

Continued Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Planning

Council Work Session
March 3, 2026

2. FY27 Budget Preparation: **Anticipated Gap**

- Anticipated gap of \$2.2 million.
- Includes lost revenue from end of ARPA and SAFER funding.
- Long-term outlook is uncertain.

Projected Net Change in Fund Balance									
2027	2028	202G	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
-2,130,719	-2,834,060	-5,081,724	-6,084,224	-7,237,943	-7,663,182	-10,290,279	-11,724,970	-13,615,891	-15,963,883

3. FY2027 Budget Preparation: **Guiding Principles**

- Investment that generates revenue prioritized.
- Protection of employee wellbeing, with no layoffs (but potentially transfers).
- Decisions aligned with Strategic Values and plan.
- Plan ahead as much as possible to work through issues.
- Openness to change – no “sacred cows”.

4. FY27
Budget
Preparation:
**Community
Values**

Community Value	High-Level Goals
Environmental Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Promote diverse ecosystem● Protect and promote thoughtful water use● Reduce carbon footprint● Reduce waste
Community Connections, Voice, and Belonging	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Cultivate meaningful partnerships between City and community● Deliver outstanding constituent services that are reliable and responsive● Strengthen connections within communities
Quality of Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Maintain outstanding parks and open spaces● Market city to visitors and potential new residents● Promote affordability● Promote high-quality and diverse modes of mobility
Safety and Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Identify and work to close gaps in opportunities.● Maintain community order and promote safety● Protect the safety and health of residents and property● Preserve safety net: shelter, food, health care● Promote clean and safe neighborhoods
Stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Advance employee well being● Promote fiscal stability● Promote smart growth and economic development● Pursue operational efficiencies

5. FY2027 Budget Preparation: **Reduction Scenario**

Step	Savings	Depends On
Redeploy staff to potential trash utility	\$250,000	Creation and approval
Reclassification of capital expenses	\$225,000	
Do not fill open positions	\$100,000	Lower workload (BCCs)
Reduce Transit subsidy	\$250,000	Service changes
Reduce contributions to outside agencies	\$60,000	Work with partners
Increase Brush Site revenue	\$50,000	Purchase scale, permanent location, Fee inc.
Eliminate Hobbs subsidy	\$300,000	
Eliminate Fairfax subsidy	\$200,000	
Eliminate Soccer Park subsidy	\$165,000	
Paid parking at City parks	\$100,000	
Permit parking in neighborhoods	\$100,000	
Suspend non-mandated training/travel	\$50,000	
Reduce Library and Health	\$200,000	Potential for Innovation Funding
Reduce Police and Fire (non-referendum or MOE)	\$100,000	
Total	\$2.15M	

6. FY2027 Budget Preparation: **Seeking Council Feedback**

- Creation of a trash utility (Dave)
- Restructuring of BCCs to reduce staff workload (Stephanie)
- Reduction or elimination in contributions to outside agencies (Kitzie)
- Paid parking in parks and neighborhoods (Dave)
- Suspension of non-mandated training for Council and departments (Kitzie)
- Reduction of all departmental spending and Health and Library transfers
- Application for Innovation funding (Kitzie and Stephanie)
 - ⊖ ~~Library~~
 - Health
 - Fire
 - ⊖ ~~EMS~~
 - Recreation
 - ⊖ ~~Transit~~
- Transfer of Operations of Hobbs and Soccer Park (Stephanie)
- Changes to the Transit model (Stephanie)

7. More Details: **Creation of a Trash Utility**

- RFP out for consultant to review options:
 - District Based
 - One Trash Hauler/One Compost Hauler
 - City Operated
- Any scenario in which we create utility would likely involve City providing billing and customer service, in addition to continuing to do code enforcement.
- Goal is to reduce cost for constituents and cover administrative costs.

8. More Details: **Restructuring of BCCs**

- Advisory Committees (SAC, HOC, BPAC, Parks and Waterways, EDI, Transit) each require about 20% of a staff person's time, or about 1.2 FTE.
- Additionally, supporting the staffing the Advisory Committee of Appointments accounts for about .3 FTE (this is managed by an ARPA-funded employee in the CM Office).
- Staffing the BIDs accounts for about .5 FTE.
- Other BCCs are required (e.g. Plan Commission, PFC, Board of Review).

9. More Details: **Reduction of Contributions to Outside Entities**

- Downtown Eau Claire Incorporated: \$72,000
- Senior Center: \$36,200
- Economic Development Corp: \$42,600

10. More Details: **Paid Parking in Neighborhoods and Parks**

Parks/Facilities

Phoenix

Carson

Fairfax

Dog Parks

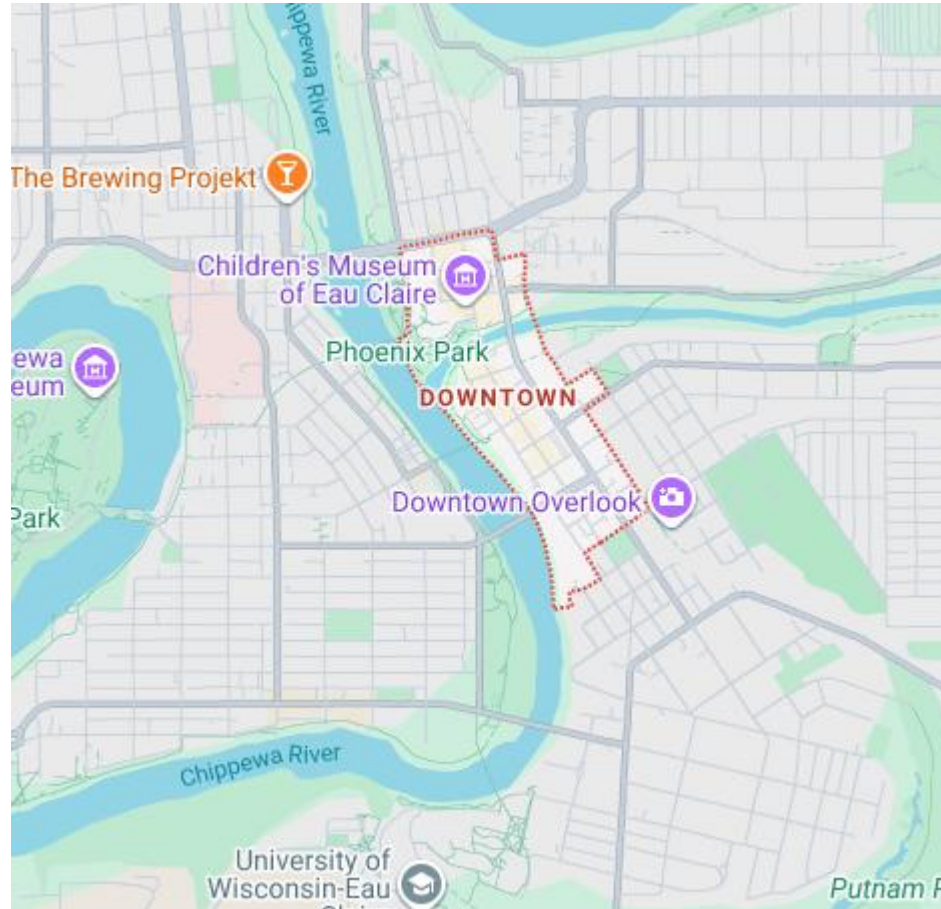
And more...

Neighborhoods

Randall Park

Mayo

Third Ward



11. More Details: **Suspension in Non-Mandated Training and Memberships**

- ICMA
- National League of Cities
- City Council training
- Other General Fund Departments
 - Based on average usage
 - Set parameters - such as specified number of attendances at specific events

12. More Details: Application for Innovation Funding

Area	Budget	Possible Award	Status and Questions
Soccer Fields operational transfer to partner	\$214,411 (2024)	\$53,602/year	Talking to partners
Hobbs operational transfer to partner	\$1,110,805 (2025)	\$277,701/year	Talking to partners
Altoona FD consolidates with ECFD	Approximately \$1 million	\$250,000/year	Discussions underway
Health transfers to County	\$8,468,852 (2025)	\$2,117,213/year	Challenge of transferring services by June Unsure grant award amount due to mix of funding sources.
Library System created	\$6,249,284 (2025)	\$1,562,321/year	Need partner
EMS District created	\$4,507,949 (2025)	\$1,126,967/year	Meeting with municipalities Watching EMS District legislation

13. Rec Facility Detail: **Operational Transfer of Hobbs and Soccer Fields**

Facility	Approx. Expenditures	Approx. Revenue	Innovation Funding
Soccer Park	\$225,000	\$50,000	\$56,000/year
Hobbs	\$1,110,805	\$900,000	\$187,500/year

- Five-year lease of facility to partner, with exploration of property use after.
- We anticipate that partner would takes steps such as:
 - Contracts with City to carry out some tasks;
 - Works with user groups to adjust fees;
 - Uses innovation funding to buffer gap;
 - Reduces expenditures; and
 - Works with partners (user groups, VEC, City) to plan for new facilities.

14. Rec Facility Detail: Operational Transfer of Hobbs and Soccer Fields



PLEASE PARK IN LOT J

15. Transit Detail: **Transit System Goals**

- Increase transit ridership and utilization across all modes
- Generate cost savings to reinvest while maintaining a high level of customer service.
- Maintain customer service improvements, such as zero-fare for K-12 service and new Transit Center
- Be agile, creative, and ready for evolving technology and community needs.

16. Transit Detail: Ridership Model

Environmental Benefits

This chart illustrates when the bus becomes the more carbon efficient mobility option compared with traveling by car.

If 5-6 people take the bus and another 5-6 people choose to drive/ride in a car, each person in both groups has a comparable carbon footprint.

When 7 people take the bus, and 7 drive/ride in a car, it becomes more efficient to take the bus than to travel by car.

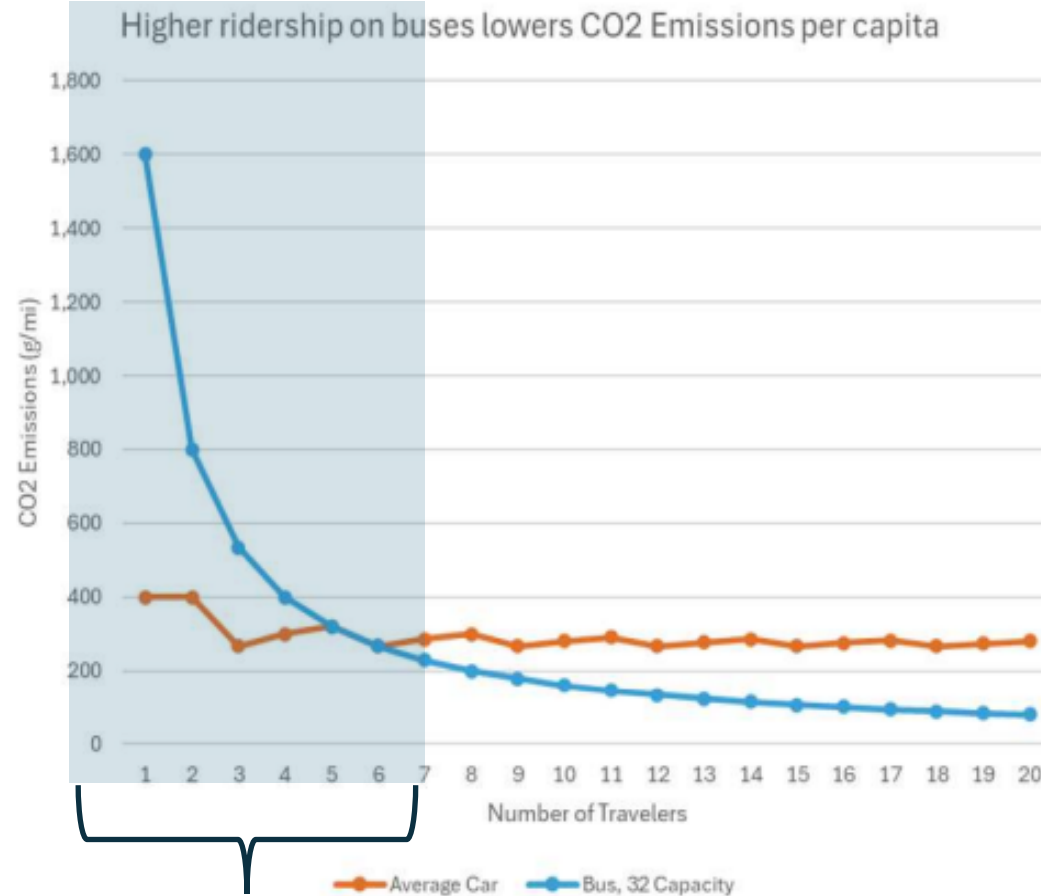
Assumptions:

1. Car

- Emissions: 400g/mi/vehicle
- Capacity: 1.5ppl/vehicle (National Household Travel Survey, 2022)

2. Bus

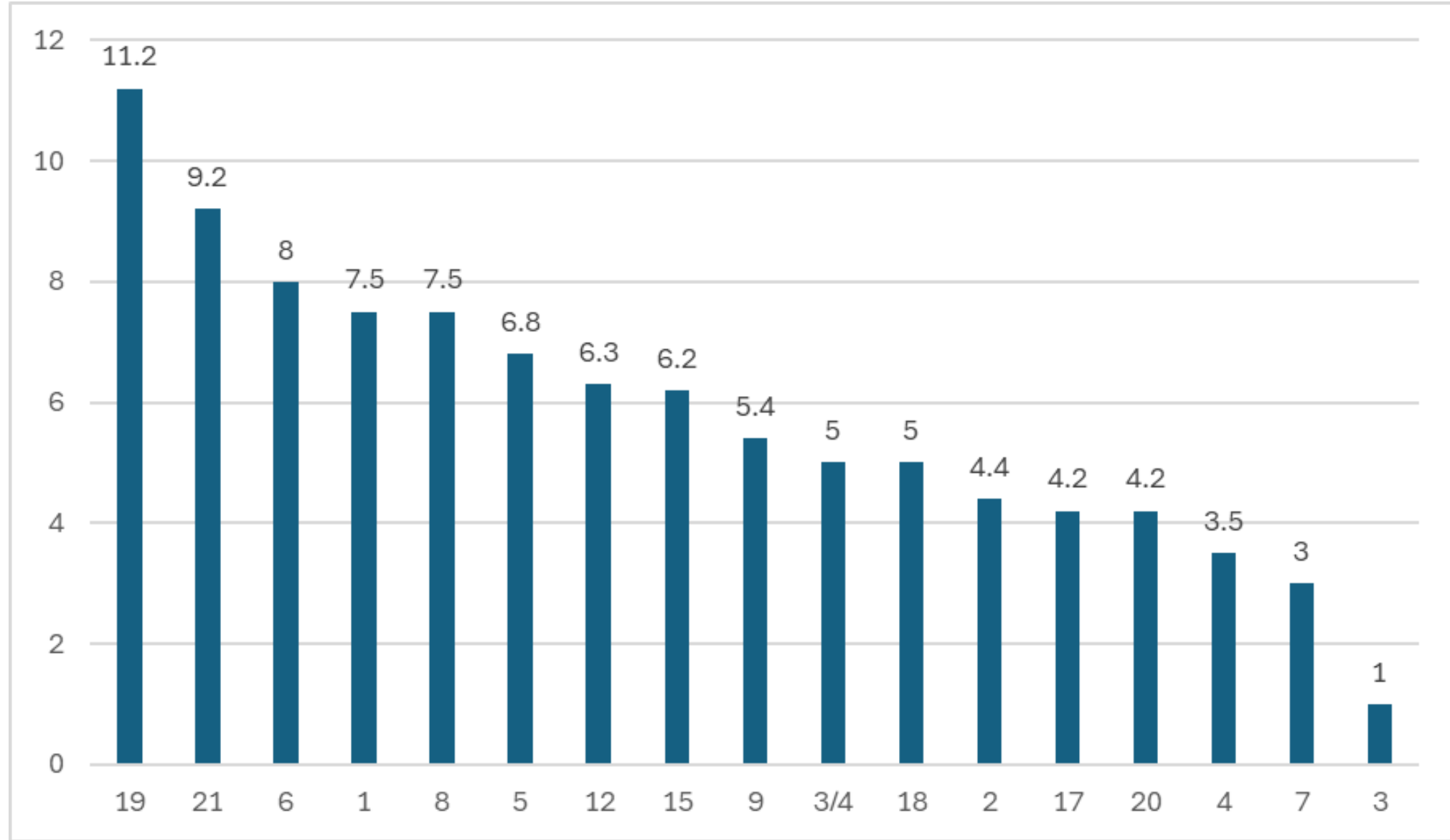
- Emissions: 1602g/mi on average based on the EC fleet with 17 diesel buses and 5 hybrid buses
- Capacity: avg 32 seats per bus



ECT evening routes:
#2, #3/4, #7, #17, #20

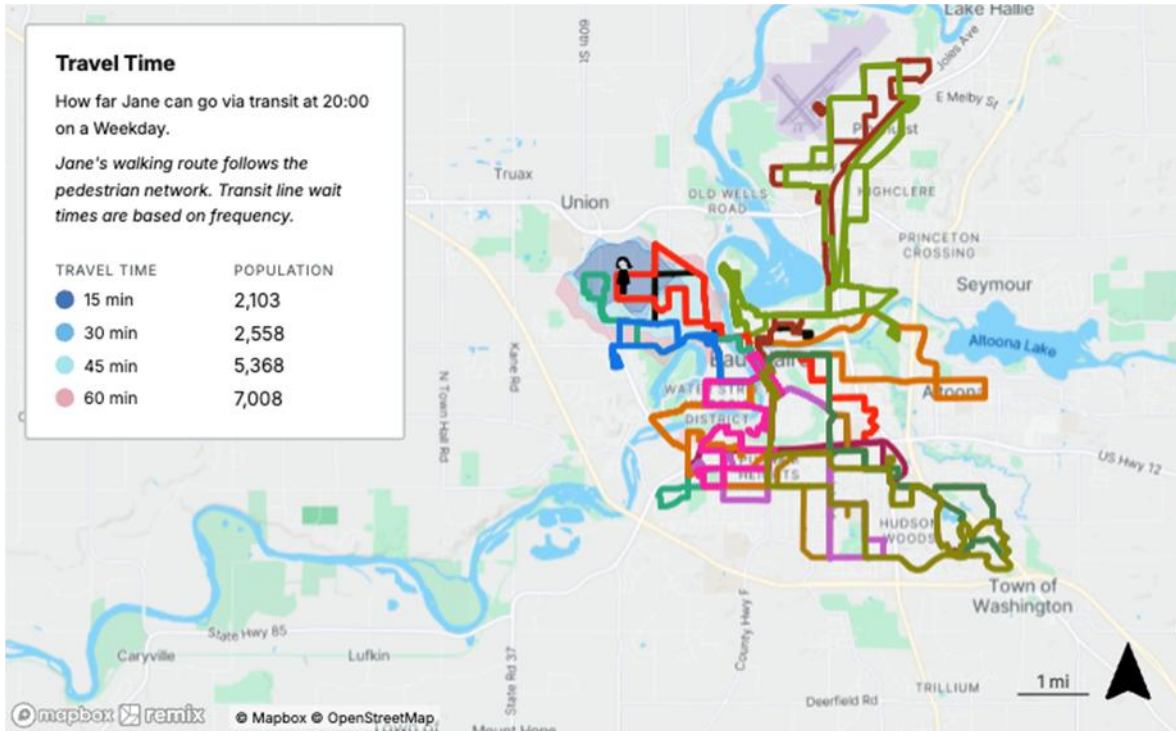
- Lower Ridership: May be served best by microtransit
- Medium Ridership: Focus fixed routes on denser higher-frequency segments
- High Ridership: Further increase fixed route frequencies
- Model is dynamic and will change as ridership changes

Transit Detail: Evening Boardings per Hour by Route

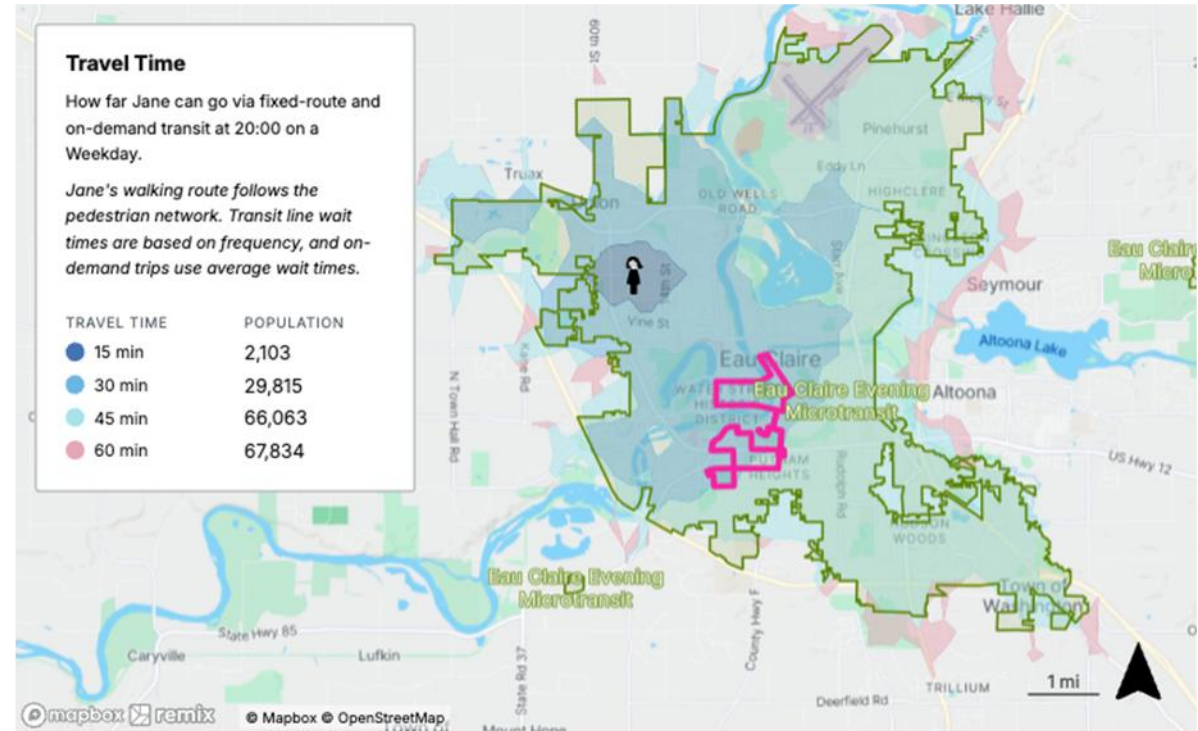


18. Transit Detail: Evening Micro Transit Service Coverage

Current Fixed Route Evening Service (8PM)



Citywide Microtransit Evening Service (8PM)



20.
Example
from
Green Bay

Green Bay METRO
Green Bay Metro
Full System Overview

Legend

Paratransit Service Area

Fixed Routes

- Route 1: Pink Line
- Route 2: Orange Line
- Upon Request
- Route 3: Silver Line
- Route 4: Blue Line
- Aspiro - Weekdays
8:16 am, 12:16 pm, 3:16 pm
- Route 5: Yellow Line
- Route 6: Red Line
- Route 7: Lime Line
- Route 8: Green Line
- Route 9: Gold Line
- Upon Request
- Route 10: Plum Line
- Route 11: Sky Line

Microtransit Zones

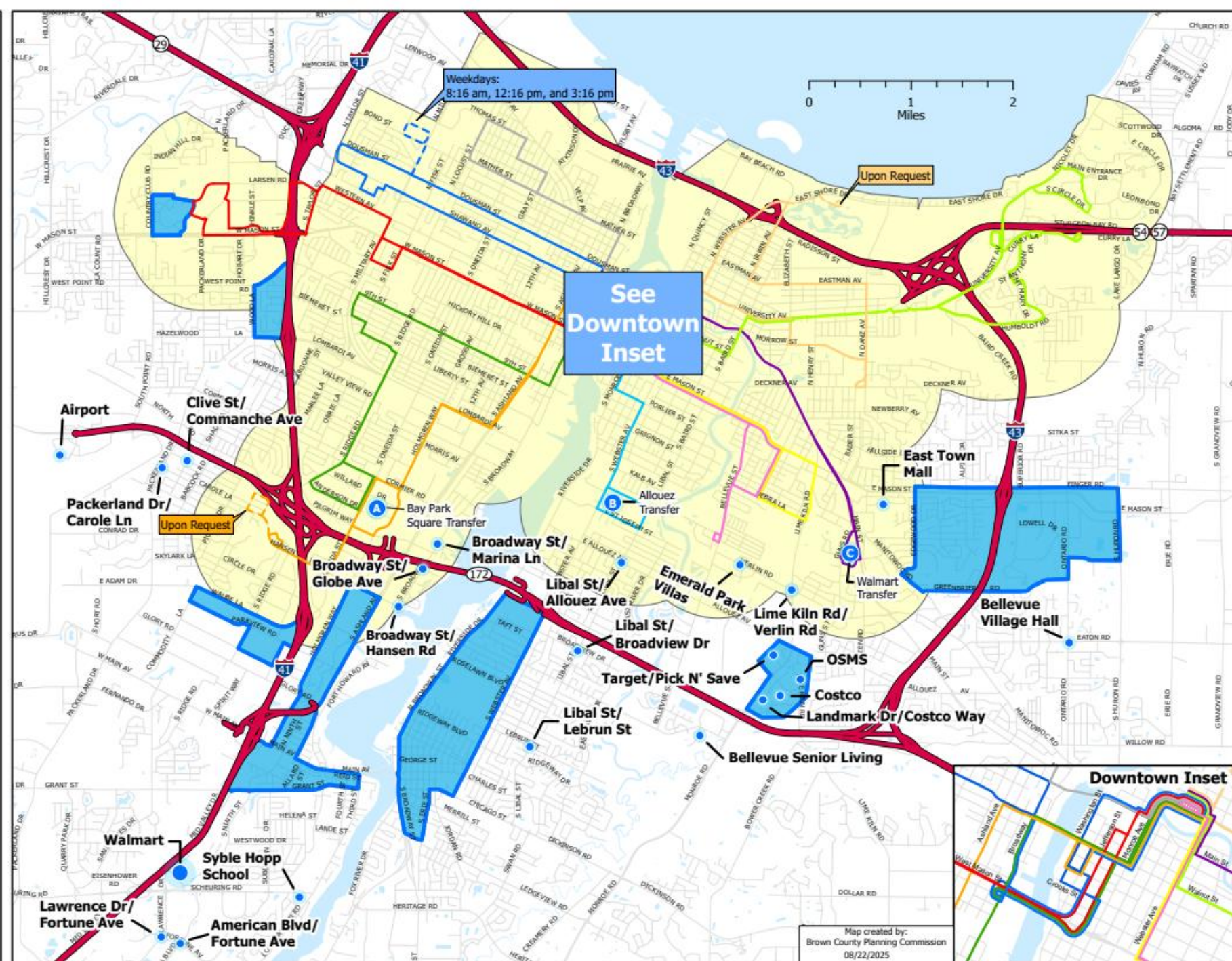
- Daytime Zone
- A B C Transfer Points

GBM All Zones Microtransit Service
See website for hours or scan QR (920) 448-3185 (Press Option 2)




Microtransit zones:
Daytime Zone
Bay Park Square
Walmart
Walmart

Daytime transfer points:
Bay Park Square
Walmart
Walmart



21. Transit Detail: **Other/Additional Options**

- Fare free during day for fixed routes, and higher-price for evening on-demand.
- Shrink service area, increase frequency, and use on-demand in other areas.
- Use micro-transit for para-transit, plus some evening service areas.
- Bring paratransit in house.
- Coordinate parking policies and transit.
- Others?

22. Transit Detail: **Next Steps**

- Will continue to work on developing the model.
- Public Engagement - Comments can be emailed to transit@eauclairewi.gov
- Stakeholder Meetings: ADRC, BCCs, Senior Center, EDI Commission, Neighborhood associations, UWEC, CVTC, Transit Users, Disability Groups
- Council Work Session