Needs Assessment

Transit

The Rapid

• COA
  o In the data collection phase
  o Existing conditions report should be available early October
  o Looking at where jobs and household growth is happening
    ▪ Grappling with the disconnect between jobs and people and how to serve that with transit

• TOD Study
  o Selecting a consultant this week (9/23)
  o 18 month process
  o Steering committee with regional stakeholders including GVMC
  o Hoping to impact CIPs for the communities involved
  o Could have land use/zoning impacts as well

• Priorities/Needs
  o Off-road bus training facility
  o Fleet size is a limitation to expanding service – they currently send out the whole fleet during PM peak time.
  o Service and fleet expansion will then necessitate facility expansion – will need more regional facilities
  o First mile/last mile service
    ▪ Pilot happening now for GoBus eligible riders in the SE part of the service area

• Challenges
  o As destinations get further out from the central urbanized area there will be a struggle with balance and potentially longer headways/less service in EJ/opportunity areas where the core ridership is
  o Limitations based on facilities in service jurisdictions that The Rapid doesn’t have authority over
    ▪ Crosswalks, curbs, ped facilities

• There is interest in service expansion from townships outside the current service area
  o Plainfied, Allendale, Gaines (Amazon)

• WMX
  o Looking at a 3 year pilot
  o Working on routing and capital and operational costs

• Autonomous Vehicles
  o There will always be a person from ITP on every bus
  o Opportunities for driver assist technology
  o Interested in monitoring the situation, and are supportive of it, but it is not a top priority at this point

• BRT
- There is not currently a good candidate for the third BRT line – one of the conclusions of the Align Study
- Instead they will focus on incremental upgrades to the existing system to make it more BRT-like
  - More dedicated lanes, etc.
- Recommend establishing a mode shift goal for the region – potentially as part of a future planning effort