GMT Urban Fiscal Outlook and Senate Amendment to TBill

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GMT



GMT Urban Fiscal Outlook

- COVID relief funds run out in FY25
- Projected \$2.7M funding gap in FY26

Balancing FY26 budget will require 29% reduction in service hours.



Urban Service Reduction Planning Under Way

- Municipalities notified of service reductions in March 2024
- FY26 municipal assessments due November 2024
- Next 7 months will include:
 - Required public process to provide feedback on proposed reductions
 - Modification of urban assessments, requiring municipal review and approval



Considerations

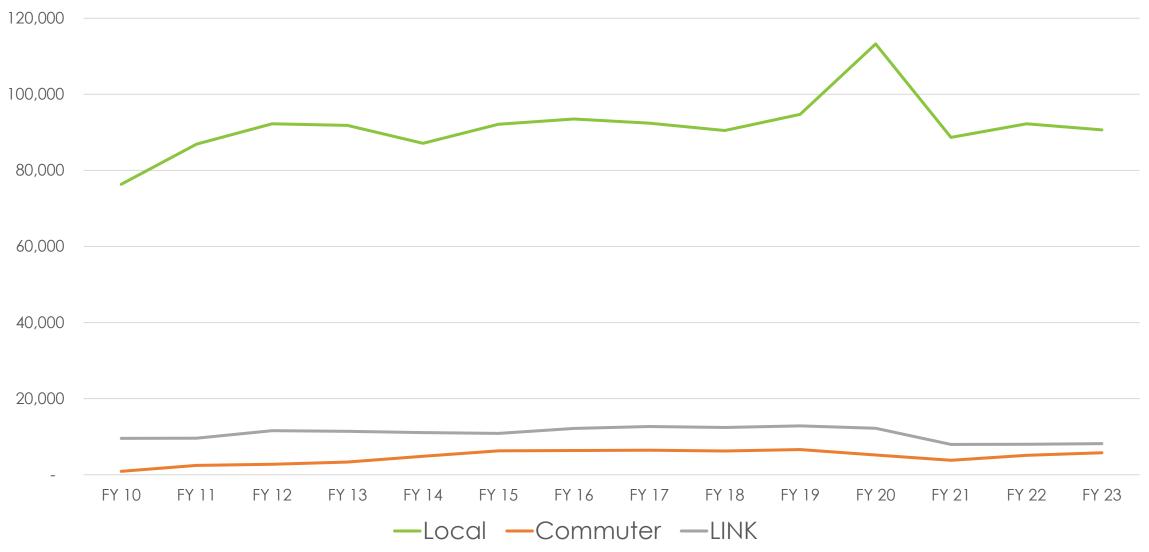


What does a 29% Reduction look Like?

- Elimination of all LINK Express*
- Elimination of all Commuter*
- Elimination of all Weekend Service*
- Plus 12% Reduction Weekday Service
- * Any reductions likely to impact these services first

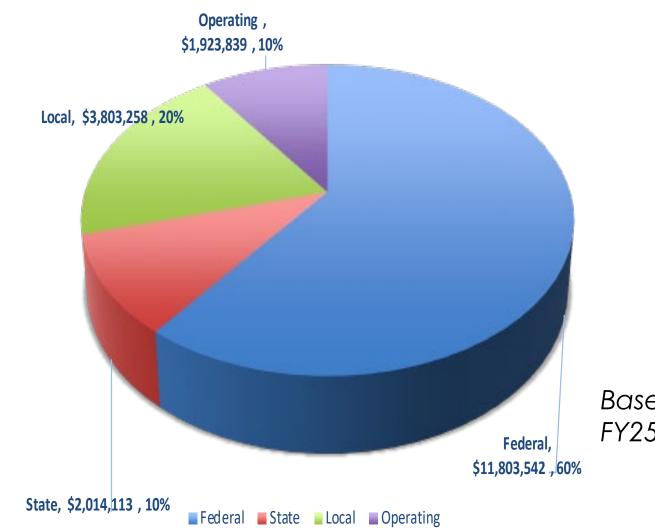


GMT Vehicle Revenue Hour by Service Category





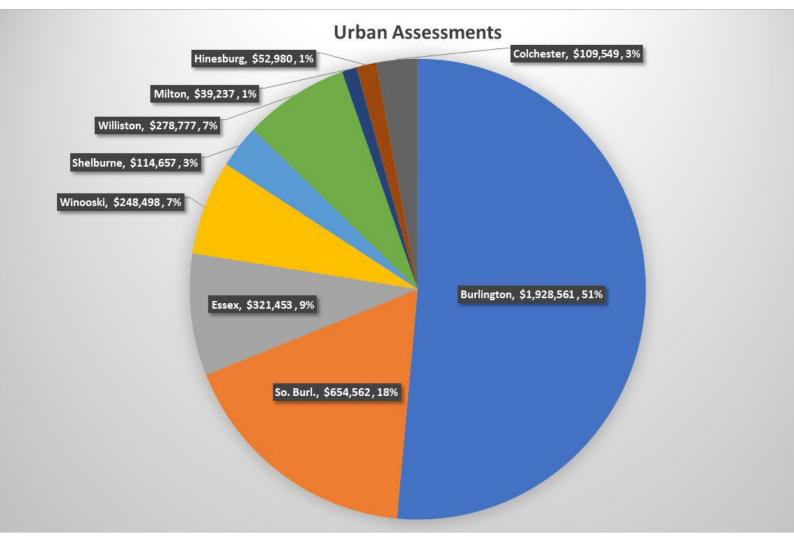
GMT Urban Funding Sources



Based on Approved FY25 Operating Budget



Sources of Urban Local Funding



Total Urban Municipal Funding = \$3.8M (20%)

Total Statewide Municipal Funding = \$4.7M

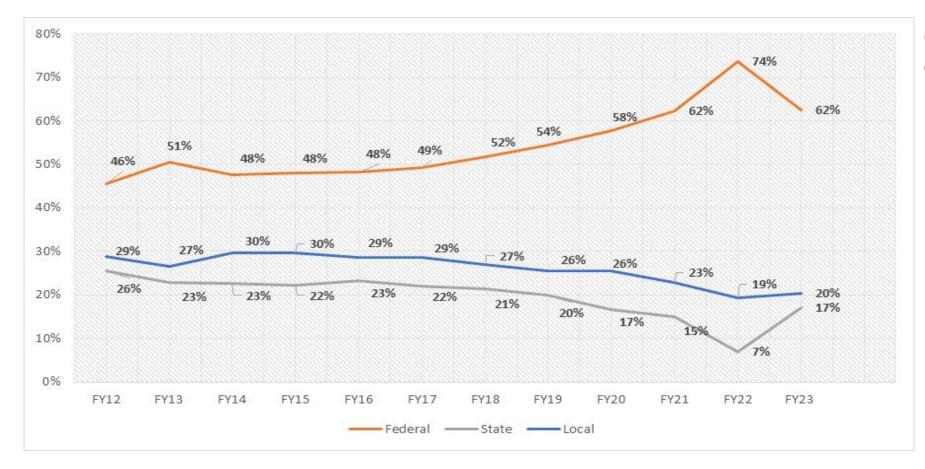
Non-GMT Urban Municipal Funding = \$0.9M (2.5%)*

Unlike rural providers, GMT's Urban Local Match reliant on municipal contributions.

*Based on total rural transit cost of \$35.5M



Federal Reserves Changed Revenue Mix



COVID relief funds shifted costs away from State and Municipalities



GMT Assessment Authority

- Special assessments require unanimous approval of all member city council/selectboards
- Changes to assessment formula require 7 of 9 municipal city council/selectboards to approve, with last changes 15+ years ago



ADA Assessments Widen Fiscal Gap





Urban Service Diversification

- 100% of Urban Service Now Delivered on a Fixed Route 35'/40' bus
- GMT studying converting ADA service to combined ADA/Microtransit service in FY26
- Microtransit could be a better solution for low ridership routes



Organizational Assessment Highlights GMT Uniqueness

- Only 1 other small urban transit agency in the country provides both urban and rural service in same organization
- GMT and VTrans need to revisit GMT's rural participation



Limited Savings Opportunities Outside Service

- Non-operational staff reduced by 38% since 2011
- 6.5% indirect rate
- GMT provides more service than we are staffed to manage... non-operational staff appropriately sized for a small urban transit agency operating only fixed route service
- This is the root of GMT dysfunction



Senate Amendment



Senate FY25 Funding: +\$1M

- Would decrease service reductions required to balance FY26 budget to 18%
- Additional service reductions required to address future funding gaps
- Will provide Legislature a review of the service changes required prior to completing FY26 budget



Return to Fares

- Fares restarting May 20, 2024
- All necessary equipment/applications received and/or working... riders are already using the system



GMT Structure

- Ready to provide structural change recommendations for GMT, which will likely include transfer of some or all rural service to other providers
- Will also address service diversification



Not Your Father's Oldsmobile GMT

- GMT needs to emulate rural transit providers
- Entrepreneurial approach to diversify revenue and decrease reliance on state and municipal funding
 - GMT in process of creating an affiliated nonprofit organization to allow for fundraising and increased access to grants
 - Integration with Human Service Organizations, Schools, Employers, etc.

