

December 2024

Galesburg Public Transportation Vision Plan

Final Presentation



Meeting Purpose



Provide an overview of the GPT Vision Plan and description of the planning process that was conducted over the last 12 months



Present compiled analysis, outreach, and findings that informed proposed service recommendations.



Prescribe next steps for GPT and the Galesburg community to move forward with successful project implementation.

Agenda

- 1 GPT Vision Plan
- 2 Service Recommendations
- 3 Project Implementation
- 4 Transit System Access
- 5 Looking Ahead



GPT Vision Plan



Galesburg
Public
Transportation

Project Goals



Develop transit recommendations that meet the needs of Galesburg/Knox County residents & determine where there is underlying demand for future service expansion

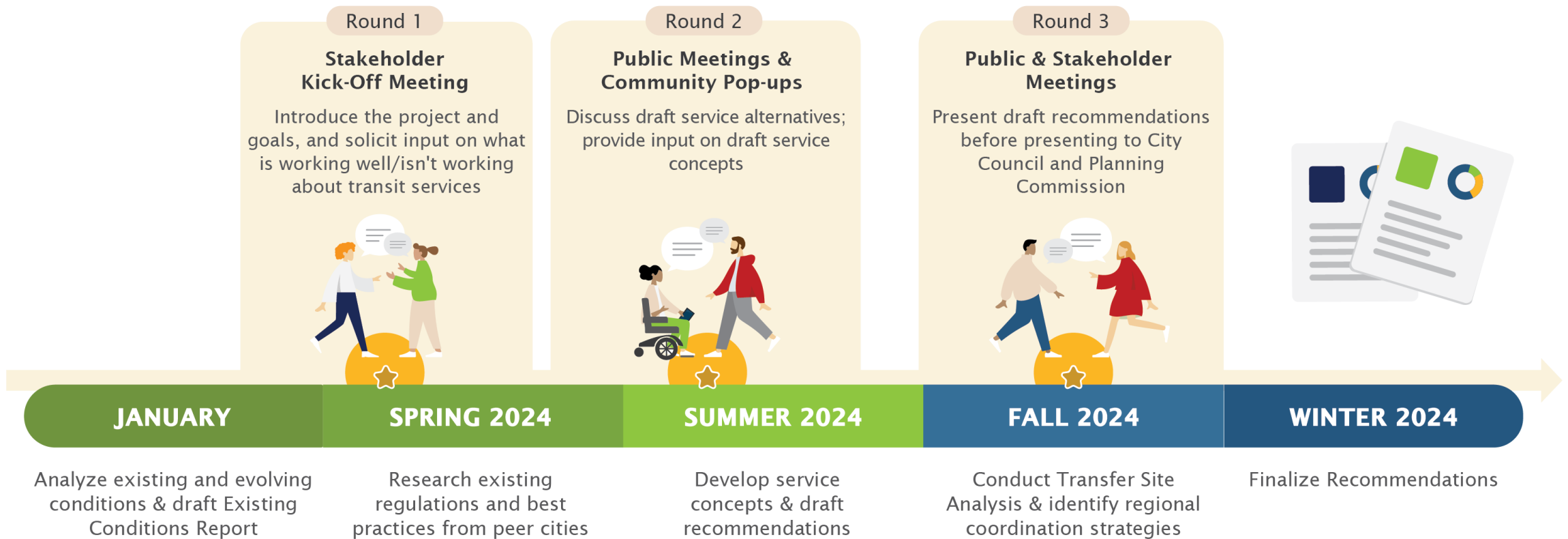


Detail a service design, operating and capital cost estimates, and phasing plan that supports near-term and long-term service improvements



Conduct a series of conversations & meetings with key stakeholders and community members to inform future service recommendations

Project Schedule



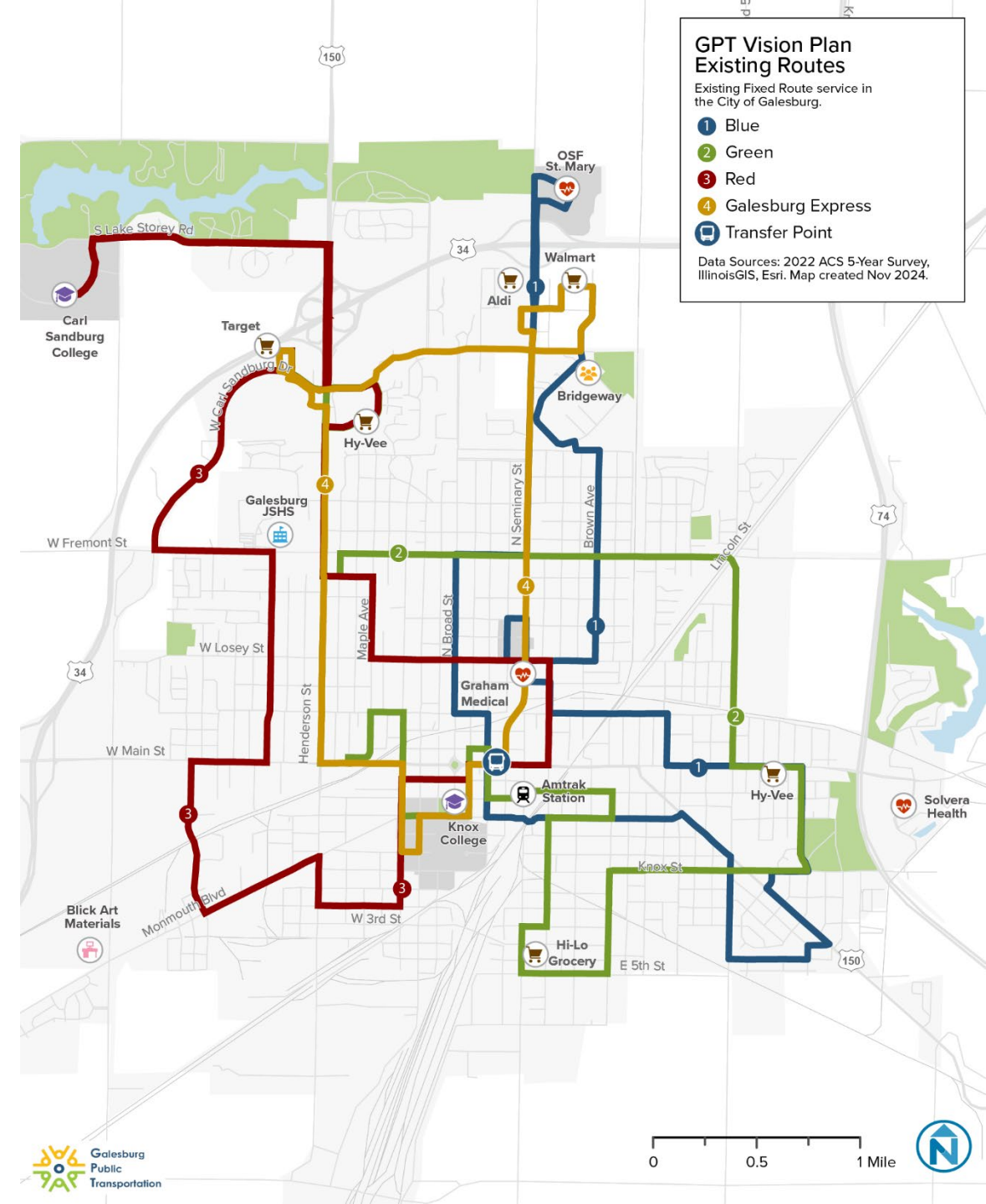
Existing Service

GPT currently operates:

- Four fixed transit routes that provide hourly service (Monday–Saturday, 7AM–6PM)
- Dial-a-Ride deviated fixed route service
- Complementary ADA paratransit service within a $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile buffer of fixed routes

Existing fixed route service has a few challenges highlighted by analysis and rider feedback.

- Redundant/replicative service
- Inefficiency and long travel times
- Frequent delays
- Lacking bus stop infrastructure



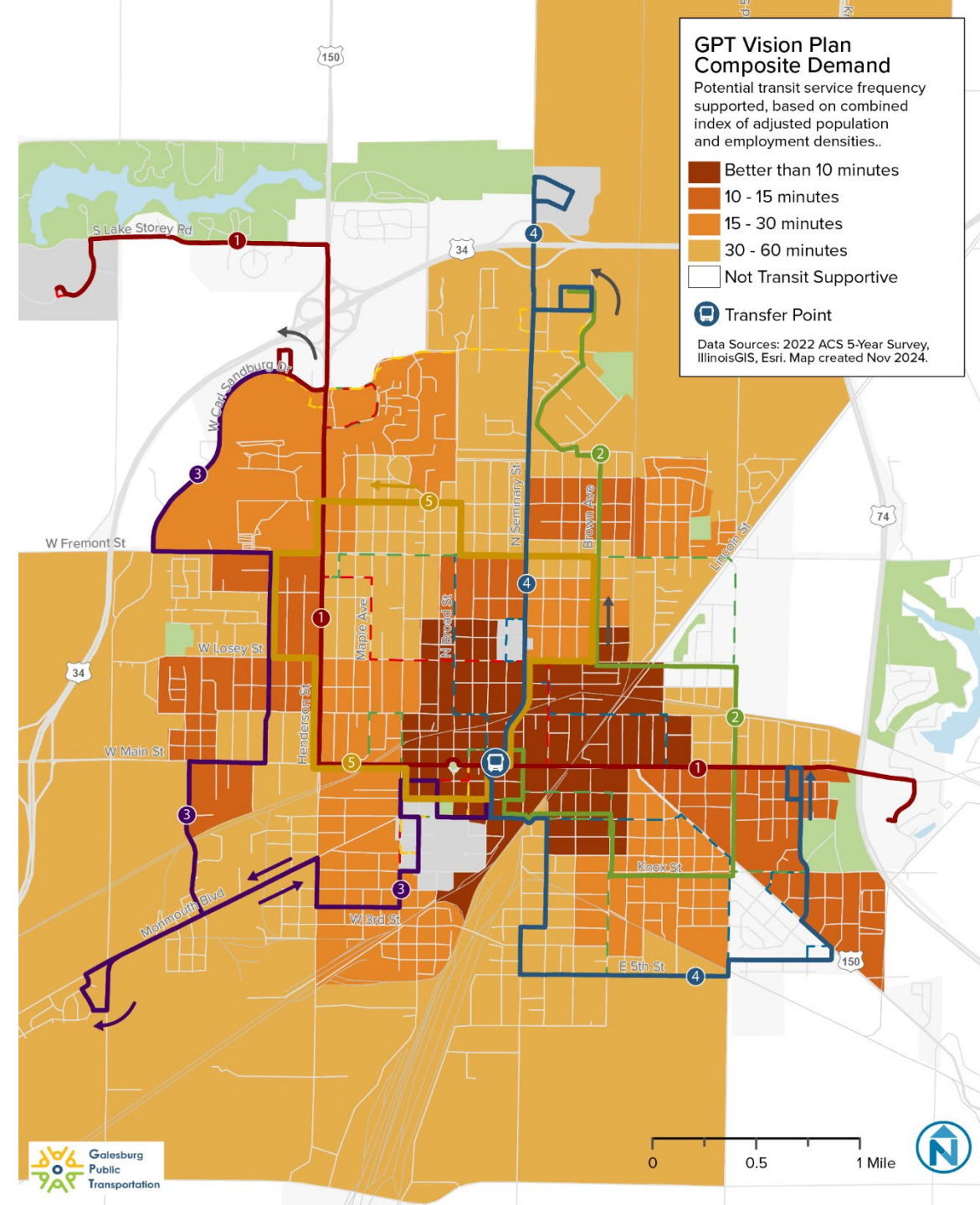
Underlying Transit Demand

Transit ridership is the result of underlying demand for transit and the attractiveness of the service.

Transit demand is a function of:

- Population density
- Job density and job type
- Socioeconomics
- Access to personal vehicles

Most of Galesburg has population and job densities that can potentially support frequent transit service (weekdays, every 15-30 minutes).



Community Outreach

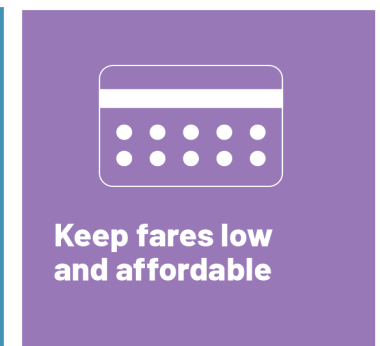
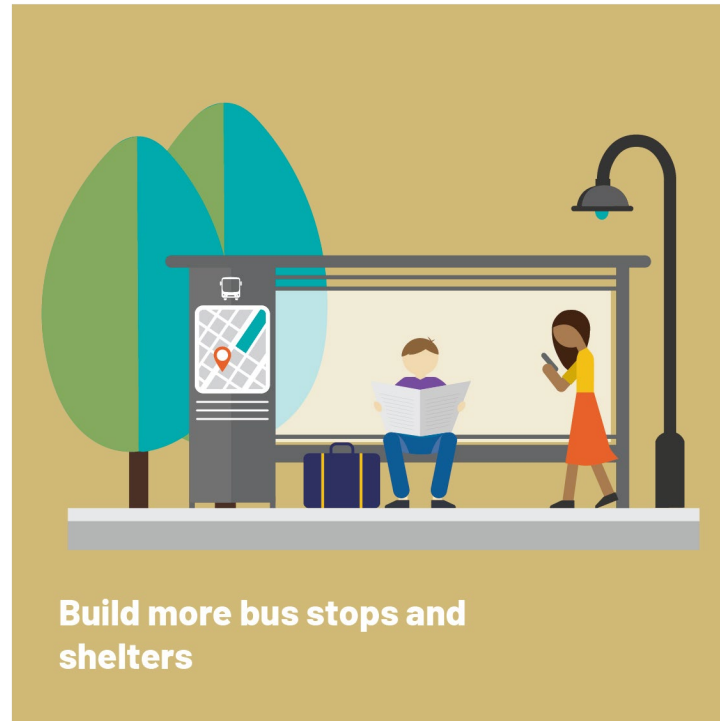
This plan involved hundreds of Galesburg and Knox County residents: community members, transit riders, local advocates, local employers, elected officials.

We conducted two surveys, held community meetings in Galesburg, Abingdon, and Knoxville, attended a community event in Oneida, convened a Technical Advisory Committee of local leaders, and shared information and collected opinions at pop-up engagement events.

The plan reflects public support of **more efficient and direct service in Galesburg** and **expanded service in Knox County**.



What we heard from riders & community members...



Service Recommendations

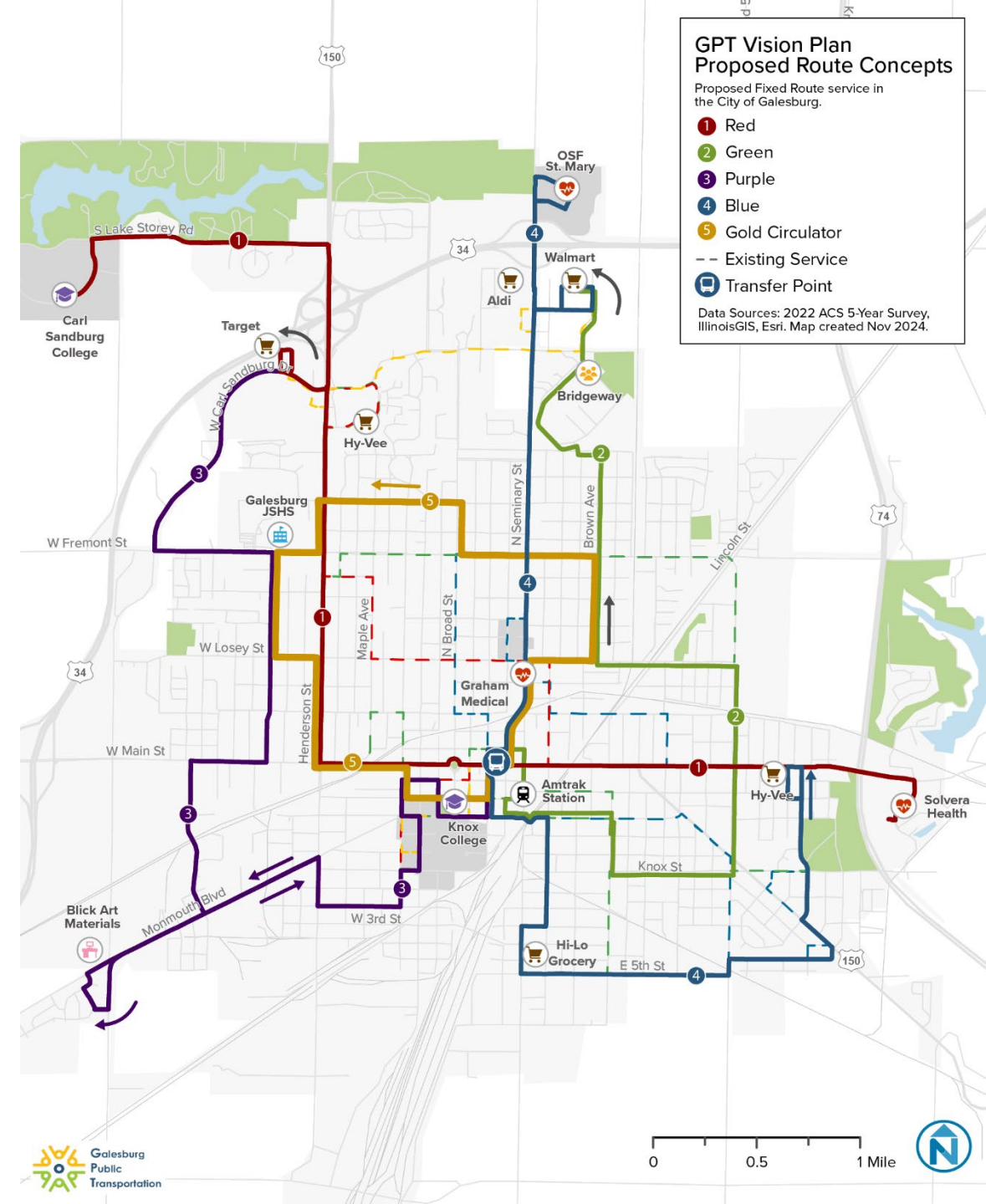


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Immediate Service Recommendations

These five fixed routes target key ridership locations in Galesburg. These routes would be...

- **DIRECT:** routes are bi-directional instead of looped
- **STAGGERED:** riders can transfer more easily between routes
- **VISIBLE:** bus stops would be fixed and marked with signs
- **CONVENIENT:** riders can access key employment centers, shopping destinations, healthcare providers, and educational opportunities.

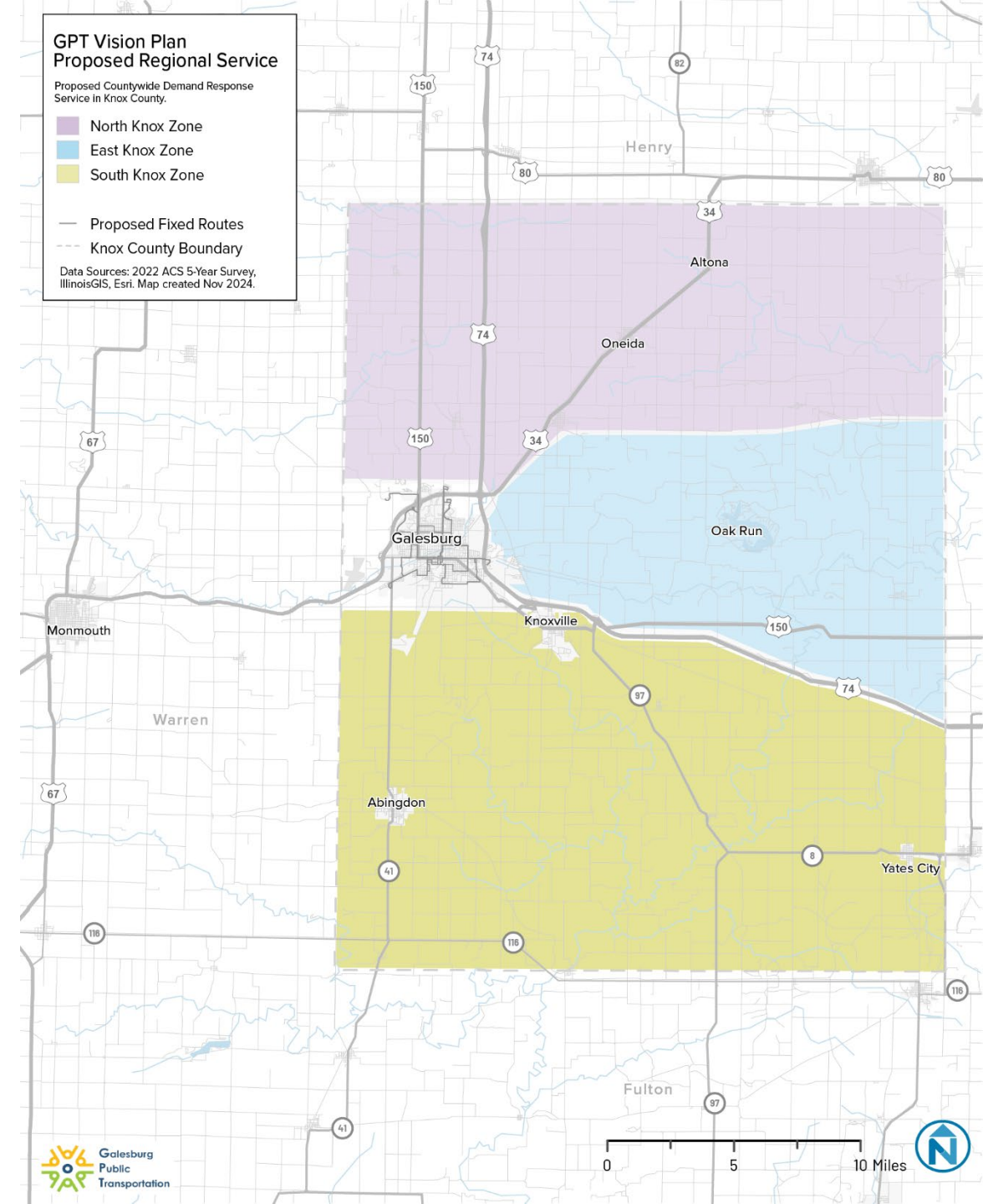


Short-term Service Recommendations

County-wide demand response service provides on-demand service outside of Knox County to all residents for all trip purposes. Service would be divided into three zones for efficiency, but riders can transfer between zones.

Demand-response service would...

- **IMPROVE ACCESS:** Allow Knox County residents to access jobs, healthcare, schools, etc. throughout the county
- **SERVE NEW RIDERS:** Provide options for Knox County residents without reliable access to their own vehicles
- **INFORM FUTURE DECISIONS:** Provide ridership trends that support future transit actions

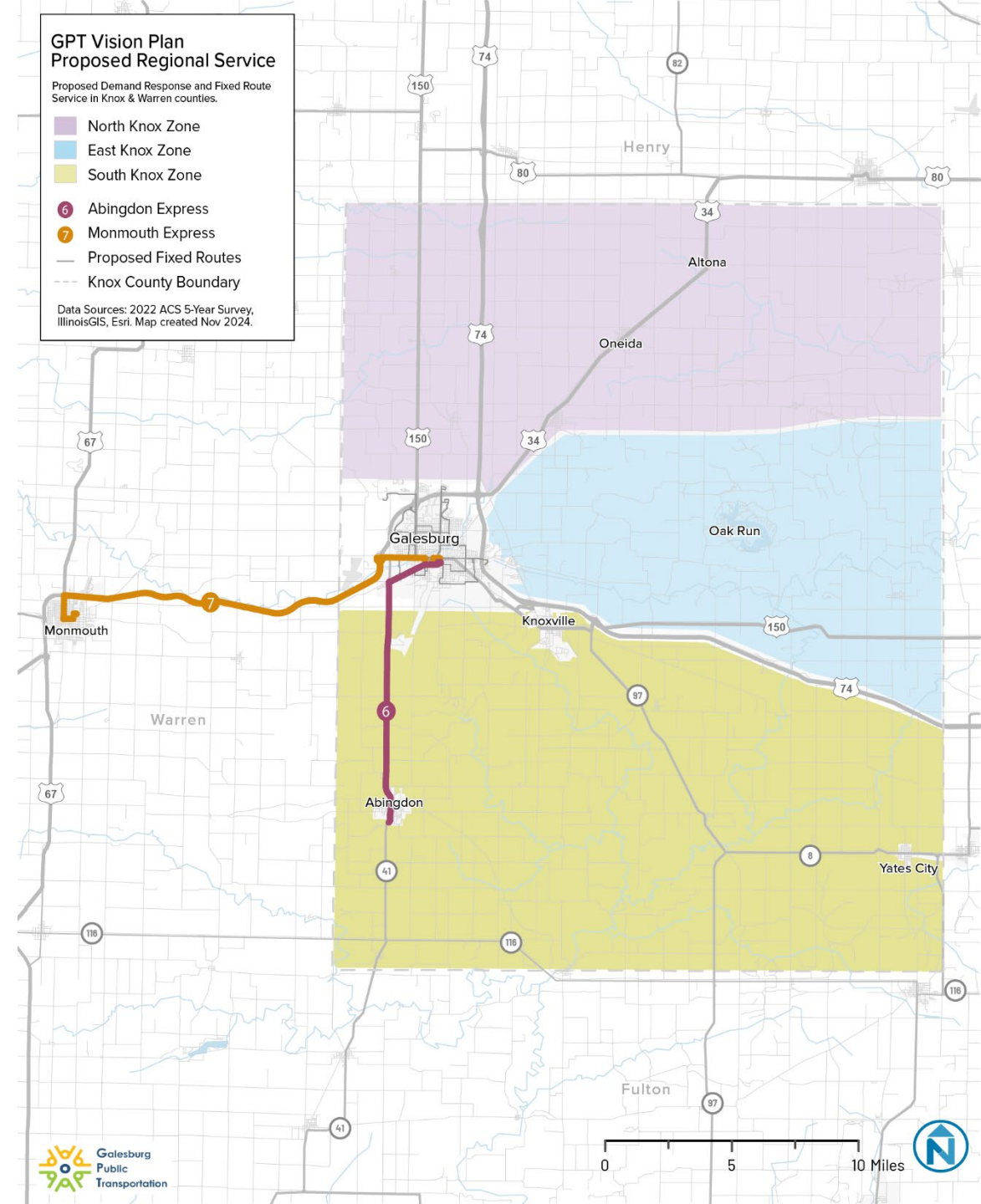


Long-term Service Recommendations

IF countywide demand response performance shows that there is excess demand to support the development of fixed route transit in Knox County, there are two regional routes to consider.

Abingdon Express: Express route along State Route 41 between the Galesburg Amtrak Station and Hi-Lo Grocery in Abingdon. Every 60 minutes between 7AM and 6PM, Monday-Friday.

Monmouth Express: Express route along the Chicago-Kansas City Expressway between the Galesburg Amtrak Station and Monmouth College. Every 90 minutes between 7AM and 6PM, Monday-Friday.



Discussion: Alignment with Community Needs & Adaptability

- What are your initial impressions of the proposed route concepts?
- Does the revised network increase your willingness to use GPT services?
- How well do you think the proposed route concepts address transportation/mobility challenges in Knox County?



Meeting the
Underlying
Demand

Project Implementation



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Phasing Plan

IMMEDIATE (0-3 years)

- Introduce new service alignments and improving service visibility
- Coordinate citywide capital improvements

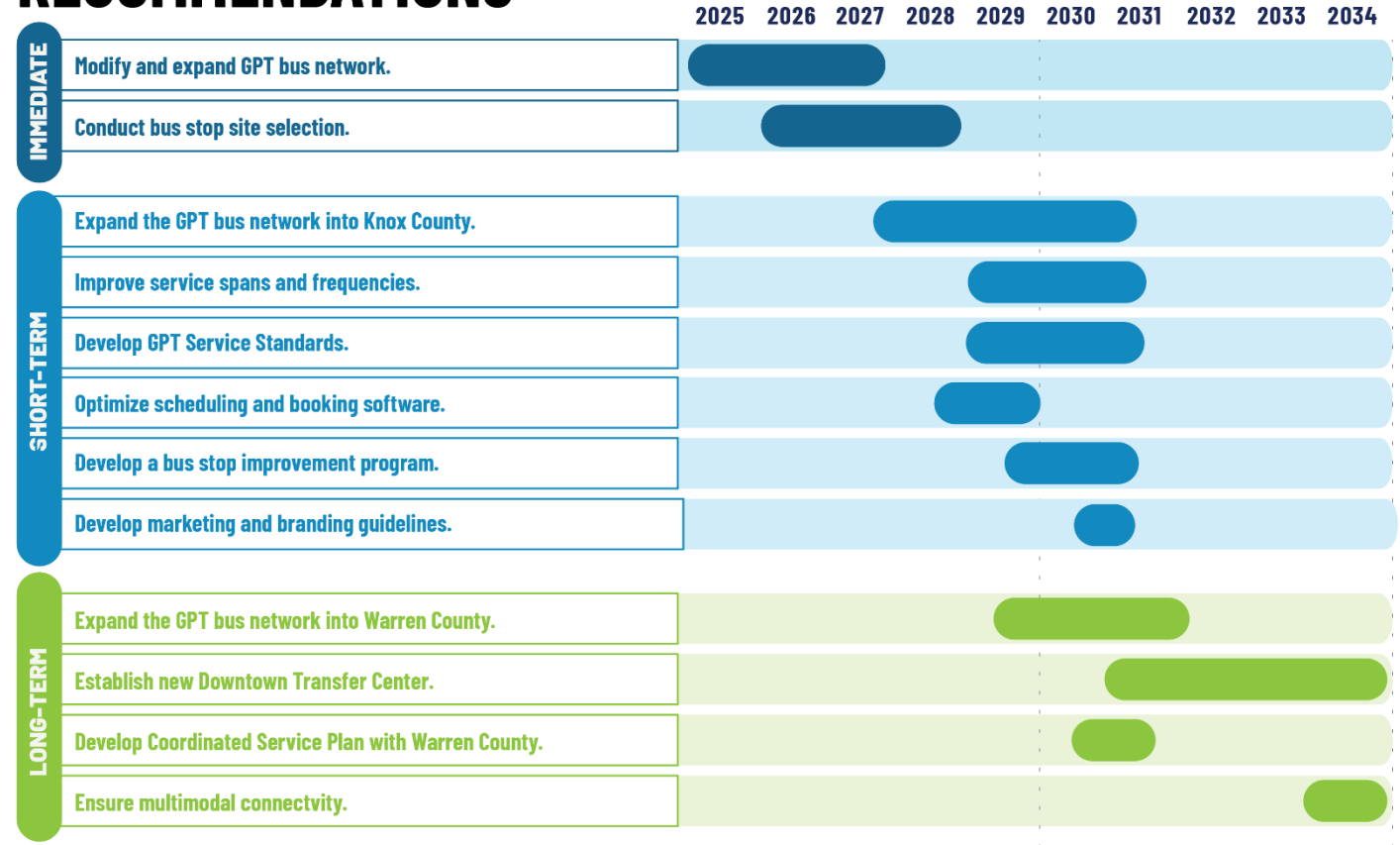
SHORT-TERM (3-5 years)

- Increase levels of service and coverage
- Developing performance measures and evaluate Vision Plan implementation

LONG-TERM (5-7+ years)

- Opportunities for regional service expansion
- Major capital improvement projects

RECOMMENDATIONS



Potential Funding Strategies

The Vision Plan recommendations reflect a 24% increase in GPT's existing operating budget. For GPT to increase funding and service capacity, the agency will need to tap all available funding streams.

State Funds

- General sales taxes
- Illinois Transportation Trust Fund
- Bond proceeds for capital projects
- State Grants
- Local Match
- Motor Fuel Taxes
- Public Utility Taxes

Local Funds

- City of Galesburg intergovernmental agreements and general funding
- Knox County sales and property tax allocations

Transit System Access

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Transit-Supportive Street Design

Pedestrian Environment & Capital Improvements

Streets should allow people to access transit stops and key destinations on foot.

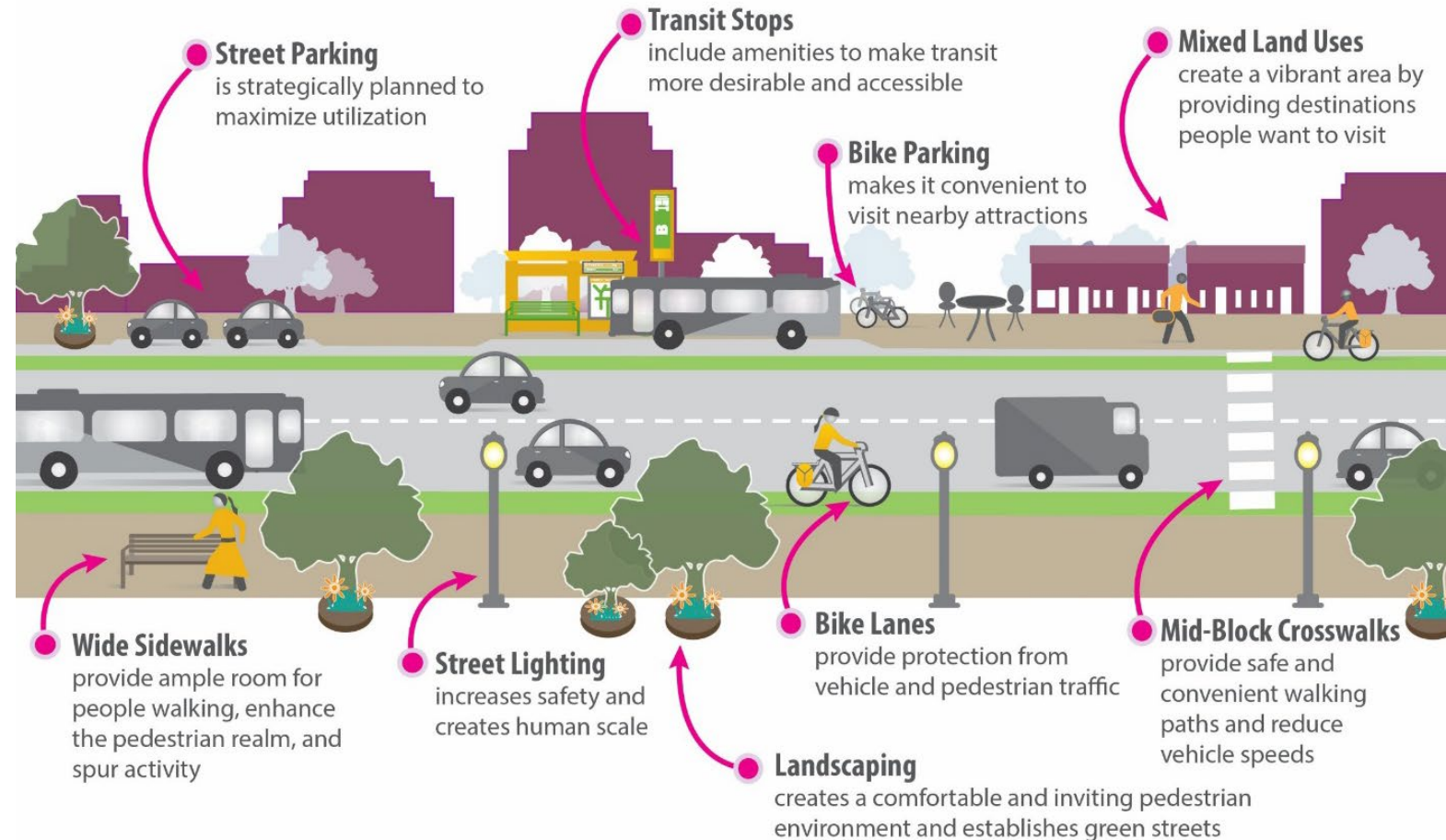
Pedestrian network should include:

- Wide and well-lit sidewalks
- Curb ramps between the sidewalk and street
- Well-marked street crossings
- Wayfinding to direct riders

Streets and transit facilities should be designed for all people regardless of ability, and include:

- Clear, level sidewalks
- Tactile cues
- Information available in a variety of languages and formats

- ✓ Coordinate with the City of Galesburg (Planning Department) to ensure multimodal connectivity (e.g., Long-range Transit Plan, Transportation Master Plan, Complete Streets Plan)



Source: Nelson\Nygaard

Branding & Rider Information

Agency Identity & Visibility

- Incorporate GPT logo and branding onto vehicles, marketing materials, and system and route maps
 - Creating agency identity and ensuring visibility as primary transit provider
 - Ensure community members have access to information about service changes and how to use the new system
-
- Actions

 - ✓ Produce new route schedules and maps for all GPT fixed routes for print and digital distribution.
 - ✓ Develop a "rider guide" summarizing instructions for riding GPT, passenger code of conduct, and fare policy.
 - ✓ Develop new navigable website that provides service information and alerts



Transit Blue
PMS 287

CMYK: 100/72/0/6
RGB: 0/83/160
HEX: 0053A0

Transit Red
PMS 485

CMYK: 0/100/91/0
RGB: 237/27/46
HEX: ED1B2E



Reversed out of 100% Black
with Transit Red icon



100% Black



Reversed out of PMS 287



Looking Ahead





Establish benchmarks and to measure success and continue building on Vision Plan to enhance services when financially feasible.



Continue building public awareness, securing community support, and providing implementation updates.



Coordinate with city and county elected-officials to explore additional funding and grant opportunities.



Discussion: Working Together

- What are other city-led mobility initiatives (e.g., pedestrian, biking) that should be consulted during plan implementation?
- What additional information/data can we share to help garner support for this Vision Plan?
- How would members like to be updated on progress once the plan is adopted?



**Adopting the
GPT Vision
Plan**

Questions?



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Thank you!



ggriffin@nelsonnygaard.com
jspande@nelsonnygaard.com