

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS SUMMARY

What is a Situational Analysis?

A Situational Analysis is a comprehensive examination of the current conditions, factors, and variables that surround and impact a study's subject matter. The analysis aims to identify opportunities, challenges, and potential risks, enabling key stakeholders to make informed decisions and develop effective strategies to address the study's objectives.

Why was the Situation Analysis Completed?

A key component of this study is the integration of the “TPO Process”. This process is inclusive of data collection, analysis of transportation issues and trends, and public engagement. Through this process, all requirements set forth by state and federal statutes for the creation of a new independent transit authority can be met.

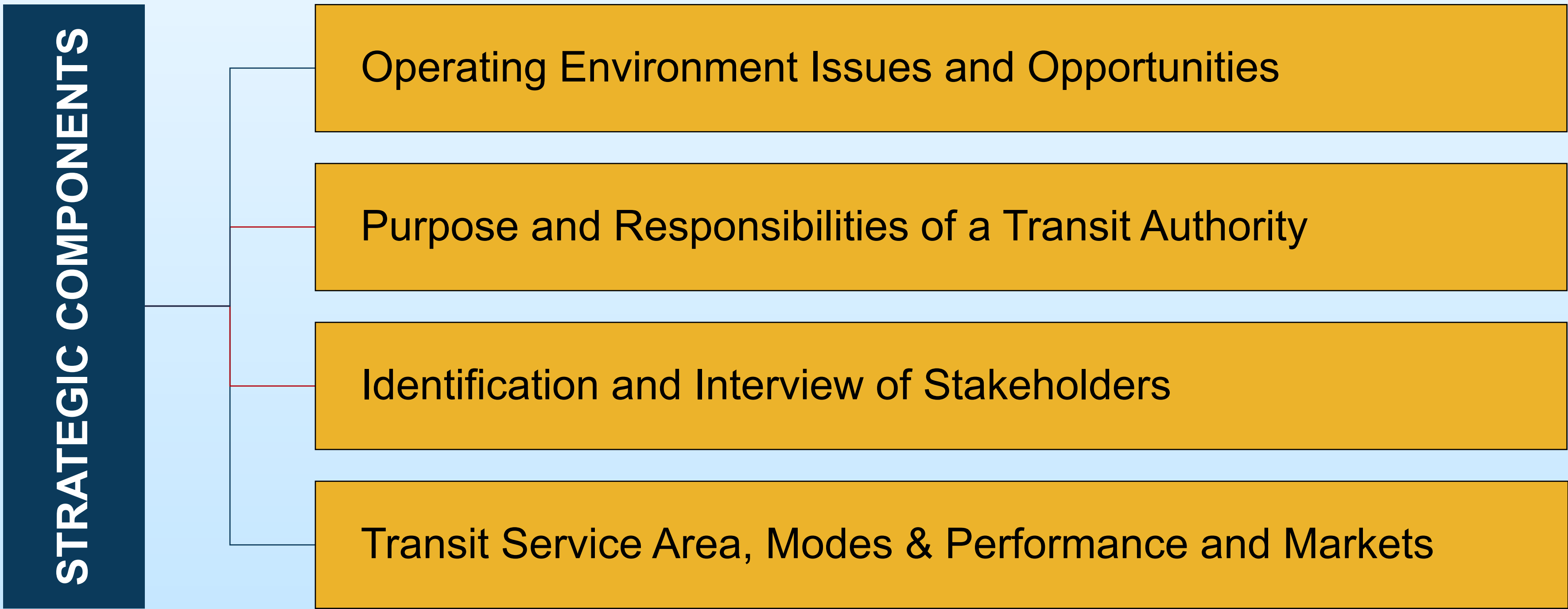
What Components were Evaluated as part of the TPO Process?

- Assessment of the operating environment issues and opportunities
- Review of purpose, powers, and responsibilities of existing public transportation providers in Bay County and relationships to recognize toward developing a new organizational governance of transit / mobility services.
- Identification and interviews of stakeholders to understand community leadership opinions and understanding of mobility needs and governance issues.
- Thirteen interviews conducted with elected officials, agency staff experts, and community business leaders.
- Review of existing and future vision of transit services, service areas, types of applicable service modes, customer markets, and potential service development partners.

Conclusions

- The existing transportation system contributes to a depletion in the mobility of residents and visitors.
- Investments in effective and efficient public transportation is strongly supported in Bay County.
- The existing funding framework for public transportation is inefficient and duplicative.
- There exists a strong unification among partner agencies and the community in developing cohesive strategic plans in the wake of Hurricane Michael.
- Based on the findings of this analysis, the creation of a new independent transit authority will greatly benefit the long-term needs of the community and goals of the county and partner organizations.

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Key Issues Identified

- Bayway bus sizes played major role in limiting the maneuverability throughout the County post-Hurricane Michael.
- Land use and growth pattern changes have resulted in a lack of affordable housing for transit-dependent populations where current transit exists.
- A competitive job market impedes Bayway's ability to recruit and retain the best possible workforce.
- Current funding framework creates significant inefficiencies.

Key Opportunities Identified

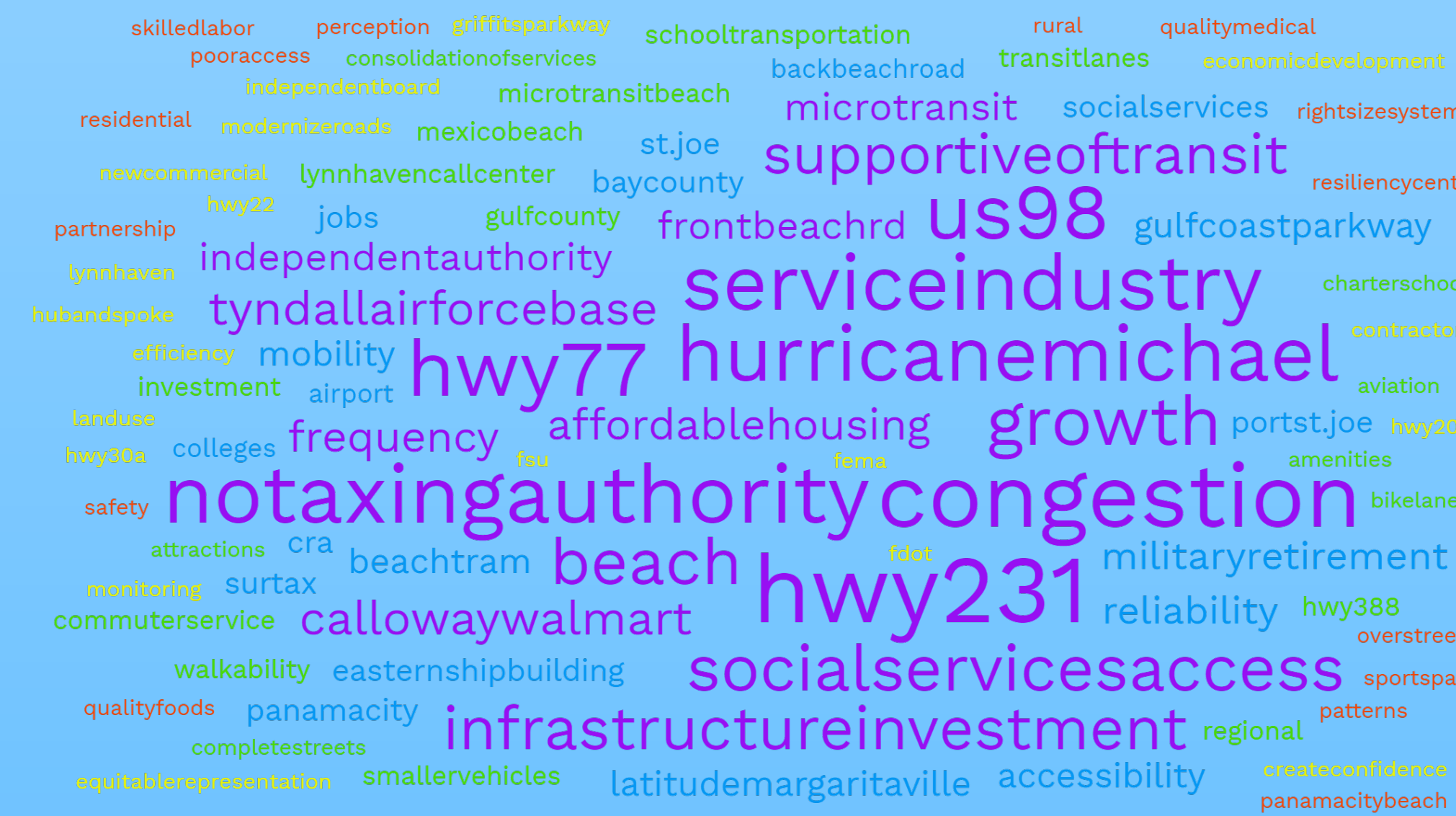
- The continued development of new microtransit and enhanced real-time technologies and communications tools, will play a vital role in the capacity of Bayway to provide more effective disaster response services, while improving the overall mobility of residents and visitors.
- The numerous strategic plans completed in the wake of Hurricane Michael, including those of Bayway, can be leveraged to identify viable opportunities to address the issues resulting from land use and growth pattern changes observed throughout the county.

Key Opportunities Identified (Cont.)

- Independent transit authorities tend to employ a more specialized workforce more focused on the day-to-day requirements for the provision of public transportation. In this capacity, opportunities become available to institute a more effective strategy for the recruitment and retention of a more qualified workforce.
- See Funding Section Below** – Through the consolidation of transit services and funding programs into an independent transit authority, inefficiencies that currently exist under the unique funding structure of public transportation in Bay County can be adequately addressed.

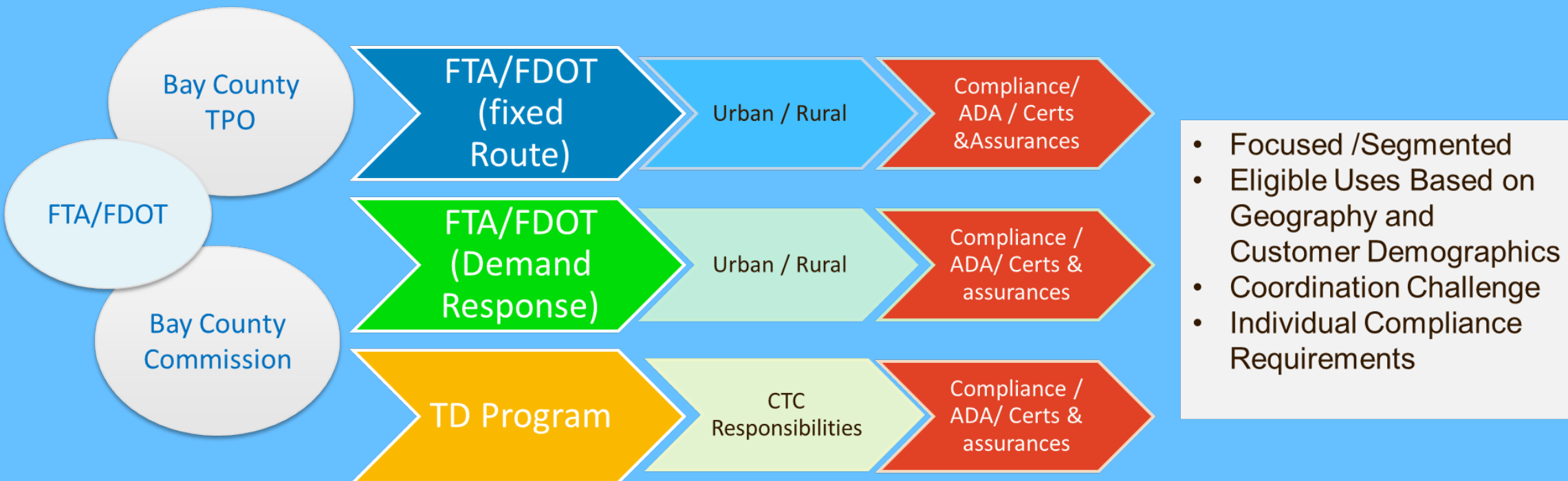
Stakeholder Interviews Summary

- Congestion is a significant issue countywide.
- Overall state of transportation in Bay County creates challenges for job access.
- Consensus of support for cost-effective improvements to public transportation countywide.
- Public transportation plays a vital role in the strength and resiliency of the local economy.
- Open-minded approach to innovative public transportation solutions to address mobility and accessibility issues for residents and visitors.
- Those familiar with affordable housing challenges agree that public transportation is a key component to a long-term solution.
- Land use plays an important role in promoting more efficient and effective public transportation countywide.



Funding Issues and Opportunities

Existing Separation of Modes and Grant Programs



Synergy and Efficiency of One Transit Organization

