

Terms and Definitions

Term	Definition	Source
Advance Notice Needed	The amount of time needed to schedule a demand response ride with rural public transit providers prior to pickup.	Transit Agency Website
Annual Unlinked Passenger Trips	The number of passengers who board public transit vehicles in a calendar year. Passengers are counted each time they board a vehicle, no matter how many vehicles they use, to travel from their origin to their destination.	National Transit Database (NTD) (2017)
Annual Vehicle Revenue Hours	The hours that vehicles are scheduled to or actually travel while in revenue service. Vehicle revenue hours include layover/recovery time, but exclude deadhead, operator training, vehicle maintenance testing, and school bus and charter service.	NTD (2017)
Annual Vehicle Revenue Miles	The miles that vehicles are scheduled to or actually travel while in revenue service. Vehicle revenue miles include layover/recovery time but exclude deadhead, operator training, vehicle maintenance testing, and school bus and charter service.	NTD (2017)
Capital Expenses	Expenses related to the purchase of equipment and the financing of public transit capital projects. Equipment means an article of non-expendable tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one year. Capital expenses are non-annually recurring expenses and exclude operating expenses such as preventative maintenance. Capital expenses are rounded to the nearest thousands or hundred thousands' place depending on the number.	NTD 3-Year Average (2015-2017)
Cost per Hour	Annual operating expenses divided by annual vehicle revenue hours.	NTD (2017)
Cost per Mile	Annual operating expenses divided by annual vehicle revenue miles.	NTD (2017)
Cost per Trip	Annual operating expenses divided by annual unlinked passenger trips.	NTD (2017)
Fare Revenue per Trip	Total income received directly from passengers (i.e. fares) divided by the total number of unlinked trips.	NTD (2017)

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Fare Type	<p>Destination-Based: Fare charged varies by the destination</p> <p>Distance-Based: Fare charged varies by the distance traveled</p> <p>Flat Fare: Fare charged is the same no matter the destination, number of stops, or distance</p> <p>Stop-Based: Fare charged depends on how many stops are made</p>	Transit Agency Website
Hours per Capita	Annual vehicle revenue hours divided by population in the service area.	NTD (2017)
Household Smartphone Access	A measure denoting the percentage of households within the public transit agency service area that has access to a smartphone. A smartphone is a mobile phone that performs many of the functions of a computer, typically having a touchscreen interface, Internet access, and an operating system capable of running downloaded applications.	U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) Table B28001 5-Year Average (2013-2017)
Low Income	People of low income are those living below the poverty level. The poverty level is the minimum income level when a person is considered to lack adequate subsistence.	U.S. Census Bureau ACS Table S1701 5-Year Average (2013-2017)
Median Age	The “median” is the value separating the higher half of a data set from the lower set, i.e. the “middle” value of a data set. The median age in the service area divides the age data ranked highest to lowest into two equal groups showing what the middle age is in the service area. For multi-county areas, the median age is the weighted average of median age and population.	U.S. Census Bureau ACS Table S0101 5-Year Average (2013-2017)
Median Household Income	The “median” is the value separating the higher half of a data set from the lower set; i.e. the “middle” value of a data set. The median household income in the service area divides the income data ranked highest to lowest into two equal groups showing what the middle household income is in the service area. For multi-county areas, the median household income is the weighted average of median household income and number of households.	U.S. Census Bureau ACS Table DP03 5-Year Average (2013-2017)
Minority	A measure of the population in the service area that does not identify as “White Alone” <i>and</i> is not of Hispanic or Latino origin. The US Census Bureau defines race as a person’s self-identification with one or more of the following social groups: White, Black or African American, Asian, American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, or some other race. In addition to race, the Census Bureau asks whether a person is of Hispanic origin or not.	U.S. Census Bureau ACS Table B02001 5-Year Average (2013-2017)

Term	Definition	Source
Operating Expenses	Expenses associated with the operation of the public transit agency. These include labor, fringe benefits, and materials and supplies with a useful life of less than one year.	NTD 3-Year Average (2015-2017)
Paratransit	Types of passenger transportation which are more flexible than conventional fixed-route transit but more structured than the use of private automobiles. Paratransit includes demand response (DR) transportation services, shared-ride taxis, car-pooling and vanpooling (VP), and jitney (JT) services.	NTD (2017)
Peak Vehicle Count	The number of revenue vehicles that operate on the week and day of the year that the most frequent service is provided.	NTD (2017)
Population	The number of people residing within the service area.	Urban Systems: NTD (2017); Rural Systems: U.S. Census Bureau ACS Table DP-05 (2017 5-Year Estimates)
Population Density (per square mile)	Population in the service area divided by the geographic size (square miles) of the service area.	NTD (2017)
Revenue Vehicle	A transit vehicle used to provide revenue service for passengers.	NTD (2017)
Service Area	Geographic area from which public transit agency trips can originate. Unless otherwise noted, rural public transit service is provided to locations outside the service area when needed. The public transit agency determines the service area boundaries and population for most public transit services using the definitions contained in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), i.e. a corridor surrounding the routes $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile on either side, or for rail, a series of circles of radius $\frac{3}{4}$ mile centered on each station.	Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT)
Service Area Size (square mile)	The geographic size, in square miles, of a public transit agency's service area.	Urban Systems: NTD (2017); Rural Systems: U.S. Census Bureau ACS Table GCT-PH1
Service Hours	The timeframe in which a public transit agency provides service. Service hours are rounded up to the nearest 15 minutes, where applicable. Day abbreviations: M = Monday, Tu = Tuesday, W = Wednesday, Th = Thursday, F = Friday, Sa = Saturday, Su = Sunday, H = Holiday	Transit Agency Website

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Service Type	Circulator Route: Bus service that operates in a closed loop less than 3 miles in length. Often, these circulators are free to ride.	American Public Transportation Association (APTA)
	Demand Response: A public transit mode comprised of passenger cars, vans or small buses operating in response to calls from passengers or their agents to the public transit operator, who then dispatches a vehicle to pick up the passengers and transport them to their destinations. A demand response operation is characterized by the following: a) The vehicles do not operate over a fixed route or on a fixed schedule except, perhaps, on a temporary basis to satisfy a special need, and b) Typically, the vehicle may be dispatched to pick up several passengers at different pick-up points before taking them to their respective destinations and may even be interrupted en route to these destinations to pick up other passengers.	NTD (2017)
	Express Route: Bus service that is intended to run faster than normal bus services between the same two commuter or destination points. Express routes make fewer stops than local bus services and often utilize quicker or more direct routes, such as highways or restricted access lanes.	American Public Transportation Association (APTA)
	Ferry: A public transit mode comprised of vessels carrying passengers over a body of water.	NTD (2017)
	Fixed Route: Bus services provided on a repetitive, fixed schedule basis along a specific route with vehicles stopping to pick up and deliver passengers to specific locations; each fixed route trip serves the same origins and destinations.	NTD (2017)
	Flex Route: A type of public transit service that operates similarly to conventional fixed route bus service along a fixed alignment or path with scheduled time points at each terminal point, but also stopping at key intermediate locations. Flex route service differs from conventional fixed route bus service in that the public transit vehicle may deviate from the route alignment to serve destinations within a prescribed distance (e.g., ¾ mile) of the route. Following an off route deviation, the bus must return to the point on the route it left. Conceptually, flex route fits somewhere between fixed route and demand response bus service.	NTD (2017)

Term	Definition	Source
Service Type (continued)	<p>Microtransit: A type of public transit service that offers flexible routing and/or flexible scheduling of minibuses. Microtransit providers use instant exchange of information, enabling both real-time and advance matching of demand (trip) and supply (driven vehicle). Possible pick-up/drop-off stops are usually pre-defined to allow for route optimization. Conceptually, microtransit fits somewhere between private individual transportation (cars or taxicabs) and public mass transit (bus).</p>	<p>APTA</p>
	<p>Heavy Rail: A public transit mode that is an electric railway with the capacity for a heavy volume of traffic. It is characterized by high speed and rapid acceleration passenger rail cars operating singly or in multi-car trains; separate rights-of-way from which all other vehicular and foot traffic are excluded; raised platform loading and sophisticated signaling.</p>	<p>NTD (2017)</p>
	<p>Streetcar: A rail public transit mode operating entire routes predominantly on streets in mixed-traffic. This service typically operates with single-car trains powered by overhead catenaries and with frequent stops.</p>	<p>NTD (2017)</p>
	<p>Vanpool: A public transit mode comprised of vans, small buses and other vehicles operating as a ride sharing arrangement, providing transportation to a group of individuals traveling directly between their homes and a regular destination within the same geographical area. The vehicles have a minimum seating capacity of seven persons, including the driver. Vanpools differ from carpool in that they are publicly sponsored.</p>	<p>NTD (2017)</p>
Standard Fare	<p>The full fare charged to public transit riders for local trips on a per trip basis, before special fare programs such as those for students, elderly, or veterans. For rural systems, the general public fare is the base fare charged to the general public.</p>	<p>Urban Systems: Transit Agency Website; Rural Systems: FY2020 5311 Grant Application</p>
Trips per Capita	<p>Annual unlinked passenger trips divided by population in the service area.</p>	<p>NTD (2017)</p>
Zero-Car Household	<p>A household where there is no privately owned vehicle.</p>	<p>U.S. Census Bureau ACS Table B08201 5-Year Average (2013-2017)</p>