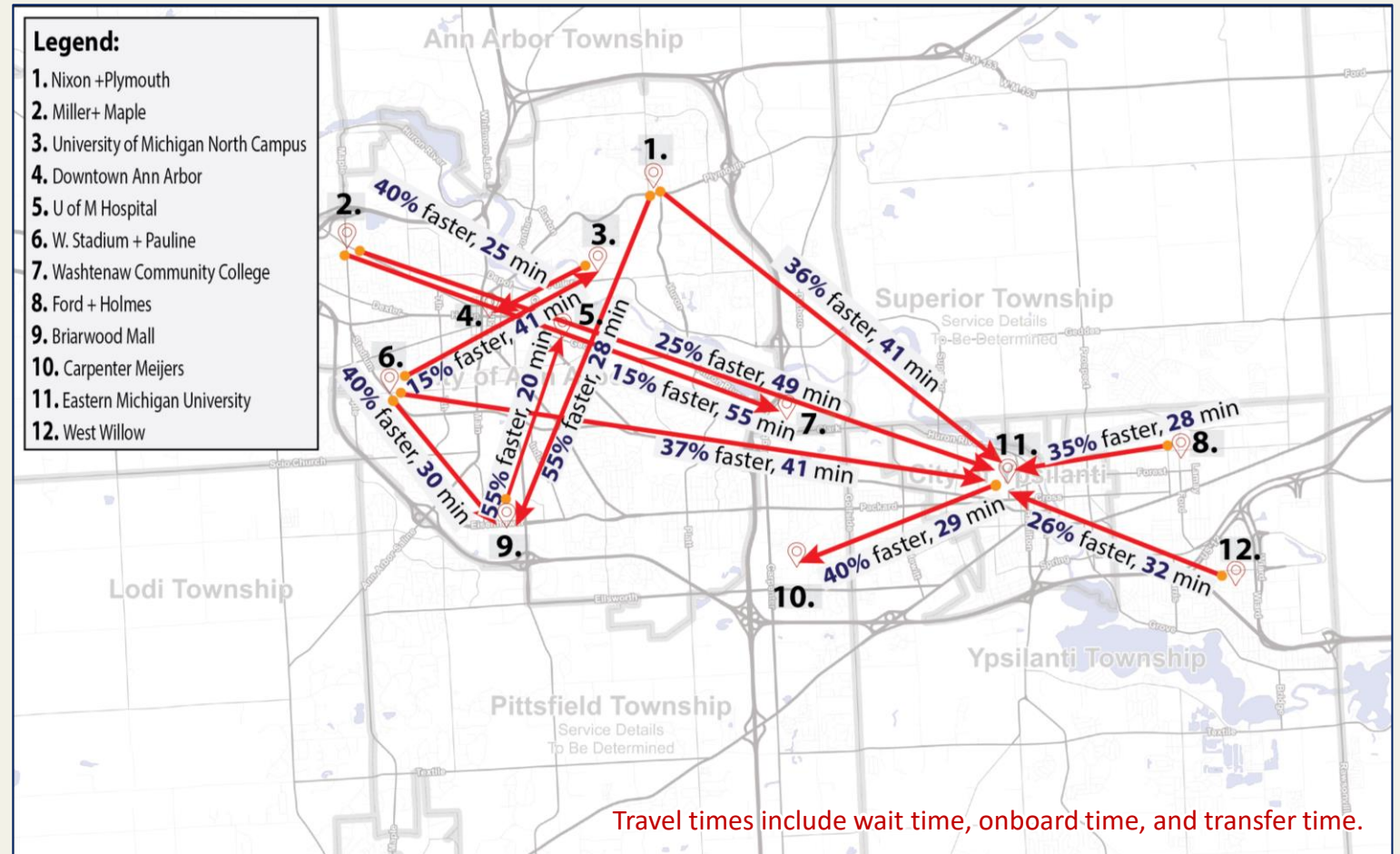
- Large increase to local millage
- Transformational change of the entire transit system
- Better service changes how people get around the area:
 - More Bus Rapid Transit
 - Broad network of high frequency service
 - Better transfers
 - Buses on time more often
 - Even more off-peak service including NightRide
- 93% of population and 99% of jobs are close to high-frequency service (15 mins or better)





Scenario 4 Major Enhancement

- Travel times are 33% faster than Scenario 1
- Better customer experience means more people are switching from cars to transit
- Far-reaching, efficient service means major benefits to the local economy
- Even more transit access to jobs and housing for people living in poverty





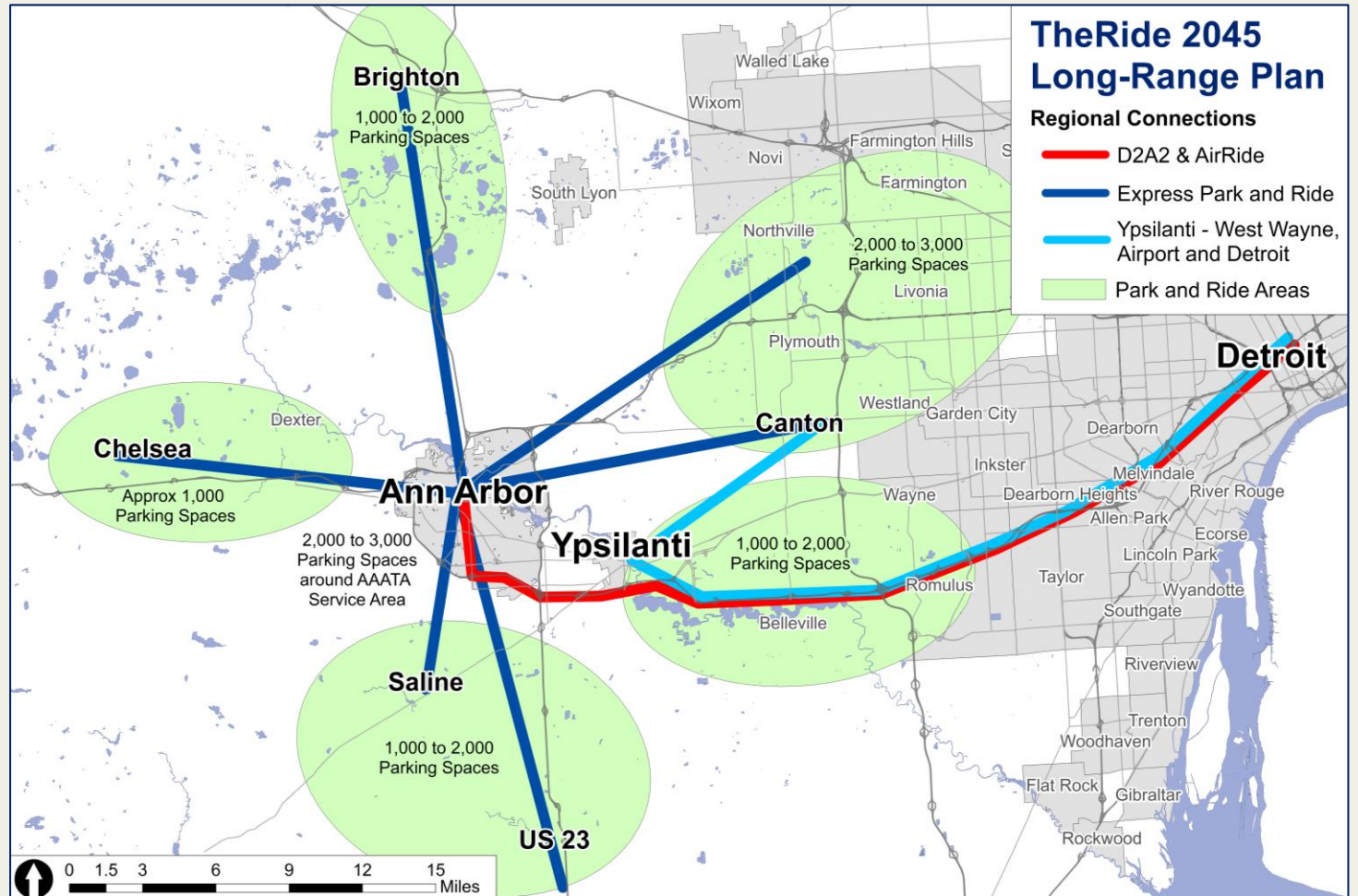
Scenario Summary

	1 Baseline	2 Minor Enhancement	3 Modest Enhancement	4 Major Enhancement
Achieving the plan goals (environment, economy, and social equity)	-	+	++	+++
Ridership increase (in 2045)	0 – 15%	30 – 50%	90 – 110%	140 – 160%
Overall service increase		25%	60%	100%
2045 additional local millage for operations*		1.3 – 1.8	1.9 – 2.4	2.6 – 3.1
2045 additional property tax for operations (per \$100,000 assessed value)*		\$130 – \$180	\$190 – \$240	\$260 – \$310
Capital costs 2022-2045*	\$33M	\$71M	\$191M	\$383M

* 2021 dollars

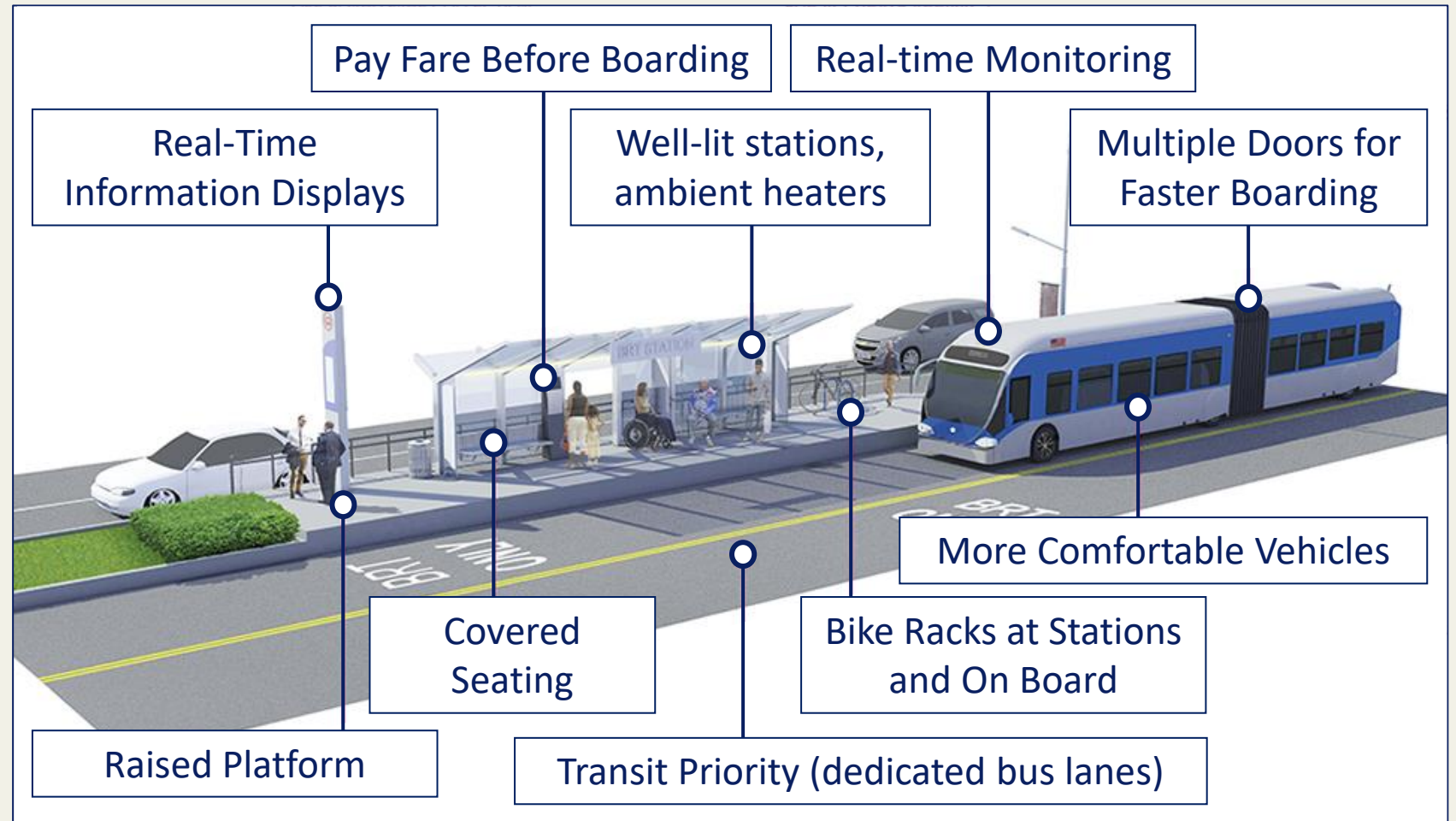
Regional Connections

- Improve connections to our neighbors, and help commuters coming in to work, shop, or visit
- Increase parking capacity in surrounding areas
- Connect new parking lots with express bus routes
- Outside funding will be essential to create regional connections



Introduction of Bus Rapid Transit

- Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) have many varieties
- Use technologies and design elements to make them faster, more reliable, and more comfortable
- Stops are farther apart to improve travel speeds
- Larger upfront cost
- Supports dramatic growth in ridership
- Helps economic development along route



Potential Transit Priority

- Use of transit priority features increases from Scenarios 2 to 4
- Technologies and strategies that prioritize the movement of buses over cars using:
 - Transit signal priority at traffic lights
 - Queue jump lanes
 - Dedicated transit lanes (bus-only lanes)
- Makes transit faster, more attractive, efficient and reliable
- Helps transit compete with cars resulting in significant ridership growth



Paratransit

Americans with Disabilities Act

- Maintain current level of service
- Expand coverage area and hours of operation to ensure compliance as the system grows

Enhance Accessibility and Efficiency on the Entire System

- Continue and expand other demand-response services (GoldRide, FlexRide, MyRide etc) as part of integrated accessible service delivery
- Better integration with fixed route

Maximize use of appropriate technology

- Improve customer booking processes
- Harness customer communication technology

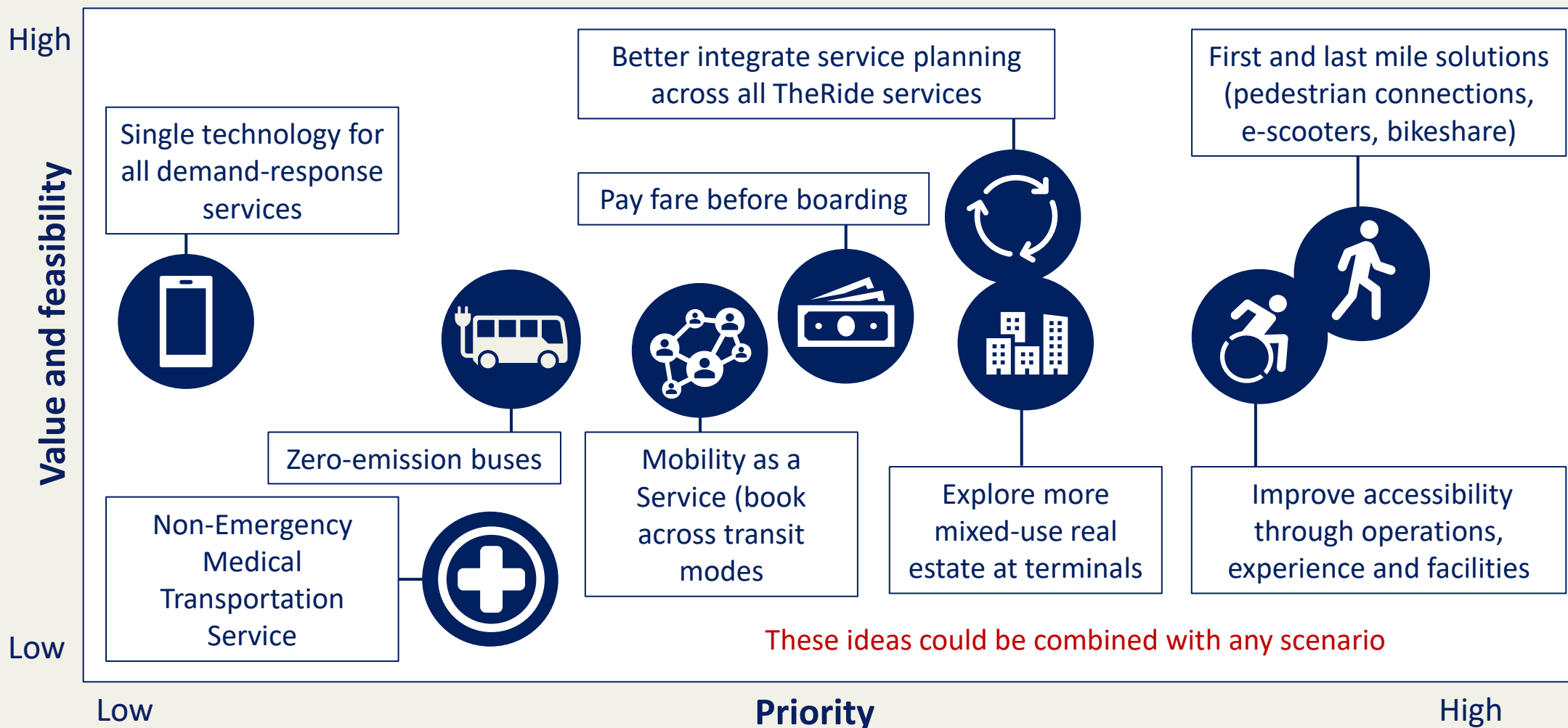
1% Annual Ridership Growth (A-Ride)



\$2M increase in annual operational costs (A-Ride)

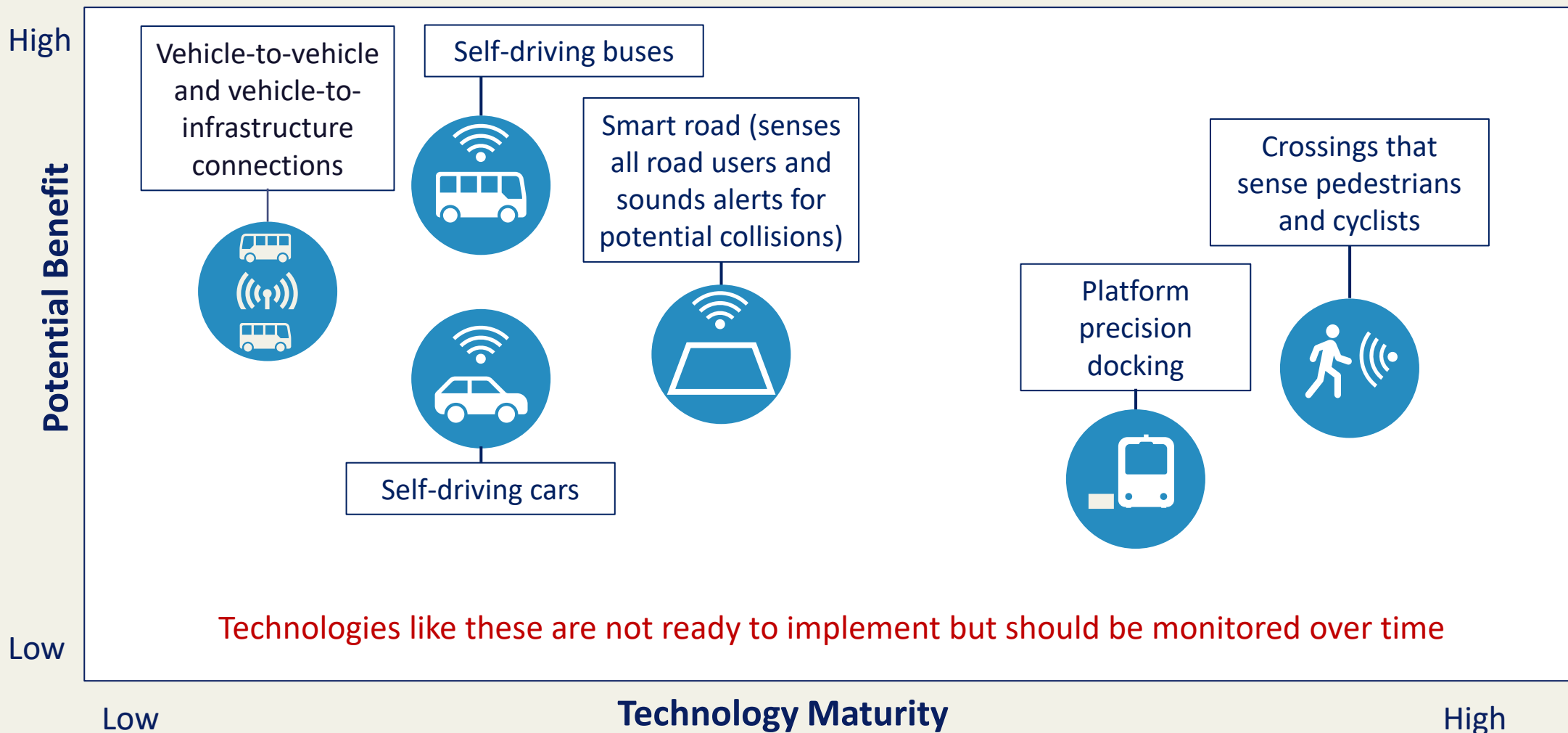


Other Ideas Being Examined





Emerging Technologies





Other Strategies for Success

Increase Collaboration

- The Regional Transit Authority: Providing service to major regional destinations
- U-M: Service planning coordination
- Land use development and urban design
- Transit-supportive organizations and advocates

Organizational Excellence

- Investigate the future of contracted service to municipalities
- Update service standards
- Improve supplier management and contract structures





Thank you!

For more information, visit
TheRide.org/about/projects/TheRide-2045

To provide feedback, take our survey
or give us your comments by:

- **Email:** 2045@TheRide.org
- **Call:** 734-794-1882
- **Mail:**
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