

SOUTH CENTRAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
FFY 2025-2028 TRANSIT TIP UPDATE
TRANSIT PERFORMANCE MEASURES NARRATIVE DOCUMENTATION

March 2024

Background on Transit Asset Management Plan

The final rule on metropolitan and statewide planning, published in the Federal Register on May 27, 2016, addressed changes to the metropolitan planning process stemming from the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) and the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST) and discussed Performance Based Planning and Programming (PBPP).

As part of the implementation of the PBPP requirements, States, MPOs, and providers of public transportation must jointly agree upon and develop specific written provisions for cooperatively developing and sharing information related to transportation performance data, the selection of performance targets, and the reporting of performance targets, with the reporting of performance to be used in tracking progress toward attainment of critical outcomes for the MPO region.

As a Tier II provider as defined under the Transit Asset Management (TAM) final rule, the South Central Transit Authority (SCTA) decided to develop and maintain its own Transit Asset Management Plan (TAMP). SCTA’s TAMP 2023 update was adopted by its Board in July 2023, by the Lancaster MPO in September 2023 and by the Reading MPO in September 2023. The TAMP outlines the performance measures, targets, and implementation strategies SCTA will use to maintain its transit system assets. The TAMP also outlined the Authority’s performance philosophy and policy, and covered performance management related to Rolling Stock, Facilities and Equipment used by SCTA in providing service.

The goal of the TAMP is for SCTA to reach and maintain a state of good repair for all of its capital assets through the Performance Based Planning and Programming process. Annually, a Performance Target is to be developed for the three Asset Classes the FTA has identified in its implementing guidelines. The expectation is that by achieving the annual Performance Targets SCTA will reach and maintain a state of good repair for the Asset Class identified.

Performance Targets

The TAM process requires SCTA to annually set performance measure targets and report performance against those targets. Required measures are:

- Rolling Stock – Percentage of revenue vehicles within a particular vehicle asset class past their Useful Life Benchmark (ULB) (age only)
- Facilities – Percentage of facilities that are below a 3 on the Transit Economic Recovery Model (TERM) Scale
- Equipment – Percentage of non-revenue, support-service and maintenance vehicles and equipment with a value of \$50,000 or more past their ULB (age only)

SCTA's Performance Targets are authority-wide and reflect consideration of Rolling Stock, Facilities and Equipment supporting its Lancaster (RRTA) and Reading (BARTA) operations. It was decided to prepare authority-wide targets, since SCTA is required to report its National Transit Database (NTD) data as SCTA with the RRTA and BARTA operating information combined.

In addition, SCTA presents its Performance Targets for Rolling Stock in three separate groups: Fixed Route Buses/Directly Operated, Shared Ride Vehicles/Directly Operated and Shared Ride Vehicles/Purchased Transportation.

Annual performance measure targets are developed by SCTA for each asset class. The update of the performance targets is based on an annual inventory to provide a current picture of each asset, the prior year's performance and anticipated/obligated funding levels for the upcoming fiscal year available to advance the planned projects in each asset class.

The performance targets are approved by SCTA's Executive Director as the Plan's Accountable Executive. Coordination occurs with the Lancaster and Reading MPO's on the report and adoption of the performance targets by the SCTA Board and the MPO Boards.

Performance targets, and how those targets translate into project prioritization, is discussed in the TAMP. The SCTA TAMP is available on the SCTA website under the "About" tab at www.sctapa.com.

Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans

The FTA issued a final rule on Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans (PTASP), effective July 19, 2019. The PTASP final rule (49 C.F.R. Part 673) is meant to enhance safety by creating a framework for transit agencies to manage safety risks in their organization. It requires recipients of FTA funding to develop and implement safety plans that support the implementation of Safety Management Systems (SMS).

As part of the plan development process, performance targets must be established for the following areas:

1. Fatalities,
2. Injuries,
3. Safety Events, and
4. System Reliability.

SCTA developed its own PTASP in accordance with the final rule. SCTA's initial Safety Plan and Safety Performance Targets were adopted by the SCTA Board and the Berks and Lancaster MPO's in January 2020. As required by FTA guidelines, the Safety Plan is updated annually along with the preparation of the annual Safety Performance Targets. The updated Safety Plan and FY 2024 Performance Targets were adopted by the SCTA Board and the Berks and Lancaster MPO's in January 2024.

Safety has always been a factor in SCTA’s selection of capital projects to advance for funding in a fiscal year. The approved Safety Plan and its safety measures and targets will inform the prioritization of capital projects for advancement and the selection of projects for inclusion in the Transit TIP.

Development of FFY 2025-2028 Transit TIP

SCTA prepares a 20-year Long-Range Capital Improvement Program based on the Asset Inventory, Condition Assessment, and project based prioritization process described in SCTA’s TAMP. The first four year years of the Long-Range Capital Improvement Program became the basis for identifying projects for inclusion in the proposed FFY 2025-2028 Transit TIP. As the TIP was being developed, consideration was given to the financial guidance provided for the development of the TIP; how the projects will contribute to achieving the performance targets in each asset class and maintain SCTA’s Rolling Stock, Facilities and Equipment in a state-of-good- repair; and the impact the project will have on safety. The proposed FFY 2025-2028 Transit TIP does not reflect any increased funding SCTA will receive as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Additional projects will be programmed pending confirmation of the increased level of funding and the review and development of plans to invest the additional funds.

SCTA’s Long-Range Capital Improvement Program also programs funding for the purchase of support and maintenance equipment with a value of \$735,338. These projects include Computer Hardware/Software Upgrades (IT Equipment) and Purchase Shop/Maintenance Equipment. These projects are important to fund and advance in order to operate safely and efficiently and maintain the SCTA system in a state-of-good-repair.

Overall, the implementation of the proposed projects included in the FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program are expected to assure SCTA achieves its goal of maintaining its Rolling Stock, Facilities and Equipment in a state-of-good-repair, achieve the current or higher Performance Targets in the future and address long-term operating and capital improvement needs.