



What is the Transit Optimization Study?

- The City of Sault Ste. Marie has launched a Transit Optimization Study to evaluate the current route design and other services provided by Sault Transit.
- The study will provide a review of the City's transit network, including:
 - Assessing the effectiveness of current bus routes and on-demand services in response to changing ridership and demographics.
 - Evaluating the potential relocation of the Dennis Street terminal and its impacts.
 - Providing recommendations to enhance efficiency while maintaining safe and reliable service.
- The study incorporates public input with technical analysis to shape a transit system that is community-driven and data-informed.



For more information, visit
saultstemarie.ca/transitstudy



Project Overview – Study Objectives



Review the current service design of the City's transit network



Examine the effectiveness and efficiency of the existing bus routes and on demand system while considering changing ridership demographics.



Evaluate relocating the Dennis St transit terminal.

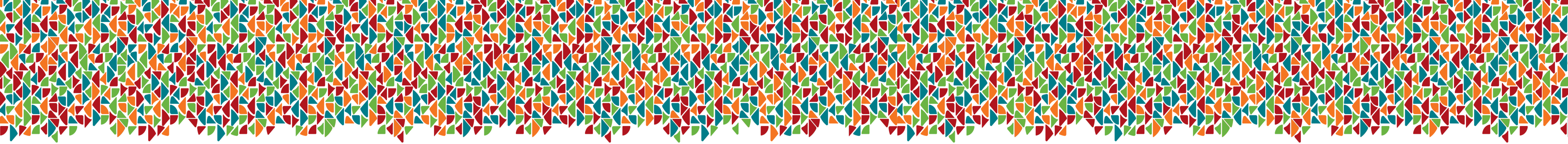


Provide recommendations to optimize service while continuing to provide safe and efficient transit services to the City.

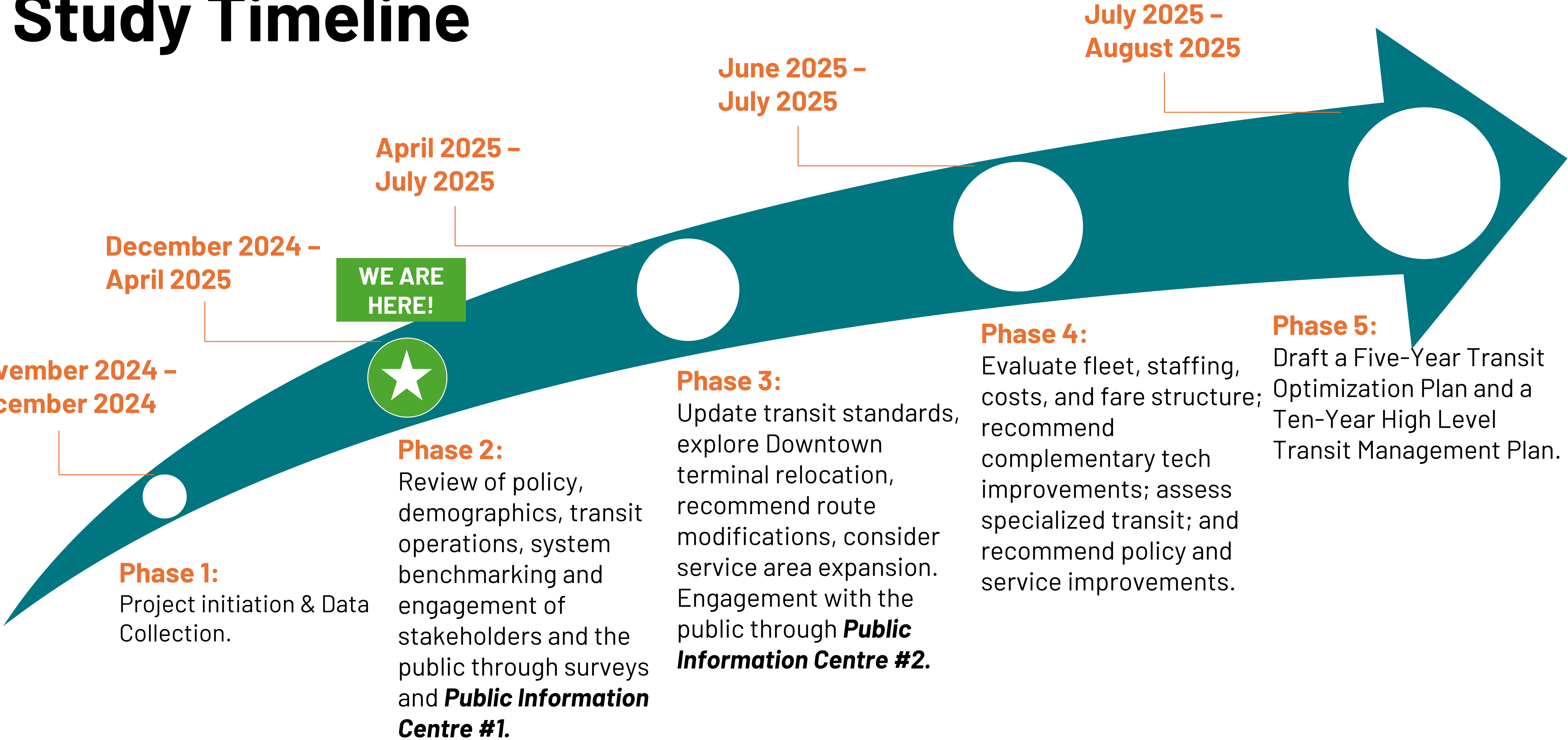


Consider innovative service delivery models.





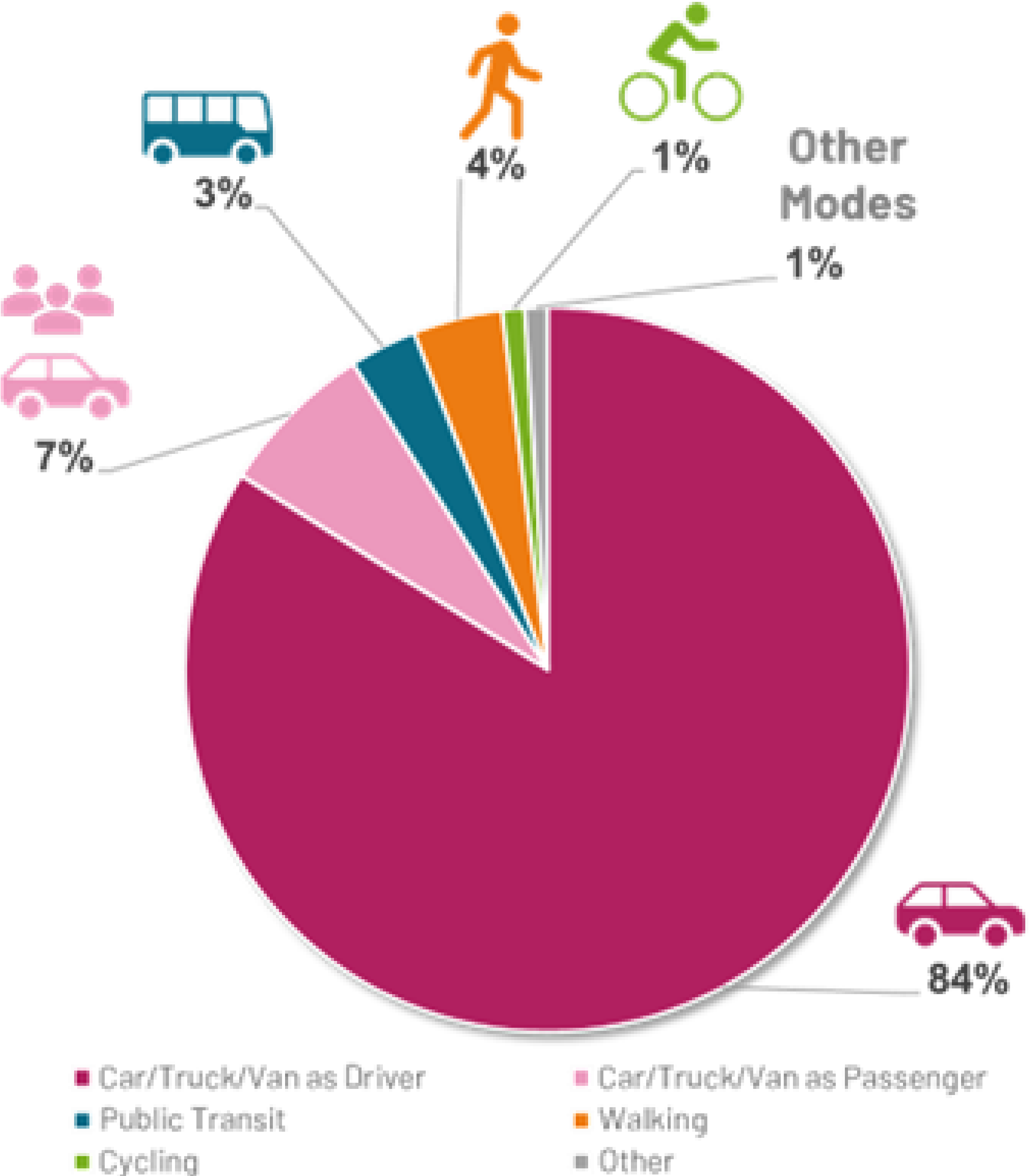
Study Timeline



For more information, visit saultstemarie.ca/transitstudy



How Sault Ste. Marie Moves



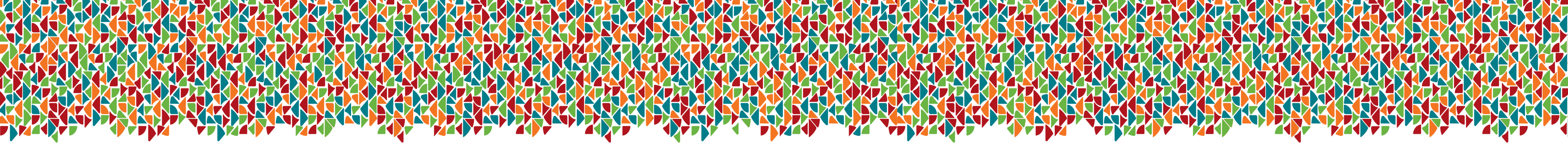
Modal Split in Sault Ste. Marie

Source: 2021 Census and 2022 Sault Ste. Marie Draft Official Plan Background Paper



For more information, visit saultstemarie.ca/transitstudy





What's Been Completed Since the Last Transit Plan?



The minimum hours of operation for most routes: 6:00 a.m. – midnight Monday through Saturday and 7:00 a.m. – midnight Sundays.

Implemented



Routes shall be located along major arterial and collector roads and only be provided along local residential roads in order to meet walk distance guidelines.

Implemented



Conventional transit routes must have a minimum 10 passengers per hour.

Implemented



New Northern Avenue Terminal in constructed and in operation, allowing for more direct transfers in northern Sault Ste Marie.

Implemented

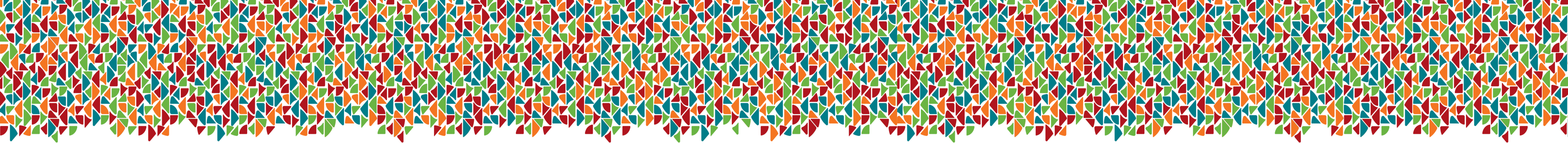


New technology and real-time transit tracking.

Implemented

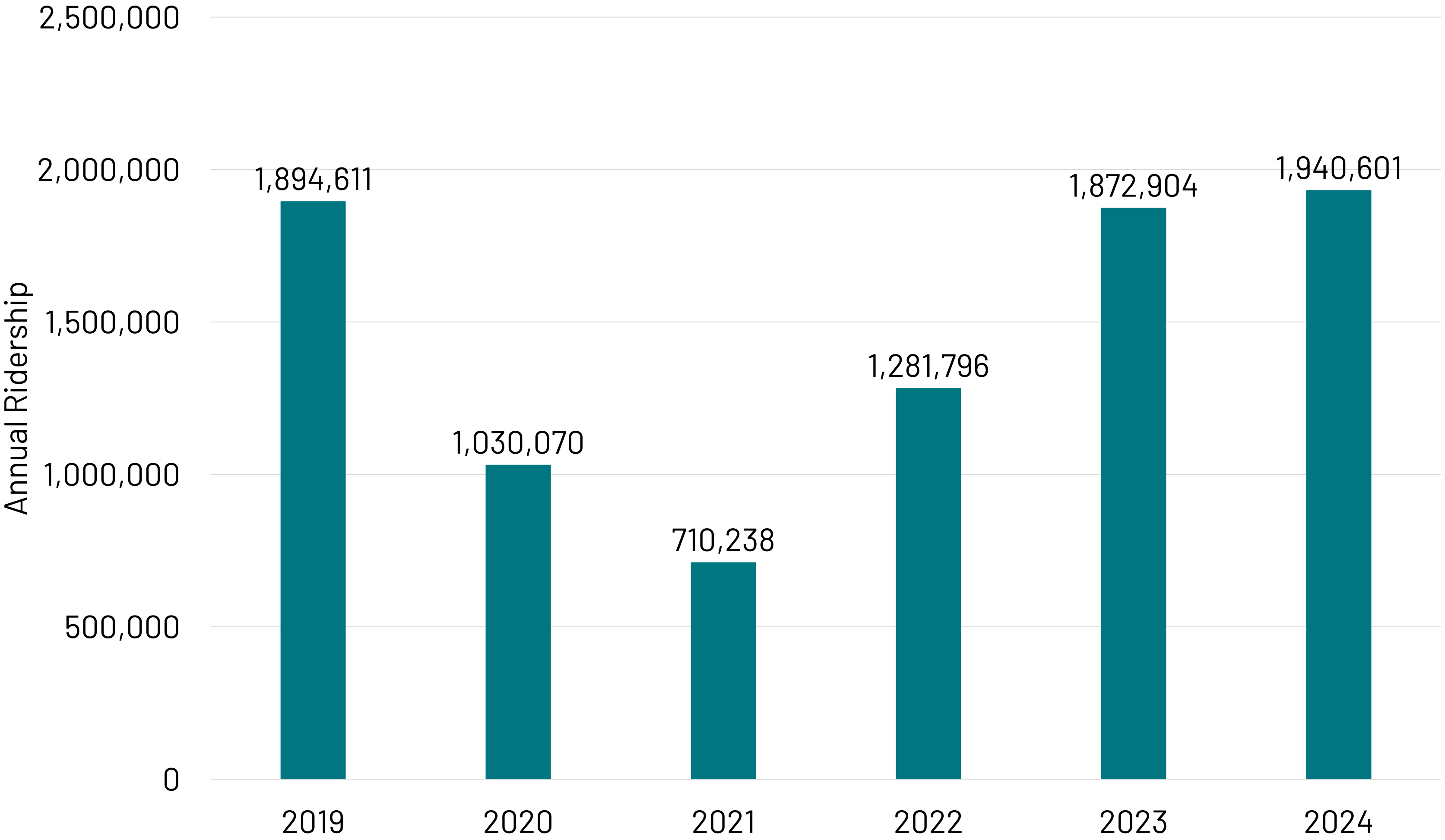


For more information, visit saultstemarie.ca/transitstudy



Transit System Review

Total Regular Service Linked Trips



Conventional System by Riders:

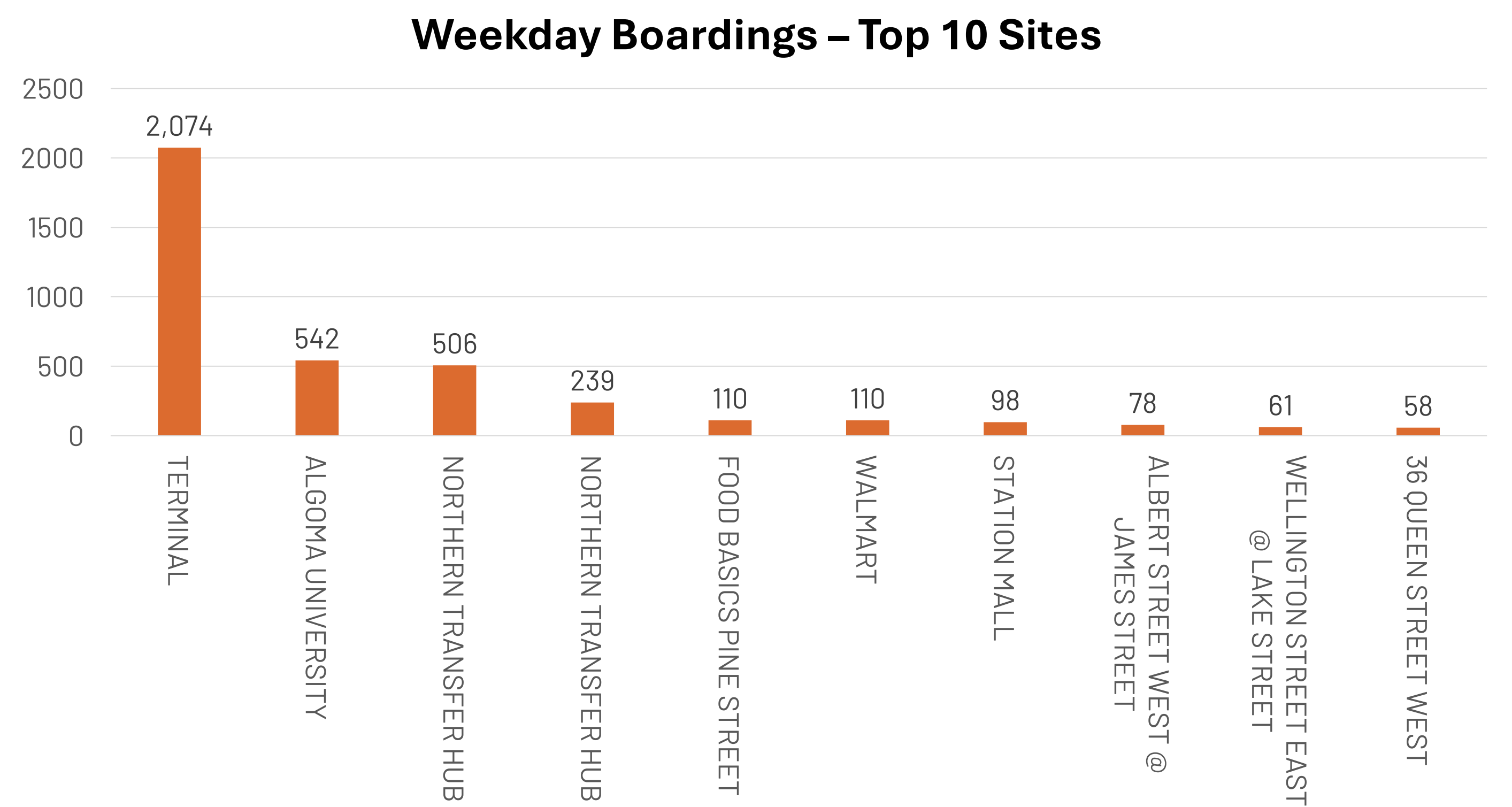
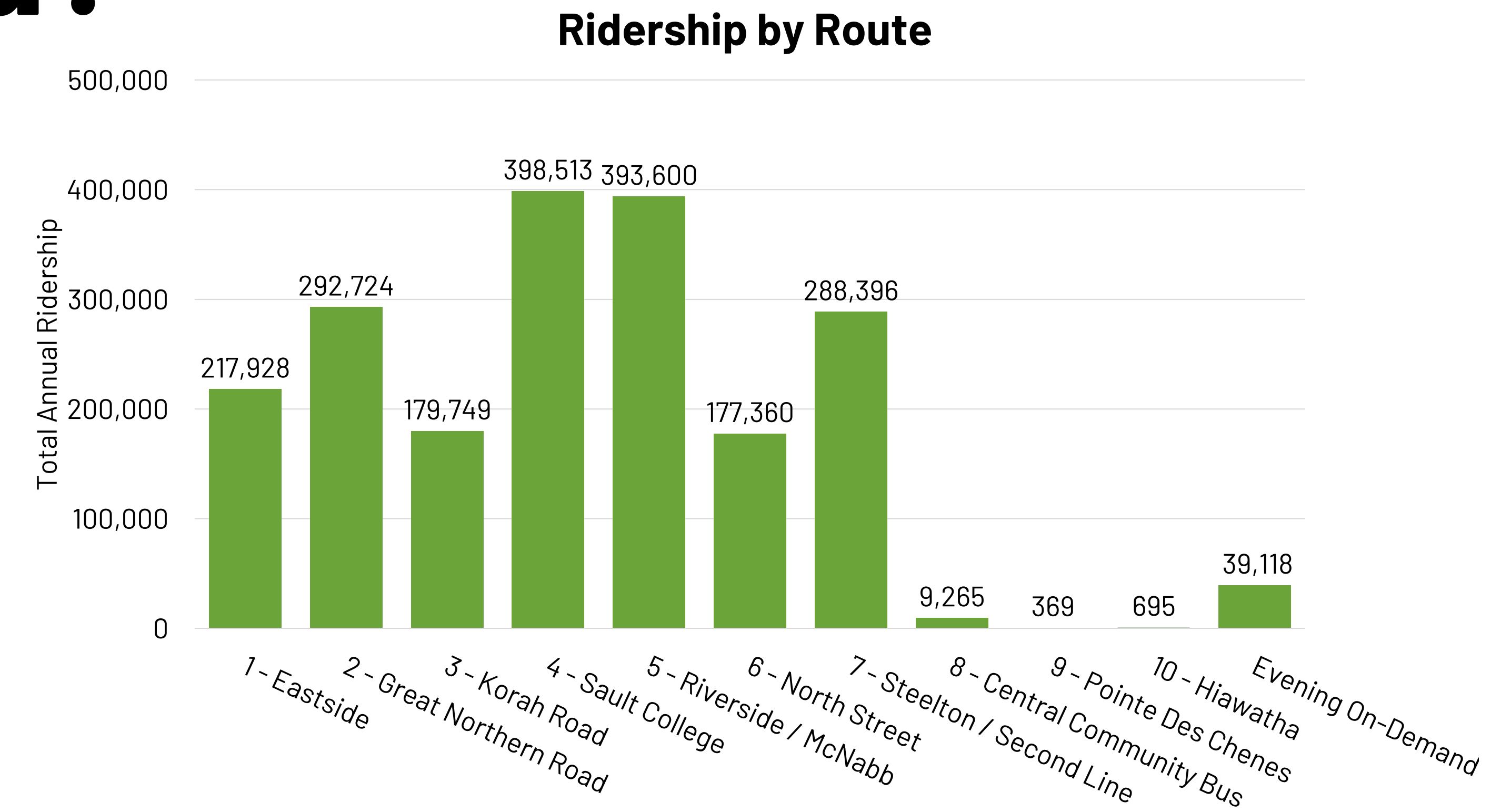
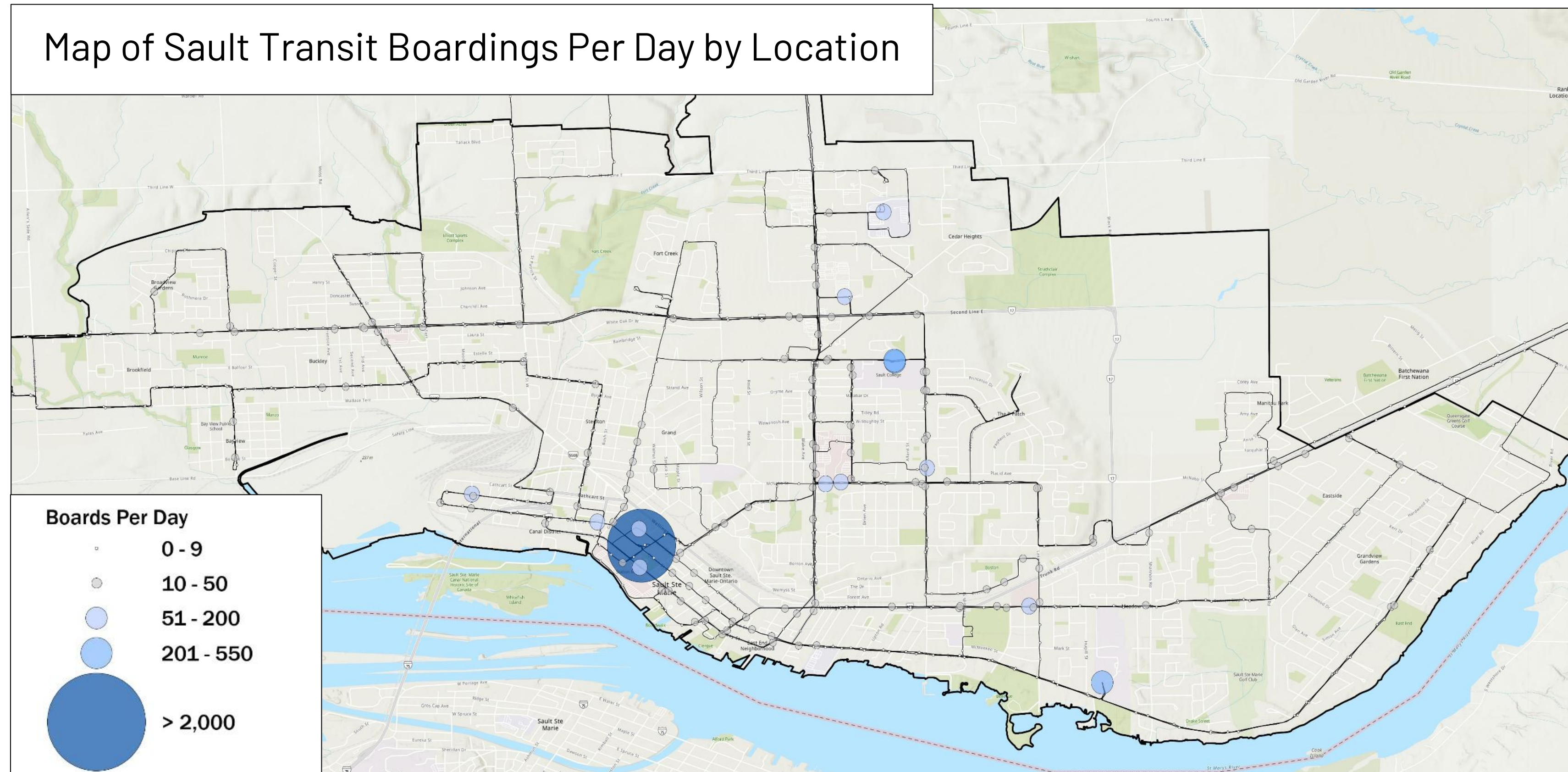
- Post-secondary students
- Adults
- Cash fares
- Seniors
- Youth/children



For more information, visit saultsternarie.ca/transitstudy



How is the System Being Used?



Sault Transit's Service Characteristics

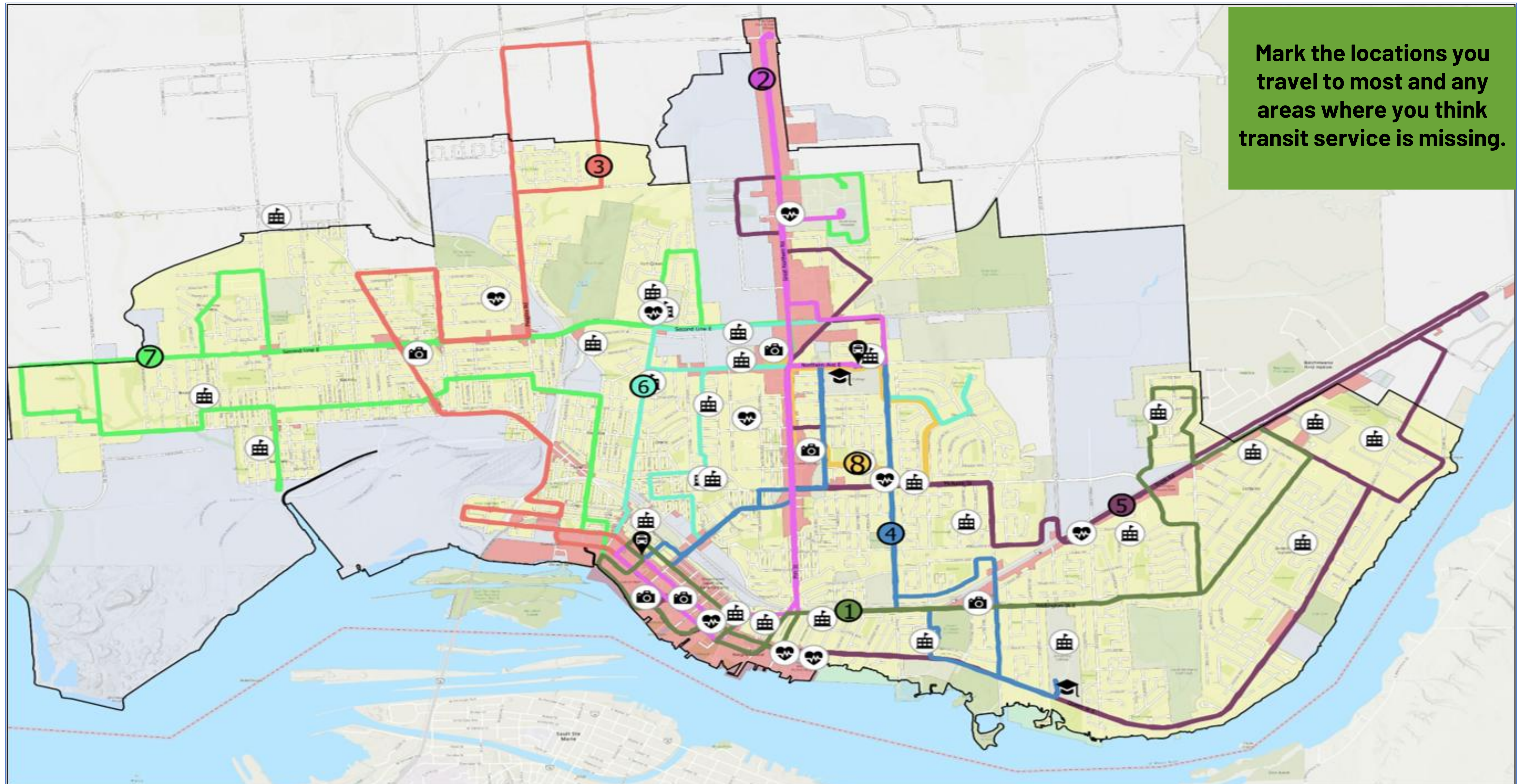
Route	Period of Operation Weekday	Weekday headway	Period of Operation Weekend	Weekend headways
Most Routes	6:00 AM - 12:00 AM	30 mins until 7PM 1 hour after 7 PM	Saturdays: 6:15 AM - 7:10 PM Sundays: 7:15 AM - 7:10 PM On-demand service: 7:15 PM - Midnight	1 hour



For more information, visit saultstemarie.ca/transitstudy



Map Your Journey!



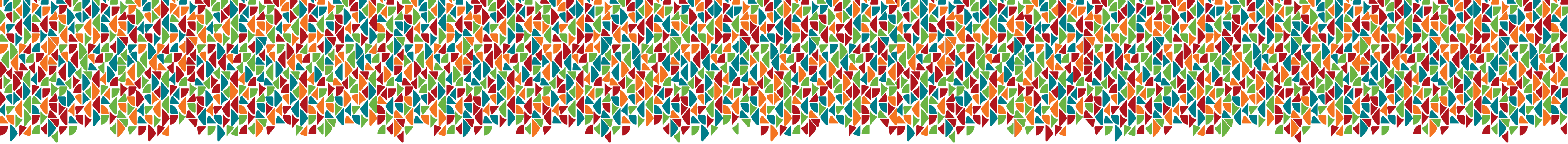
Mark the locations you travel to most and any areas where you think transit service is missing.



**Transit
Talk**

For more information, visit saultstemarie.ca/transitstudy





Conventional Bus Routes

A well-planned route network ensures that transit is efficient, reliable, and convenient. The existing seven (7) routes and community bus are being reviewed to better serve passengers.

We are exploring various ways to enhance the City's transit routes based on community feedback. Considerations include:

- **Overall coverage of transit system**
- **Transfer locations and bus stops**
- **Optimizing route alignments**
- **Flexible On-Demand options**

Share **your**
ideas?

Take a sticky note,
write your thoughts,
and add it here!

**What changes to bus routes
would make transit more
convenient to you?**

**Are there other areas you would
like to see accessible by
transit?**

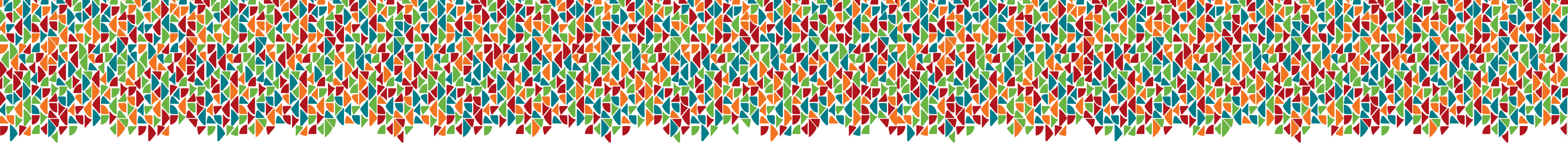
**Have you ever chosen not to
take transit because of a route
issue?**

**Does the system's current
design work for you? How
could it be improved to better
suit your travel needs?**



For more information, visit
saultstemarie.ca/transitstudy





Enhancing On Demand Transit

On Demand services are provided on Saturday and Sunday evenings (7:15 p.m. – midnight).

What do **you** think?

Take a sticky note, write your thoughts, and add it here!

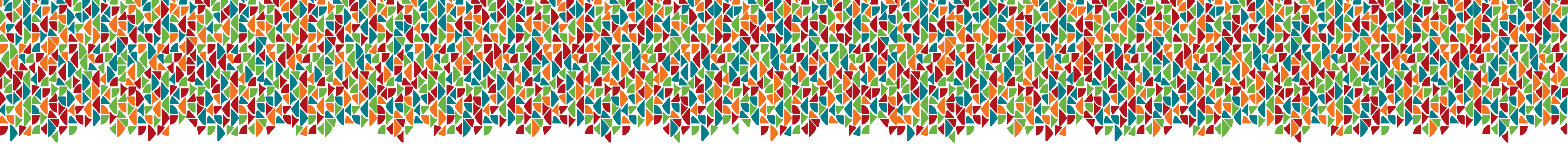
**Have you ever used On Demand Transit?
If so, what was your experience like?**

How can we improve accessibility and convenience for all users?



For more information, visit saultstemarie.ca/transitstudy





Parabus

Sault Transit provides curb-to-curb for eligible individuals.



What do **you** think?

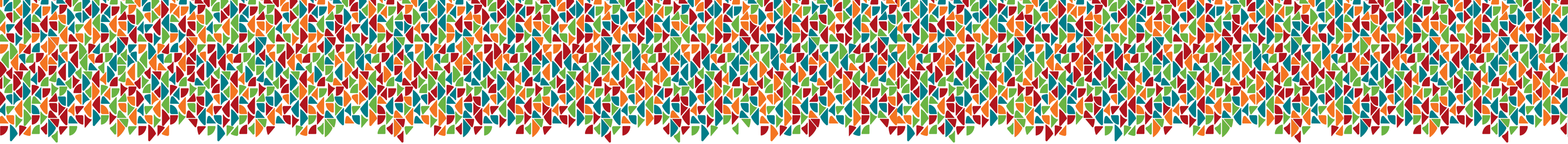
Take a sticky note, write your thoughts, and add it here!

How can Parabus services be improved?

Are you able to secure a ride when you need one?

Could improvements be made to the conventional system to make it a viable option for you? If so, what improvements are required?





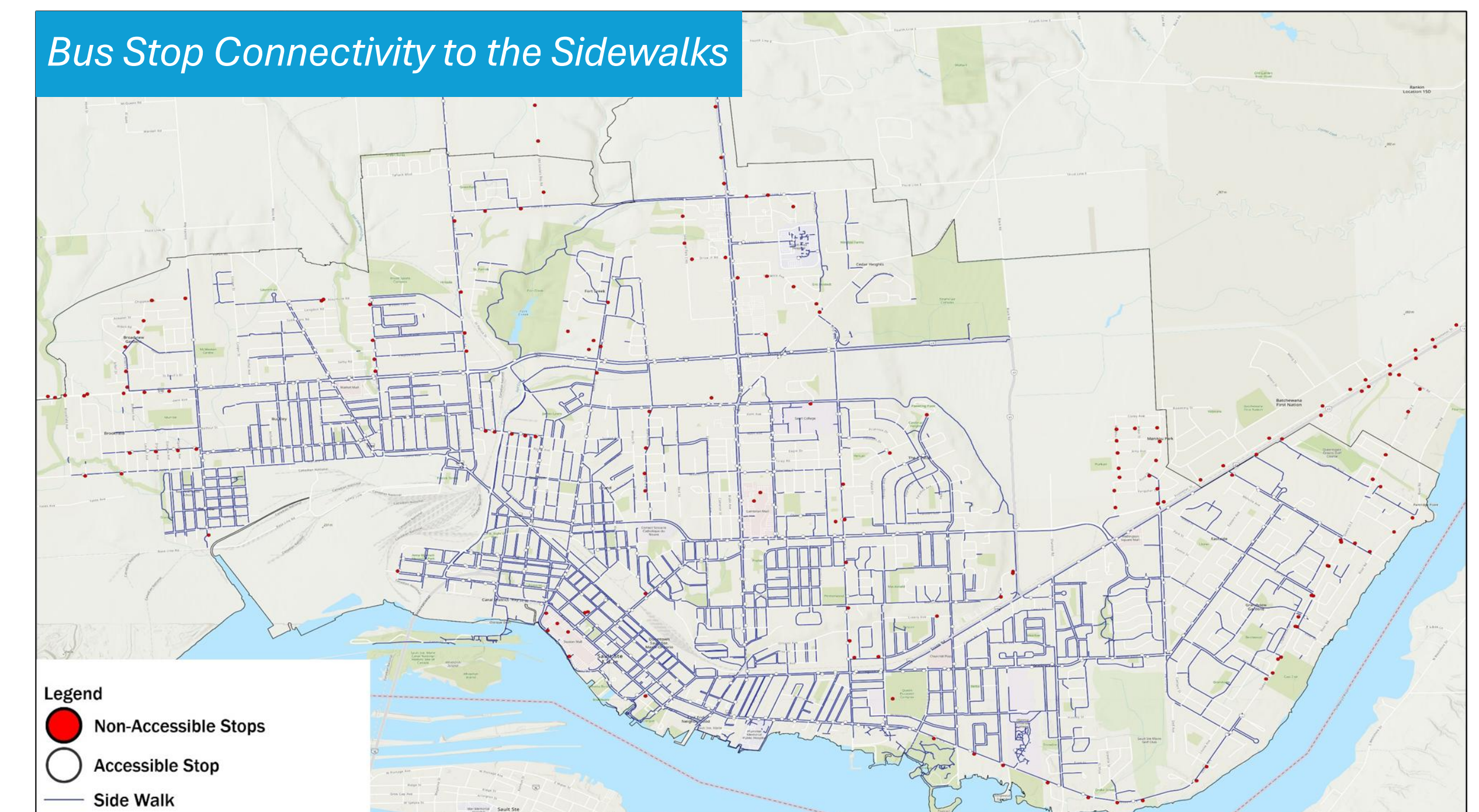
First and Last Mile Connectivity to Transit

Almost all transit trips begin and end as pedestrian trips, with most passengers accessing the network on foot. Customer amenities at bus stops can provide protection from the weather, improve passenger comfort, and enhance the overall waiting experience.

Give **your** input!

What passenger amenities would you like to see at priority bus stops?

Seating	
Litter Receptacles	
Weather Protection	
Lighting	
Transit System and/or Bus Real-Time Information	
Accessibility Features/ sidewalks	
Heating & Cooling	
Security Features	



Share **your** ideas?

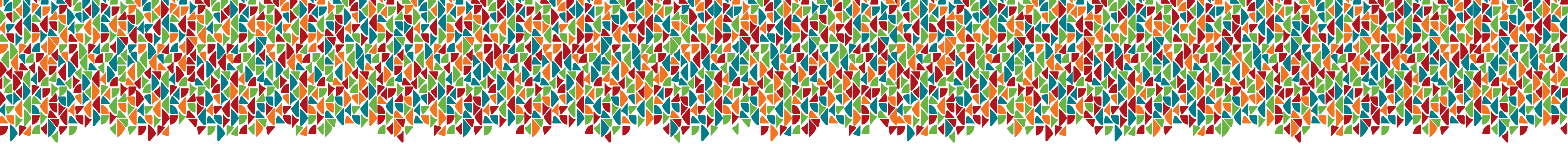
Take a sticky note, write your thoughts, and add it here!

Where would you like to see access to bus stops improved?



For more information, visit saultstemarie.ca/transitstudy





Transfer Points

Transfer points are key locations where passengers switch between bus routes. The City has over 10 transfer points that connect 7 different bus routes.

As part of the Transit Optimization Study, we are evaluating:

- Are transfer points conveniently located?
- Do they have adequate infrastructure (seating, shelters, lighting)?
- How can we improve wayfinding and signage?
- Are transfer wait times reasonable?



What would make transfers easier and more convenient for you?

Are there any specific transfer points where you experience delays or challenges?

Have you seen a great transfer point in another city? What made it work well?

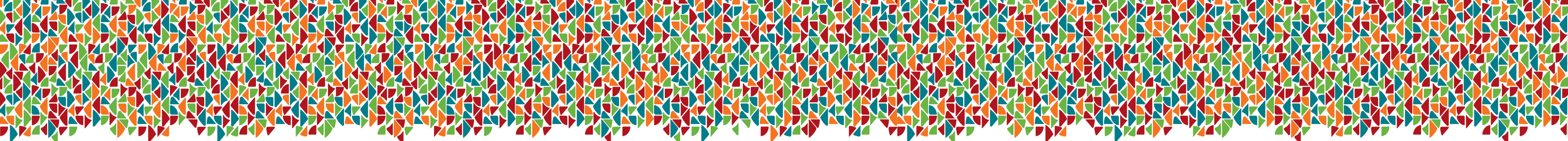
What do **you** think?

Take a sticky note, write your thoughts, and add it here!



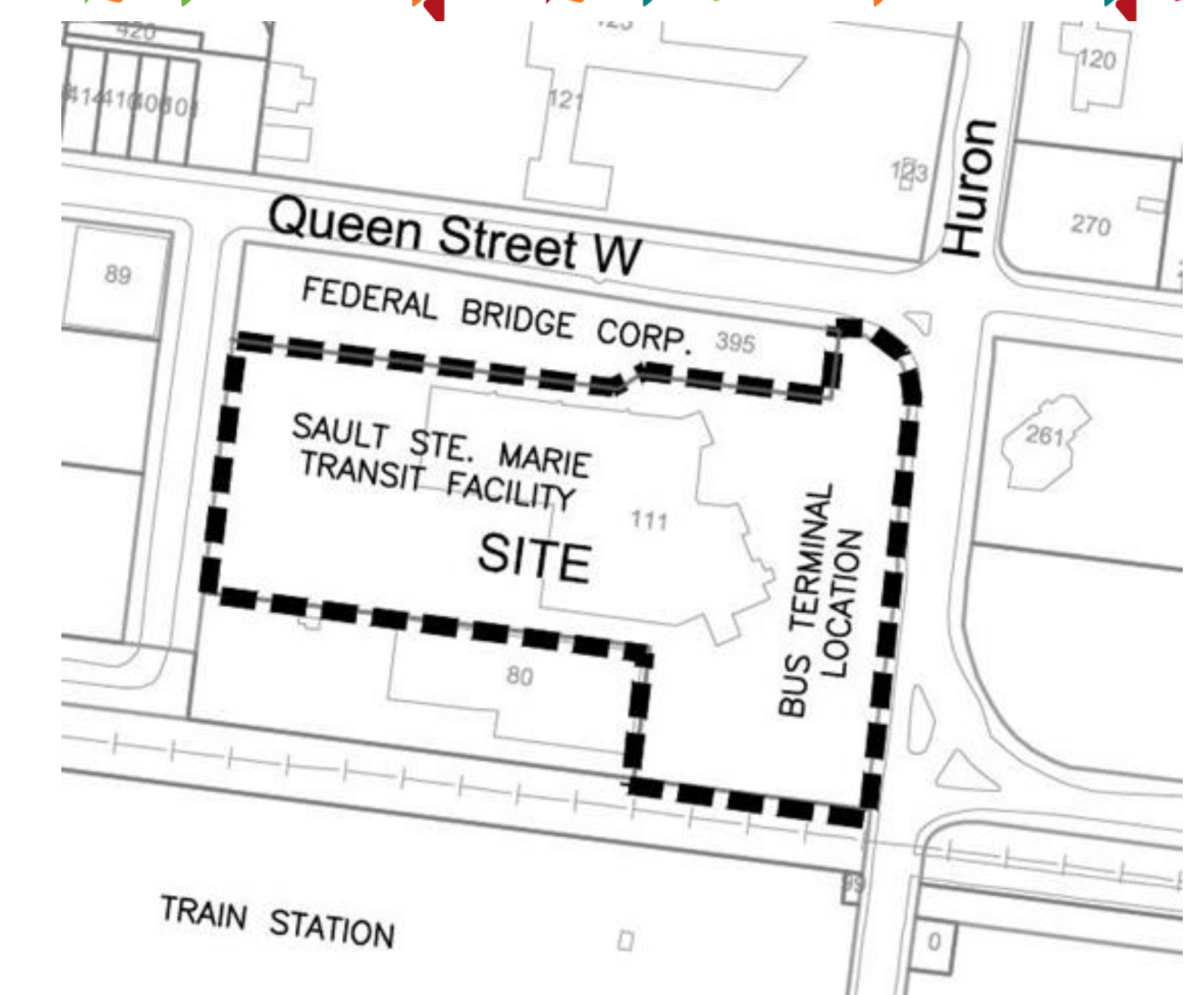
For more information, visit saultstemarie.ca/transitstudy





The Future of the Downtown Terminal

The City is considering relocating the Downtown Bus Terminal to 111 Huron Street. This will enhance security for transit users, improve operations by having staff and mechanics on site, and realize cost savings.



Give **your** input!

Write your ideas on sticky notes and place them in one of the boxes below.

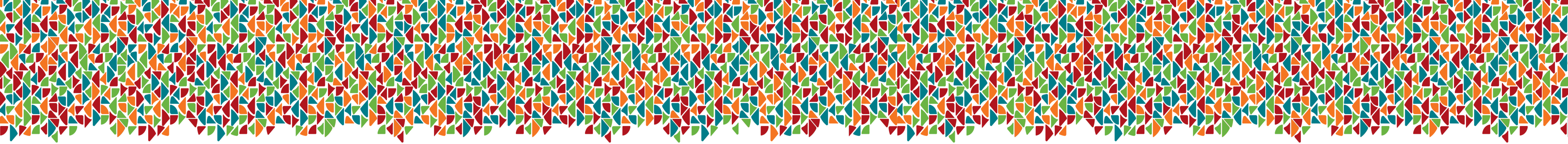
Where do you prefer the downtown terminal be located, Dennis Street (current location) or 111 Huron Street (bus depot) Why?

What amenities do you wish to see at the terminal?



For more information, visit saultstemarie.ca/transitstudy



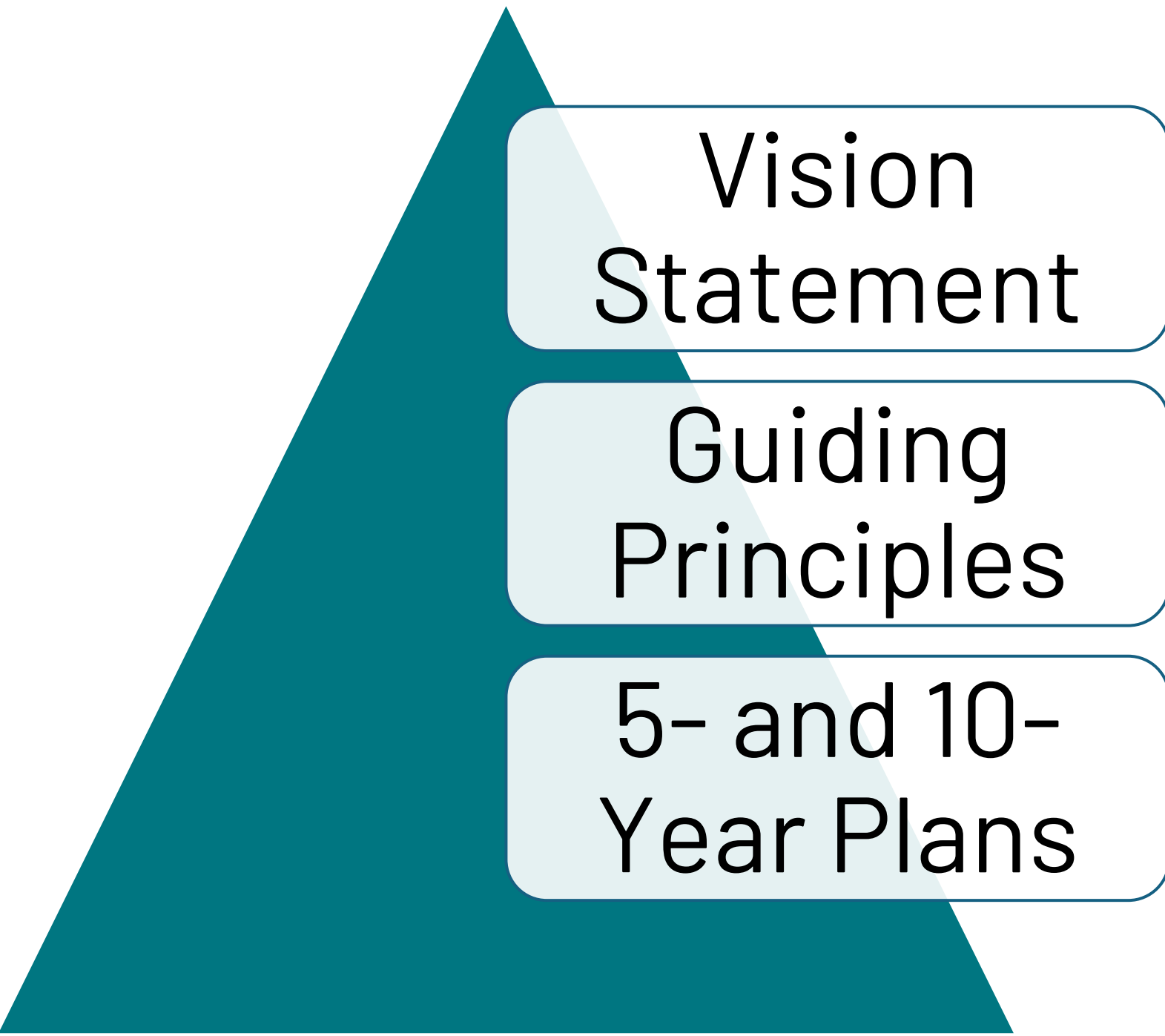


Vision for Sault Transit

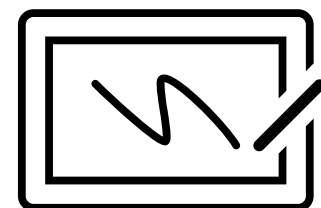
A key component of the Study is producing 5- and 10-year plans for the transit system.

A **vision statement** tells a story about a community's long-term views and aspirations for the future. It reflects core values, qualities, and characteristics of a community.

Help us develop a vision statement for the future of transit in Sault Ste. Marie! The vision statement will apply to transit as a whole and reflect the interests of the community.



Give **your** input!



Write your ideas on sticky notes and place it in the boxes, below.

In one word or phrase, share what you already love about Sault Ste. Marie Transit or what your vision for the future is!

What else should be considered for the guiding principles?



For more information, visit saultstemarie.ca/transitstudy





What are your priorities for Sault Transit?

Red Sticker = High Priority; Yellow Sticker = Medium Priority

Improve Access to Bus Stops

Improve Bus Shelters and Infrastructure

Increase System Coverage

Improve Frequency and Reliability (which routes?)

Improve Route Directness (between which locations?)

Information Availability

Terminal Relocation

Expand Periods of Operation

Paratransit & On-Demand Transit

Fare Structure & Affordability

Sustainability

Wayfinding and Signage



Next Steps

For more information on the Transit Optimization Study or to share your feedback, visit saultstemarie.ca/transitstudy

