**Planning and Funding of Transit and Transit Infrastructure**

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This presentation will focus on three questions

1. How is a transit system planned?
2. How is a transit system funded?
3. Who are the players and decision makers?
4. **How is a transit system planned?**

Transit is a public utility

* Subsidized with public money nation-wide (like streets and freeways, parks and libraries)

Overview of the steps in the planning process

* Identify need
* Develop Vision and goals, objectives – what do you want to achieve?
* Develop various scenario strategies – alternatives that reach objectives
* Evaluate strategies
* Prioritize and select projects
* Develop Long Range Transportation Plan, often called the Regional Transportation Plan
* Develop a Short Range Transit Plan, also called implementation plans
* Implement projects
* Monitor performance
* Adjust as needed

Items to Note

* Public input is a part of the entire process
* Planning process can be very long
* The planning process is complex and messy
* There is analysis and data driven decision making, but it is also political

Transit Planning comes in two basic varieties – Capital planning and Service planning

Regional Transportation Plan – a multimodal plan that includes

* Freeways
* Arterial Streets
* Public Transportation
* Bicycle/Pedestrian
* Aviation

Transit is an element of the Regional Transportation Plan

* There might also be a state transportation plan in the absence of an urbanized area.

Planning for Major Capital Improvements – (things that are expensive and last a long time)

* These projects show up in plans well in advance of anything happening
* Typically, capital projects federally funded
* Federal planning process is long, with many hoops to jump through
* There should be plenty of opportunity for the public to know about and provide input on a major capital project

Planning for Service Planning

* The process is shorter (six months to three years)
* Transit Standards are often used as a guide

How is new service planned and evaluated?

* Based on a long list of data sources including things like
  + population and activity centers
  + other demographic data
  + existing ridership and productivity
  + existing travel patterns
* Ultimately service planning decisions are made by appointed or elected bodies such as city councils or the Transit Board of Directors.

1. **How is a transit system funded?**

* Two types of expenses/funding: Capital and Operating
* Sources of funding
  + Farebox
  + Federal
  + State
  + Regional
  + Local
* Federal Transit Administration (part of the Department of Transportation)
  + Federal funding almost always needs a local match
  + Typically concentrated on capital investments
  + In urban areas less than 200,000 population, and in rural areas federal funding can be spent on operations
* Other funding sources
  + Used to match federal funding
  + Used to fund operations (service)
  + Fares cover about 25% of operating costs
  + Remaining operating costs funded by a mix of local, regional and state funding, and in some cases Federal funding
    - Every local area is structured differently – become familiar with how this process works in your community.
    - Usually there is a ballot measure to secure local funding for transit

1. **Who are the players and decision makers?**

Players you need to pay attention to are at all levels from which the funds can come

* Federal
  + Congress
  + Administration
  + Federal Transit Administration staff
* State players
  + State legislators
  + State DOT staff
* Regional players
  + Transit Board of Directors and staff
  + Metropolitan Planning Organization and staff
  + County Transportation Department
* Local players
  + City officials and staff
* Community players
  + Neighborhood associations
  + Community groups and special interest groups
  + Businesses and developers

How can you participate?

* Public meetings for projects and service planning
* Transit Board, City Council, and Metropolitan Planning Organization meetings
* Neighborhood associations
* Special interest advocacy groups
* Participate in Surveys
* Get involved in elections and transit related ballot measures

**Resources**

Federal Transit Funding 101: <http://www.smartertransportation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Federal-Transit-Funding-101_May-2018.pdf>

Federal Transit Administration grant programs: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/grants>

Public Transportation Facts: <https://www.apta.com/news-publications/public-transportation-facts/>

List of U.S. Local and State Transit Links: <https://www.apta.com/research-technical-resources/public-transportation-links/>

Every state has a state transit association. Do a Google search for your state’s transit association – example Arizona Transit Association.

These websites have mountains of information on a wide variety of transit topics. Use the search bar on these websites to search for topics you are interested in.

* American Public Transportation Association: [www.apta.com](http://www.apta.com)
* Community Transportation Association of America: [www.ctaa.org](http://www.ctaa.org)
* Transit Cooperative Research Program: <http://www.trb.org/TCRP/TCRP.aspx>