



REQUEST FOR ACTION

**Rochester Public Transit: Financial Outlook,
Performance, and Strategic Direction (5:00 - 5:45
p.m.)**

MEETING DATE:

August 24, 2026

ORIGINATING DEPT:

Transit & Parking Services

AGENDA SECTION:

Presentation Items

PRESENTER:

Rachel Fautsch

Report Narrative:

Rochester Public Transit (RPT) is currently operating under financial conditions that are not sustainable over the long term. A substantial ridership reduction from 2019, combined with the need to reassess system coverage and frequency and an increasing local share of state and federal grants, has resulted in operating costs exceeding available revenues. In response, RPT is pursuing strategies and implementing changes to improve the financial sustainability, efficiency, reliability, and overall performance of the system.

Current efforts include monitoring key performance indicators, evaluating and implementing service productivity, increasing the rider experience, and identifying opportunities to better align service levels with demand and available resources. Through Via's transit strategy and planning resources, RPT is also evaluating opportunities to optimize routes and service levels, consider microtransit alternatives, improve frequency on higher-performing routes, and balance system coverage, rider experience, and operating efficiency.

RPT is also continuing to strengthen partnerships with internal departments and external agencies to support the success of the Transit division.

Anticipated Council actions related to Public Transit in 2026 include:

- Release of the Advertising Request for Proposals (September 2026)
- Award of the Advertising Request for Proposals (November 2026)

Rochester Public Transit provides approximately 650,000 passenger trips annually; this is reflective of pre-2020 numbers that exceeded 2 million riders annually. The system serves 80% of the City's population, with 98% of the workforce located within one-half mile of a transit stop.

Priorities & Foundational Principles:

Fiscal Responsibility & Sustainability

Prepared By:

Rachel Fautsch

Attachments:

