Creating Great Access in Your Community
Rail-Volution
November, 2006

From the Margins to the Mainstream
A Guide to Transportation Opportunities in Your Community

Surface Transportation Policy Partnership
STPP Regional Workshops

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

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

- Key Themes
  - Strong interest in more **integration of transportation, land-use** and community development
  - Recognition of need for much **more education and training** about the nature of our transportation issues
  - **Broad and deep alliances** are critical to broadening all travel choices
  - **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
  - **Transparent, user-friendly** description of funding availability and eligibility to achieve more travel choices
Paying for What You Want: Session Focus

- Understanding the Flexibility of Federal Funds & the Gap between Obligation Authority & Spending Authority
- Requirements for Financial Plans and Reporting of Obligations
- Allocating the Funds & Setting Priorities
- The Impact of ‘Earmarks’
- Implications of Tolling & Public/Private Partnerships
Money Matters:
How the Funding Structure Supports Creating Better Choices and Better Designs

- **84% of $s** in 7 Core **Highway** Programs – Interstate, National Highway System, Bridge, Surface Transportation, Congestion Mitigation/Air Qual., Safety, Equity Bonus

- **State DOTs** Control Almost All Federal Highway Funds

- Key Transit programs
  - **67% of $s** in – Urban and non-Urban Formula, Rail Mod., JARC, E&D
  - Balance for Discretionary – New Starts, Bus

- 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

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

- New Highway Safety Improvement Program – more than $1 billion per year - 90% federal share
- 100% federal share for certain safety-related improvements
- Safe Routes to School – 100% Federal share
- STP funds eligible for SRS projects
Getting in the Game -
Planning is Fundamental

- Getting Desirable Planning Outcomes

- Linking Planning Outcomes to Capital Investment

- Getting Community Involved in Defining Outcomes
Tools for Better Solutions

- Visioning & Scenario planning
- Web access for plans
- Context Sensitive Designs/Solutions
- Coordination with other agencies
Getting in the Game -
Planning is Fundamental

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

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

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