Overview

- The Plan
- The System
- The Connections
- The Lessons Learned
The old Boston and Maine Railroad operated diesel cars. Pictured: North Station in 1966. (Globe File Photo)

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Building Livable Communities with Transit

The Plan

- All Systems Go
- Created 2004
- 20 Year Plan
- Layers of Service
  - Regional Rail
  - Urban Rail
  - Rapid Bus / BRT
  - Express Bus
  - Activity Center Circulator
  - Local Bus
  - Rideshare
The System

- Downtown-Northwest Line
- Major commuter corridor with continued growth
- Starter system opens 2010
- Initial peak hour service, 35 minute frequencies
- All day and Weekend service planned subsequently
- Active Transit Oriented Development at several station locations
- Two zone fare system ($1 / $1.50)
- Single-track, with four passing sidings
- Total cost $105M; less than $4M per mile
The System

• **The Train**
  - Stadler DMU Hybrid
  - Approx. $5M each (six in fleet)
  - Up to 200 passengers (108 seated)
  - Low floor, fully accessible
  - Wireless internet
  - Bike racks
  - “Club” seats with table in each section
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AUSTIN
TEXAS
Rail Vehicle Comparison

Capital MetroRail
Length = 134' 8"
Width = 9' 8"

LRT
Length = 92'
Width = 13'

Streetcar
Length = 66'
Width = 8'

13' - 20.5'
The Connections
Downtown Station Example

- The Challenge: terminus not deep enough into city center
- Several existing routes within walking distance
- Many large destinations to be served
- Proposed solution:
  - Three new dedicated rail “connector” routes
  - Adjust other routes as needed
The Connections
Downtown Station Example

How else to address the “last mile” challenge? Carshare
The Connections
Downtown Station Example

How else to address the “last mile” challenge?

Bike & Train
The Connections
Downtown Station Example

How else to address the “last mile” challenge?

Bike Parking / Sharing
How else to address the “last mile” challenge? Pedicab
The Connections
Downtown Station Example

How else to address the “last mile” challenge?

Urban Rail

[Map of Austin showing rail and bus routes]
Lessons Learned

Big Picture

- Purpose and need
- Integrating rail into existing system
- Customer needs - new vs. existing
- Existing service analysis
  - Modify to complement?
  - Add to support?
  - Delete to avoid duplication?
- Plan for success... make no small plans
Lessons Learned
System Specific

- Think system first (and last)
- Take the time to get the planning right
- Build a strong and inclusive project team
- Get the right project manager - empowered and accountable
- Tell your own story
Thanks!

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Transportation in the 21st Century: The Local Picture