Financing Livable Communities
A Federal Perspective

Paul L. Marx
Federal Transit Administration
MEETINGS
None of Us is as Dumb as All of Us.
DESPAIR.COM
Outline

• Basic Considerations

• Federal Programs
  - Federal Transit Grants
  - Federal Highway Grants
  - U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

• Other Resources
  - New Market Tax Credits
  - Historic Preservation Tax Credits
Basic Considerations

• What is the investment?
  - Station Reconstruction
  - New transit line
    • Bus Rapid Transit
    • Light Rail
    • Commuter Rail
  - Rehabilitation

• Who are your stakeholders?
  - Local business, residents, EDC, suburbs?
Federal Programs

• Federal Transit Grants
  - Discretionary New Starts ($1.4 B in ’06)
  - Discretionary Bus ($830.6 M)
  - Discretionary Fixed Guideway ($1.31 B)
  - Urbanized Formula Capital ($3.4 B)
  - Metropolitan & Statewide Planning ($93.5)
  - Enhancements (1% of capital)

• Joint Development
  - Multimodal Terminals
  - Enhances the function of public transport
Examples
Federal Programs (cont.)

• Federal Highway Programs
  - “Flex Funds”
    • CMAQ
    • STP
    • NHS
  - Enhancements

• Housing and Urban Development
  - Community Development Block Grants
  - Community Renewal Initiative
  - Economic Development Loan Guarantee
Other Resources

• New Market Tax Credits
  - Usable in designated low-income areas
  - To foster business development or expansion
  - 39% credit over 7 years

• Historic Preservation Tax Credit
  - Historic transportation facilities
  - Certified historic buildings
  - 10% or 20% tax credit + depreciation
More Examples
And How They Work Together

- It all starts with Planning
- Land acquisition is needed
- Site Preparation and environment
- Station location selection (optimize)
- Identify station function (no one size)
- Identify necessary surroundings
- Secure the funding
  - Transit grants, HUD financing, EDA loans, NMTC, H-P Tax Credits, etc.
For More Information

Paul L. Marx, Economist
Paul.Marx@dot.gov

Effie Stallsmith, Planner
Effie.Stallsmith@dot.gov