



Greater Minnesota Transit

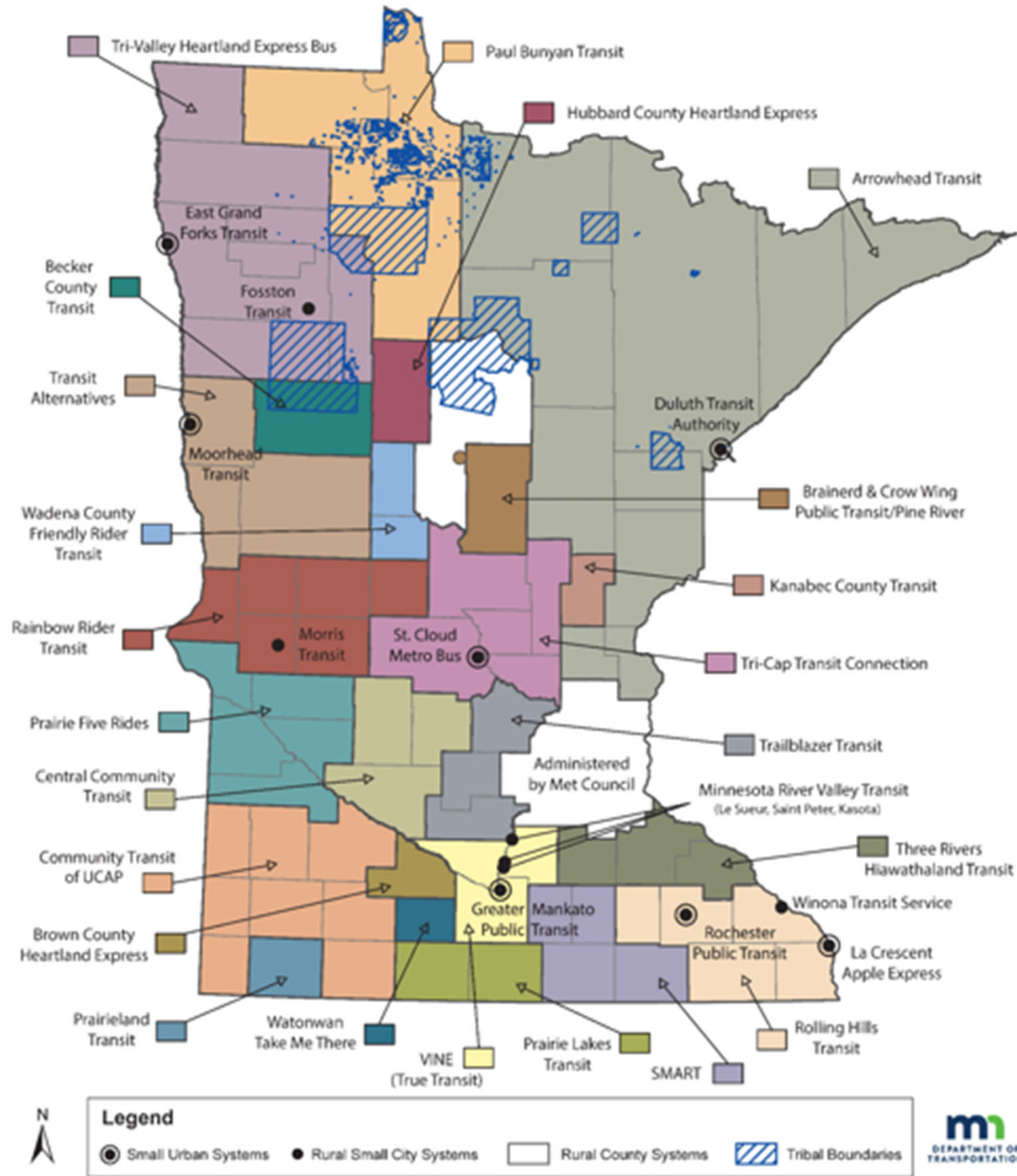
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Greater Minnesota Public Transit Map

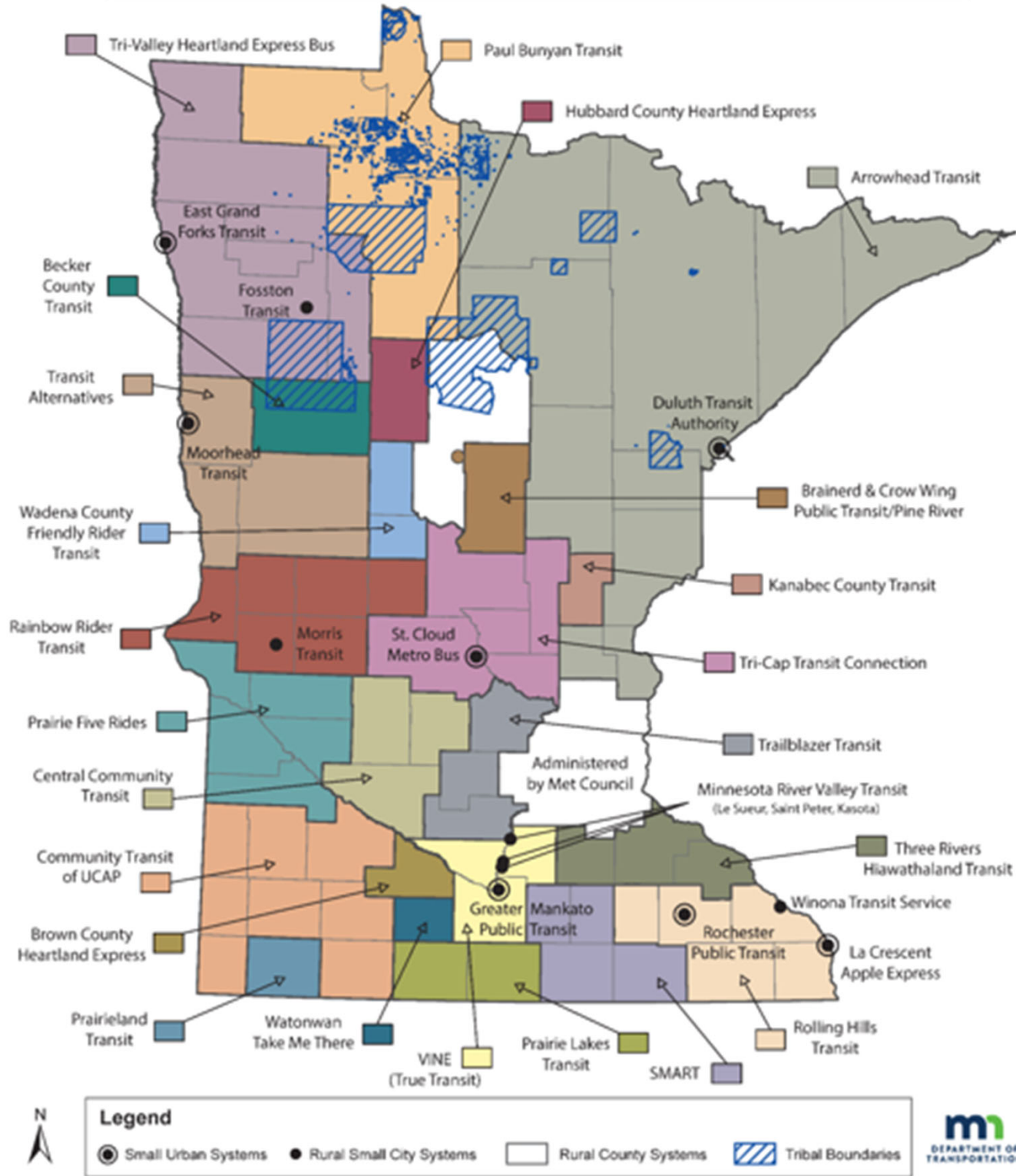
Systems Administered by the Minnesota Department of Transportation
Current as of December 2022



- Current Trends
- Funding
- Challenges
- Looking Forward

Greater Minnesota Public Transit Map

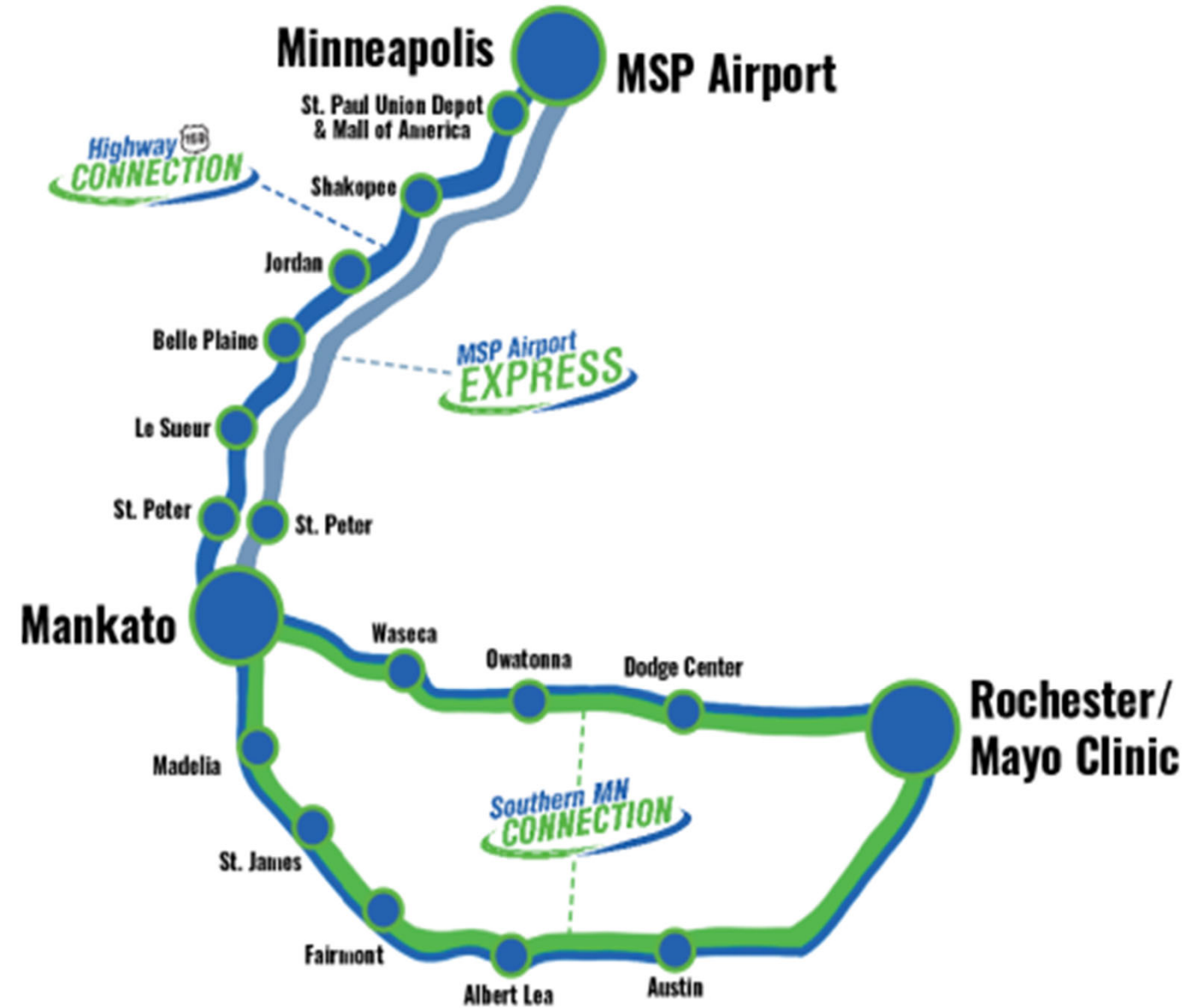
Systems Administered by the Minnesota Department of Transportation
Current as of December 2022



Greater MN Public Transit

- 40 public transit systems offering transit service in 79 counties
 - 7 small urban systems
 - 28 rural
 - 5 tribal transit programs
- 7.4 Million rides provided in 2023

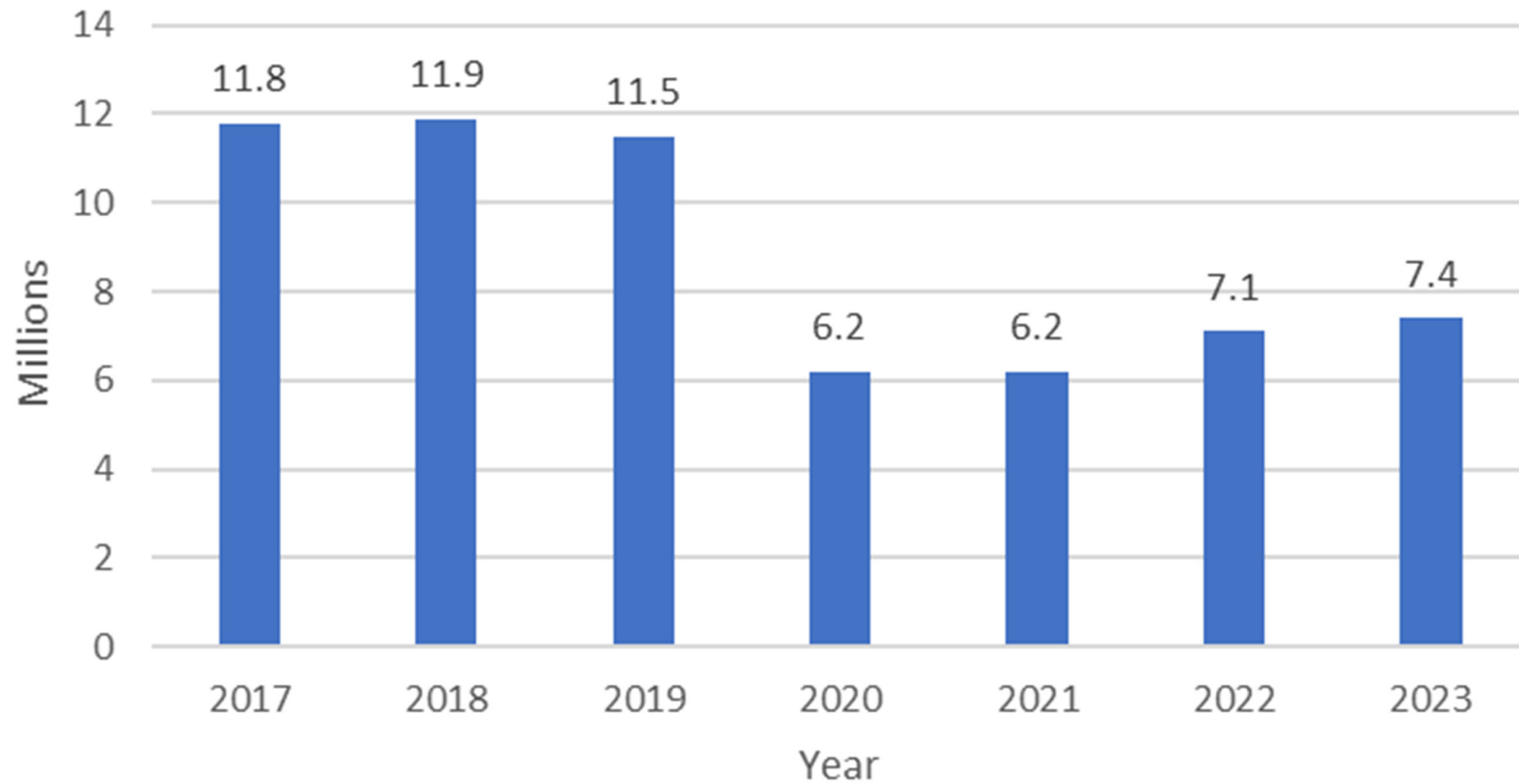
Intercity Bus



Blue Earth Blue Sky

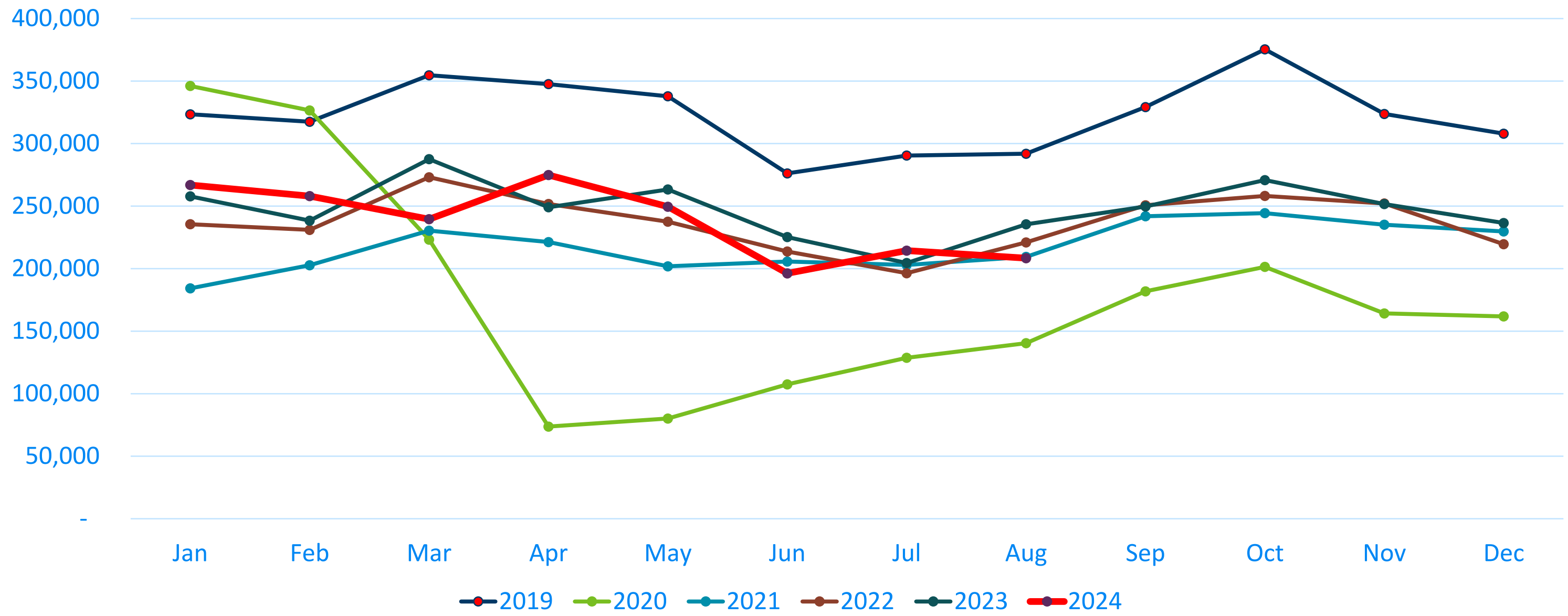
Current Trends

Greater MN Transit: Annual Ridership Trend



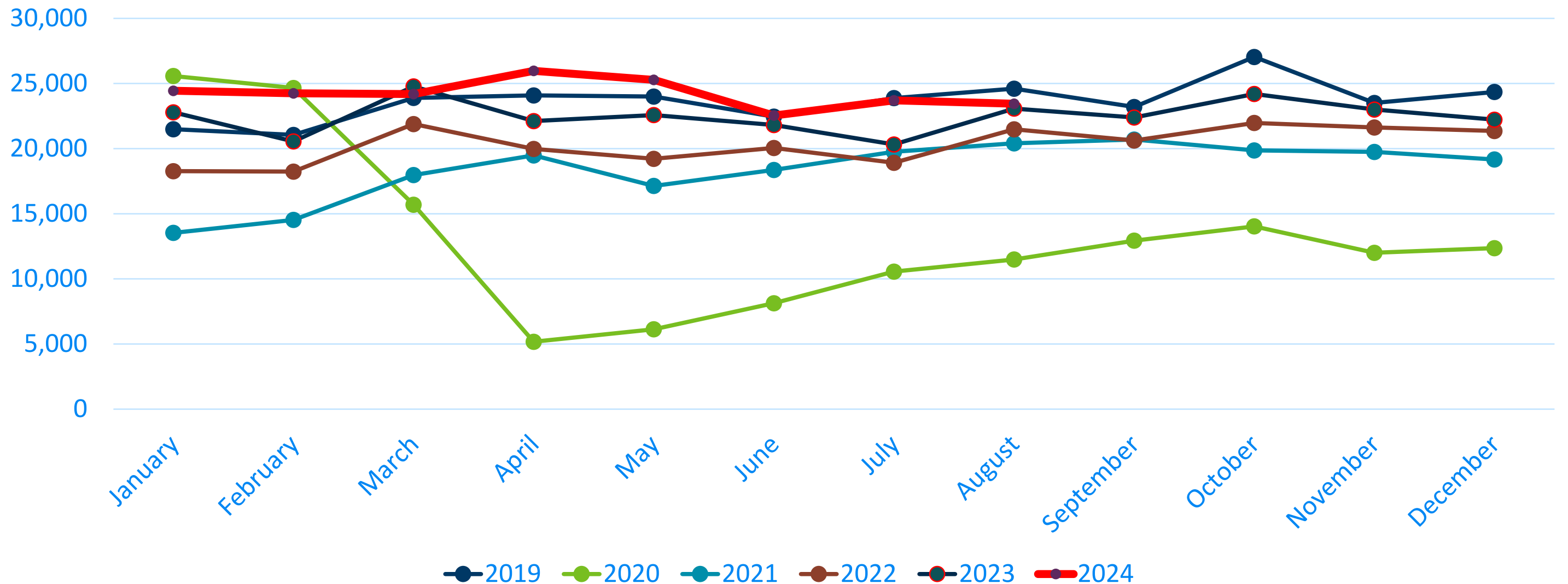
Rural Transit

Rural Transit Monthly Ridership by Year



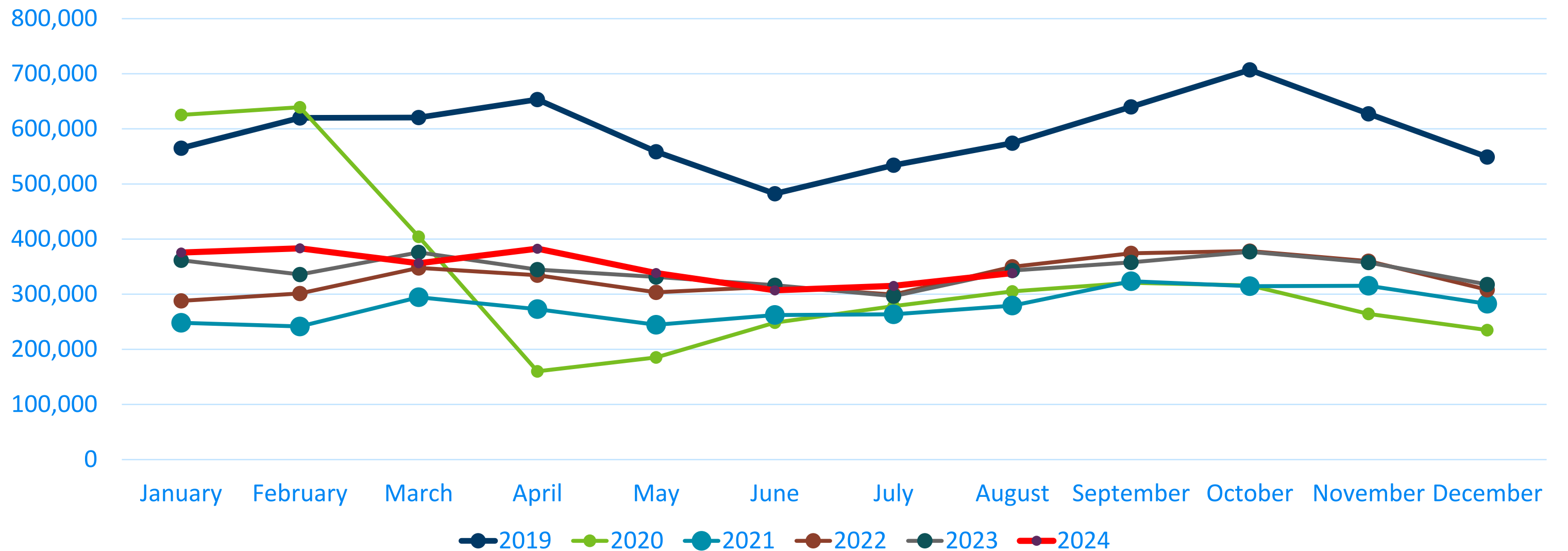
Small Urban ADA Paratransit

Small Urban Transit Monthly Ridership by Year (Paratransit)

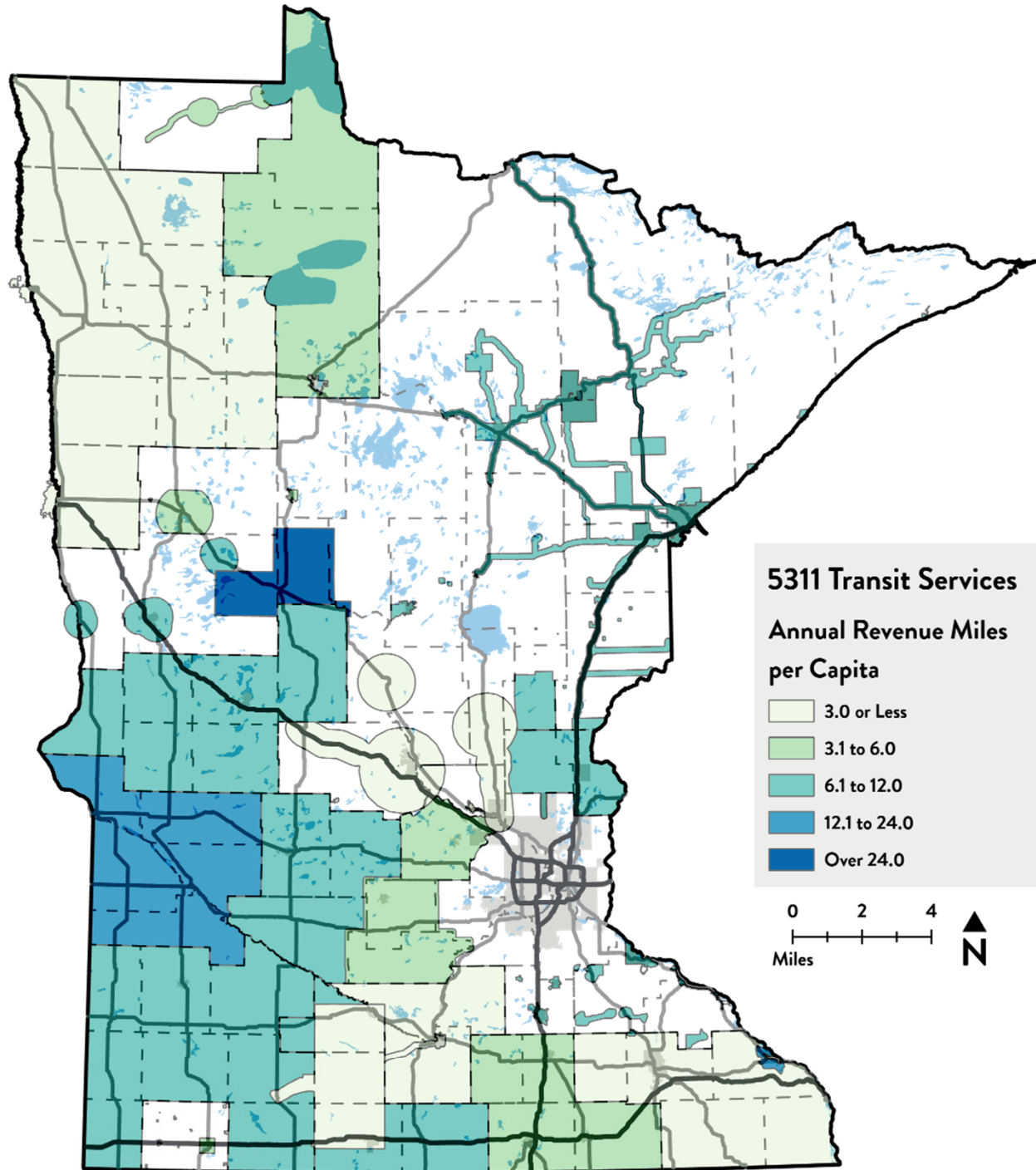


Small Urban Fixed Route Transit

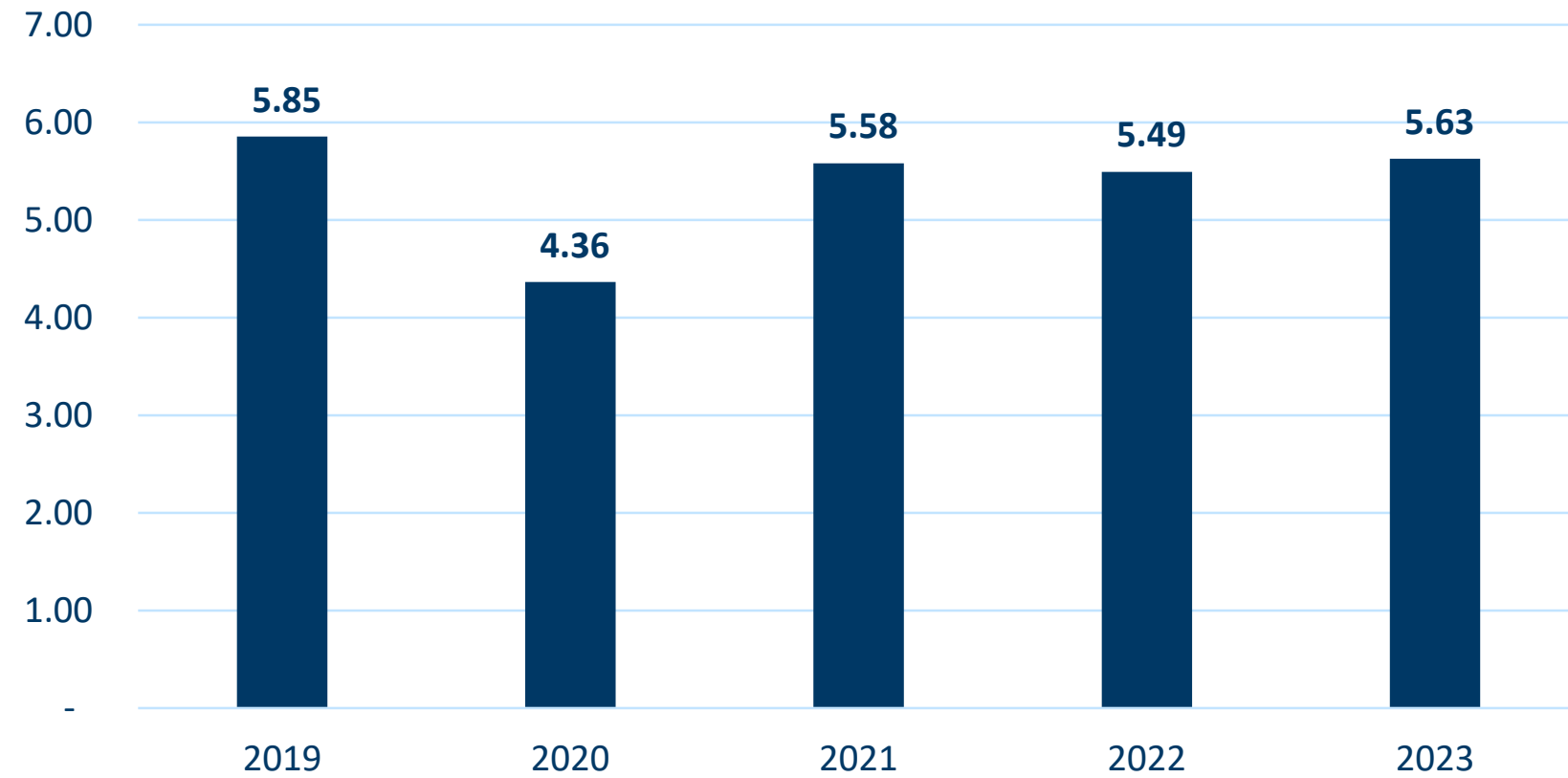
Small Urban Transit Monthly Ridership by Year (Fixed Route)



Rural Transit: Revenue Miles



5311 Revenue Miles per Capita

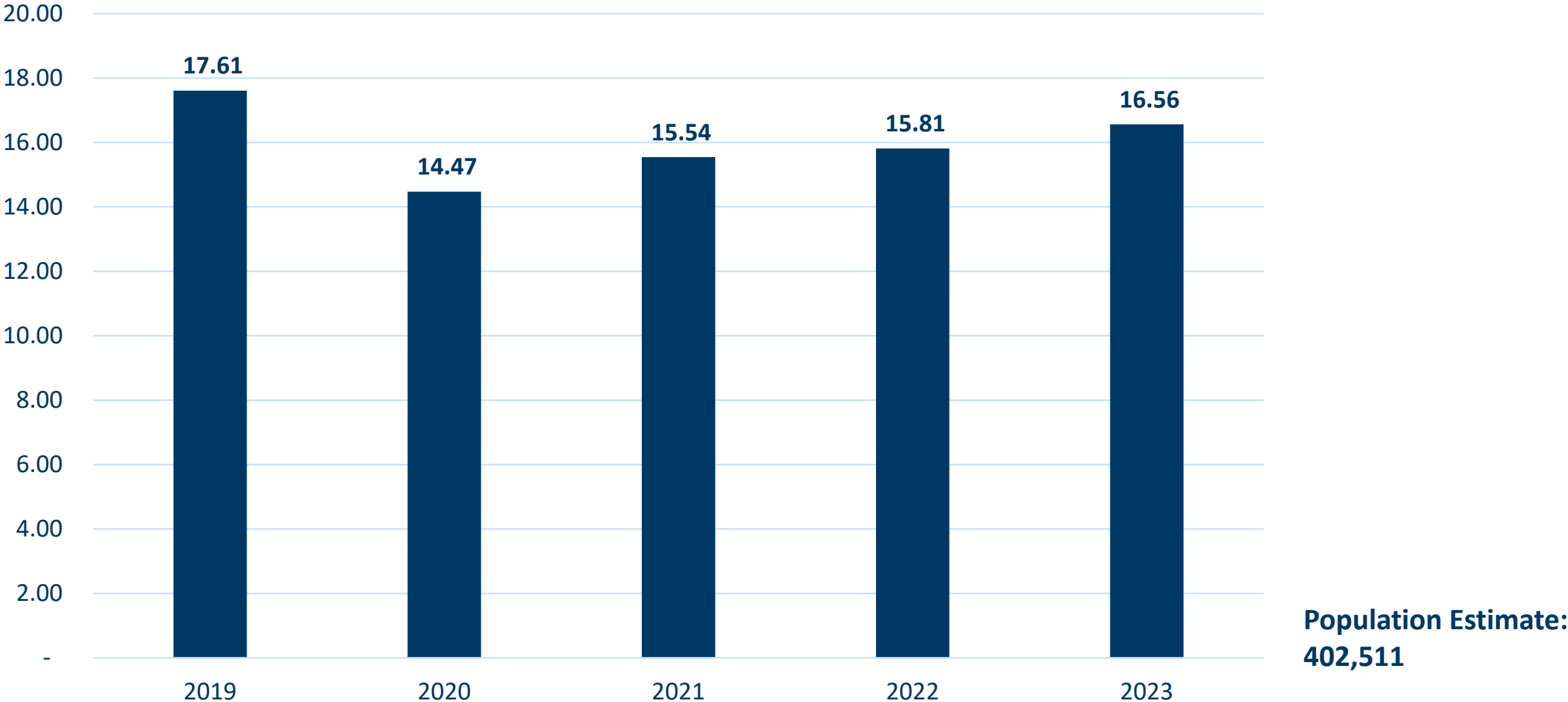


Population Estimate: 2,055,269

Disclaimer: These results are preliminary and may include potential data issues from the BlackCat API, data missing in BlackCat, or errors in analysis.

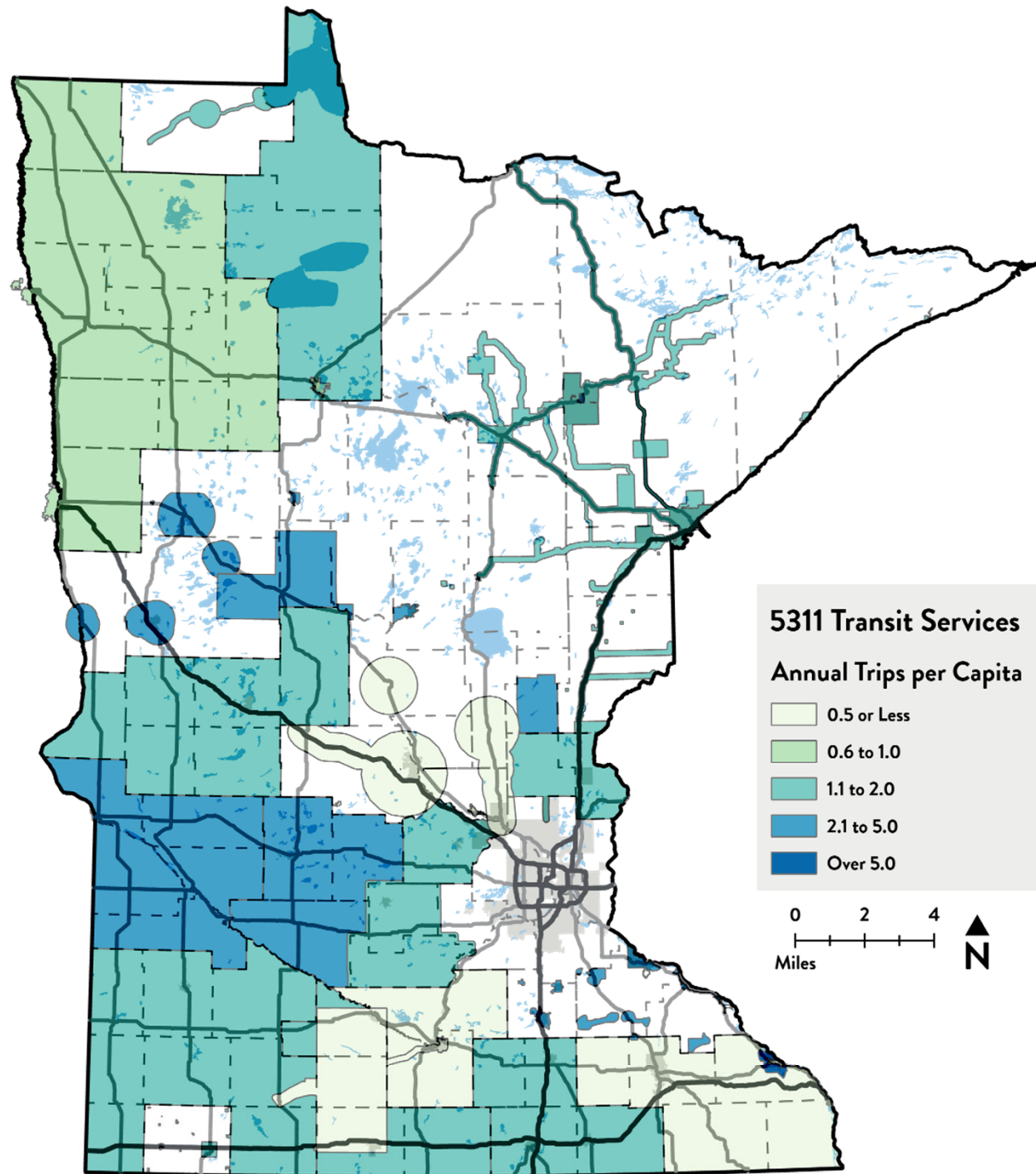
Small Urban Transit: Revenue Miles

5307 Revenue Miles per Capita

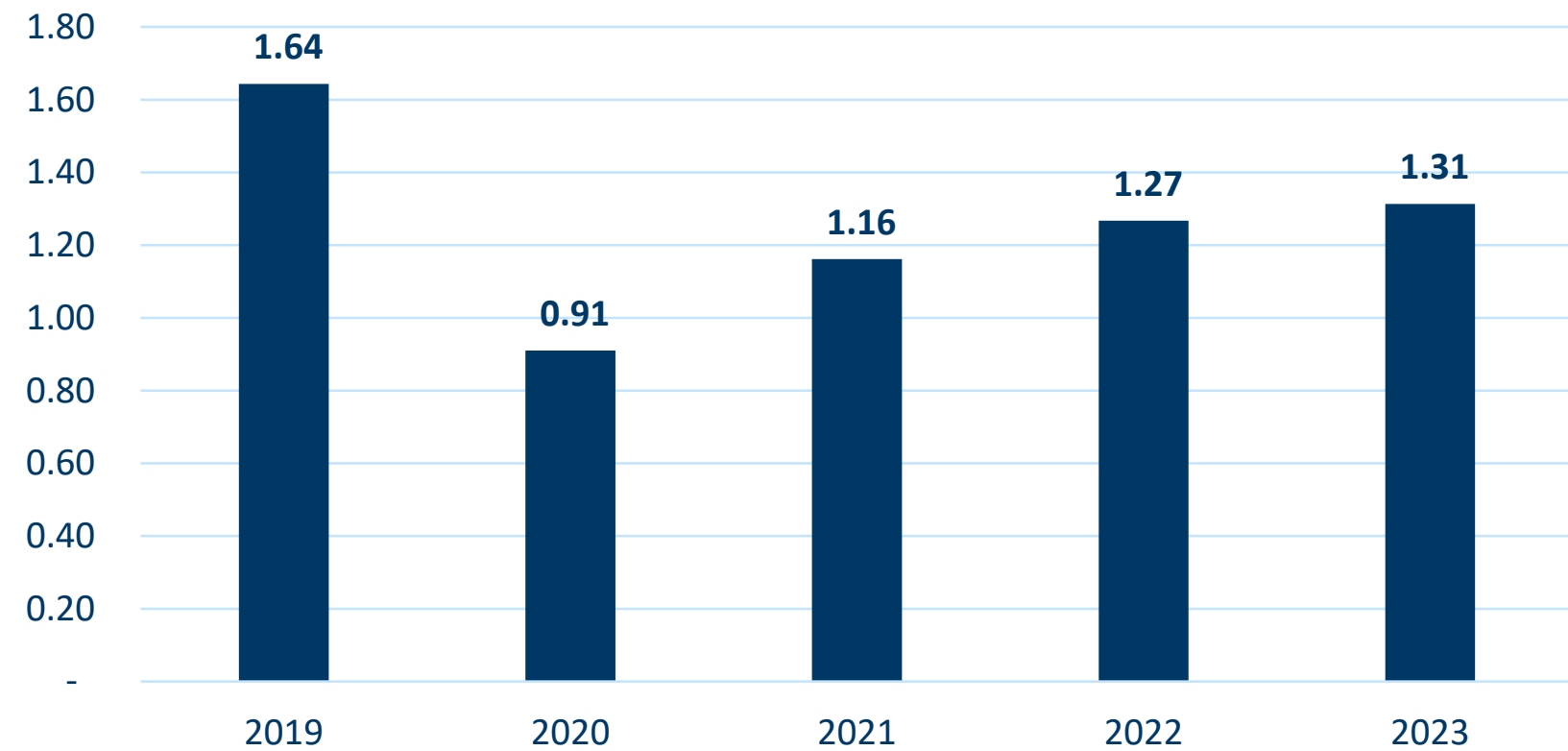


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Rural Transit: Passenger Trips



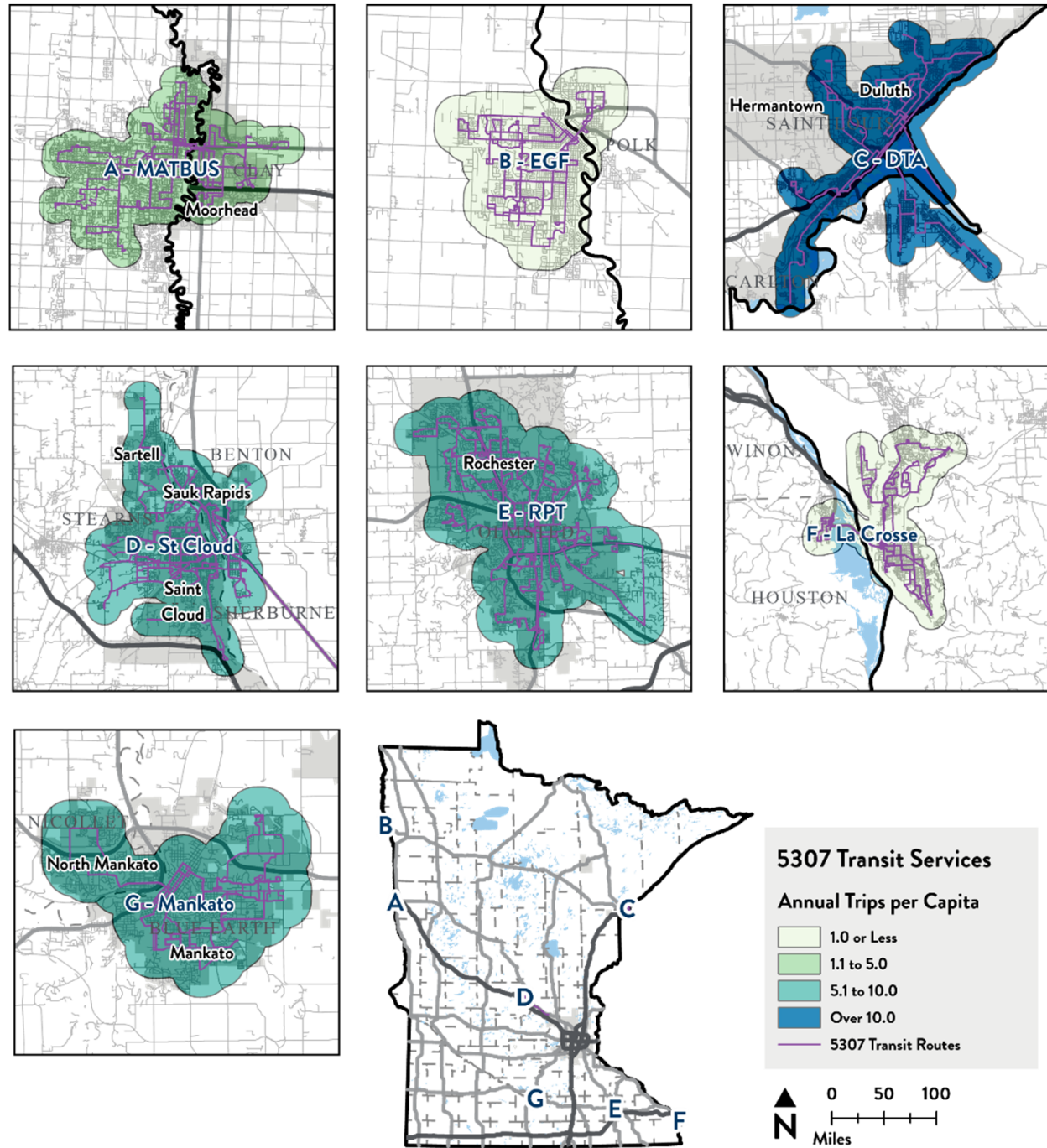
5311 Trips per Capita



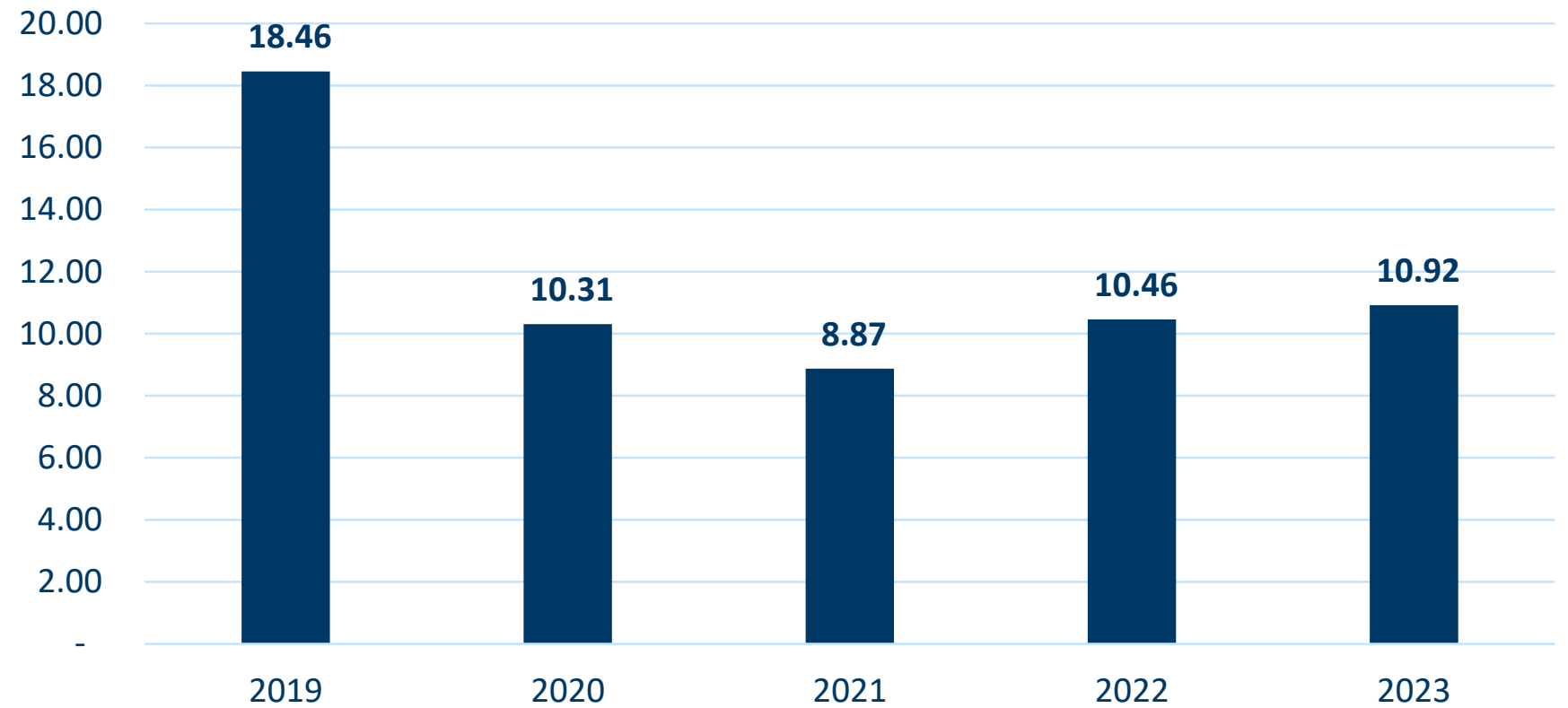
Population Estimate: 2,055,269

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Small Urban: Passenger Trips



5307 Passenger Trips per Capita



Disclaimer: These results are preliminary and may include potential data issues from the BlackCat API, data missing in BlackCat, or errors in analysis.

**Population Estimate:
402,511**

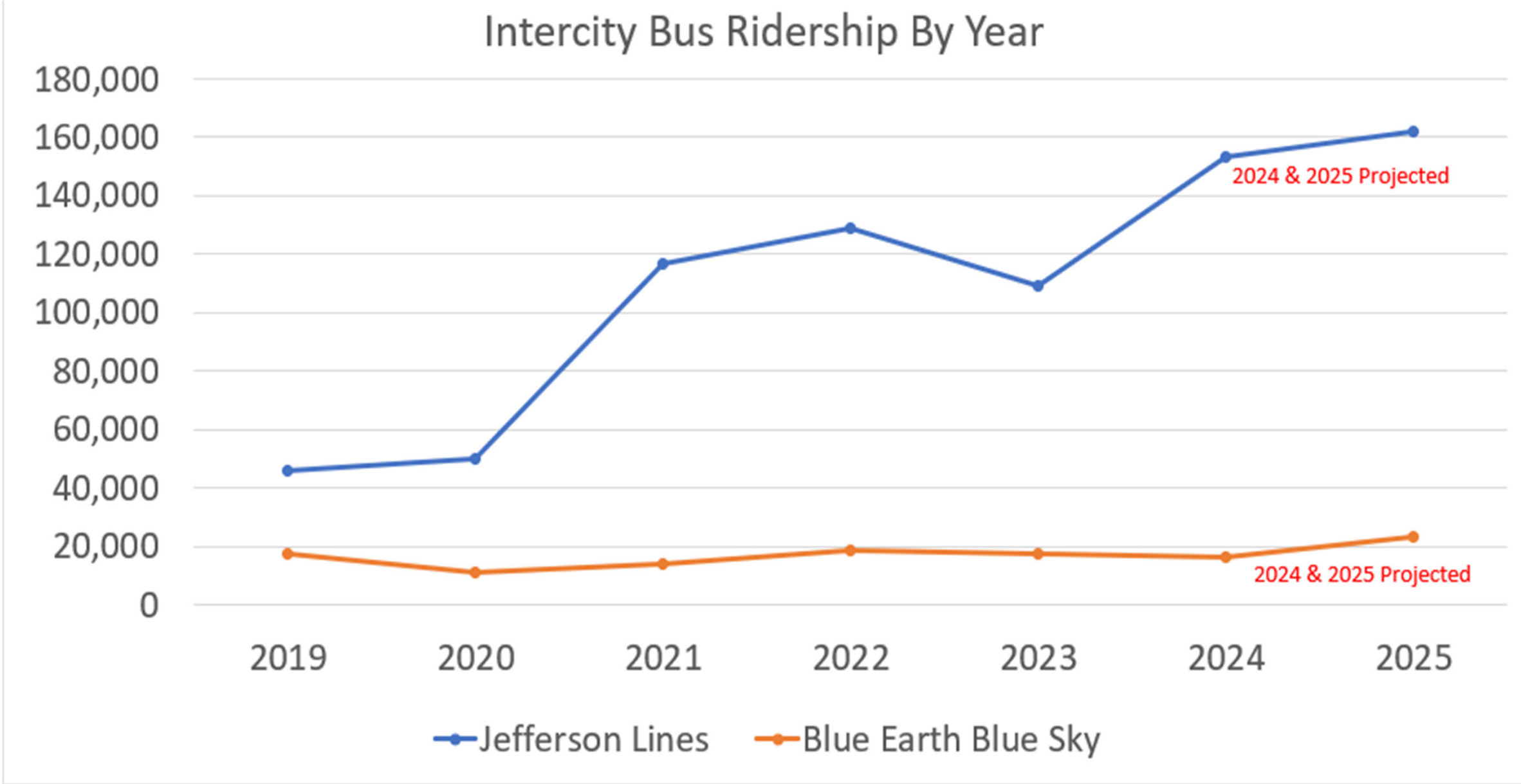


5307 Transit Providers by 2023 Trips per Capita

Greater Minnesota Transit Policy Plan
Minnesota Department of Transportation

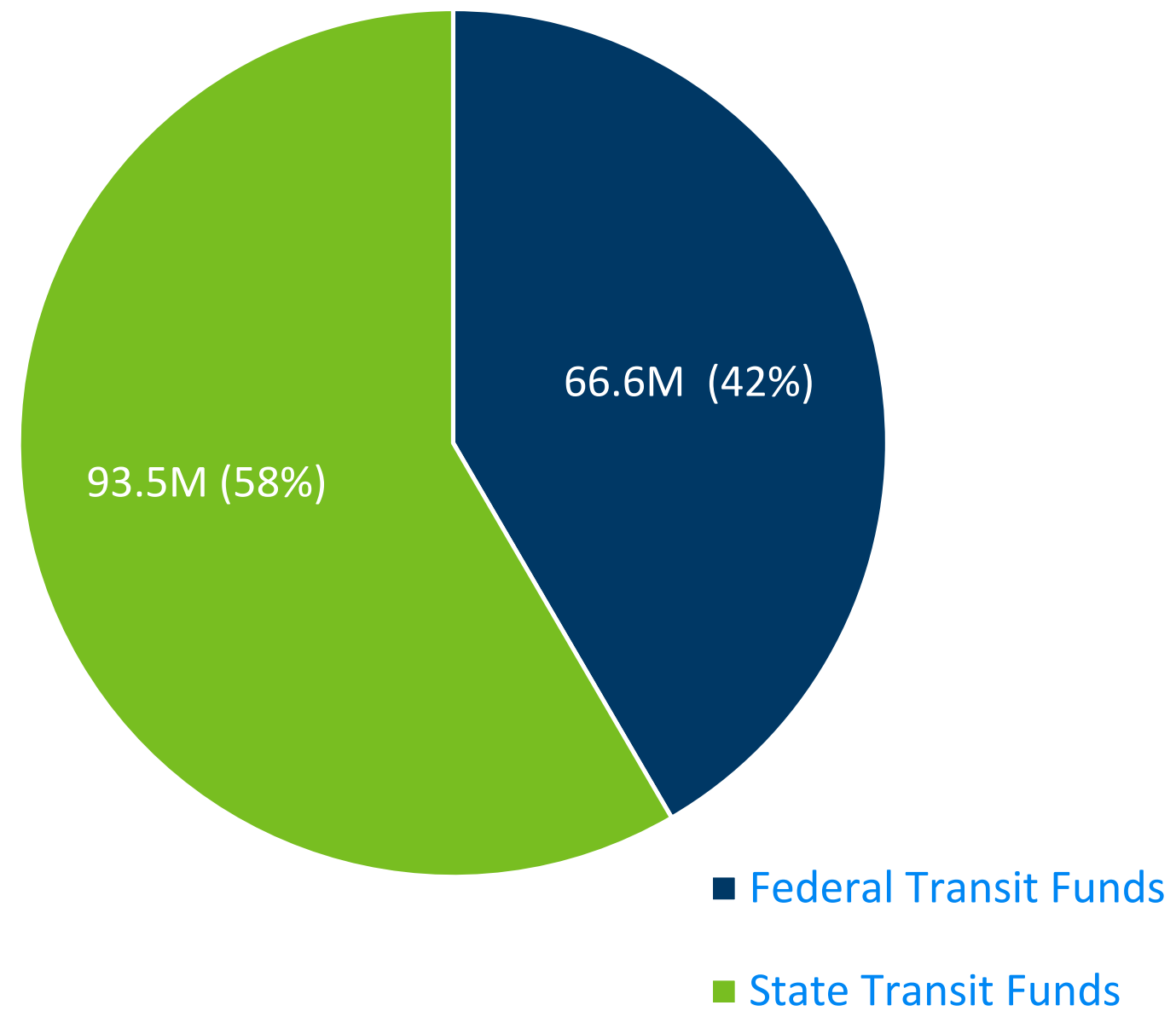


Intercity Bus: Annual Ridership



Funding

Sources of MnDOT Managed Funds (2023)



State Funding

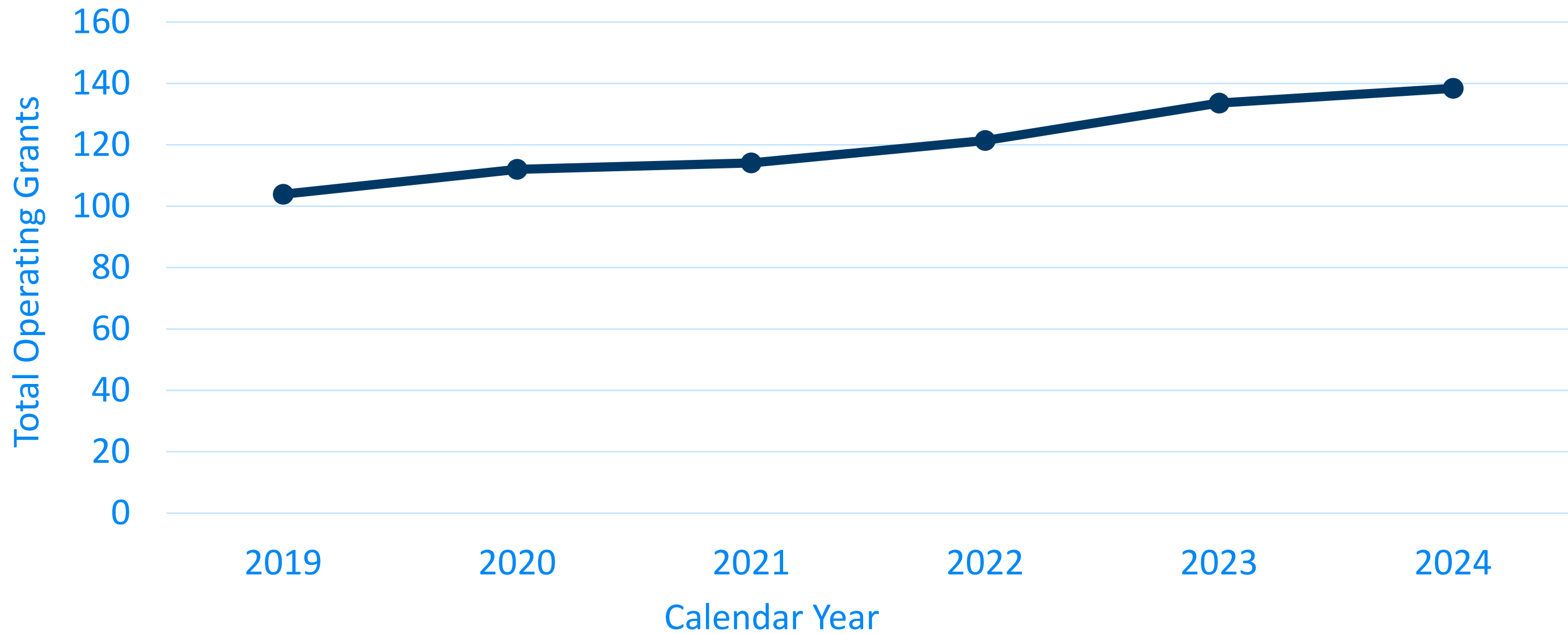
	Nov-22 Forecast	Feb-23 Forecast	Nov-23 Forecast	Feb-24 Forecast	Actual
2021					\$69.2M
2022					\$65.3M
2023					\$60.3M
2024	\$63M	\$59M	\$86M	\$92M	
2025	\$63M	\$60M	\$85M	\$92M	
2026	\$64M	\$61M	\$86M	\$95M	
2027	\$66M	\$63M	\$89M	\$97M	

2025 Operating Grants in Greater MN

- One-year contracts for CY 2025
- 5% increase in overall funding from 2024 to 2025
- Rural and Small Urban Systems will have a 5% Local Share requirement in 2025

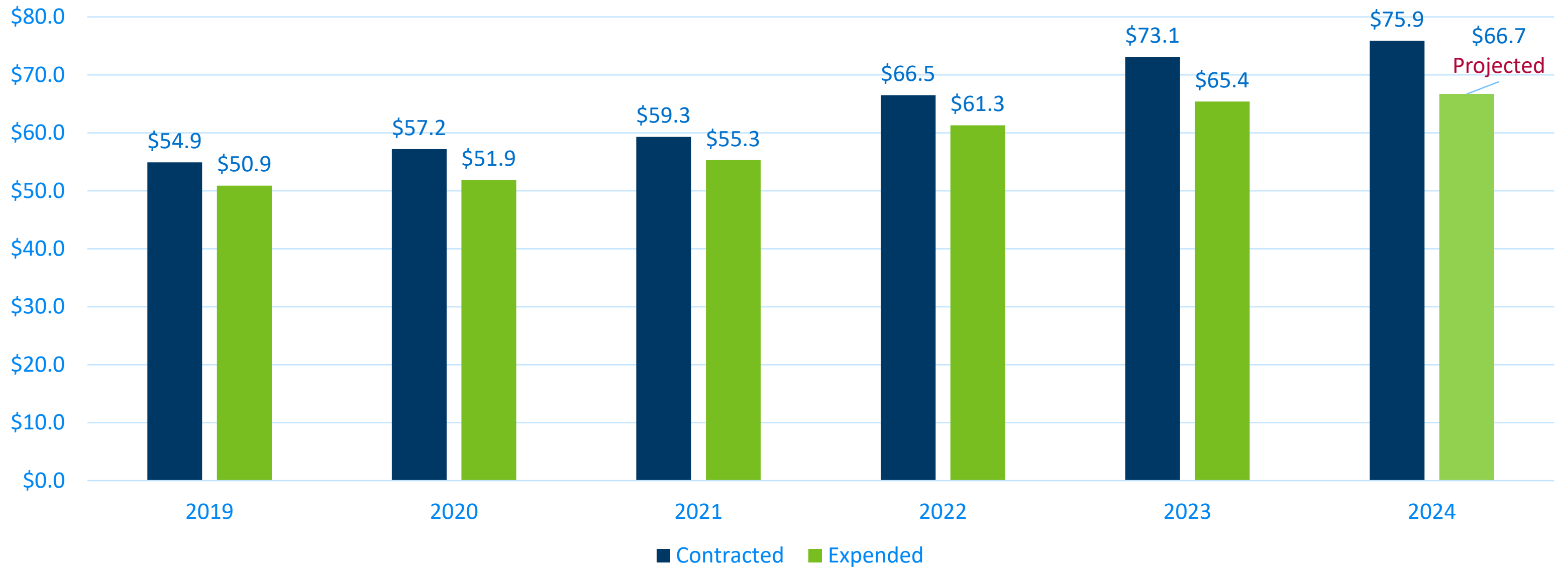
Operating Grant Award Totals in Greater MN

Total Operating Grant Awards In Greater Minnesota



Rural Transit

Rural Transit Operating



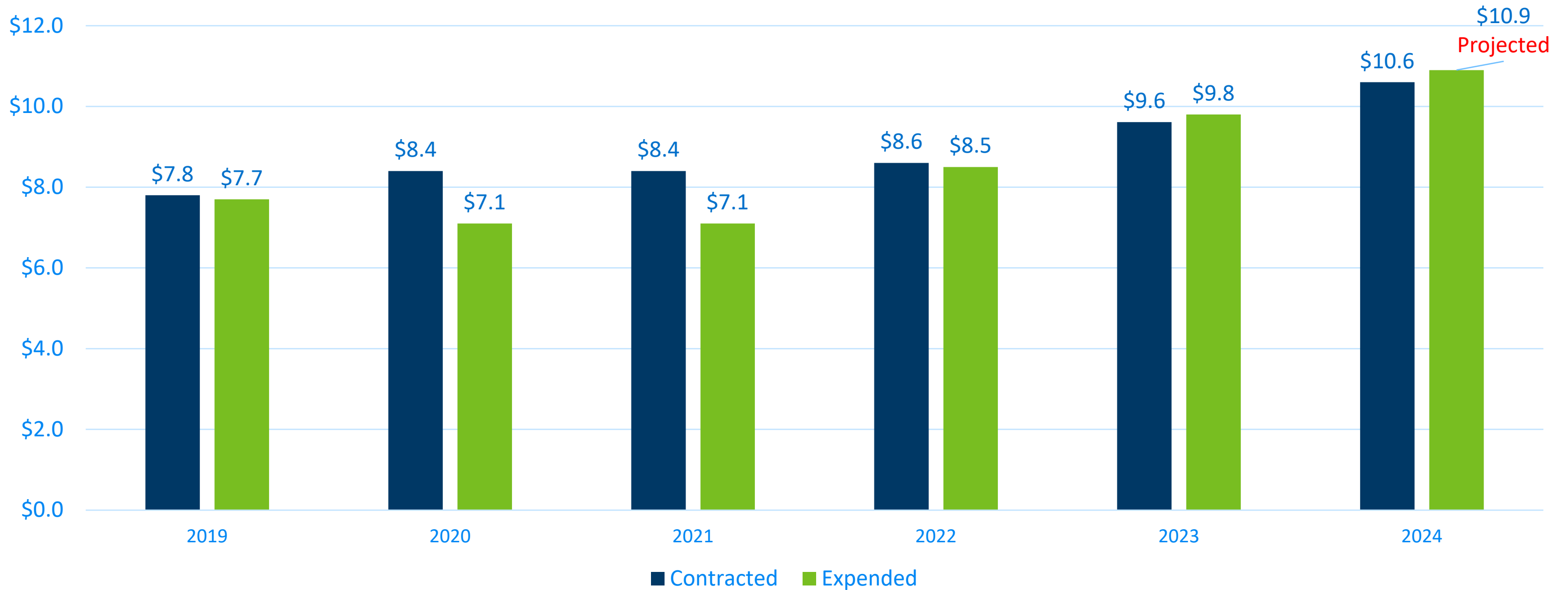
Small Urban Fixed-Route

Small Urban Operating



Small Urban ADA Paratransit

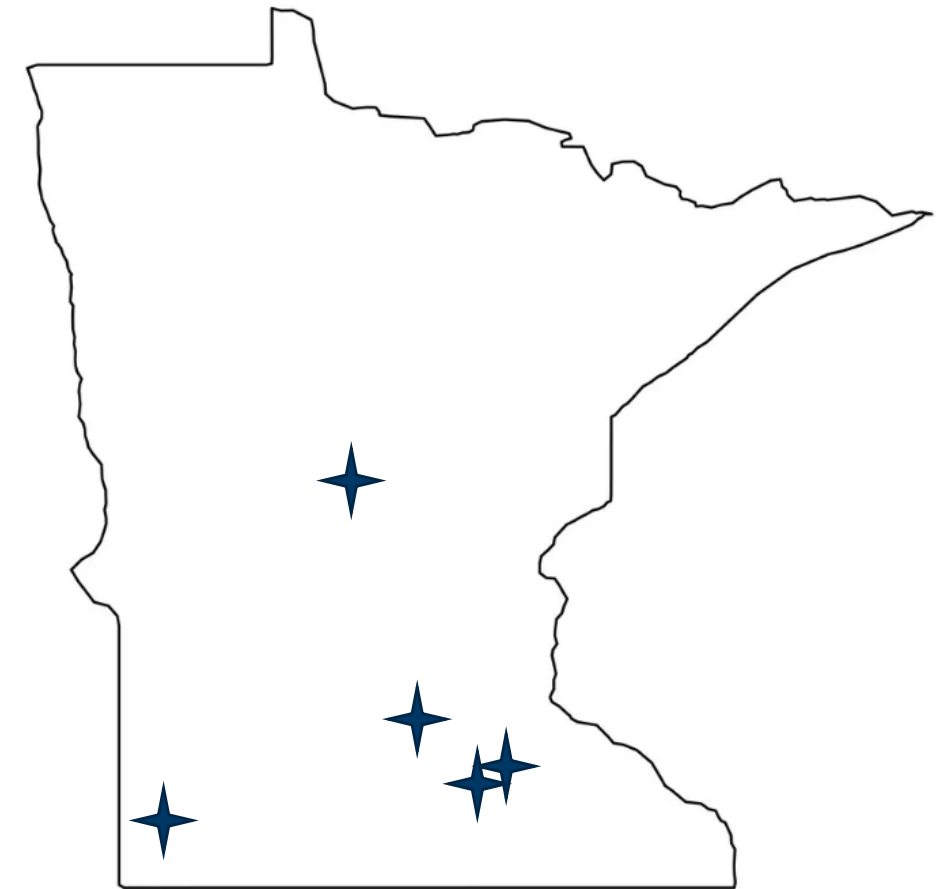
Small Urban ADA



Over \$8.5M Awarded in Discretionary Grants

MnDOT was awarded \$2,303,200, on behalf of **United Community Action Partnership-Community Transit (UCAP) and Friendly Rider Transit**, to buy propane buses and build the necessary fueling infrastructure. **(Low and No Emissions Grant)**

MnDOT was awarded \$6,282,400, on behalf of **Cedar Valley Services (SMART)**, to build two new transit facilities. This project will help SMART improve efficiency and enhance reliability for rural communities in Southern Minnesota. **(Bus and Bus Facilities Grant)**



Challenges

Challenges

- High costs, including maintenance of aging vehicle fleet and new vehicle costs
- Vehicle and driver shortages that impact service routes and capacity
- Staffing, including retention of drivers, supervisors, driver leads, and trainers
- Administrative burden (especially around procurement)
- Marketing and finding new riders
- Evolving technology (desire vs. ability to fund, train, and implement)
- Funding the Local Share in the long-term

Vehicle Delivery Update

(Rural (5311) & Elderly/Disabled (5310))

	Vehicles Ordered	Vehicles Delivered	Vehicles Delivered
	#	#	%
2020	76	74	97%
2021	126	96	76%
2022	62	9	15%
2023	54	2	4%

Looking Forward

Greater Minnesota Transit Plan

- The GMTP will be a policy-based plan with strategic planning recommendations intended to provide a practical vision for maintaining and improving transit service in Greater Minnesota.
- This plan will focus on providing policy direction that reflects recent trends and guides priorities for transit service in Greater Minnesota.

Phase 1

(Fall 2024-Fall 2025)

- Engagement
- Policy development



Phase 2

(Fall 2025- Winter 2026)

- Plan approval
- Plan is published



Phase 3

(Summer 2026)

- Development of implementation documents

Transit Plan: Consultant Selection



- Funding Formula for Operations



- Transit policy recommendations
- Performance measures



- Public engagement
- Marketing
- Communications



- Equitable engagement
- Equity review

Transit Plan: Key Trends



Sustainability & Carbon Reduction



Technology & Mobility



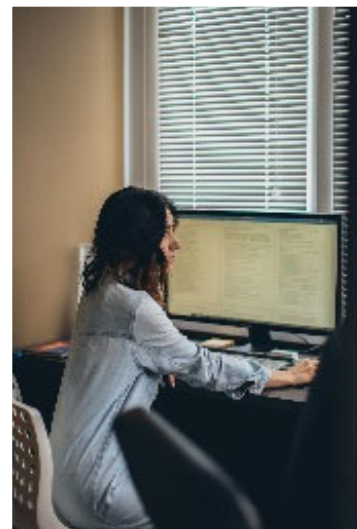
Equitable Funding Formula



Service Performance



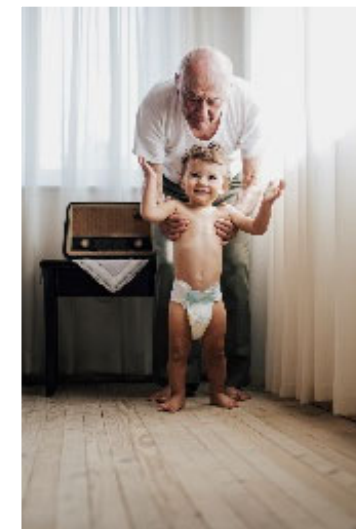
Equity



Transportation Behavior



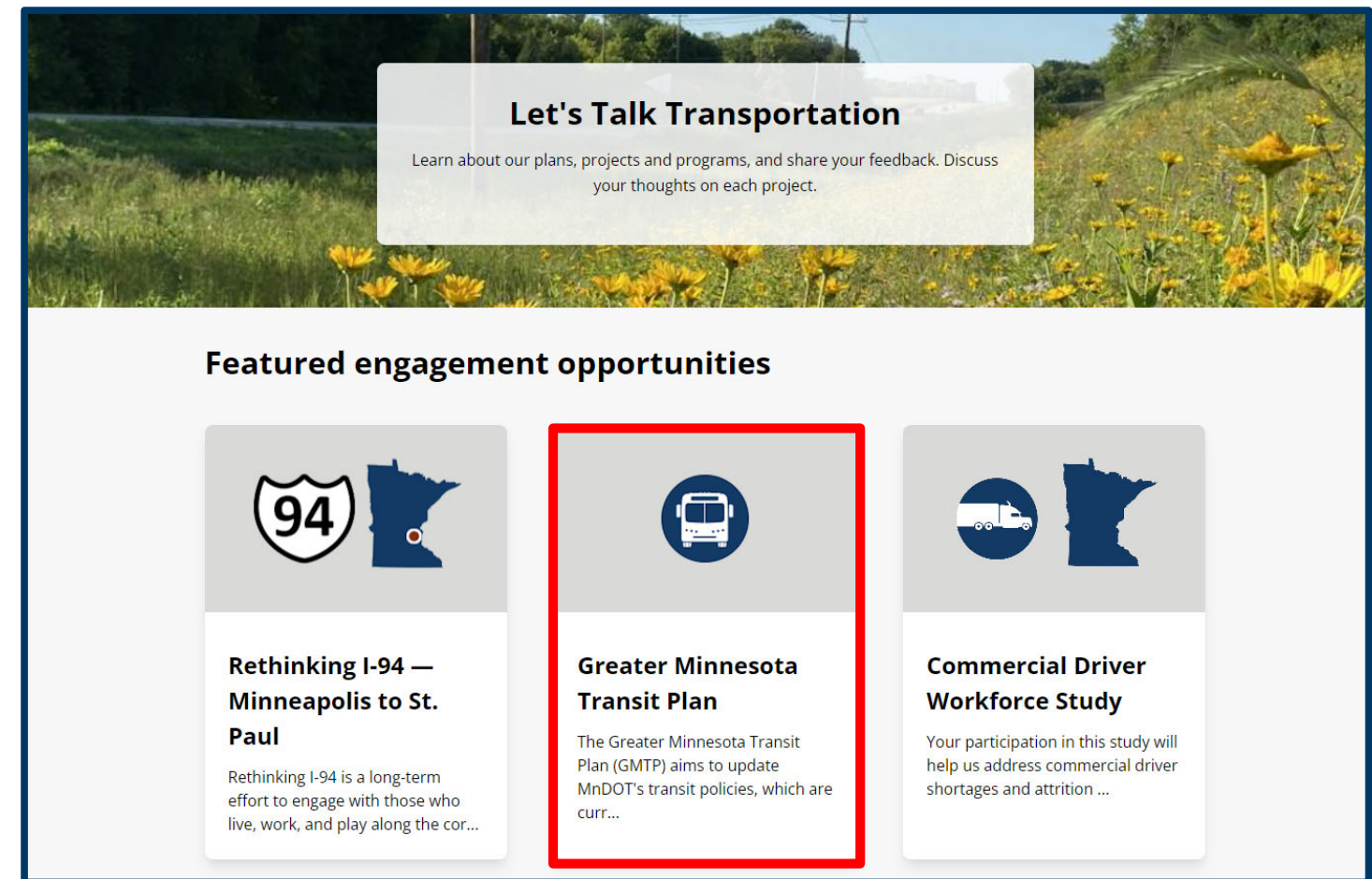
Coordination & Partnership



Demographic Shifts

Transit Plan: Engagement

- **PAC:** Plan Advisory Committee
- **TAG:** Technical Advisory Group
- **RIDE Advisory Task Force:**
Representing Inclusive Diverse Experiences
- **General Public**



Let's Talk Transportation
Learn about our plans, projects and programs, and share your feedback. Discuss your thoughts on each project.

Featured engagement opportunities

- Rethinking I-94 — Minneapolis to St. Paul**
Rethinking I-94 is a long-term effort to engage with those who live, work, and play along the cor...
- Greater Minnesota Transit Plan**
The Greater Minnesota Transit Plan (GMTP) aims to update MnDOT's transit policies, which are curr...
- Commercial Driver Workforce Study**
Your participation in this study will help us address commercial driver shortages and attrition ...

<https://talk.dot.state.mn.us/greater-minnesota-transit-plan>

Greater MN Transit: Fleet Transition Plan

- Plan to be developed in conjunction with the Greater Minnesota Transit Plan and will include:
 - Decarbonization goals
 - Information on technologies currently available, including fueling/charging infrastructure
 - State-wide policy recommendations to guide future investment
- Final Draft expected late summer/fall 2025

Fleet Transition Plan: Context Today

- Greater Minnesota has three small urban (5307) sites that have started to transition to alternative fuels.
- Greater Minnesota Transit has ten rural transit (5311) sites that are in the early stages of working to transition to alternative fuels.



Comprehensive Reviews

What are they?

A periodic and comprehensive review of compliance and performance practices, conducted in partnership with a third-party consultant with expertise in FTA and MnDOT requirements.

- **2022:** Completed 3
- **2023:** Completed 10
- **2024:** Completed 6 (planning on 4 more)

Contracted Support for Agencies

- This pilot has a 14-month track record completing 35 projects & 37 more underway.
 - Facilities – 9 agencies
 - Financial Planning – 3 agencies
 - Labor Market Analysis – 4 agencies
 - Marketing – 3 agencies
 - Policy Review - 4 agencies
 - Service Planning - 10 agencies
 - Technology Planning/Procurement - 18 agencies

Deliverables online

Conceptual designs/budgets

New Presentation on Local Match formulas/Other Funding

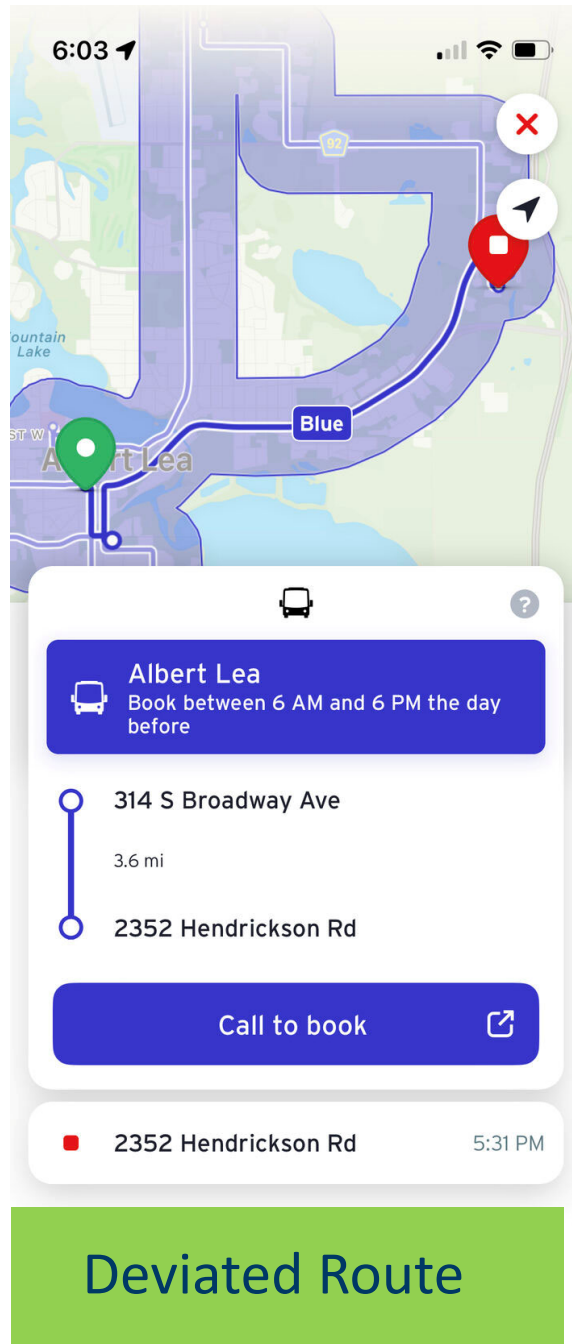
Labor Market Synthesis Presentation and Agency Reports

Marketing Plan

Technology Applications and a Procurement Packet

For more information: www.dot.state.mn.us/Transit/Transit-Consulting.html

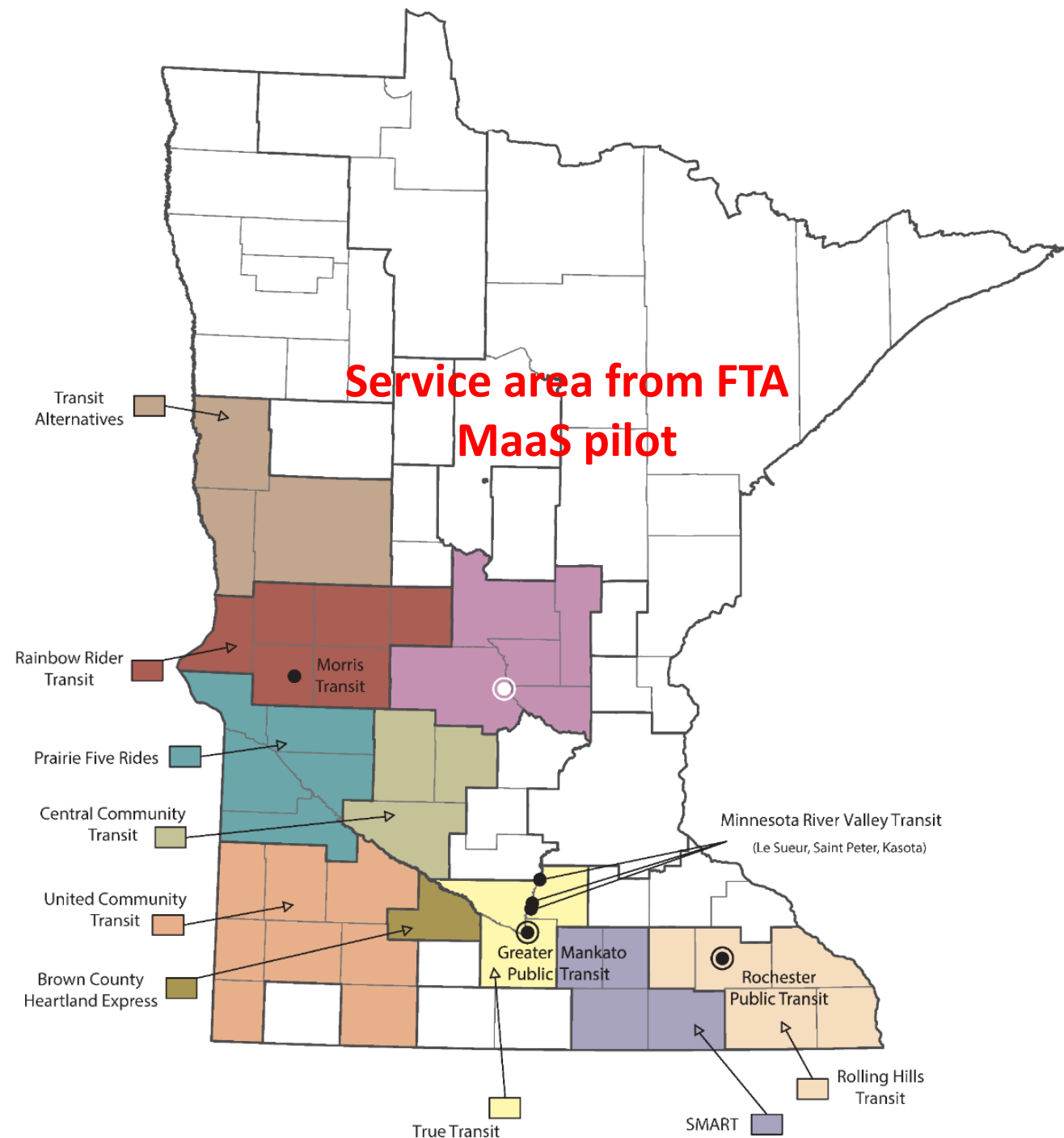
MnDOT Mobility-as-a-Service Project



mndot.gov



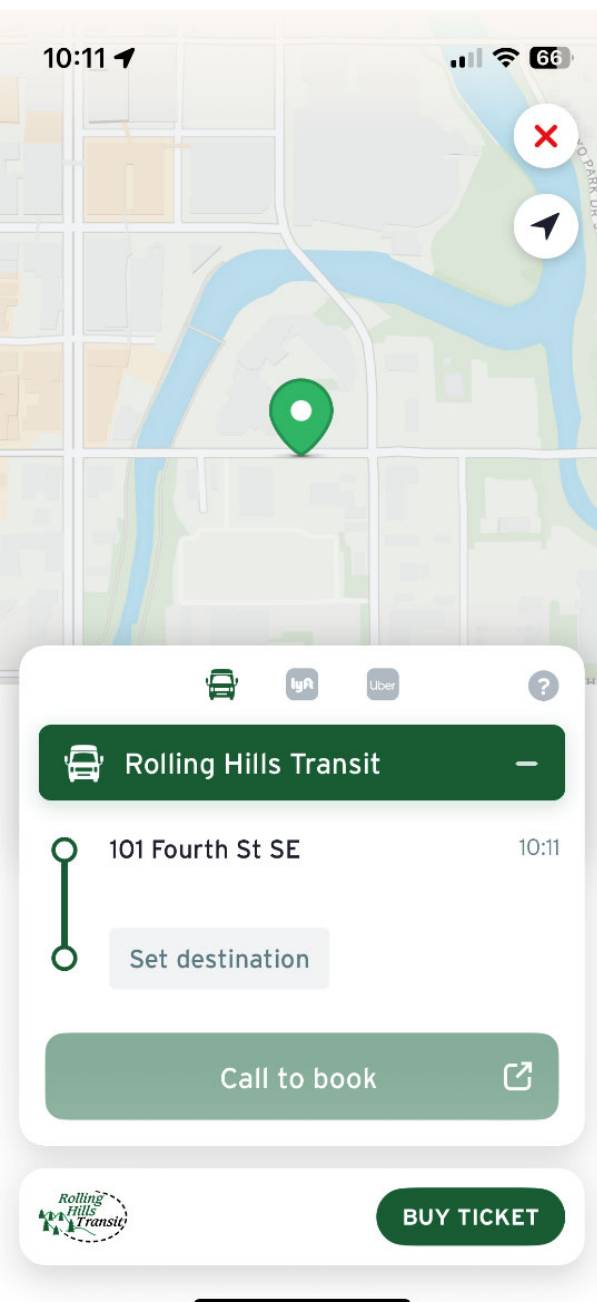
Regional MaaS Pilot



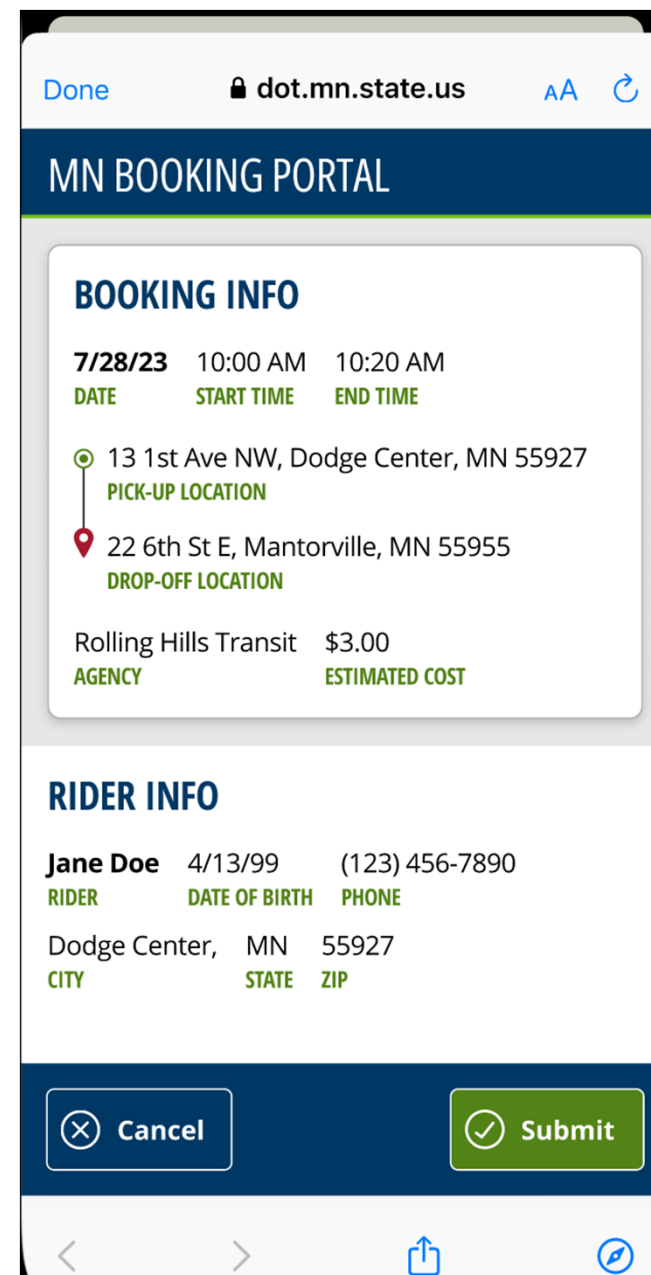
Accomplishments

- Implemented digital trip planning, booking, and payment platform with 13 Greater MN Transit agencies
- FTA pilot received 2024 “Best Use of Technology & Innovation-Small Project” from MAASTO, the Mid America Association of State Transportation Officials

Minnesota MaaS Project Area



10/23/2024



mndot.gov

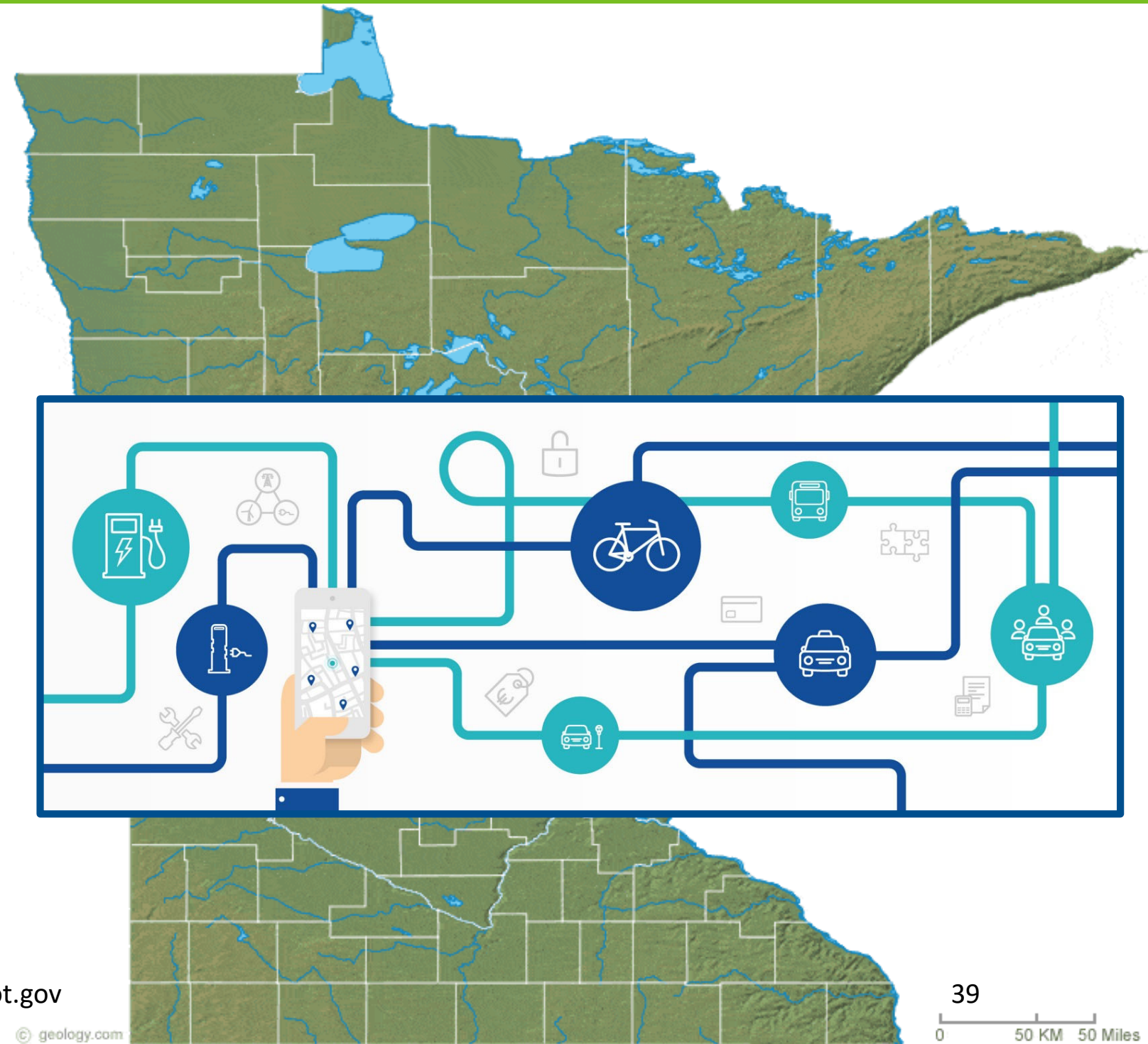
Upcoming improvements

- OTAT received a state Technology Modernization Grant to continue work and make improvements
- Allowing digital demand response booking both on Transit app and MnTransitPlanner.com with OtterExpress, Rolling Hills, and RPT
- Realtime demand response vehicle arrival info coming winter 2025

Future Improvements

Other planned enhancements

- Pending federal grant application
 - Expand MaaS platform to rest of Greater Minnesota
 - Booking and payment integration with intercity bus
 - Expanding & licensing of demand response booking module



Related Legislative Studies

- **Dynamic Transportation Options Study**
caroline.miller@state.mn.us
- **Metro Mobility Enhancements Study & Report**
glenn.gadbois@state.mn.us
- **Minnesota Commercial Driver Workforce Study**
tom.gottfried@state.mn.us
- **Fargo/Moorhead Northstar Study**
nathan.abney@state.mn.us
- **Youth E-Bike Study**
caroline.ketcham@state.mn.us

Thank You!