



CENTRAL OHIO TRANSIT AUTHORITY

**Transit System Redesign:
Proposed Downtown Plan**

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

June 10, 2015



COTA STRATEGIC VISION



AGENDA

- **ALIGNMENT**
 - Aligning COTA's goals with goals of the broader community
- **STRENGTHENING CURRENT SERVICE**
 - Ensuring that COTA is providing the best system possible utilizing current resources
- **PLANNING THE NEXT GENERATION**
 - Planning the Next Generation of Public Transportation for Columbus & Central Ohio



TRANSIT SYSTEM REVIEW

and

TRANSIT SYSTEM REDESIGN



PURPOSE

- Creating New Paradigm for Public Transit in Columbus & Central Ohio
- Consistent with Strategic Vision
- Community-wide and Downtown Benefits



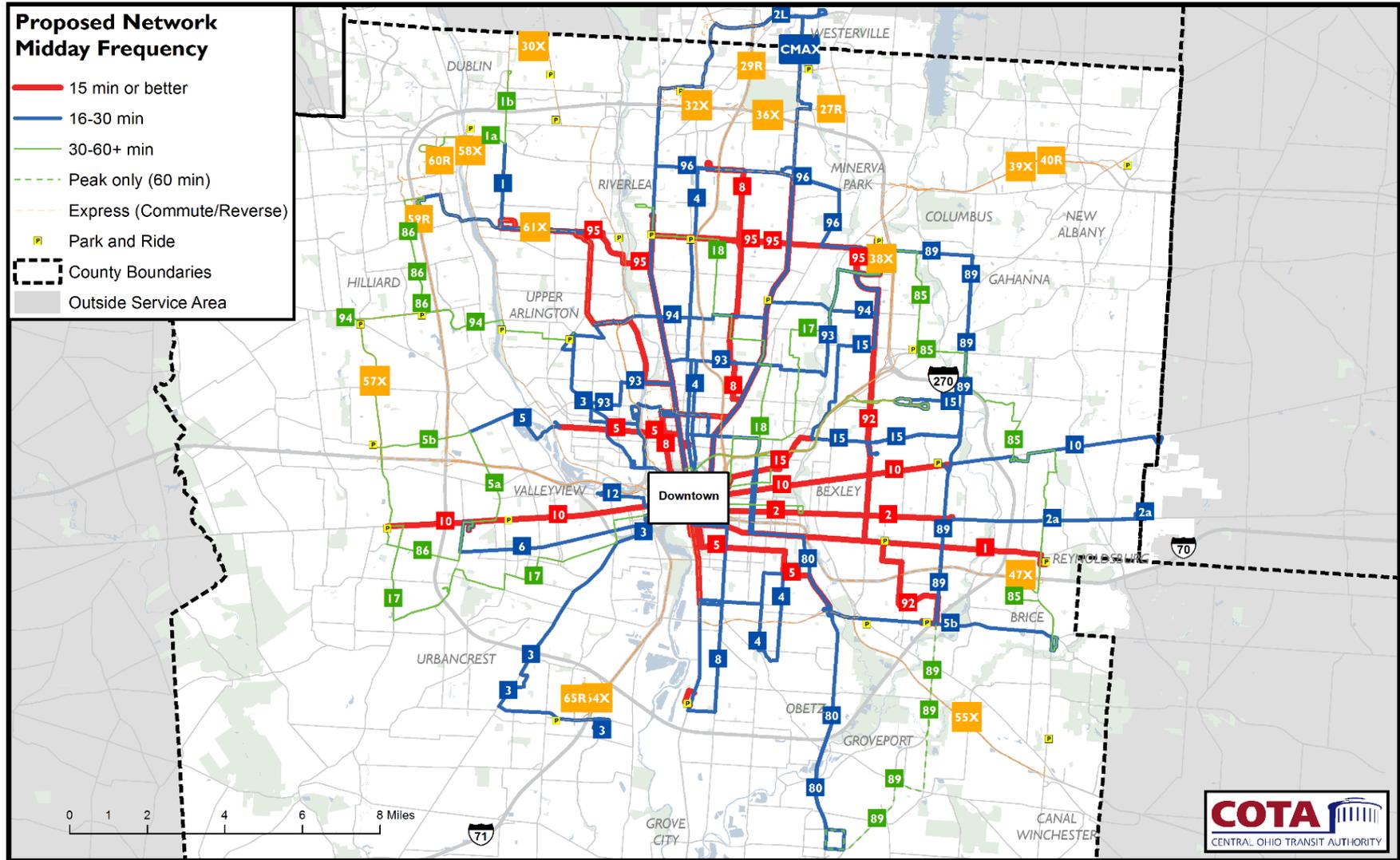
REVIEW PROCESS

- October 2013: Independent experts hired to review and evaluate the entire bus network
- March - June 2014: COTA received public input through 10 public meetings, an online survey and focus groups
- September 2014: New proposed bus network completed after public feedback
- November 2014: COTA Board of Trustees accepted the final report and adopted a planning framework – 70% Ridership and 30% Coverage

REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

- Simplify bus alignments providing easier to use system for existing and new customers
- More direct service with less deviations from major roadways
- Improve frequency and double high-frequency (15 minute or better) lines
- More consistent service – same schedules, seven days a week
- New service to major destinations and employment centers
- Improved Crosstown service that relieves the need to transfer Downtown for service to destinations outside of Downtown

PROPOSED BUS NETWORK





PROPOSED DOWNTOWN PLAN

DOWNTOWN PLAN – CUSTOMER BENEFITS



- Distribution of transit service in Downtown – along Front, High, Third & Fourth Streets
- Increase use of Downtown Terminals with improved passenger amenities and easy access to transfer connections
- Increase frequency between OSU and Downtown
- Direct service to Port Columbus International Airport
- New & enhanced bus stops

DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- Reduce peak period Local bus volumes on High Street – 61% in the southbound and 55% in northbound directions
- Reduce off-peak bus volumes – 53% in the southbound and 46% in northbound directions
- Improve retail visibility in Downtown
- Reduce bus congestion at stops – limited number of Local lines on High Street and adjusted schedules to provide more evenly timed arrivals and departures
- More even distribution of stops throughout Downtown will reduce congestion on sidewalks
- Ease traffic congestion and improve travel times through Downtown
- Reduce waiting time for customers of high-frequency lines on High Street



NEXT STEPS & TIMELINE



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- June 2015
 - Public comment meetings
 - Review public comments
 - Advise Board of Trustees on public comments
- June - September 2015
 - Adjust full TSR bus system plan
 - Develop draft bus schedules
 - Host additional public comment meetings
 - Finalize system plan
 - Identify 2016-2017 capital improvements for budget
- September 2015 - January 2017: Continue implementation of TSR
- May 2017: Full implementation of TSR, including Downtown Plan

ONLINE INFORMATION

Check out
COTA.com/DowntownPlan

- Full-size maps
- Individual line maps
- Bus stop changes
- Step-by-step directions for trip planning
- Public involvement opportunities, including public meeting dates, times and locations

