

Mobility, San Diego Regional Military, Shoreline Preservation, Social Equity, Social Services Transportation Advisory Council, and Sustainable Communities Joint Working Groups Session Agenda

Thursday, May 8, 2025 9:30 a.m.

Welcome to SANDAG. The Mobility Working Group (MOBWG) meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 8, 2025, will be held in person in the SANDAG Board Room. While MOBWG members will attend in person, members of the public will have the option of participating either in person or virtually.

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Public Comments: Members of the public may speak to the MOBWG on any item at the time the MOBWG is considering the item. Public speakers are generally limited to three minutes or less per person.

Persons who wish to address the members on an item to be considered at this meeting, or on non-agendized issues, may email comments to the Clerk at clerkoftheboard@sandag.org (please reference MOBWG meeting in your subject line and identify the item number(s) to which your comments pertain). Comments received by 4 p.m. the business day before the meeting will be provided to members prior to the meeting. All comments received prior to the close of the meeting will be made part of the meeting record.

If you desire to provide in-person verbal comment during the meeting, please fill out a speaker slip, which can be found in the lobby. If you have joined the Zoom meeting by computer or phone, please use the "Raise Hand" function to request to provide public comment. On a computer, the "Raise Hand" feature is on the Zoom toolbar. By phone, enter *9 to "Raise Hand" and *6 to unmute. Requests to provide live public comment must be made at the beginning of the relevant item, and no later than the end of any staff presentation on the item. The Clerk will call on members of the public who have timely requested to provide comment by name for those in person and joining via a computer, and by the last three digits of the phone number of those joining via telephone. Should you wish to display media in conjunction with your comments, please inform the Clerk when called upon. The Clerk will be prepared to have you promoted to a position where you will be able to share your media yourself during your allotted comment time. In-person media sharing must be conducted by joining the Zoom meeting on the personal device where the content resides. Please note that any available chat feature on the Zoom meeting platform should be used by panelists and attendees solely for procedural or other "housekeeping" matters as comments provided via the chat feature will not be retained as part of the meeting record. All comments to be provided for the record must be made in writing via email or speaker slip, or verbally per the instructions above.

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Vision Statement: Pursuing a brighter future for all

Mission Statement: We are the regional agency that connects people, places, and innovative ideas by implementing solutions with our unique and diverse communities.

Our Commitment to Equity: We hold ourselves accountable to the communities we serve. We acknowledge we have much to learn and much to change; and we firmly uphold equity and inclusion for every person in the San Diego region. This includes historically underserved, systemically marginalized groups impacted by actions and inactions at all levels of our government and society.

We have an obligation to eliminate disparities and ensure that safe, healthy, accessible, and inclusive opportunities are available to everyone. The SANDAG equity action plan will inform how we plan, prioritize, fund, and build projects and programs; frame how we work with our communities; define how we recruit and develop our employees; guide our efforts to conduct unbiased research and interpret data; and set expectations for companies and stakeholders that work with us.

We are committed to creating a San Diego region where every person who visits, works, and lives can thrive.



Vacant

City of Lemon Grove

Steve Manganiello

City of National City

MEMBERSHIP

The Mobility Working Group (MWG) membership shall include one voting member and one alternate member from each SANDAG member agency, including the region's 18 cities, the County of San Diego, Metropolitan Transit System, North County Transit District, Port of San Diego, and the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority. Each member agency shall have one vote. MWG agency representatives shall be appointed by the membership agency for a two-year term and be an executive or senior staff level. Membership may also include participation from non-voting agency partners including, but not limited to, Caltrans, Department of Defense, Southern California Tribal Chairman's Association.

The MWG will meet every other month or as needed. Meetings shall be noticed according to and shall otherwise fully comply with the Ralph M. Brown Act.

Staff contact: Cecily Taylor, (619) 744-8522, cecily.taylor@sandag.org

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Tricia Olsen City of Coronado	Jasmine Bridges City of Coronado	
Micheal Kenney County of San Diego	Tara Lieberman Tanvir Hossain County of San Diego	
Joe Bride City of Del Mar	Karen Brindley City of Del Mar	
Yazmin Arellano City of El Cajon	Mario Sanchez Olga Reyes City of El Cajon	
Abe Bandegan City of Encinitas	Evan Jedynak City of Encinitas	
Jonathan Schauble City of Escondido	Owen Tunnell Craig Williams City of Escondido	
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Larry Renteria- Luna Metropolitan Transit System (MTS)

Katie Persons North County Transit District

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Sjohnna Knack Airport Authority

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Facilitating Access to Coordinated Transportation

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Southern California Tribal Chairman's
Association

Mobility Working Group

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Comments and Communications

1. Non-Agenda Public Comments/Member Comments

Members of the public shall have the opportunity to address the Mobility Working Group on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Mobility Working Group that is not on this agenda. Public speakers are limited to three minutes or less per person. Public comments under this agenda item will be limited to five public speakers. If the number of public comments under this agenda item exceeds five, additional public comments will be taken at the end of the agenda. Mobility Working Group members and SANDAG staff also may present brief updates and announcements under this agenda item.

Reports

2. The State of Microtransit Locally and Nationally

+2A. Microtransit in the San Diego Region

Information

Nick Sofoul, NCTD; Emily Doss, SANDAG

North County Transit District and San Diego Association of Governments staff will provide an overview of microtransit initiatives in the region. Working Group members will be invited to participate in a question-and-answer session.

Microtransit in the San Diego Region Presentation

+2B. Panel: Microtransit Outside the San Diego Region

Discussion

Antionette Meier, SANDAG; Richard Cowart, KCATA; Monica Waggoner, LA Metro; Jing Xu, DART; David Mach, City of Torrance

Staff from peer public agencies will present microtransit programs and discuss best practices and lessons learned for microtransit implementation.

Panel - Microtransit Outside the Region Presentation

Adjournment

3. Adjournment

The next Mobility Working Group meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at 9 a.m.

⁺ next to an agenda item indicates an attachment



Mobility, San Diego Regional Military, Shoreline Preservation, Social Equity, Social Services Transportation **Advisory Council, and Sustainable Communities Joint Working Groups Session**

Item: **2A**

May 8, 2025

Microtransit in the San Diego Region

Overview

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) identifies Flexible Fleets as a regional mobility strategy in the Regional Plan. Flexible Fleets provide ondemand, shared mobility services that can fill gaps in the transit network. Microtransit is a form of Flexible Fleets that provides on-demand shuttle services to move around the community or to connect to highspeed transit. The <u>Draft 2025 Regional Plan</u> Transportation Network includes 36 microtransit zones across the region.

Key Considerations

Microtransit in the San Diego Region

Over a dozen microtransit programs have launched in San Diego communities across the region over the last decade. This presentation will provide an overview of several of those programs, including SANDAGsupported pilot projects and the NCTD+ Microtransit Pilot Program.

SANDAG has provided funding for four microtransit pilot projects since 2019, starting with the Carlsbad Connector, gO'side (Oceanside), The Beach Bug (Pacific Beach), and Southeastern San Diego Microtransit.

In 2024, the North County Transit District (NCTD) published their Microtransit Pilot Program Suitability Analysis. This report informed the NCTD+ Microtransit Pilot Program and identifies multiple microtransit pilot service zones, pending operational and budgetary resources.

Regional Resources

In addition to funding pilot programs, SANDAG has developed regional resources to support microtransit service planning and operations:

Flexible Fleets Implementation Strategic Plan (2022): provides a roadmap for planning and implementing Flexible Fleet pilot programs in communities across San Diego County.

Flexible Fleet Taskforce: SANDAG coordinates with the various program managers of Flexible Fleets services across the region on a bi-monthly basis through its Task Force. This group shares updates and discusses microtransit implementation best practices.

Open Data Portal (ODP): SANDAG monitors Flexible Fleets pilot projects on the ODP. The portal showcases useful ridership data and trends on some local microtransit programs.

Action: Discussion

North County Transit District and San Diego Association of Governments staff will provide an overview of microtransit initiatives in the region. Working Group members will be invited to participate in a question-andanswer session.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Schedule/Scope Impact:

None.

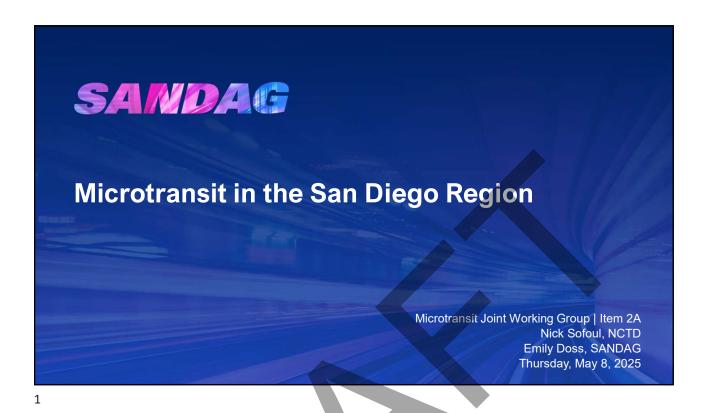
<u>On-Call Flexible Fleets Service Provider Contracts:</u> SANDAG procured several flexible fleet service providers. These agreements are available to local jurisdictions and transit agencies, and several jurisdictions have utilized the <u>Flexible Fleets Provider Cooperative Contract Agreements</u> for their programs.

Flexible Fleets Grant Program (FFGP): In 2023, the Board approved funding for Flexible Fleets pilots. SANDAG's FFGP call for projects is in development. \$4.5 million in funding will be available on a competitive basis for local, state, federal and tribal governmental agencies, transit districts, and military institutions to pilot Flexible Fleets services, including microtransit.

Next Steps

SANDAG anticipates that the FFGP call for projects will be released in summer 2025, pending Board approval. Services funded through the FFGP are anticipated to conclude pilot periods by 2029. SANDAG will continue seeking sustainable funding sources for microtransit service operations.

Antoinette Meier, Senior Director of Regional Planning



What is Microtransit?

Carlsbad
Connector
Coast to Work Skip Inc.

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Past & Present Microtransit Programs in the Region

Microtransit Services

· Carlsbad Connector: 2019-2020

· Chula Vista Community Shuttle: 2022- Current

Carlsbad Good Ride: 2023-2024

• San Marcos Microtransit (NCTD+): 2024- Current

• Mid-CityGO Microtransit (North Park/City Heights): 2025- Current

• El Cajon Microtransit: 2025-Current

Neighborhood Electric Vehicle Services

• FRED (Downtown San Diego): 2016- Current

gO'side (Oceanside): 2022- Current

FRANC (National City): 2023 – Current

Beach Bug (Pacific Beach): 2023 - 2024

Island Express (Coronado): 2024

• IB Shuffling (Imperial Beach): - 2021-2025

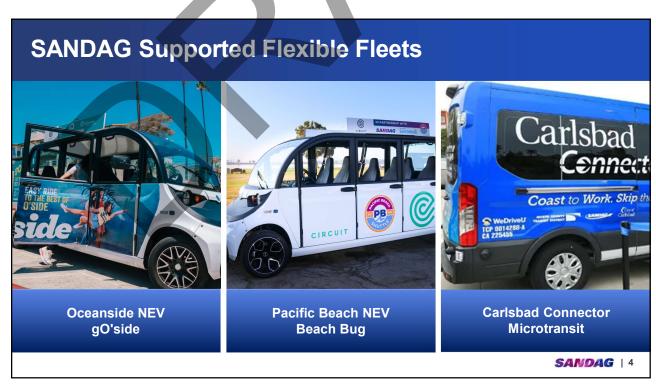
Coming Soon

- Barrio Logan Via Verde Microtransit
- Southeastern San Diego Microtransit
- Vista Microtransit (NCTD+): Coming May 19, 2025
- Flexible Fleets Grant Program Pilots



Source: Axios, 2025

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Modal Comparison

Bus Service / Circulators (Up to 60 Passengers)



- Defined Fixed Route
- · Scheduled Trips
- Service Length typically 10+ miles
- Regional Connections

Microtransit (6-15 Passengers)



- Demand Response Mode
- Defined Service Area (geofenced)
- Service Area typically 1.5-10 square miles
- App Enabled Dynamic Routing
- Connect to Activity Centers and Regional Transit Network

Neighborhood Electric Vehicle (Up to 5 Passengers per Vehicle)



- Demand Response Mode
- Up to 25 MPH
- Shorter distance trips
- Smaller service areas (0.5-2 miles)
- Flat Topography
- App Enabled Dynamic Routing
 Connect to local Activity
- Connect to local Activity
 Centers and Regional Transit
 Network

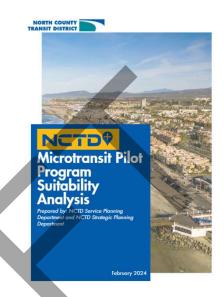
Source: Adapted from SANDAG

Modal Comparison: Moving 60 Passengers				
×60 =	Fixed Route	Microtransit	Neighborhood Electric Vehicle	
Vehicle Need	*1	4111 ×7	×12	
Vehicle Capacity	60 Passengers	9 Passengers	5 Passengers	
Operator Need		rana		
Total Operations Cost	\$ Costs comparison based on NCTD operation	\$\$\$ n cost / driver, FY23	\$\$\$\$	
7				



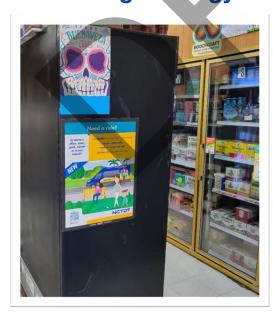
NCTD+ Overview

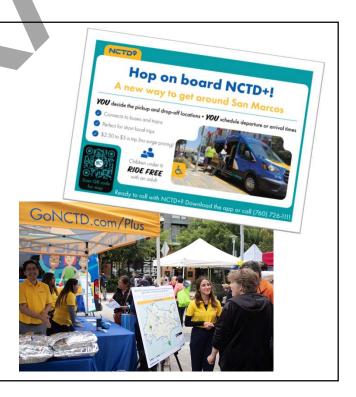
- 14 zones were identified through feedback from customers & stakeholders with consideration of SANDAG Flexible Fleets Implementation Plan (2022)
- Evaluation Criteria:
 - Equity
 - Transit Connectivity
 - Efficiency
 - Points of Interest



Q

Marketing Strategy











NCTD+ Limitations

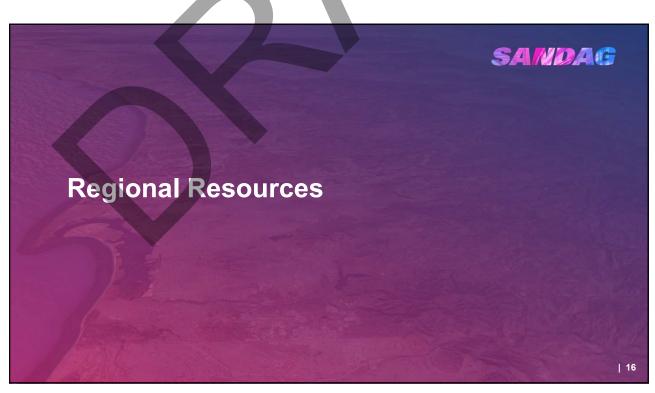
NCTD+ Cost per BREEZE Fixed-Route Passenger **Bus Cost per Passenger** \$12.95 \$29.53 **NCTD+ Actual Wait Time NCTD+ Goal Wait Time** ~24 Minutes < 20 Minutes **NCTD+ Actual Farebox NCTD+ Goal Farebox** Recovery Recovery 3.7% 16.8%

Next Steps

- Flexible Service Planning
 - Ongoing zone adjustments while balancing demand and operational capacity
- Fixed-Route Planning
- Long-term Sustainable Funding through:
 - Grants
 - Partnerships
- Future Zones
 - Pending funding and operational capacity



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Slide 17

EDO Insert updated image once RP team gets back to CTA

Emily Doss, 2025-04-21T15:38:39.162

ED0 0 Needs to say draft

Emily Doss, 2025-04-24T20:42:21.747

Slide 18

AMO The taskforce, the Open data Portal, and the bench

Antoinette Meier, 2025-04-25T00:31:31.876

ED0 0 How about the FF Strategic Plan and NCTD+ plan too?

Emily Doss, 2025-04-25T21:54:03.672



Draft Flexible Fleets Grant Program Funding \$4,500,000 · Local, state, federal & tribal governmental agencies Eligible Transit districts **Applicants** Military institutions Eligible Service Operations • Capital (e.g. vehicles, software, supportive infrastructure) **Grant Types** • Direct operations of service (Microtransit, NEV, etc.) • Contract services (Microtransit, NEV, Bikeshare, Carshare, etc.) Sample Eligible Vehicle Procurement **Activities** Software/Hardware • Flexible Fleet Supportive Infrastructure (e.g. charging, docking stations, right of way improvements, signage and wayfinding) SANDAG | 19

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Mobility, San Diego Regional Military, Shoreline Preservation, Social Equity, Social Services Transportation Advisory Council, and Sustainable Communities Joint Working Groups Session

Item: 2B

May 8, 2025

Panel - Microtransit Outside the Region

Overview

Microtransit services have gained popularity and different services models have emerged in a variety of communities across the nation. This panel will feature peer-agency staff from Los Angeles County

Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro),

Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (KCATA),

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), and the City of Torrance, California (CA). The panelists will share microtransit implementation best practices and the opportunities and challenges of microtransit through lessons learned.

Action: Discussion

Peer-agency staff will share the opportunities and challenges of microtransit implementation. Working Group members will be invited to participate in a question-and-answer session.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Schedule/Scope Impact:

None.

Key Considerations

Richard Cowart is the Senior Director of Transportation and Mobility Services at KCATA. Richard and his team manage RideKC On Demand, a "comingled" microtransit/paratransit service operating since 2016.

Monica Waggoner is the Transportation Planning Manager of Service Planning, Gateway Cities & Metro Micro at LA Metro. Monica and her team manage Micro, an eight-zone-based microtransit service operating since 2020 as a pilot initially.

Jing Xu is the Assistant Vice President, Service Planning and Scheduling at DART. Jing and her team manage GoLink, On Demand, a zone-based microtransit service operating since 2017 as a pilot initially.

David Mach is the Transit Planning Manager at the City of Torrance, CA. David and his team recently launched <u>Connect Torrance</u>, a turnkey program serving Torrance residents, with a specific emphasis on serving seniors and disabled riders.

Next Steps

This joint working group meeting is a learning opportunity to understand microtransit and the opportunities for our region. Attendees will be able to apply new knowledge to local pilot implementation and management in preparation for the new <u>Flexible Fleets Grant Program</u> that is expected to be released this summer.

Antoinette Meier, Senior Director of Regional Planning



Microtransit Panel Agenda

Goals & Introduction

Antionette Meier, Senior Director of Regional Planning

RideKC On Demand

Richard Cowart, Senior Director of Transportation and Mobility Services

LA Metro Micro

Monica Waggoner, Transportation Planning Manager

DART GoLink On-Demand

Jing Xu, AVP Service Planning and Development

Connect Torrance

David Mach, Transit Planning Manager

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Meet the Panel





Monica
Waggoner
Los Angeles County
Metro Transportation
Authority (LA Metro)



Jing Xu Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)



David Mach
City of Torrance

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Overview

- · What KCATA and city wanted from Microtransit solution
 - Phased expansion of service
 - Fare collecting strategy
 - · Ridership growth
 - · Success of service

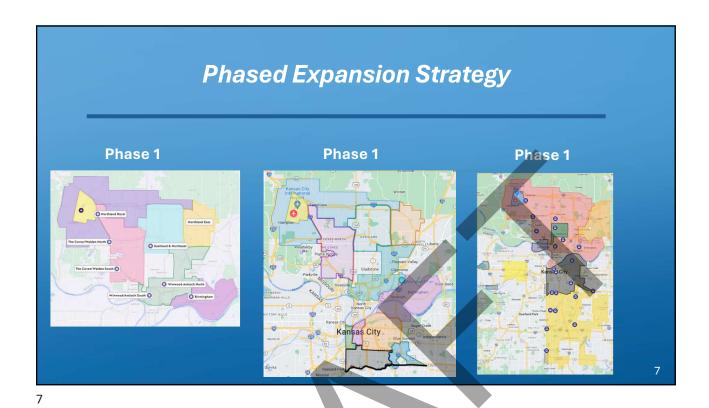


■KCATA→ RideKC

Vision for a Modern Transit System

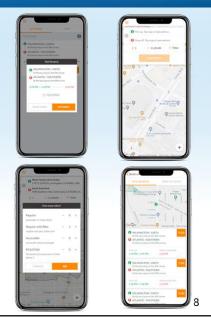
- Goals for Microtransit
 - Needs to be purposeful
 - Needs to be in the right place at the right time
 - Ability to maneuver throughout the service area
 - Must make sense financially
- What makes a good service?

■KCATA→ | RideKC



Fares in a Zero-Fare Economy

- KCATA one of first major cities to go zero-fare prior to COVID-19 pandemic.
- City and KCATA agreed fare was necessary on On-Demand.
- With no fare collection infrastructure, oneyear timeline, leaned on current turnkey operator and tech for options.
- The solution to this problem became Appbased!



■ KCATA→ RideKC

Strategies for Boosting Ridership

Initially no paid advertising; relied on word of mouth and on-street vehicle presence. So, how did ridership grow?



■KCATA→ | RideKC



Measuring Success: RideKC IRIS

- Nearly 24,000 boardings monthly
 - Nearly 22,000 monthly trips
- 12.2-minute average wait time
- 25.4-minute average ride time
- 95% of trips booked via mobile app
- 62% of trips are shared rides

SERVICE ZONE STATISTICS

318

30

Square Miles

Hours Per Day

Total Vehicles

■KCATA→ | RideKC

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Measuring Success: RideKC Freedom ADA Paratransit

- Nearly 1,000 boardings per day
- 90% average on-time performance
- 60%+ shared rides
- Improved rider experience through IVR trip notifications
- Reduced staff workload & improved work satisfaction through automated workflows
- Data accuracy & seamless reporting

SERVICE ZONE STATISTICS

Square Miles

■KCATA→ | RideKC



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Future of On-Demand in KC Recently awarded contact for turn-key operator and new technology platform for paratransit service Provides opportunity to combine current ADA service, Microtransit, & other On-Demand services Continue to grow service with partnering communities so that transit is available to all



Metro Micro Background



- The MicroTransit Pilot Program started with an unsolicited proposal in 2017. The Metro Board authorized further study.
- In 2018, three proposers were selected for Part A: program development. These three companies worked with Metro to create competing designs for an on-demand service.
- Part B, Implementation, received Board authorization on February 27, 2020. In the next few months, the program had to be reworked for a pandemic-era deployment.
- The program launched with two zones on December 13, 2020, with 7 more launched in 2021. (Two zones were later merged.)
- On March 16, 2025, the program became a permanent Metro service, operating under new contracts for software and operations.



W Metro

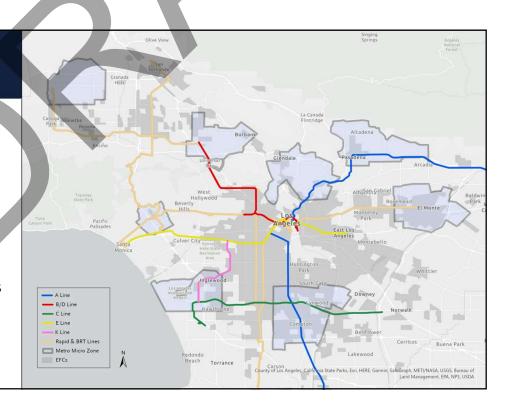
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Overview Map

Metro Micro's eight zones are spread across Metro's service area, capturing a variety of use cases and communities.

Every zone connects riders to Metro Rail or BRT.





Metro Micro Update





Since launching in December 2020, Metro Micro has...

- Launched eight zones across the Metro service area
- Served 57,984 unique users (as of 3/15/2025)
- Completed 2,466,025 passenger boardings (as of 3/15/2025)
- Maintained an average ride rating of 4.85 out of 5 stars

Metro Micro Serves...



With...

~150 operators

83 vehicles



165 square miles

29 cities



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Project Status and Next Steps









In September 2023, the Metro Board approved a one-year extension of the existing Metro Micro contract. During this year, the project is to undertake the following:

- Move to a permanent fare of \$2.50 from the introductory rate of \$1.00
- Develop and issue new RFPs, which incorporate lessons learned during the pilot project

>2,000 boardings/weekday

12 unincorporated communities

- Consider adjusting zones or service hours to remove lower-performing areas or periods
- Make operational improvements to reduce unit costs and improve service, including:
 - o Reduce cancellations and no-shows with Automatic **Booking Limitations**
 - o Optimize virtual stop placement
 - o Adjust back-end settings to help group rides more efficiently





Fare Program Background





- A Fare Working Group with input from across Metro initially discussed fares as high as \$10 but settled on a base fare of \$2.50.
- The group reconvened in 2020 and set an introductory fare of \$1.00, in recognition of the effects on ridership and personal finances from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A base fare of \$2.50 to succeed this introductory fare was approved by the Metro Board in principle in October 2020, with a more detailed plan approved in May 2021.
- The introductory fare was due to end after 2021, but COVID was still impactful at that time. The permanent fare has not yet been implemented but COVID has now become part of life.





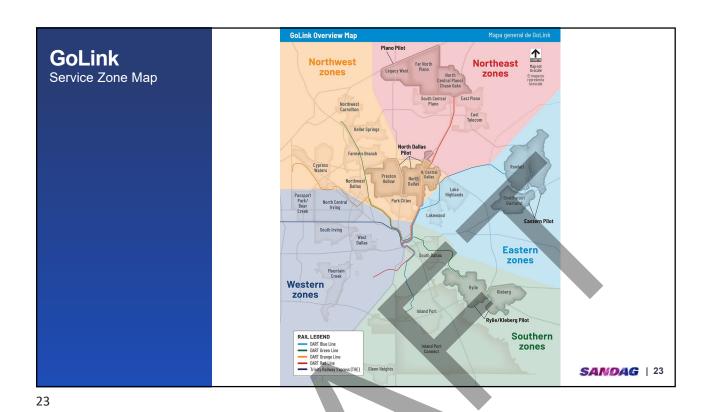
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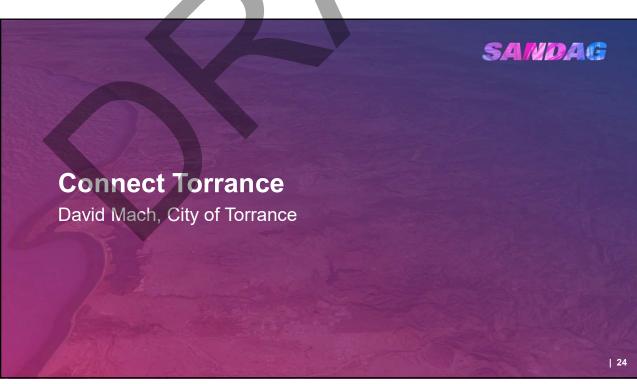
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Fare Program Base Fare \$2.50 • The permanent Fare Program was Transfers to Metro Bus and Rail Free implemented on Transfers from Metro Bus and Rail 75¢ upcharge March 24, 2024. Public comments on LIFE Program free rides (90-day & 20/month) Accepted on Micro the fare program Senior/Disabled Fare Program Base Fare \$1.00 during outreach were overwhelmingly GoPass & Student Reduced Fare Program Base Fare \$1.00 positive, with 2/3rds E-Z Transit Pass Zone 0 Base Fare 75¢ upcharge of comments on the proposal in favor of E-Z Transit Pass Zone 1+ Free the changes. Transfers from Municipal Bus Lines \$1.25 (50¢ transfer charge + 75¢ upcharge) Metro









Facts About Torrance Transit System



- Continuous operation since 1940
- 12 Bus routes
- 108 Square miles
- 800 Bus stops
- Fully alternative fuel

TORRANCE - HARBOR FWY STATION
WEEKDAYS 54-10P, SATURDAYS 64-9P, SUKDAYS 64-8P

TORRANCE - EL CAMINO COLLEGE
WEEKDAYS 54-10P, SATURDAYS 54-10P, SUKDAYS 54-10P

REDONDO BEACH - LONG BEACH
WEEKDAYS 54-10P, SATURDAYS 54-10P, SUKDAYS 54-10P

MARY K. GIORDANO
REGIONAL TRANSIT CENTER - LONG BEACH
WEEKDAYS 64-90 AND 2P-PP

TORRANCE - DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES
WEEKDAYS 54-10A AND 2P-M - 8PM

TORRANCE - EL CAMINO COLLEGE
WEEKDAYS 54-10A AND 2P-BP

REDONDO BEACH - CARSON
WEEKDAYS 64-9P

TORRANCE - LAX TRANSIT CENTER
WEEKDAYS 64-10P, SUKDAYS 64-10P

TORRANCE - CARSON
WEEKDAYS 64-9P

TORRANCE - CARSON
WEEKDAYS 64-10P, SUKDAYS 64-10P

TORRANCE TO FLORENCE
WEEKDAYS 54-10P, SATURDAYS 64-10P, SUNDAYS 64-10P

REDONDO BEACH - ARTESIA STATION
WEEKDAYS 5A-9P, SATURDAYS 6A-9P, SUNDAYS 6A-9P

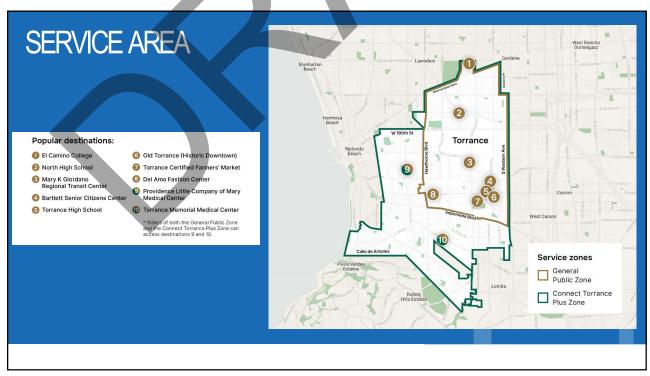
25



Senior Taxi & Dial-A-Taxi



A new on-demand rideshare transit option that uses technology to captures trip requests and groups passengers into shared rides, in real-time. Curb-to-Curb service. Offers passengers an option that is more flexible than traditional fixed-route bus service and appointment-based paratransit. Supplements to the existing Torrance Community Transit Program (TCTP) Call-in center with representatives to assist in booking rides Provide first-last-mile connections to Transit and the Mary K. Giordano Regional Transit Center.



PROGRAM FUNDING

- Measure M Visionary Project Seed Funding Grant from LA Metro
- Transit Operating Budget
- Measure R Capital Investment Funding



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CHALLENGES, SUCCESS, AND NEXT STEP

- Extensive outreach and marketing
- · Launching during the holidays December 2024
- Funding constraints
- Over 5,000 rides completed
- More than 30 percent are seniors
- · New riders who never used public transit
- Large number of returning riders
- Average wait time under 10 minutes



