



# Creating Great Access in Your Community

## Rail~Volution

November, 2006



A Guide to Transportation Opportunities in Your Community

**Surface Transportation Policy Partnership**



# STPP Regional Workshops

- o Held 7 workshops to examine how federal law - funding, planning, and investing for livable communities (choices, context sensitive, all users)
- o Diverse representation
  - Advocates, agencies, private sector, US DOT, national interest organizations
  - Urban, suburban & rural
- o Releasing a comprehensive Guidebook on the federal surface transportation law and a Workshop Report



# What We Talked About

- o Paying for What you Want -  
Understanding the Money
- o Getting in the Game –  
Planning is Fundamental
- o Using the Programs and Provisions to  
Create Safe, Healthy, Livable Communities



# Themes from STPP Workshops

## o Key Themes

- o Strong interest in more **integration of transportation, land-use** and community development
- o Recognition of need for much **more education and training** about the nature of our transportation issues
- o **Broad and deep alliances** are a critical to broadening all travel choices
- o **Basic change** in process & control to achieve different outcomes from the investment of transportation funds
  - a common purpose and understanding of connections among various stakeholders
- o **Transparent, user-friendly** description of funding availability and eligibility to achieve more travel choices



# Paying for What You Want: Session Focus

- o Understanding the Flexibility of Federal Funds & the Gap between Obligation Authority & Spending Authority
- o Requirements for Financial Plans and Reporting of Obligations
- o Allocating the Funds & Setting Priorities
- o The Impact of 'Earmarks'
- o Implications of Tolling & Public/Private Partnerships



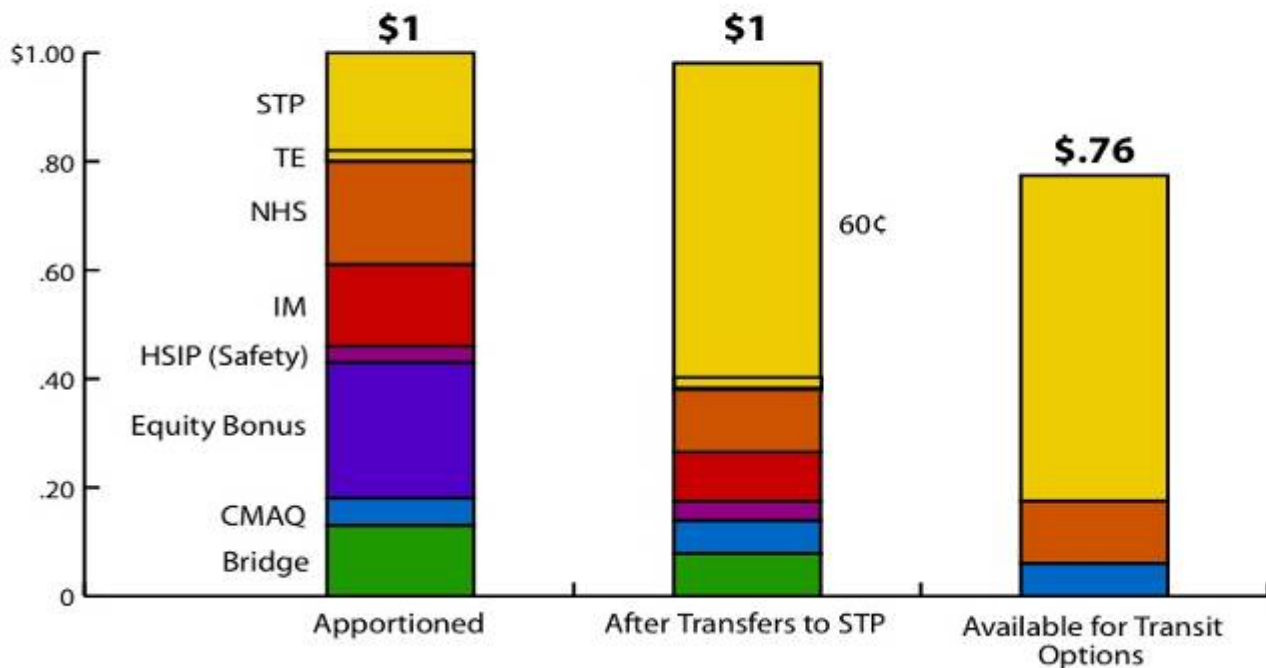
# Money Matters: How the Funding Structure Supports Creating Better Choices and Better Designs

- o **84% of \$s** in 7 Core **Highway** Programs – Interstate, National Highway System, Bridge, Surface Transportation, Congestion Mitigation/Air Qual., Safety, Equity Bonus
- o **State DOTs** Control Almost All Federal Highway Funds
- o Key Transit programs
  - o **67%** of \$s in – Urban and non-Urban Formula, Rail Mod., JARC, E&D
  - o Balance for Discretionary – New Starts, Bus
- o Large **Transit** Agencies Receive Transit Funds; state DOTs receive funds for non-urban areas



# Paying for What You Want: Money Matters

## Federal Highway Dollars are Flexible



Left column: FY'06 shares of core highway program funding.

Middle column: shows 60¢ of every dollar available for any highway (Title 23) or transit (Title 49) eligible project (after distributing Equity funds and making allowable program transfers -- 1/2 of Bridge, IM & NHS funds -- to STP)

Right column: shows maximum flexibility to transit -- up to 76¢ of every dollar -- assuming CMAQ dollars are fully used for transit and qualifying transit projects in NHS corridor.



# Flexible Transportation Funds

- o Flexibility in law allows 77% of federal 'Highway' funds to be used for transit;
- o One system with many options – not highways & transit as separate & competing
- o Think in terms of Transportation Dollars not Highway or Transit Dollars
- o Rethinking the Priorities in State & Metro Plans





# New Sources of Funds

- o New Highway **Safety Improvement Program**  
– more than \$1 billion per year - 90 % federal share
- o **100 % federal share** for certain safety-related improvements
- o **Safe Routes to School** – 100% Federal share
- o **STP** funds eligible for SRS projects





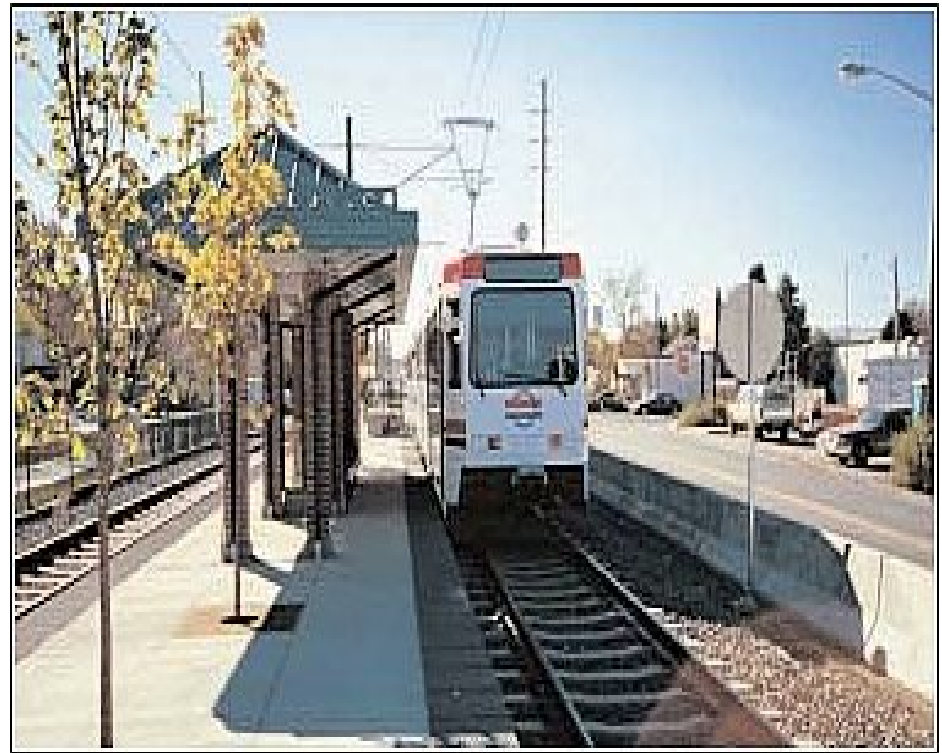
# Getting in the Game - Planning is Fundamental

- o Getting Desirable Planning Outcomes
- o Linking Planning Outcomes to Capital Investment
- o Getting Community Involved in Defining Outcomes



# Tools for Better Solutions

- o Visioning & Scenario planning
- o Web access for plans
- o Context Sensitive Designs/Solutions
- o Coordination with other agencies





# Getting in the Game - Planning is Fundamental



- o Long-range Plans
- o Transportation Improvement Programs
- o Area & Corridor Studies
- o Transit Service Plans
- o State Bike & Pedestrian Plan
- o Public Participation Plan
- o Purpose & Need, Range of Alternatives in Draft EIS
- o Transit & Human Service Coordination Plan



# Creating Safe, Healthy, Livable Communities

- o **Preserving Existing** Transit Facilities and Roads
- o **Designing Roads for More Travel Choices** and Greater **Community Sensitivity**
- o Providing **all Types of Users** with Better Travel Choices
- o Making the **Land-use & Transportation** Connection
- o Improving **Pedestrian and Bike Safety**



# Creating Safe, Healthy, Livable Communities

- o The transportation law encourages **design flexibility** - new tools in SAFETEA-LU
  - o Affirms context sensitive design/solutions
- o **Flexibility** of federal transportation **funds**
- o **Land-use planning eligible** for planning funds
- o New **Safety Program** and Plan
- o **Safe Routes to School**
- o New Transit and Human **Service coordination** plan