CONNECT Beyond Advancing the Plan Committee

July 28, 2023

Welcome!

Use the Communications sheet to share updates about how you are communicating about the project with your community and identify any support that you might need

CONNECT Beyond

A Regional Mobility Initiative

Call to Order & Welcome Remarks

Committee Members

July 2023

Name	Organization*
Mayor Darrell Hinnant, Co-Chair	**City of Kannapolis**, Centralina Board
Mayor Vi Lyles, Co-Chair	**City of Charlotte**, MTC
Mayor Karen Alexander	**City of Salisbury**, CRMPO Board, Centralina Board
Commissioner Leigh Altman	**Mecklenburg County**, MTC
Mayor Melinda Bales	Town of Huntersville, **MTC**
Dena Diorio	**Mecklenburg County**
Mike Downs	**Cabarrus County**
Kim Eagle	**Gaston County**
Commissioner Brian Helms	**Union County**, Centralina Board
Commissioner Bob Hovis	**Gaston County**, Centralina Board
Mayor Rusty Knox	Town of Davidson, **MTC**
Janet LaBar	**Charlotte Regional Business Alliance (CRBA)**
Tony Lathrop	**NC Board of Transportation**
Andy Lucas	**Stanly County**
Pat Mumford	**Gaston Business Association**
Mayor Scott Neisler	**Kings Mountain**, GCLMPO Chair
Mayor Ron Pappas	Town of Waxhaw, **CRTPO Chair**
Lloyd Payne	**City of Concord**, MTC Ex-Officio
David Rhew	**North Carolina Public Transportation Association**
Commissioner Lynn Shue	**Cabarrus County**, Centralina Board
Councilmember Jennifer Stepp	City of Gastonia, **GCLMPO Board**, Centralina Board
Commissioner Jarvis Woodburn	**Anson County**, Centralina Board
Geraldine Gardner	**Centralina Regional Council**
Marcus Jones	**City of Charlotte**

* Primary organization is highlighted in bold

Review Agenda and Meeting Objectives

Meeting Objectives

➢ **Learn** about project updates, recent grant requests and onboarding of implementation consultants

➢ **Review** peer models and **identify** insights/lessons for building blocks of a regional governance approach

➢ **Reflect** on Committee year end goals and define outputs for Committee to work towards

Meeting Agenda

- **Review Agenda and Meeting Objectives**
- **Regular Business Items:**
  - May Meeting Minutes Approval (Action Item)
- **Committee Work Session:**
  - Ideas in Action:
    - CONNECT Beyond Project Updates
  - Peer Region Research and Discussion
  - Throughline for Committee Year-end Goals
- **Closing**

Review: First Year Committee Goals

1. **(a) Advise** on short-term opportunities for regional collaboration and **(b) determine feasible** options for a regional governance approach

2. **Endorse** a regional communications framework for CONNECT Beyond and support its implementation

3. **Collaborate** to educate state lawmakers on CONNECT Beyond and **advocate** for local funding initiatives in the region

Regular Business Item 1: Pages 5-6

Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes

Item 1: Approval of May 19, 2023 Committee Meeting Minutes

Background

Approval of May 19, 2023, Advancing the Plan Committee meeting minutes.

The minutes from the May 19, 2023 meeting have been distributed to all Committee members – see pages 5-6 in the agenda package.

Requested Action

Motion to approve the May 19, 2023 Advancing the Plan Committee meeting minutes.

Committee Work Session Item 1: Pages 8-10

Ideas in Action Project Updates

Project Updates: TDM

Regional Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Program

- Established TDM Steering Committee, meeting bi-monthly through FY24
- Conducting interviews with peer regions to **identify best practices**
- Performing data analysis to **identify TDM "hot spots"** in region – will ensure that all community types are represented
- Stakeholder engagement and outreach expected in fall

Project Updates: Seamless CONNECTions

- Identified **pilot projects** for regional transit coordination that CATS is incorporating into a **ConCPT grant** submission to NCDOT for funding

- In early June, CATS met with **regional transit operators and Remix** to discuss opportunities for using transit planning tool – will continue this work later this summer

Project Updates: Grants

USDOT Build America Bureau: Regional Infrastructure Accelerator Grant

- Funding for "accelerator" to **build regional capacity** and ready projects for federal funding
- Three main **service lines**:
  - Infrastructure Finance Innovation
  - Pipeline Project Facilitation
  - Transit-Oriented Develop (TOD) Innovation

EPA's Climate and Pollution Reduction Grant

- Implementation funding will be made available **starting 1Q 2024**
- Steering Committee will include representatives from region's MPOs/RPO

- **Grant deliverables** include:
  - Priority Climate Action Plan – March 1, 2024
  - Comprehensive Climate Action Plan – Summer 2025

Project Updates: Implementation Consultants

Centralina has officially **engaged HDR**, and its sub-consultants, for on-call CONNECT Beyond implementation services

Jorge Luna
Contract & Project Manager

····················· **John Muth**, PE (VHB)
Strategic Advisor

Subconsultants
ColeJonest & Stone (CJS)
Infrastrategies (IS)
Cambridge Systematics (CS)
VHB
Kittelson & Associates, Inc. (KA)
The Lee Institute (LI)
KJ Backpack (KJB)

Transit Implementation	Regional Planning	Mobility Choices	Funding & Partnerships	Stakeholder & Public Engagement	Support Services
Kevin Walsh, AICP, ENV SP, LEED AP — Area 1 Lead	**Patrick McDonough,** AICP — Area 2 Lead	**John Cock,** AICP (CJS) — Area 3 Lead	**Shyam Kannan,** AICP — Area 4 Lead	**Sabrina Colón** — Area 5 Lead	**Sustainability & Resiliency** — Pam Yonkin
Human Services Planning — Kristen Joyner (KJB)	**Mobility Hubs** — John Cock (APD), Justin Bansen (KA)	**Emerging Technologies Activities** — Eric Plapper, AICP; Joshua Schank (IS)	**Financial Model Strategy** — Amanda Vandegrift (IS)	**Facilitation & Engagement** — Chrystal Joy (LI); Gina Esquivel (LI)	**Multimodal Connectivity** — Jamie Krzeminski, PE, PTOE; Emily Love, AICP
HCT Implementation — Kevin Walsh, AICP, ENV SP, LEED AP	**NCDOT Liaison** — Richard Hancock, PE	**Workforce Development** — Victoria Johnson	**Revenue Opportunities** — Nate Macek	**Branding & Messaging** — Drew Watts	**Transit Advisors** — Wulf Grote; Charlie Hales; Paul Wiedefeld
Fare Technology Lead — Whitney Birch, PMP	**Regional Transit Financial Plan** — Eric Rouse	**Microtransit Advisor** — Joshua Schank (IS)	**Regional Partnership Lead** — Chip Knowlton	**Transit Education** — Scott Correll (KA)	**GIS Analytics** — Bridget Wagner, GISP
Passenger Rail Implementation — Mark Fuhrmann	**Equity & Access** — John Mitchell; Scott Curry (KA)	**Vehicle Electrification** — Rob Mowat	**Sr. Financial Advisor - FTA** — Carolyn Flowers (IS)	**Digital Engagement** — Christina Rodríguez	**Public Private Partnership** — Gail Lewis
Gateway Station Lead — John Muth, PE	**Data Scientist** — Izzy Youngs	**Connected Vehicle Technology** — Ben Pierce, PMP	**Federal Funding Strategy** — David Baumgarter (CJS)	**Media Relations** — Krystal Harwick	**Program Delivery** — Mike Schneider (IS)
Service Planning — Rebecca Santiago, ENV SP	**Transportation Planning Org. Lead** — Nick Lepp, AICP	**Electric Vehicle Transit Systems** — Carly Macias, LEED GA, ENV SP	**STI & MPO Funding Strategy** — Alpesh Patel (CS)	**Technical Content Coordinator** — Sara Ravenel	**Funding & Partnership Advisor** — Carolyn Flowers (IS)
		Passenger Information Technology — Jim Mersereau, PE	**Travel Forecasting Modeling** — Feng Liu (CS)	**Video & Visualization** — Kevin Peleschak	
		Fare Technology — Whitney Birch, PMP			

Committee Work Session Item 3: Pages 12-20

Towards a Regional Governance Model

Important Context

1. **Reality:** NC has existing legislation governing RTA formation, governance and scope of responsibilities.

2. **Responsibility:** Peer model research and discussion is a deliberative step towards achieving the committee goal.

3. **Timing:** Available federal funding and governance models are parallel discussions.

Reality: Existing NC Legislation

Disclaimer: We are not evaluating merits of the legislation today. We will evaluate the legislation in parallel with identifying feasible options for a regional governance approach.

- Two NC statutes enable the formation of a regional transportation authority *(Used for Triangle and Triad regions)*

- Definition of the region and formation actors:
  - *§160A-Article 26: Formed by 3 contiguous counties*
  - *§160-Article 27: Formed by 4 largest cities within an MPO*
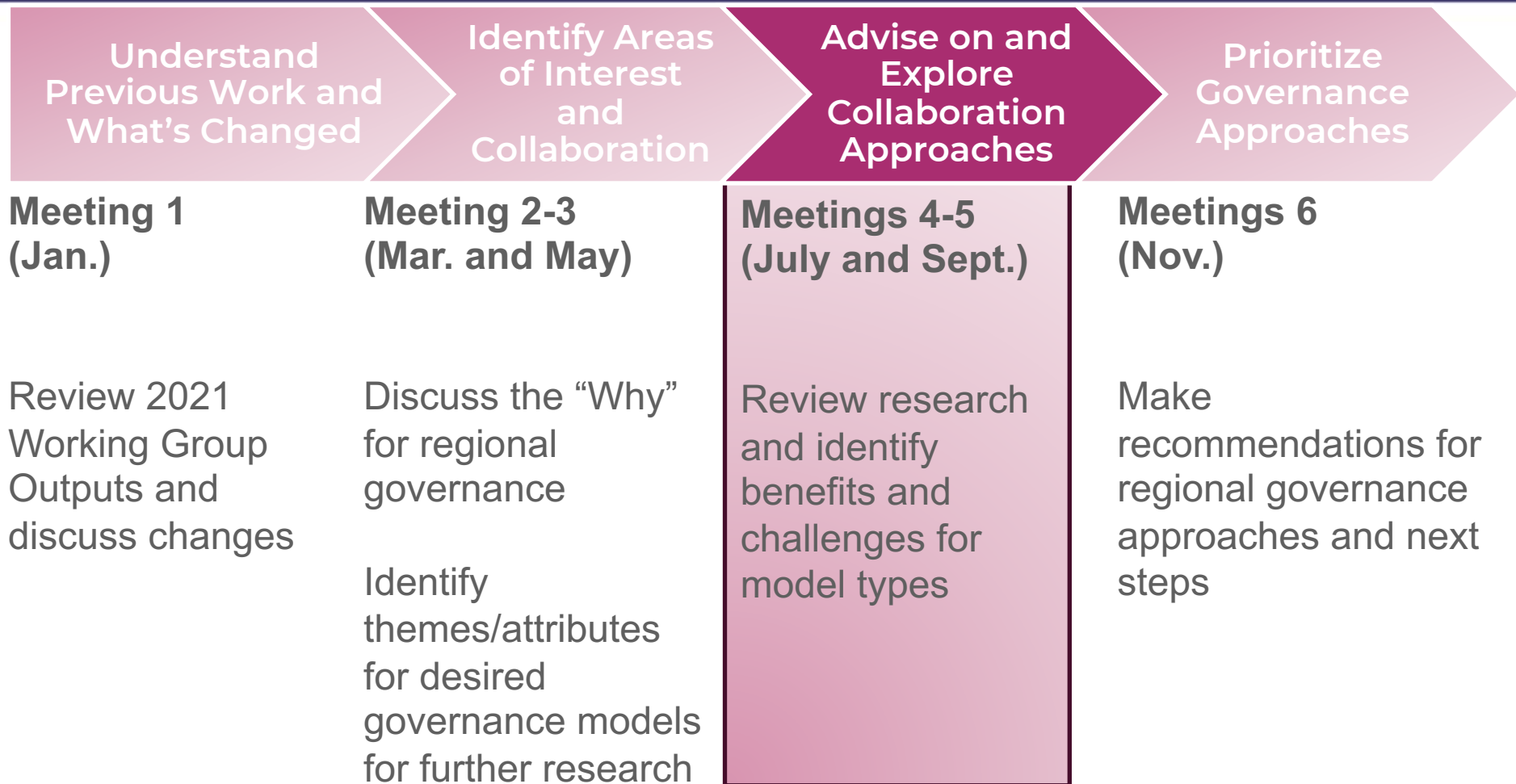
Reality: Existing NC Legislation

- Article 26 & 27 have **VERY specific parameters:**
  - Creation authority
  - Board membership and voting
  - General powers
  - Duties of specific officials
  - Fiscal scope: funds, bonds, available revenue sources and authorities
  - Reporting requirements to the General Assembly

Example: Existing NC Regional Transportation Authorities

- Authorized under:
    - NC Statute 160A, Article 26 (Triangle) and 27 (PART)
- Funding Sources available to both RTAs:
    - NC Statute 105, Article 50 (Vehicle Rental Tax)
    - NC Statute 105, Article 51 (Vehicle registration tax – not to exceed $8/year)

Responsibility: Peer Research

Understand Previous Work and What's Changed	Identify Areas of Interest and Collaboration	Advise on and Explore Collaboration Approaches	Prioritize Governance Approaches
Meeting 1 (Jan.)	**Meeting 2-3 (Mar. and May)**	**Meetings 4-5 (July and Sept.)**	**Meetings 6 (Nov.)**

Committee Work:

Goal 1 (b):

Review 2021 Working Group Outputs and discuss changes	Discuss the "Why" for regional governance

Identify themes/attributes for desired governance models for further research | Review research and identify benefits and challenges for model types | Make recommendations for regional governance approaches and next steps |

Responsibility: Peer Research

Peer research discussion:

– Define the **building blocks** for an RTA in the shorter and longer term

– Today, looking for **lessons/insights** from peer regions

– Next meeting – come up with **options** based on the approaches we define today
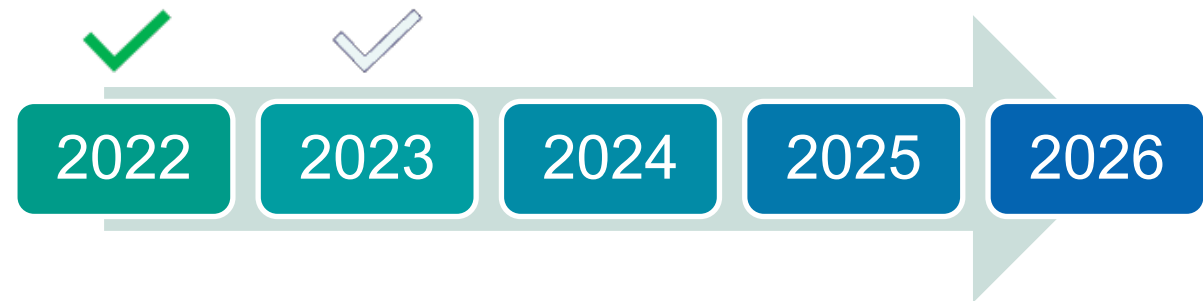
Timing: Federal Funding & Governance Models

Last meeting, we reviewed timing of IIJA funding

- Funding is **critical** to funding transportation projects in region

- <u>Not necessarily tied</u> to our region having a regional governance approach

- Need to pursue **in parallel** – put forward best projects

IIJA Implementation

2022 2023 2024 2025 2026

Timing: IIJA Federal Funding Opportunities

- Majority of the public transportation funding opportunities are largely focused on **niche investments** vs. large capital funding streams – these do not require an RTA in place

    o Example: Centralina's RIA grant application

- The main capital improvement grant programs are focused on construction of fixed guideway systems. In our region, it's likely that **only the Silver Line** would meet criteria

- <u>Match is required on these federal grants</u>; however, even if an RTA with taxing authority or revenue raising authority is set up, it is unlikely to generate funds quickly enough for this match

Committee Work Session Item 3 (Cont'd): Pages 12-20
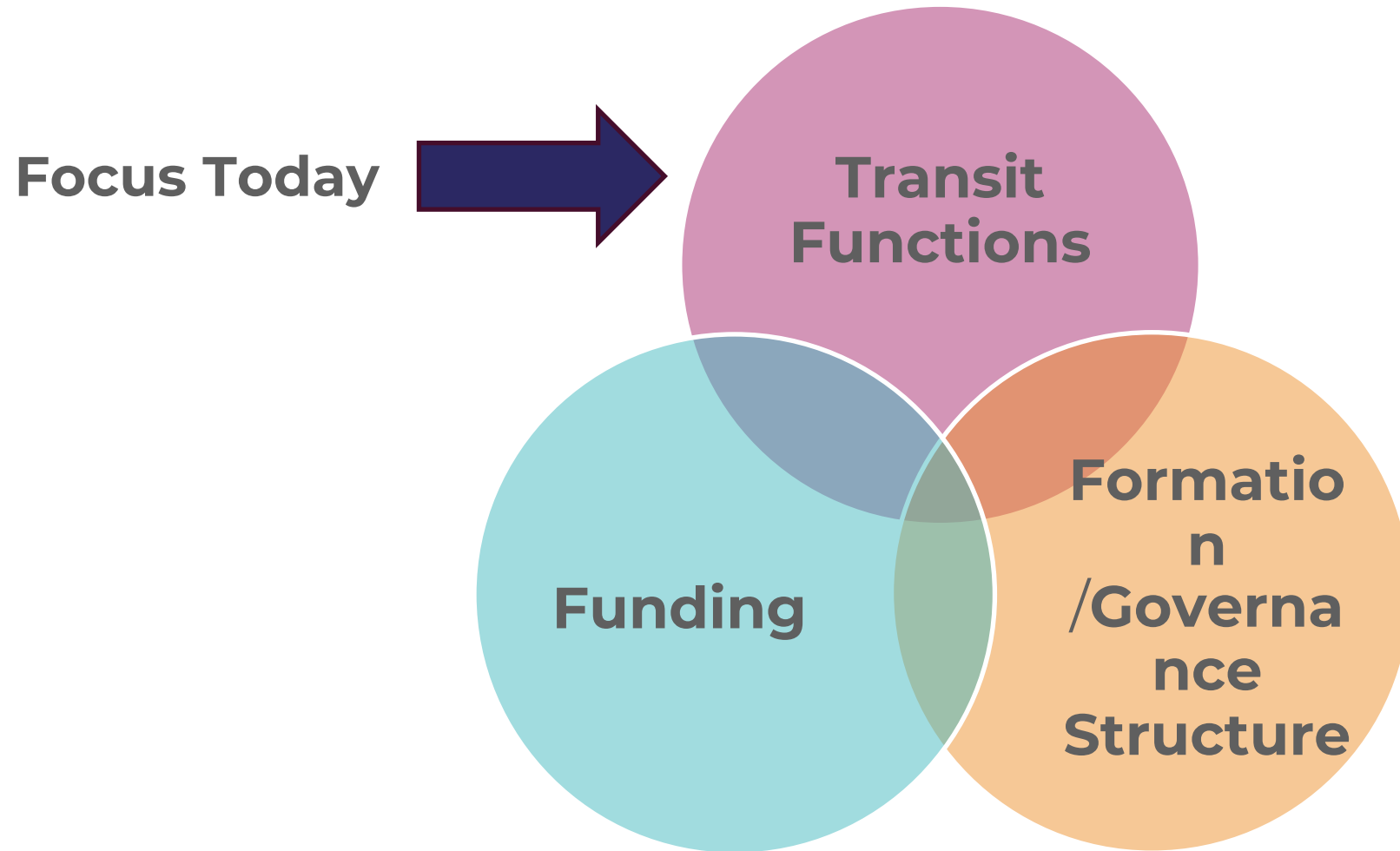
Peer Region Research and Discussion

Our Guiding Principles

Our purpose for regional collaboration is to:

- Strengthen **Economic Competitiveness** of Our Region
- Increase **Investment**
- Increase **Local Input**
- Improve **Regional Service and Access**
- Improve **Operational Efficiencies**

Our preferred governance model should align/reflect these principles

Regional Model Building Blocks

Focus Today →

Transit Functions

Funding
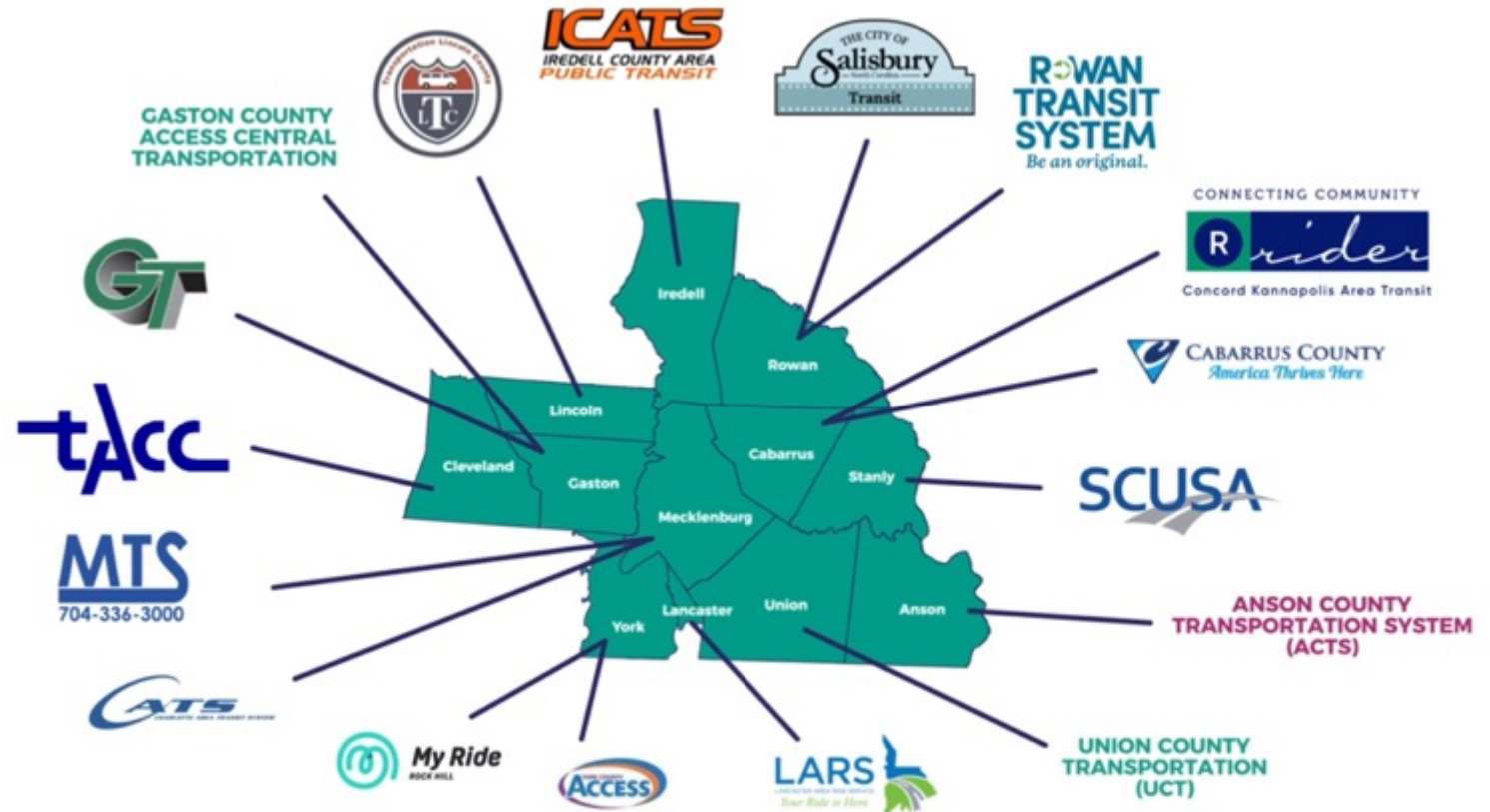
Formation /Governance Structure

Transit Functions: What We Heard

- From last meeting:
  - All groups desired **regional marketing, communication**
  - Most groups wanted **some version** of a fully integrated transit agency
  - Half of the groups had a preference for **evolving** responsibilities over time based on success
  - Half of the groups had **concerns over loss of local autonomy** for operators/agencies, i.e. location of bus stops
- Outstanding questions: when/where does it make sense to share resources (i.e. facilities, assets, funding)
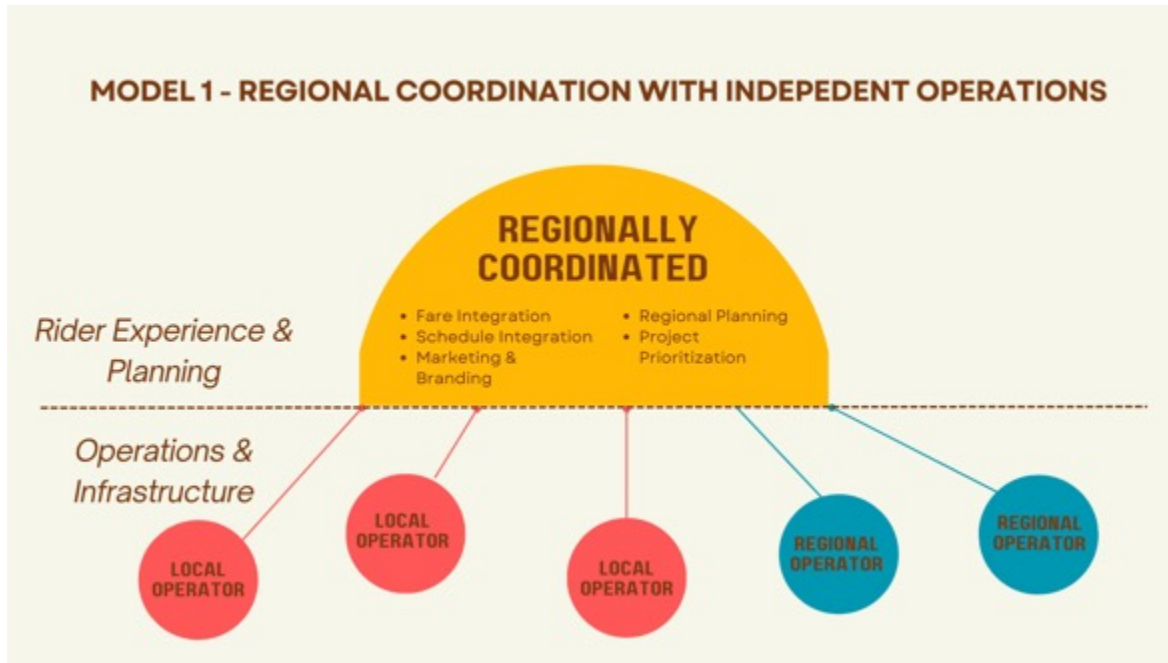
Current State: Transit Service in Our Region Involves Many Agencies

- 17 providers in CONNECT Beyond region:
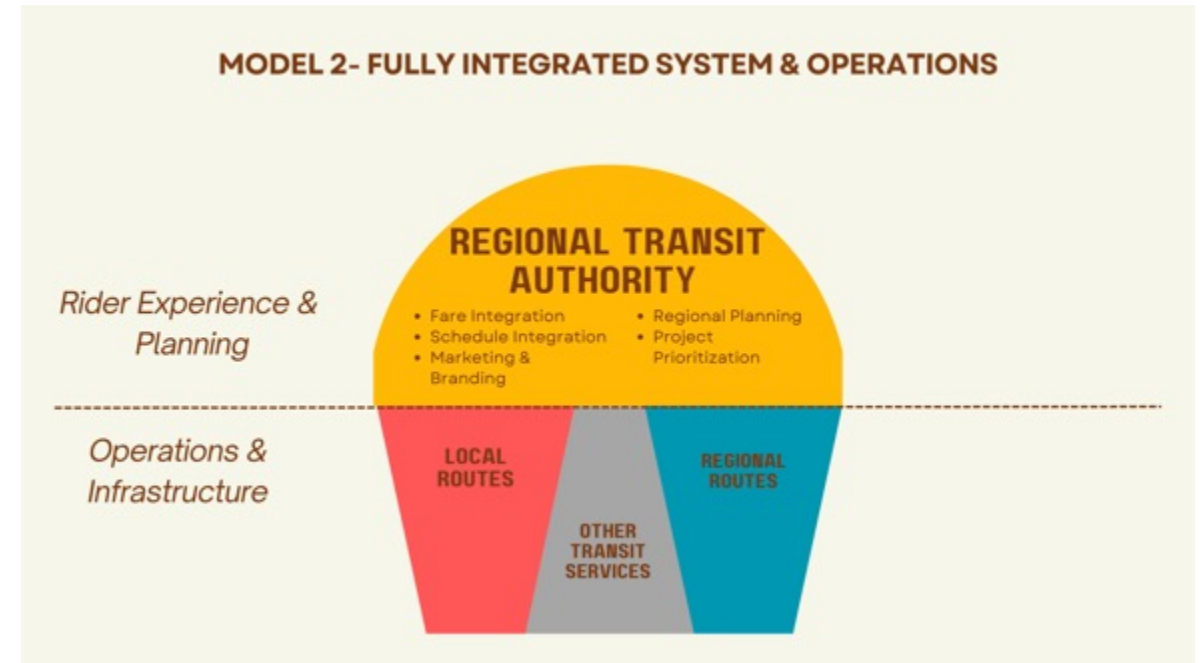 - 6 fixed route and 11 community transportation providers

Peer Region Models

Generally, the peer regions fall into two categories of models:

Model 1 focuses on regional collaboration of **rider experience and planning** transit functions. *Includes Atlanta, Tampa and Nashville (partially).*
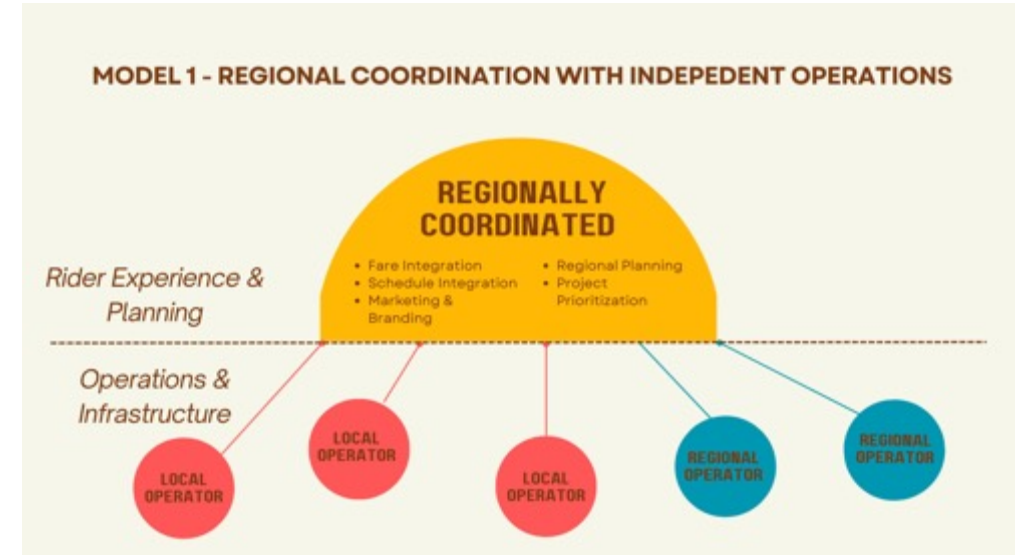
Model 2 represents a more **fully integrated model** with the regional entity delivering infrastructure and operations. *Includes Minneapolis, Phoenix and Seattle.*

Model 1 Example: Atlanta

Atlanta - ATL

Regional Collaboration is mainly focused on Rider Experience and Planning:

- **Shared marketing/branding** with local operators (ATL logo on vehicles)

- **Integrated fare** and scheduling across many operators who maintain autonomy

- Prioritized list of **regional projects** (recent RAISE grant award for listed project)

- Oversees vanpool and portion of commuter express buses

Peer Regions – Model 1 Transit Functions Discussion

MODEL 1 - REGIONAL COORDINATION WITH INDEPEDENT OPERATIONS

REGIONALLY COORDINATED
- Fare Integration
- Schedule Integration
- Marketing & Branding
- Regional Planning
- Project Prioritization

Rider Experience & Planning

Operations & Infrastructure

LOCAL OPERATOR · LOCAL OPERATOR · LOCAL OPERATOR · REGIONAL OPERATOR · REGIONAL OPERATOR

Key Questions (10 minutes)

- Transit Functions: What peer region insights or lessons learned are relevant?

- Marketing/Branding: What degree of "uniformity" would work in our region?

Exercise: Transit Responsibilities

Dot Exercise: Take few minutes to evaluate the listed regional collaboration transit functions and <u>timing for implementation</u>. Place one dot per row.

Increasing Complexity

Transit Function	Definition
Marketing/Communication Campaigns	Implementing regional marketing activities and communications strategy
Shared Branding	Ranges from unified branding to sharing a logo
Fare Integration	Allows user to buy a single fare and use across region
Scheduling Coordination	Coordination across system to improve user connections
Planning for Regional* Projects	Setting regional strategy/plan for regional bus/rail networks and infrastructure
Regional Project Prioritization	Identifying, screening and prioritizing regional initiatives consistent with regional strategy

* Regional refers to projects that cross county lines

Model 2 Examples: Phoenix and Minneapolis

MODEL 2- FULLY INTEGRATED SYSTEM & OPERATIONS

Rider Experience & Planning

Operations & Infrastructure

REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
- Fare Integration
- Schedule Integration
- Marketing & Branding
- Regional Planning
- Project Prioritization

LOCAL ROUTES

OTHER TRANSIT SERVICES

REGIONAL ROUTES

Phoenix – Valley Metro

Regional Collaboration: **Model 1 +**
- Unified branding on all assets
- Regional planning, project prioritization and regional project infrastructure delivery
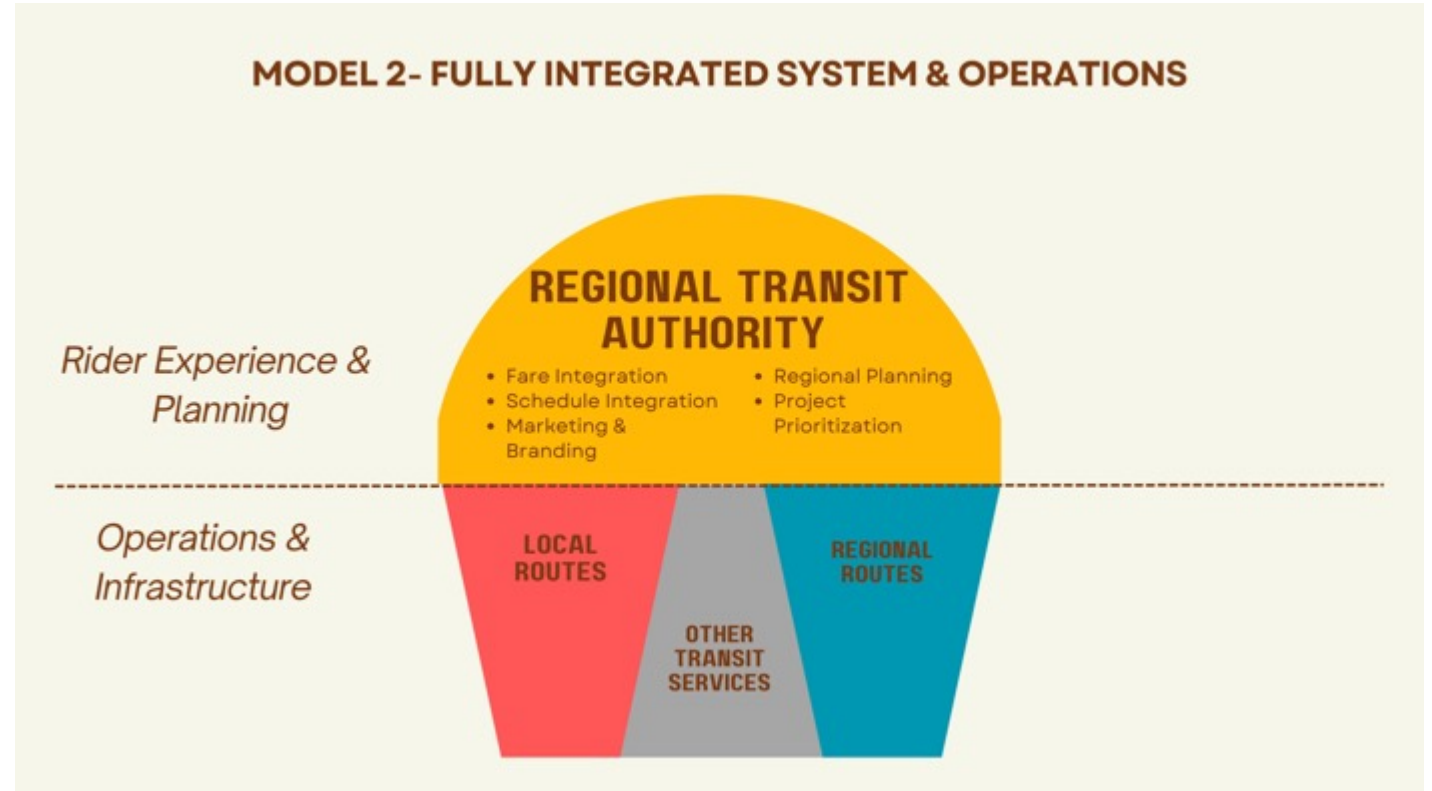- Operates regional bus and rail; local operators provide local bus routes

Minneapolis – Met Transit
- Operates and funds almost all regional and local routes

Peer Regions – Option 2 Transit Functions Discussion

Key Questions (10 minutes)

- <u>Transit Functions</u>: What peer region insights or lessons learned are relevant?

- <u>Infrastructure & Operations</u>: What degree of integration is feasible in our region?

MODEL 2- FULLY INTEGRATED SYSTEM & OPERATIONS

Rider Experience & Planning

REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
- Fare Integration
- Schedule Integration
- Marketing & Branding
- Regional Planning
- Project Prioritization

Operations & Infrastructure

LOCAL ROUTES

OTHER TRANSIT SERVICES

REGIONAL ROUTES

Exercise: Transit Responsibilities

Dot Exercise: Take few minutes to evaluate whether the listed transit functions are the <u>responsibility of a regional entity,</u> and if so, the <u>timing for implementation</u>.

Transit Function	Definition
Infrastructure: Regional* Project Design and Delivery	Responsibilities could include defining project scope/timing, design engineering and delivery readiness for regional projects (ex. Bus Rapid Transit)
Infrastructure: Local Project Design and Delivery	Same as above for local projects (ex. Mobility hub at Salisbury Train Depot)
Operations: Regional* Routes	Operations of regional routes (ex. 74X, 85X)
Operations: Local Routes	Operation of local routes (ex. CK Rider Yellow Route between Concord and Kannapolis)

* Regional refers to projects that cross county lines

Recap from Engagement

- Today's engagement will inform the September meeting's focus on regional governance options and funding

- Key inputs include:

  – Model preference for transit functions

  – Timing for implementation of transit functions

  – Option to evaluate parallel paths for shorter- and longer-term timeframes

Committee Work Session Item 4

Throughline for Committee Year-end Goals

Revisit: First Year Committee Goals

1. **(a) Advise** on short-term opportunities for regional collaboration and **(b) determine feasible** options for a regional governance approach
   - Committee continues to receive project updates (ex. TDM, grant applications) and advise on current implementation activities
   - Peer research work today informs developing feasible options

2. **Endorse** a regional communications framework for CONNECT Beyond and support its implementation

   - Project team continues to provide communication tools; will use today's exercise to identify additional needs

3. **Collaborate** to educate state lawmakers on CONNECT Beyond and **advocate** for local funding initiatives in the region

   - Ongoing updates shared at Committee meetings

Revisit our workplan for Goal 1(b)

Understand Previous Work and What's Changed	Identify Areas of Interest and Collaboration	Advise on and Explore Collaboration Approaches	Prioritize Governance Approaches
Meeting 1 (Jan.)	**Meeting 2-3 (Mar. and May)**	**Meetings 4-5 (July and Sept.)**	**Meetings 6 (Nov.)**

Committee Work:

Goal 1 (b):

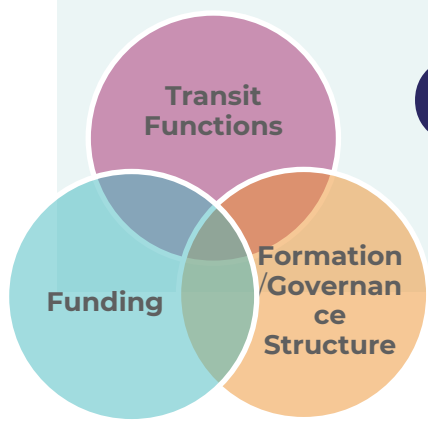|			
Review 2021 Working Group Outputs and discuss changes	Discuss the "Why" for regional governance Identify themes/attributes for desired governance models for further research	Review research and identify benefits and challenges for model types	Make recommendations for regional governance approaches and next steps

Proposal for Goal 1(b)

Proposed Committee Outputs:

- Final report will be in short written form summarizing year long **work on all Committee goals**
- Within report, Committee will <u>make recommendations on</u>:
  1. Guiding Principles
  2. Regional governance approach option(s) for short and long term; and
  3. Identify next steps for short term implementation of regional collaboration
- This Committee will **coordinate on sharing** the recommendations out to organizations and networks

Committee Year-End Output Discussion

Remaining Meetings:

Peer Roundtable: *Virtual meeting with select peer regions*

Meeting 5 (Sept):   Evaluate Regional Governance and Funding Options based on today's discussion

Meeting 6 (Nov.):   Review and refine recommendations for final report; Establish next steps for Committee

Engagement: Large Group (10 minutes)

- *What additional information do you need to hear at upcoming meetings before making recommendations?*

Forecast for Next Meeting

- <u>Follow-up materials</u>: You will receive an email next week with follow-up materials including talking points for today's meeting. Centralina will also following up with absent members

- <u>Homework</u>:
  – Attend virtual peer region roundtable before September meeting – details coming soon
  – Begin thinking about who in your community needs to review draft recommendations (Draft expected in October)

- **Next Meeting Date**: Friday, September 22nd, 8:30-10:30am

Closing Comments

Thank you for attending today – we appreciate your time and participation