BlueOval City Transit Study Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is this study being conducted?

a. BlueOval City is currently under construction and is anticipated to attract over 7,000 employees across multiple businesses. BlueOval City is unique in that the location of the site is in a rural area, but the employees expected to work there are expected to come from the 10 counties surrounding Haywood County. The purpose of this study is to investigate the feasibility of transit service to the area by engaging with stakeholders, understanding current conditions, and defining a series of transit alternatives.

2. What are the objectives of the transit study?

a. This transit study's objective is to provide transit service for BlueOval City employees, increasing the accessibility of BlueOval City jobs for residents throughout the region.

3. What types of transit were considered?

a. A wide range of transit modes were considered for this study, including passenger rail, commuter express buses, transit buses, community buses, and vanpools. The alternatives were comprised of a package of multiple transit modes, selected based on the estimated demand in the specific area.

4. Will the transit service be available for employees outside of the 11-county study area in Tennessee and Mississippi?

a. Ideally, the service would be available for the entire region in the future. However, the study is only focused on the 11 counties in Tennessee.

5. How will the service be funded?

a. The funding sources for the transit service are to be determined. TDOT is researching the possibility of various Federal, state, and local funding sources and understand the eligibility of these sources might change depending on the operator.

6. Will the service only run to BlueOval City? What about other destinations?

a. This study focused on providing service to BlueOval City for employees, vendors and contractors at specific shifts with volumes. Service to other destinations will be considered based on demand for the service once production starts up.

7. When will the new transit service be initiated?

a. The transit service is anticipated to ramp-up similarly to BlueOval City onboarding, starting with a few trips then increasing service as the number of employees increases. With production in BlueOval City beginning in 2025, we expect the full transit service around the same time.

8. Did the benefit-cost analysis (BCA) consider the benefits and costs of highway expansion?

a. No, the benefit-cost analysis only considered the benefits and costs associated with the transit service only. Other benefits and costs related to BlueOval City, including any other roadway or transportation projects, were not considered.

9. Will buses have Wi-Fi service available?

a. Ideally, the coach buses would include various amenities for riders. Many modern coach buses include amenities such as Wi-Fi, charging outlets, tray tables, overhead luggage storage, and others, though the exact features will depend on the vehicles purchased.

10. Will riders have to pay to use the service? Will Ford be paying for the service?

a. The price for passengers to use the service is still to be determined. Factors such as how the service will be funded and how the service will operate contribute to pricing. We are in the due diligence phase now and exploring all options