



OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER
31, 2020



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CATS 2020 Operating Budget Narrative

The revenue for Calendar Year 2020 is currently estimated at nearly \$28.9 million to fund estimated expenses of \$28.9 million.

CATS CY2020 Operating budget is \$28,905,885, compared to CY2019 Operating budget of \$26,999,987; this is an increase of \$1,465,228, or 7.05%.

Highlights:

- CATS construction of its Cortana East Transit Center is expected to be completed by the end of 2019. Revenue service will begin early in the first quarter of 2020.
- CATS, along with the City-Parish and Build Baton Rouge, was awarded a \$15,000,000 BUILD grant in the fourth quarter of 2019, for its Plank-Nicholson Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Corridor project with NEPA reviews starting no later than the end of the first quarter 2020; categorical environmental exclusion is expected from the NEPA process. The successful award of the BUILD grant helps pave the way for the \$40 million BRT project, and CATS will be seeking to adjust its Capital Budget to reflect the early success of the grant application/award.
- CATS concluded the planning component of the Microtransit project in 2019, via Transloc technology contract, and the agency will be implementing its first Microtransit service pilot for six months, with Phase I beginning by the end of the first quarter of 2020. The proposed service area in North Baton Rouge includes two zones: the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport and Southern University, and the City of Baker.
- CATS is nearing the end of the planning phase to implement a pilot ADA paratransit microtransit-type service with the current CATS On Demand provider, MV Transportation. This service is slated to begin in the first quarter of 2020 and will serve a sampling of the elderly and disabled communities across East Baton Rouge.
- CATS began a new Service Improvement Plan that will be implemented in spring 2020.

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- CATS will be seeking to begin the process to obtain funding to contract for a formal Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) by the end of 2020.
- CATS will continue to work with neighboring parish governments in 2020 to find ways to improve inter-parish transportation planning efforts; one program initiated by the City of Baker in 2019 is its planned Baker Park and Ride project. This project would include a CATS Park and Ride right-of-way within the boundaries of the planned hotel, retail, and housing real estate development; financial support is being led by CRPC for the project.
- CATS has begun looking for ways to strategically invest in improvements and expansion of its 2250 Administration, Operations, and Maintenance (AOM) facility; further planning efforts are expected to take place in 2020, including expansion of sorely needed parking space for employees.
- The CATS Planning Committee has noted its support of the relocation of the current downtown transit center/terminal service to the I-110 Underpass area at Florida Boulevard; it is expected that planning and construction will begin in 2020.
- CATS expects to contract a “bench” of consultants and contractors for its “on call” programs to strategically help the agency with revenue leveraging, the aforementioned COA, and program management of its board approved operating and capital programs.
- FTA concluded its 2019 Triennial Review, and CATS is applying the agreed upon responses in 2020.
- CATS has applied, and will continue to apply, for grants to fund the goal of using electric buses on all BRT routes. The agency received its first three electric buses in the spring of 2019 and plans to replace the aged fleet with smaller, 29-foot electric buses; this is expected to start by the fourth quarter of 2020.

Operating Revenue

Operating Revenues are expected to total \$28.9 million. As indicated by the attached budget and revenue projections, the majority of CATS operating revenues come from the dedicated property tax millage and federal grants,

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with the balance coming from Passenger Revenues, the Parish Transportation Fund, Hotel/Motel tax, and Advertising revenues.

Operating Expenses

With 19 Fleet vehicles reaching full life expectancy, CATS is challenged to continue improving comprehensive service and maintenance programs within the confines of the 2020 operating budget, with the goal of continuing and improving service reliability. While there is a national shortage of transit operators, CATS is developing plans to obtain and maintain a full employment of operators. Together with the service improvement plan, CATS expects positive results in improved customer service and service sustainability. In 2020, CATS will continue to upgrade its technology efforts, critical in today's transit world.

Capital Program

CATS rapid transit network plan for East Baton Rouge got a huge push forward with the November 2019 BUILD grant award for \$15 million. The environmental review of all the BRT stations and transit centers located within the Plank Road-Nicholson BRT Corridor will get underway in the first quarter 2020.

The Florida Blvd BRT stations will be included in the environmental review, and CATS will begin reassessing the timing and funding needs for this vital BRT route.

Continuing its efforts to obtain funding at all levels, coupled with the grant and local revenues being received, CATS is positioning itself for the next two to five years with a Board approved Capital Improvement Investment Plan.

CATS is expected to get the final approval to obtain title to proposed North Transit Hub located on Airline Highway adjacent to the new LSU Urgent Care and Health Facilities location.

CATS is planning to begin designing and construction for the relocation of its *Downtown 22nd* and Terminal service to I-110 and Florida in 2020.

Construction of the East Cortana Transit Center is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2019, allowing revenue service to begin early in 2020.

CATS is seeking a proposed site for its South Transit Center, in 2020, with two options becoming available via CATS Board members and the East Baton Rouge and Health District, both are open to entertaining proposals.

Capital Area Transit System

Operating Budget

For the Year Ending December 31, 2020

Draft

Operating Revenues

Description	2020	2019	Dollar
	Budget	Budget	Variance
Operating Revenue			
Passenger Paid Fares	1,726,698	1,701,630	25,068
Special Transit Fares (Contract)	243,330	311,319	(67,989)
ADA/Paratransit Revenue	117,144	92,000	25,144
Advertising Revenue	540,000	732,647	(192,647)
Interest Income	163,453	162,183	1,270
Other Agency Revenue	140,012	179,366	(39,354)
Total CATS Generated	2,930,637	3,179,146	(248,509)
Non Federal Revenue			
Hotel/Motel Tax	1,224,264	1,250,823	(26,559)
Parish Transportation Fund	550,000	550,000	0
Property Tax Revenue	17,780,000	17,608,470	171,530
Total Non Federal	19,554,264	19,409,292	144,972
Federal Operating Subsidies			
FTA - Preventive Maintenance	3,083,512	4,186,549	(1,103,037)
FTA - Project Administration	0	0	0
FTA - Planning	100,000	225,000	(125,000)
FTA - JARC/New Freedom	131,085	0	131,085
Total Federal Operating	3,314,597	4,411,549	(1,096,952)
Total Operating Revenues	25,799,498	26,999,987	(1,200,489)
FTA - Capital Projects	3,106,386	0	3,106,386
TOTAL SOURCES OF REVENUE	28,905,884	26,999,987	1,905,897

Capital Area Transit System

Operating Budget

For the Year Ending December 31, 2020

Operating Expenses

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Description	2020	2019	Dollar
	Budget	Budget	Variance
Operating Expenses			
Labor	11,653,980	10,885,580	768,400
Fringe Benefits	6,939,752	6,482,182	457,570
Labor and Fringe Benefits	18,593,732	17,367,762	1,225,970
Casualty and Liability	1,805,525	1,686,478	119,047
Services	1,917,114	1,790,710	126,404
Purchased Transportation	2,408,825	2,250,000	158,825
Materials & Supplies	2,926,174	2,733,238	192,936
Utilities	291,200	272,000	19,200
Miscellaneous Expenses	792,020	739,799	52,221
Leases and Rentals	171,294	160,000	11,294
Total Operating Expenses	28,905,884	26,999,987	1,905,897
NET BALANCE (+/-)	0.00	0.00	

