DRIVING US FORWARD

RESOURCES AND CASE STUDIES FOR A MORE CONNECTED FUTURE

2025

2 STATES

7 COUNTIES

1 AUTHORITY

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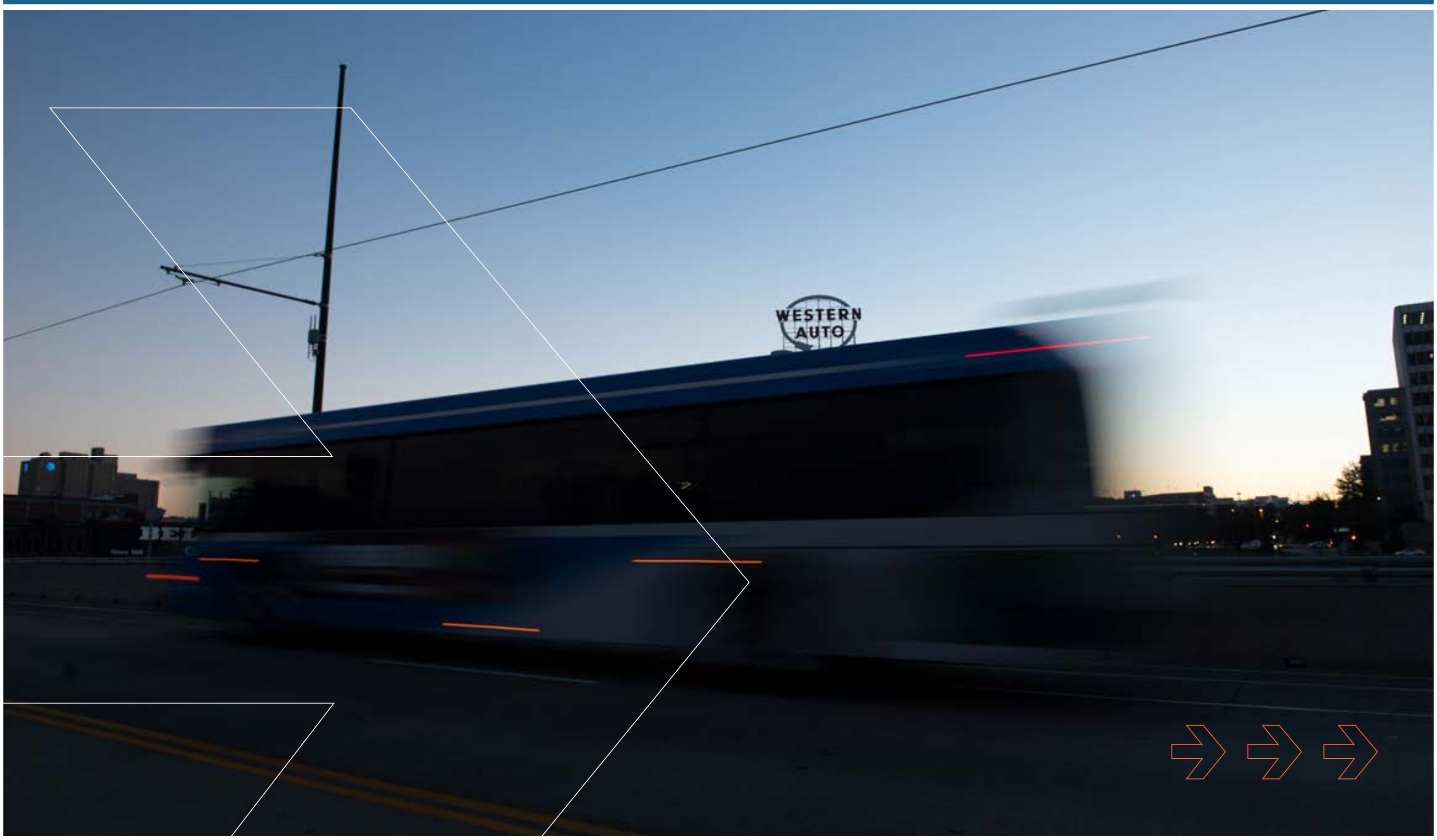
2 STATES • 7 COUNTIES • 1 AUTHORITY

CONTENTS

CONNECTING THE DOTS ACROSS 2 STATES AND 7 COUNTIES



People don't stop at our city, county, or state lines—and neither should our vision for a unified region.

CHALLENGE

The Kansas City metropolitan area includes more than 100 unique, highly independent municipalities. Yet, we know that residents constantly cross city, county, and state lines to connect to opportunities of all kinds.

OPPORTUNITY

KCATA can promote more effective transit coordination by convening executive-level expertise across jurisdictions, as well as advocates from major organizations, employers, and advocacy groups.

STRATEGIC PLAN

UNIFIED REGION GOAL:

SUPPORT A THRIVING REGION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE, DEVELOPMENT, AND ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY.

KEY STRATEGIES:

Foster regional coordination around transit-related issues

Operate with an eco-friendly approach

Lead Transit-Oriented Community Development (TOCD) across the region

KCATA leads transit and development solutions across jurisdictional boundaries, creating:

ECONOMIC GROWTH

- **Value Creation:** Transit-Oriented Community Development (TOCD) initiatives increase property values and attract investment along our transit corridors
- **Tax Base Expansion:** Coordinated regional development creates new revenue streams as new families and employers move to the region
- **Development Catalyst:** A unified approach to transit planning and mobility hubs aligns resources more effectively, maximizing economic returns on transportation investments

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

- **Expanded Labor Pool:** Regional transit networks connect employers to a diverse talent base regardless of jurisdictional boundaries
- **Cross-County Commutes:** Seamless transit across the seven-county region helps workers access jobs across state lines
- **Employer Attraction:** Companies increasingly seek locations with robust regional transit when making relocation decisions

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- **Efficient Resource Use:** Regional coordination reduces duplicative services and maximizes the impact of every transit dollar spent
- **Access for All:** A unified regional system ensures all communities benefit from transit investments, not just those with the most resources—for residents, this means everyone wins
- **Environmental Impact:** Regional planning enables more cohesive environmental strategies that reduce emissions and pollution across the entire metropolitan area

SHIFTING TO A REGIONAL TRANSIT FUNDING MODEL

Regional funding doesn't just keep buses running—it drives us toward a competitive, thriving region.

CHALLENGE

Today, KCATA's ability to generate revenue is constrained. KCATA is funded primarily through annual apportionments with individual jurisdictions, and with limited state funding. Overall, few jurisdictions are investing in transit.

OPPORTUNITY

Going forward, KCATA's vision is that throughout the region, we join together to craft a more cohesive and sustainable solution for all. As a result, KCATA can support longer-term capital improvement projects in all seven counties—from on-street amenities and improvements to mixed-use Transit-Oriented Community Development projects.

STRATEGIC PLAN

FINANCE GOAL:

BE FULLY FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE AND IMPROVE FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY.

KEY STRATEGIES:

Pursue dedicated sources of regional funding

Expand opportunities to generate direct revenue

Dedicated, stable funding from regional, state, and national sources means KCATA can provide more data-driven mobility and infrastructure solutions. This results in:

ECONOMIC GROWTH

- **Property Value Growth:** Properties near high-quality transit corridors consistently show increased values compared to similar properties without transit access
- **Development Catalyst:** Transit corridors attract new housing, retail, and commercial investment that grows your tax base
- **Smart Investment:** Transit investments generate economic returns through increased development, job creation, and enhanced regional productivity

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

- **Talent Access:** Regional transit connects employers to wider talent pools across county and state lines
- **Cost Reduction:** Businesses save on expensive parking infrastructure construction and maintenance costs while reducing employee commuting expenses
- **Competitive Edge:** Communities with multimodal transportation options attract next-generation businesses and talent—critical for post-pandemic economic growth

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- **Infrastructure Savings:** Reduced road congestion means lower maintenance costs and extended infrastructure life
- **Access for All:** Connects residents of all income levels to jobs, healthcare, education, and services throughout the region
- **Sustainable Growth:** Transit-oriented communities reduce emissions and support higher density development without increased traffic

EXPANDING REGIONAL MOBILITY SOLUTIONS

As our region grows, so must our transit options and innovations that span neighborhoods, cities, and counties.

CHALLENGE

The Kansas City metropolitan area is large and sprawling. New residential development in the Northland and new employment centers, such as the Panasonic factory in De Soto, are located some distance from downtown in low-density areas and sometimes in communities that do not fund transit, making them difficult to serve effectively via transit.

OPPORTUNITY

Expand service in a more systematic, efficient way. KCATA operates a range of service types—express buses, local bus, microtransit—that can be leveraged to optimize service across the region. There is also room for further mobility innovations and new service offerings.

STRATEGIC PLAN

SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT GOAL:

COLLABORATIVELY LEAD THE REGION IN DELIVERING MOBILITY OPTIONS

KEY STRATEGIES:

Tailor transit options to serve new and changing markets

Formalize special event service

Expand regional planning at the county level

KCATA is uniquely positioned to develop and deliver comprehensive mobility systems that meet the diverse needs of our growing region, resulting in:

ECONOMIC GROWTH

» **Commercial Corridor Revitalization:** Strategic transit investments revitalize existing commercial corridors and create new centers of economic activity

» **Event-Driven Economic Impact:** Improved special event service helps the region maximize economic benefits from major events like the FIFA World Cup

» **Development-Ready Infrastructure:** Forward-thinking transit planning makes emerging areas more attractive for new development and investment

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

» **Tailored Transit Options:** A mix of fixed-route, microtransit, and on-demand services connects workers to jobs in even the most challenging locations

» **Reduced Commuting Barriers:** Strategic transit expansions to employment centers such as major healthcare campuses, business parks, and airport-adjacent services remove barriers to employment

» **Future-Ready Workforce:** Modern transit options appeal to workers who increasingly prefer multimodal transportation options

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

» **Reduced Transportation Costs:** Expanded transit options reduce household transportation costs, freeing up resources for other needs

» **Mobility Gap Solutions:** Strategic system development addresses "mobility deserts" where transportation options are currently limited

» **Infrastructure Efficiency:** Transit-supportive infrastructure like dedicated lanes and signal priority makes service more reliable while reducing congestion

CASE STUDY | DENVER

As the seven counties in our service area consider their transit future, each wants to know what's in it for them. And because every region is unique, there's no one place we should copy. However, here is what we can learn from Denver's Regional Transit District.

SUCCESSES

» Maintained unified governance across the eight-county Denver metro since 1969

» Orchestrated $6.5 billion in voter-approved funding in 2004 to launch one of the biggest transit expansions in North America

» Transformed Denver's Union Station into a multimodal transit hub with commercial and residential elements

OVERVIEW

A comprehensive transit system has helped put Denver on the map and attracted a skilled workforce.

Denver's Regional Transit District (RTD) took on North America's largest passenger rail and transit expansion starting in 2004. This has enabled the RTD to collect stable, voter-approved funds as it promotes multimodal transit and sustainable transit-oriented developments. Despite challenges, collaboration across eight counties has created significant economic and community benefits, solidifying the region's competitive position. Denver's RTD exemplifies how taking audacious steps to more fully connect people to opportunities and services can make a region more competitive, nationally.

WHAT KC CAN LEARN FROM DENVER

» It's possible to earn billions of dollars of dedicated funding from voters when you have a single, comprehensive transit vision and plan.

» Once voters approve dedicated funds, it's essential to deliver what is promised—this has been a challenge in Denver as it has embarked on its massive transit expansion.

» Community support increases when transit and real estate development solutions respond to how people actually move across city and county lines every day.

» Strategic placement of multimodal transit hubs are most successful with public-private partnerships.

RESULTS IN DENVER

ECONOMIC & PROPERTY VALUE ROI	WORKFORCE ATTRACTION & RETENTION	BUDGET FRIENDLY SOLUTIONS	PUBLIC IMAGE & COMPETITIVENESS	COMMUNITY EQUITY & SATISFACTION
Substantial increases in property values and economic activity near transit hubs. Boosted local revenues through higher tax bases and increased retail opportunities.	Improved workforce mobility and reduced commuting times, directly benefiting employers. Elevated region's appeal for young professionals prioritizing transit-friendly lifestyles.	Reduction in road congestion and maintenance costs due to increased transit ridership. Lowered parking demands, optimizing land use for more economically beneficial development.	Enhanced Denver's image as a forward-thinking metropolitan area with strong sustainable development practices. Positioned Denver competitively for federal funding and private investments through demonstrable regional cooperation.	Improved accessibility and reduced transportation costs for underserved communities. Stronger public support and engagement resulting from equitable and inclusive development strategies.

CASE STUDY | TWIN CITIES

As the seven counties in our service area consider their transit future, each wants to know what's in it for them. And because every region is unique, there's no one place we should copy. However, here is what we can learn from The Twin Cities' Metropolitan Council.

SUCCESSES

- Maintained unified governance across the seven-county Twin Cities metro since 1969
- Brought holistic policy and planning to previously siloed pillars such as transit, housing, land planning, parks and natural resources, and wastewater
- Offered more support for suburban communities over the past two decades
- Spurred the build-out of 52,000 housing units—including affordable housing—near transit lines to strengthen diverse workforce
- Saw several dollars in private investment for every public dollar invested in multimodal transit

OVERVIEW

Economic development and community development go hand-in-hand with multi-disciplinary solutions.

The Metropolitan Council oversees transit and other key civic services across the entire seven-county Twin Cities metro. Overseeing and investing in multiple essential services has created a virtuous cycle resulting in a robust, fully-funded transit system as well as vibrant communities with clean water and green spaces along transit corridors—both in and out of the urban core.

WHAT KC CAN LEARN FROM THE TWIN CITIES

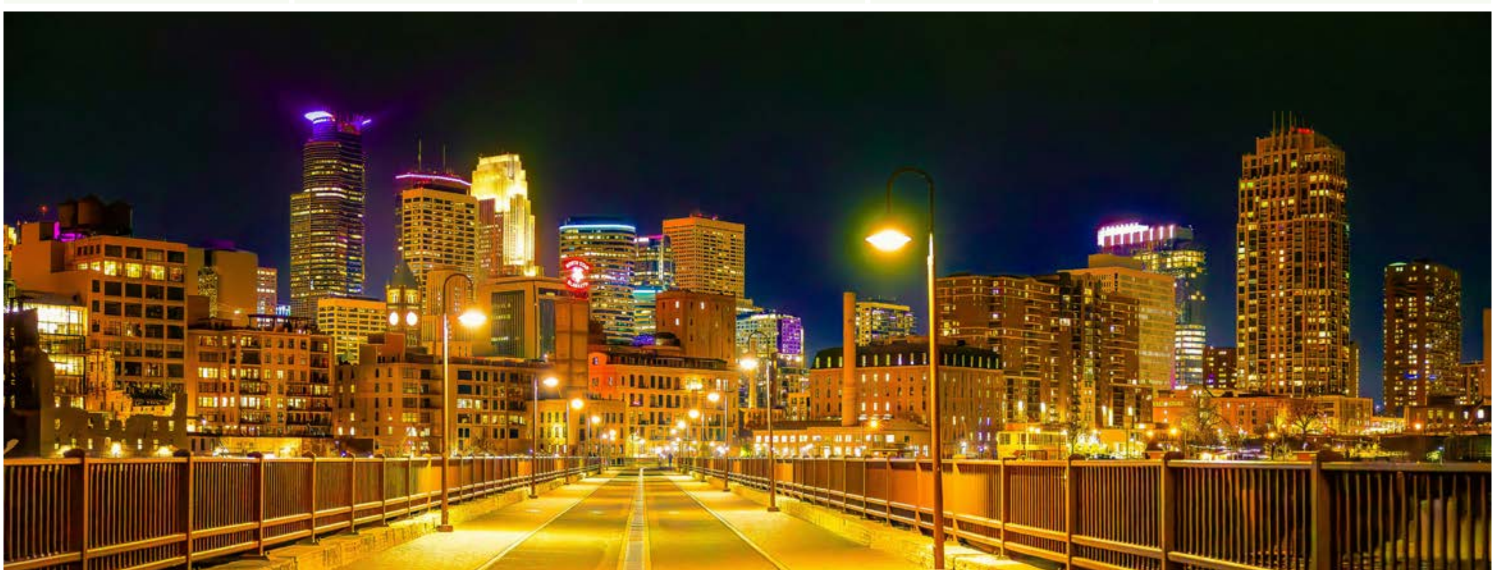
» Address and invest in many community needs at once for more impact. Similar to the Twin Cities, KCATA connects people to opportunities in a variety of ways: through access to housing, jobs, education, and healthcare along our transit corridors.

» Reliable, frequent, budget-friendly transit service becomes a reality when you attract more riders across city, county, and state boundaries.

» It's essential to have a regional "convening" organization that can bring together communities to develop regional policies and a shared vision for the region.

RESULTS IN THE TWIN CITIES

STABLE FUNDING & GOVERNANCE	ECONOMIC & PROPERTY VALUE ROI	BUDGET FRIENDLY SOLUTIONS	PUBLIC IMAGE & COMPETITIVENESS	COMMUNITY EQUITY & SATISFACTION
The Metropolitan Council was founded in 1967 and oversees multi-county funding impacts.	Every $1 invested in Twin Cities transit is attracting several dollars in private development. For example, the Green Line LRT's $2.74B cost helped generate $4.2 B in development along its route.	Metro Transit decreased fares in 2025 across the entire transit system, accompanied by a simpler fare structure.	Unified planning across jurisdictions prevents the patchwork service seen in other metros. Twin Cities' employers cite the transit network as "one of the most important assets to attract and retain employees."	Improved service for underserved areas, including BRT lines that serve transit-dependent households with 25% faster service.



CASE STUDY | MIAMI-DADE

As the seven counties in our service area consider their transit future, each wants to know what's in it for them. And because every region is unique, there's no one place we should copy. However, here is what we can learn from Miami-Dade County.

SUCCESSES

» **Orchestrated 40 transit-oriented developments (TODs) that are either completed, in progress, or planned:**

- In Progress: Magnus Brickell—an integrated K-8 educational facility with workforce housing for teachers in a mixed-use development with nearby transit.
- In Progress: Upland Park—$1 Billion, 47-acre transit-oriented community that will be Miami-Dade's largest TOD project generating $1 billion in revenue for the county over 90 years.
- Planned: Gallery at Wagner Creek—a proposed project that would provide affordable housing options for essential medical personnel on Jackson Memorial Hospital's campus at a key metrorail and bus transit hub.

» **Ability to look across sectors and build facilities that benefit diverse groups of constituents**

» **Robust tools to incentivize private investment while committing to community benefit**

OVERVIEW

Combining county-level planning with real estate development to build out cross-functional buildings that house residents, schools, and healthcare facilities.

Over the past decade, Miami-Dade County has uncovered opportunities to align affordable housing and critical community services alongside transit improvements. The result is a novel approach to transit-oriented development that benefits students, teachers, and public school administrators, as well as patients, medical workers, and leaders at Miami's largest hospital. Miami-Dade's approach has centered on fostering partnerships between public entities and private developers using tools such as density bonuses and other incentives.

WHAT KC CAN LEARN FROM MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

» Strategic planning of transit-oriented developments not only enhances mobility but also addresses local community needs such as housing affordability and access to essential services.

» Adopting similar strategies to leverage private capital for transit projects can expand funding sources and accelerate project timelines.

» Fostering partnerships with education institutions, healthcare providers, and other public services to create transit-oriented communities can serve a wide range of resident needs.

RESULTS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

ECONOMIC & PROPERTY VALUE ROI	WORKFORCE ATTRACTION & RETENTION	BUDGET FRIENDLY SOLUTIONS	PUBLIC IMAGE & COMPETITIVENESS	COMMUNITY EQUITY & SATISFACTION
Increased property values near TOCD projects, stimulating local economies. Attraction of additional private-sector investments due to improved transit accessibility.	Enhanced appeal of residential areas with accessible transit, housing, education, and healthcare. Reduced commuting stress and increased employee satisfaction.	Reduced dependence on personal vehicles, lowering household transportation costs. Mitigated infrastructure strain through compact, transit-oriented development patterns.	Strengthened community reputation as an innovative and equitable development hub. Enhanced regional attractiveness to businesses and residents through holistic community planning.	Equitable access to essential services across diverse socioeconomic groups. Increased community engagement and improved public support for development projects.

CONTACT US

As the journey continues toward a more connected future, we're here to help. To learn more about how we can support your organization, feel free to contact us:

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