

CAPITAL AREA TRANSIT SYSTEM

OPERATING & CAPITAL BUDGET



TABLE OF CONTENTS

02	Board of Commissioners <hr/>
03	CEO Budget Message <hr/>
04	Operating Revenue <hr/>
05	Operating Expenses <hr/>
06	Capital Expenditures Details <hr/>
08	Operating Revenues & Expenses Charts <hr/>
09	Allocation of Positions <hr/>
11	2026 Budget Adoption Resolution <hr/>

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



JOHNATHAN HILL
Chairman



FREDERICK THOMAS
Vice Chairman



MICHELLE DENNIS
Secretary



ARTHUR DUBRIEL
Member



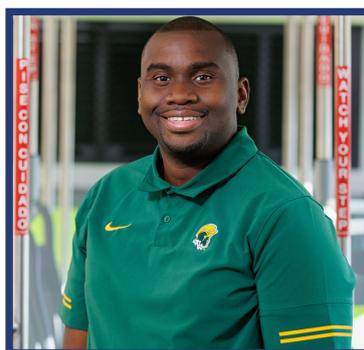
CAROLYN COLEMAN
Member At Large



DESIREE COLLINS
Member



GERALD KING
Member



TREMAINE STERLING
Member



DEBRA HAMILTON
ATU Appointed Member

MESSAGE FROM OUR
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FEBRUARY 20, 2026

As we move into 2026, this budget represents more than numbers on a page — it represents momentum.

Over the past few years, we've done the hard work. We strengthened our financial controls. We reduced audit findings. We aligned service with resources. Now, 2026 is about execution, delivery, and impact.

This year's balanced budget of approximately \$41 million positions CATS to move from construction and planning into full implementation. We are transitioning from building projects to delivering results.

Our community continues to invest in public transit, with property tax revenue projected at just over \$27.4 million. That investment is a sign of trust — and trust requires performance. In addition, our internally generated revenue and strong federal partnerships allow us to maintain stability while continuing to grow responsibly.

Our largest investment remains in our people — more than \$21 million in labor and fringe benefits. That reflects our belief that transit is a people-driven business. Operators, mechanics, supervisors, customer service representatives — they are the heartbeat of this agency. This budget ensures that we continue supporting them while delivering reliable service to our riders.

Capital spending decreases this year, not because we are slowing down, but because we are crossing the finish line on major investments. The North Transit Center transitions into full operations. Bus Rapid Transit moves into revenue service. Forty-four new stations become active gateways connecting North and South Baton Rouge.

This budget also supports:

- Continued ADA accessibility improvements and shelter installations
- Investing in cybersecurity and emergency preparedness
- Maintaining financial discipline and transparency
- Continuing to align service with community needs

We are building a transit system that reflects the growth and promise of Baton Rouge. A system that connects people to opportunity. A system that operates with integrity. A system that earns the trust placed in it.

I'm proud of how far we've come — but I'm even more excited about where we're headed.

Respectfully,



Theo Richards
Chief Executive Officer

OPERATING REVENUE

for the Year Ending December 31, 2026

Description	2026	2025	Dollar Variance
Passenger Paid Fares	\$1,120,000.00	\$1,115,000.00	\$5,000.00
Special Transit Fares (Contract)	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	-
ADA/Paratransit Revenue	\$120,000.00	\$120,000.00	-
Advertising Revenue	\$550,000.00	\$520,000.00	\$30,000.00
Interest Income	\$155,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$5,000.00
Other Agency Revenue	\$110,000.00	\$101,000.00	\$9,000.00
Total CATS Generated	\$2,065,000.00	\$2,016,000.00	\$49,000.00
Non Federal Revenue	-	-	-
Hotel/Motel Tax	\$1,210,000.00	\$1,210,000.00	-
Parish Transportation Fund	\$550,000.00	\$550,000.00	-
Property Tax Revenue	\$27,468,797.00	\$26,417,820.00	\$1,050,977.00
Total Non Federal	\$29,228,797.00	\$28,177,820.00	\$1,050,977.00
Federal Operating Subsidies	-	-	-
FTA Preventative Maintenance	\$4,500,000.00	\$3,760,000.00	\$740,000.00
FTA - Planning	\$101,700.00	\$850,000.00	\$(748,300.00)
FTA - Operating	\$2,750,000.00	\$3,340,000.00	\$(590,000.00)
Total Federal Operating	\$7,351,700.00	\$7,950,000.00	\$(598,300.00)
Total Operating Revenue	\$38,645,497.00	\$38,143,820.00	\$501,677.00
FTA - Capital Projects	\$2,420,783.40	\$10,600,000.00	\$(8,179,216.60)
Total Sources of Revenue	\$41,066,280.40	\$48,743,820.00	\$(7,677,539.60)

OPERATING EXPENSES

for the Year Ending December 31, 2026

Description	2026 Budget	2025 Budget	Dollar Variance
Labor	\$15,291,283.76	\$13,928,810.00	\$1,362,473.76
Fringe Benefits	\$5,822,394.24	\$5,799,240.00	\$23,154.24
Total Labor and Related	\$21,113,678.00	\$19,728,050.00	\$1,385,628.00
Casualty and Liability	\$2,591,500.00	\$1,693,050.00	\$898,450.00
Services	\$3,314,789.00	\$3,249,810.00	\$64,979.00
Purchased Transportation	\$5,760,000.00	\$5,828,460.00	\$(68,460.00)
Materials & Supplies	\$4,587,863.40	\$3,782,680.00	\$805,183.40
Utilities	\$204,000.00	\$326,490.00	\$(122,490.00)
Leases and Rentals	\$98,400.00	\$96,170.00	\$2,230.00
Other Operating Expenses	\$139,050.00	\$789,110.00	\$(650,060.00)
Total Operating Expenses	\$37,809,280.40	\$35,493,820.00	\$2,315,460.40
FTA Capital Project Expenditures	\$3,257,000.00	\$13,250,000.00	\$(9,993,000.00)
Total Expenses & Capital Expenditures	\$41,066,280.40	\$48,743,820.00	\$(7,677,539.60)
Net Balance	\$(0.00)	-	-

2026 FEDERAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY CAPITAL EXPENDITURES DETAIL

The 2026 FTA Capital Program reflects CATS’ transition from major construction to operational deployment and system enhancement. This year’s capital investments prioritize completion of the North Transit Center, modernization of technology infrastructure, ADA accessibility improvements, fleet maintenance upgrades, and enhanced safety systems. These investments strengthen reliability, improve rider experience, and protect long-term assets while ensuring compliance with federal and accessibility standards.

NORTH TRANSIT CENTER

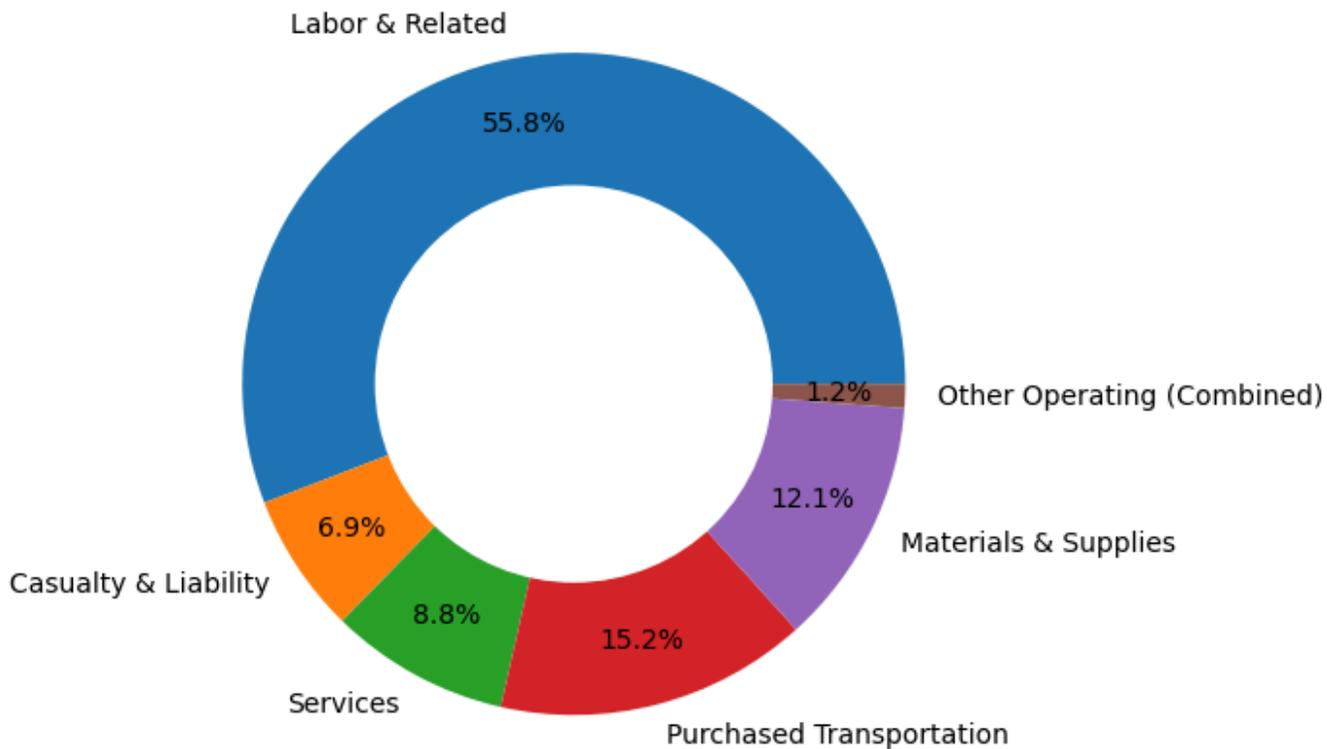
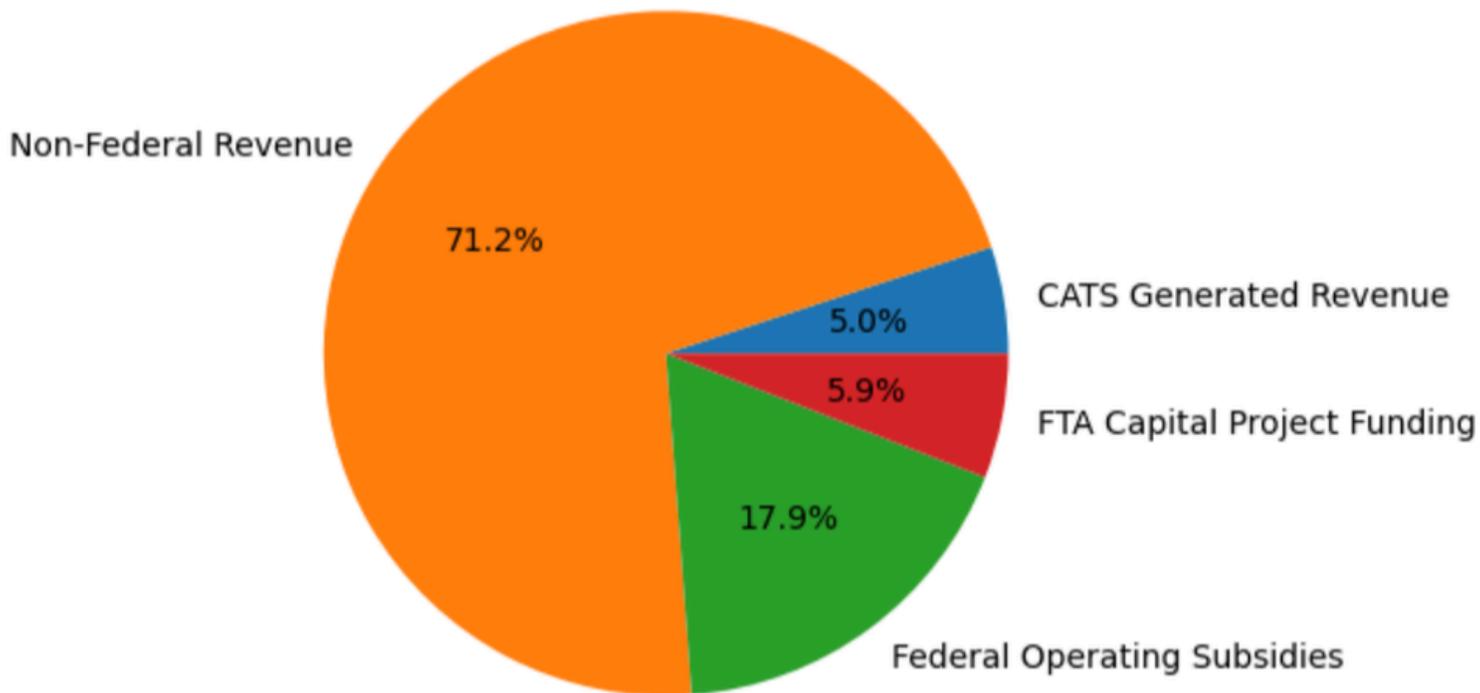
Project Item	Amount
North Transit Center - Contract Remainder	\$1,915,000.00
Surveillance - Cameras & Networking	\$110,000.00
Furnishings	\$5,000.00
On Board 8-Port Switches & Signage	\$118,000.00

OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY

Project Item	Amount
Upgrade IT Switches	\$7,000.00
Upgrade Routers	\$7,000.00
ADA Pads	\$300,000.00
Terminal Upgrades	\$277,000.00
Facility Striping	\$12,000.00
Shelter Maintenance	\$25,000.00
Buildings and Grounds Vehicles	\$50,000.00
On Board GPS	\$110,000.00
Bus Cameras & Surveillance	\$81,000.00
Lift Replacement - Maintenance	\$200,000.00
Air Compressor - Maintenance	\$40,000.00

Total FTA Capital Expenditures	\$3,257,000.00
---------------------------------------	-----------------------

OPERATING REVENUE & EXPENSES



ALLOTMENT OF POSITIONS CATS 2026 POSITIONS BUDGETED

Positions		
Title	FTEs	Open Positions
Accountant	3	0
Accountant Manager	0	0
ADA Coordinator	1	0
ADA Manager	1	0
Administrative Analyst	1	0
Budget Manager	0	0
Buildings & Grounds Crew	7	0
Buildings & Grounds Manager	1	0
Buildings & Grounds Supervisor	4	0
Bus Operators	105	22
Bus Operators Trainees	9	0
Chief Executive Officer	1	0
Chief Financial Officer (open position)	1	1
Chief Operations Officers	1	1
Communication Manager	1	0
Communication Liaison	.5	0
Compliance Officer	1	0
Custodian	8	0
Custodian Supervisor	2	0
Customer Service Lead	1	0
Customer Service Manager	1	0
Customer Service Supervisor	1	0
Customer Service Representative	8	0
Director of Maintenance	1	0
Director of Risk Management	1	0
Director of Operations	1	0
Director of Training and Special Projects	1	0
Dispatchers	5	0
Executive Administrator	1	0
Electronic Technician	1	0
Finance Office Manager	1	0

ALLOTMENT OF POSITIONS CATS 2026 POSITIONS BUDGETED (CONTINUED)

Positions		
Title	Budgeted FTEs	Open Positions
Grants Manager	1	0
HR Director	1	0
HR Specialist D & A Coordinator	1	0
Innovations Manager	1	0
IT Help Desk Technician	1	0
IT Manager	1	0
Maintenance Coordinator	1	0
Maintenance Crew Lead	1	0
Maintenance Supervisor	3	0
Mechanic I	3	0
Mechanic II	3	0
Mechanic III	4	0
Money Room Part Time	1	0
Operations Manager	3	0
Parts Assistant	1	0
Payroll Specialist	1	0
Planning & Schedule	1	0
Procurement Analyst II	2	0
Recruiting & Onboarding	1	0
Risk Management Coordinator	1	0
Risk Management Tech (open position)	1	0
Senior Director of Outreach & Business Development	1	0
Street Supervisors	10	0
Tire Technicians	3	0
Trainers	3	0
Utility Technicians	10	0
Vault Puller	1	0
TOTAL FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS (FTEs)	233.5	24

RESOLUTION OF CATS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVING 2026 BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Capital Area Transit System that the attached document setting forth the 2026 budget for the Capital Area Transit System, which has been made available for public inspection and presented to the Board, is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the agency's Chief Executive Officer shall have the authority to make changes to the line item amounts of the operating budget without the approval of the Board of Commissioners if the change does not exceed 5% in either direction. If the change exceeds a 5% variance in either direction, the agency's Chief Executive Officer shall have to return to the Board of Commissioners for approval. In no event may the amounts for total revenues or total expenditures be changed without the approval of the Board of Commissioner.