Regional Council of Mayors

Transitway Decision-making
Your Questions

• What is the transit planning process?
• What are the factors that determine the best mode and alignment for a corridor?
• How do we get to the locally preferred alternative?
• What is the local role in transitways?
Identify Potential Corridors

• High level screening of potential transit corridors throughout the region

• Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) calls for detailed analysis on strong candidate corridors

• Regional studies provide input into the TPP
  – 2008 Transit Master Study
  – 2012 Arterial Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Study
  – 2013 Highway Bus Rapid Transit Study
Different maps, all grounded in the TPP
Transitways

- Complete / Construction / Final Design / Prelim. Engineering
- Develop as LRT / Busway / Highway BRT / Commuter Rail
- Develop as Arterial BRT
- Express Bus Corridors with Transit Advantages
- Regional Multimodal Hubs
- Mn/DOT Phase I High Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail Priorities

Figure 7.43: 2030 Transitway System
Figure 7-39: Potential 2030 Arterial BRT Routes

- Insert current TPP transitway map, MnPASS lane map, and Arterial BRT map.
Managed Lane System Vision

- Existing Managed Lane
- Future Managed Lane Expansion
- Direct Connection
- Through Movement Only

Regional 2030 TRANSPORTATION Policy Plan - Final November 2010
1.0% Annual Growth in Bus System
At the Corridor Level...
What is an Alternatives Analysis (AA)?

- Identify and analyze the **benefits, costs and impacts** of alternative modes and paths
- Can be led by local agencies, transit providers
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- Identify and analyze the benefits, costs, and impacts of alternative modes and paths.
- Can be led by local agencies or transit providers.
- Result: Locally Preferred Alternative.

Process no longer FTA requirement... But still valuable!
Analysis Steps in an AA

Determine Purpose and Need for Project

Options

Level 1 - Initial Screening of All Alternatives (Modes and Paths)

Level 2 – Detailed Evaluation of Most Promising Alternatives

Recommendation - Preferred Alternative
Purpose and Need

• What problem or need is the project hoping to address? (often called “Problem statement”)

• What is the purpose of the project?

• What are the goals and objectives for addressing the problem?

• Each corridor is unique but there are often similarities
Goals and Objectives

• Goals and objectives are the basis for determining the preferred alternative

• Examples:
  – Promote economic growth
  – Improve transit attractiveness, accessibility and connections
  – Mitigate congestion growth
  – Competitive project (cost-effectiveness)
Identify Mode Alternatives

• Modes
  – Light rail transit (LRT), Bus rapid transit (BRT), commuter rail, streetcar, enhanced bus…
  – Also evaluated against a “no build” option
Identify Path Alternatives

- Considered “Alignments”
  - Paths can include
    - existing streets,
    - existing or abandoned railroads,
    - other publicly owned options,
    - non-public right-of-way (costly!)
Evaluation Factors

• Generally two levels of evaluation:
  – Initial screening
  – Detailed evaluation

• Detailed evaluation factor examples:
  – Ridership
  – Cost (capital and operating)
  – Integration with existing transportation system
  – Traffic and parking impacts
  – Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction
  – Environmental impacts
MAP-21 New Starts Rating Process

Summary Rating

Project Justification (50%)
- Congestion Relief
- Cost Effectiveness
- Land Use

16.66% each

Financial Rating (50%)
- Economic Development
- Mobility Improvements
- Environmental Benefits

Reasonableness of Capital / Operating Cost Estimates (50%)
- Commitment of Capital / Operating Funds (25%)
- Current Capital / Operating Condition (25%)
Best Practices

• Critical success factors
  – Great governance – agencies and key stakeholders
  – Manageable list of alternatives
  – Affordable preferred alternative
  – Strong community trust and project support
Best Practices

• Tools/techniques
  – Stakeholder involvement and partnering
  – Trusted relationships
  – Focused problem statement leading to purpose and need
  – Risk-adjusted estimates
  – Public workshops at key milestones (required)
Local role

• Project champions
  – Benefits from a project are often greatest for local communities
  – Quality of life, economic development, accessibility

• Land use decisions
  – Land use planning, station area planning, local transportation infrastructure

• Promote community involvement

• Actively lead/participate in corridor committees