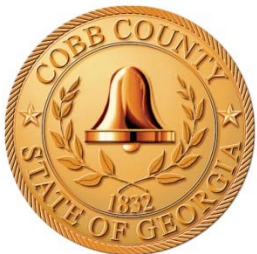




Visions Light Rail

**A Vision for
a Better Future**

History, Overview and Future



Cobb County...Expect the Best!

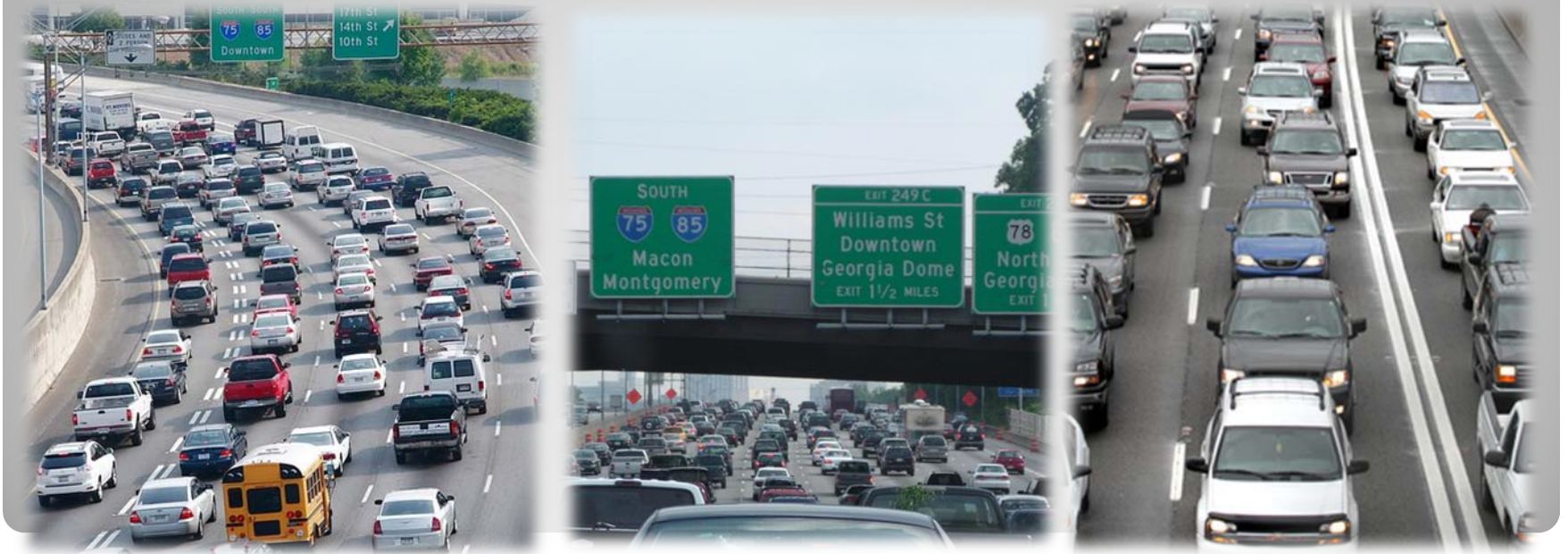
Department of Transportation
Faye DiMassimo, Director

Board of Commissioners Work Session
May 25, 2010 at 1:30pm

**A Vision for
a Better Future**

Northwest Atlanta Corridor

- ❖ Traffic congestion an ongoing problem
- ❖ Many solutions explored over several decades
- ❖ High capacity transit favorably considered



A Vision for a Better Future

Northwest Corridor US41/I-75 Studies



- ❖ Dates back to 1994
- ❖ Variety of Public Involvement Activities
- ❖ Multiple solutions identified and evaluated
- ❖ Light rail proposed as a viable option

Cobb County and/or Partners

- **1994** Multi-Modal Strategic Plan for Public Transportation
- **2004** Delk-Franklin LCI
- **2001** Transit Implementation Study
- **2008** Cobb CTP

ARC / TPB

- **2000** 2025 RTP
- **2002** Atlanta to Chattanooga MAGLEV
- **2006** 2030 RTP
- **2008** Concept 3

GDOT

- **1995** Metropolitan North Georgia Commuter Rail Plan
- **1997** Intercity Rail Plan
- **2004** Marietta to Canton Commuter Rail Study
- **In Progress** Atlanta to Chattanooga High Speed Ground Trans. Study
- **In Progress** Revive285 Top End

GRTA/ SRTA

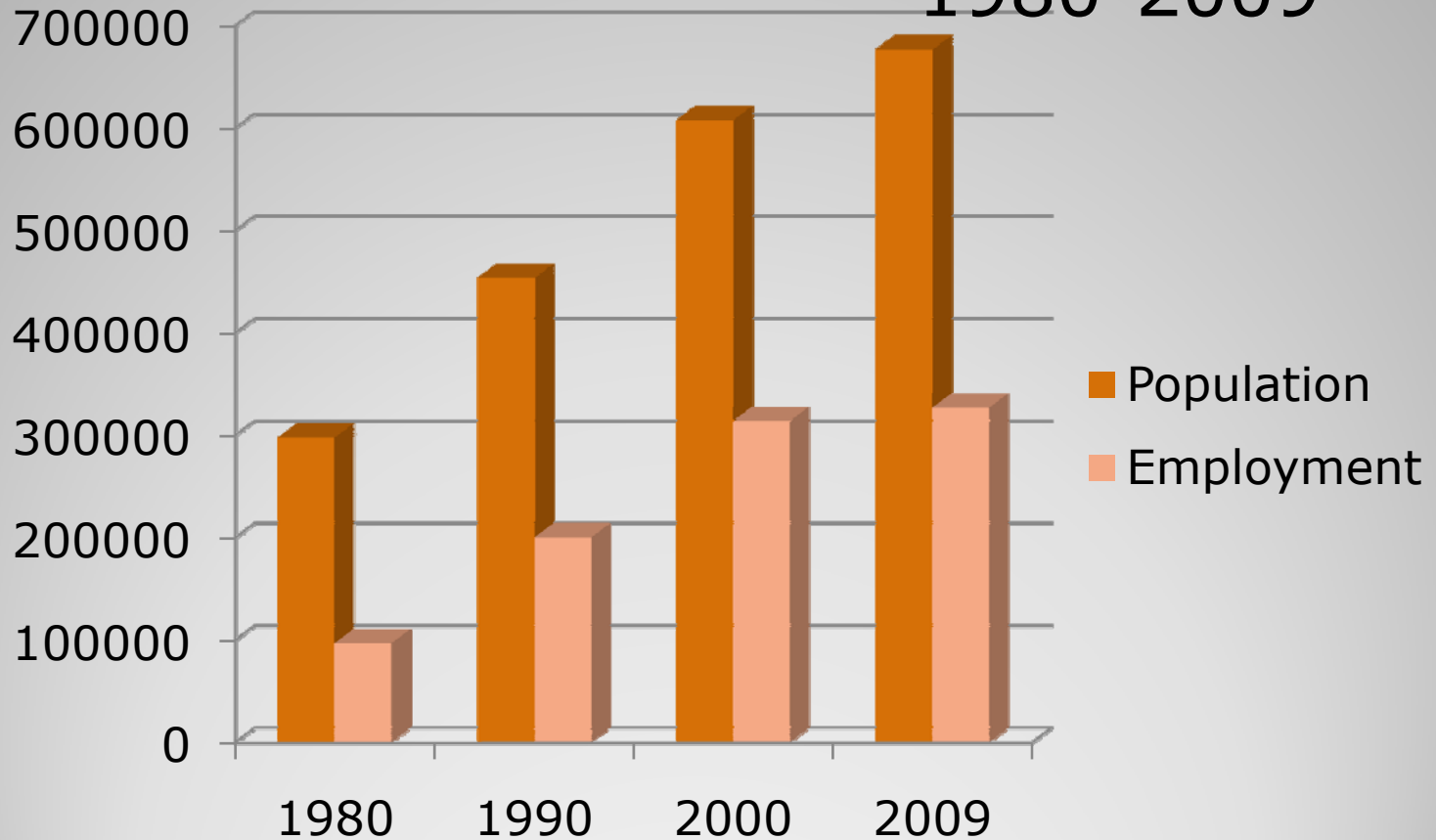
- **2005** I-75/I-575 TOT/HOT Lanes Feasibility Study
- **2007** I-75/I-575 HOV/BRT/Station Area Planning

Prior Studies

A Vision for
a Better Future

Cobb County Population and Employment

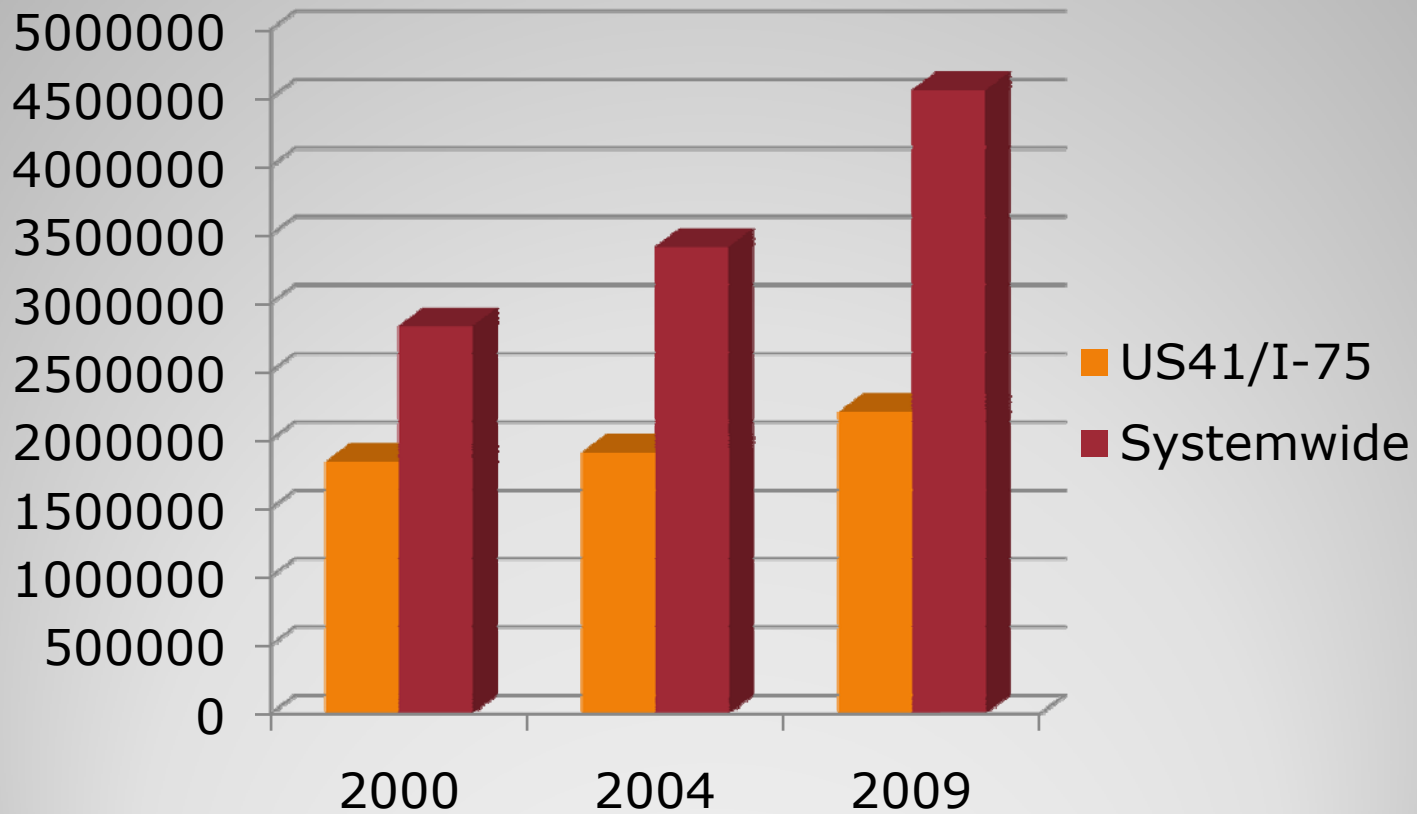
1980-2009



**A Vision for
a Better Future**

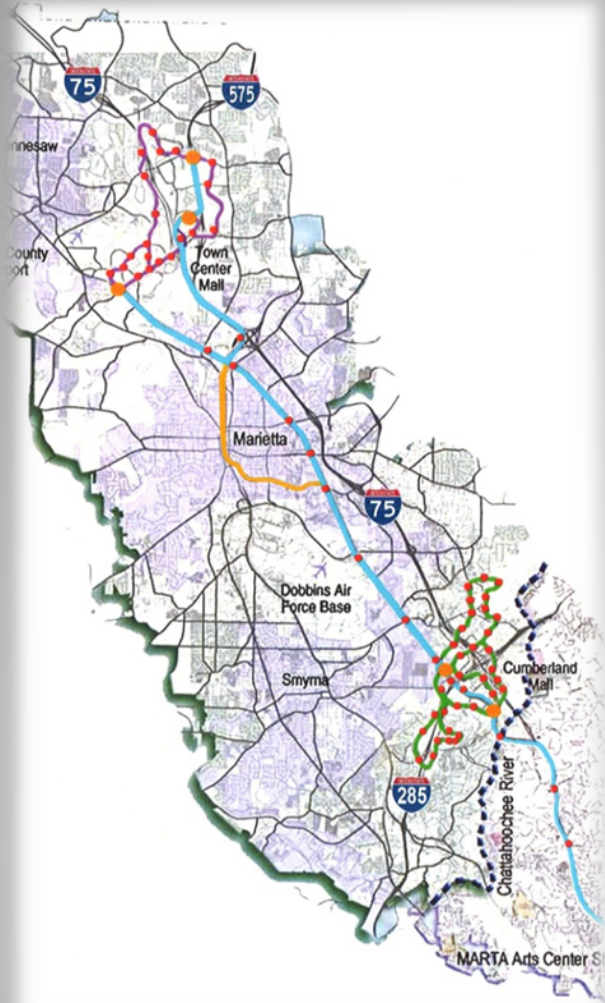
Growth in Corridor Transit Ridership

FY 2000-2009



- ❖ Focused along US41/Cobb Parkway from the Cumberland Galleria area to the Town Center Area
- ❖ Connectivity to regional systems in Downtown Atlanta, Perimeter and Gwinnett
- ❖ Trunkline length is approximately 14 miles
- ❖ Tracks are elevated and at grade
- ❖ Maintenance facilities at Canton Road Connector Area
- ❖ Circulators within Cumberland and Town Center
 - ❖ Cumberland - 14.1 miles
 - ❖ Town Center/KSU - 12.4 miles

Proposed Northwest Corridor US 41 Light Rail Project Overview



- ❖ Town Center/KSU
- ❖ Kennestone Hospital
- ❖ SPSU / CCT
- ❖ Dobbins Air Reserve Base
- ❖ Windy Ridge Transfer Station
- ❖ Cumberland Transfer

Proposed Station Locations

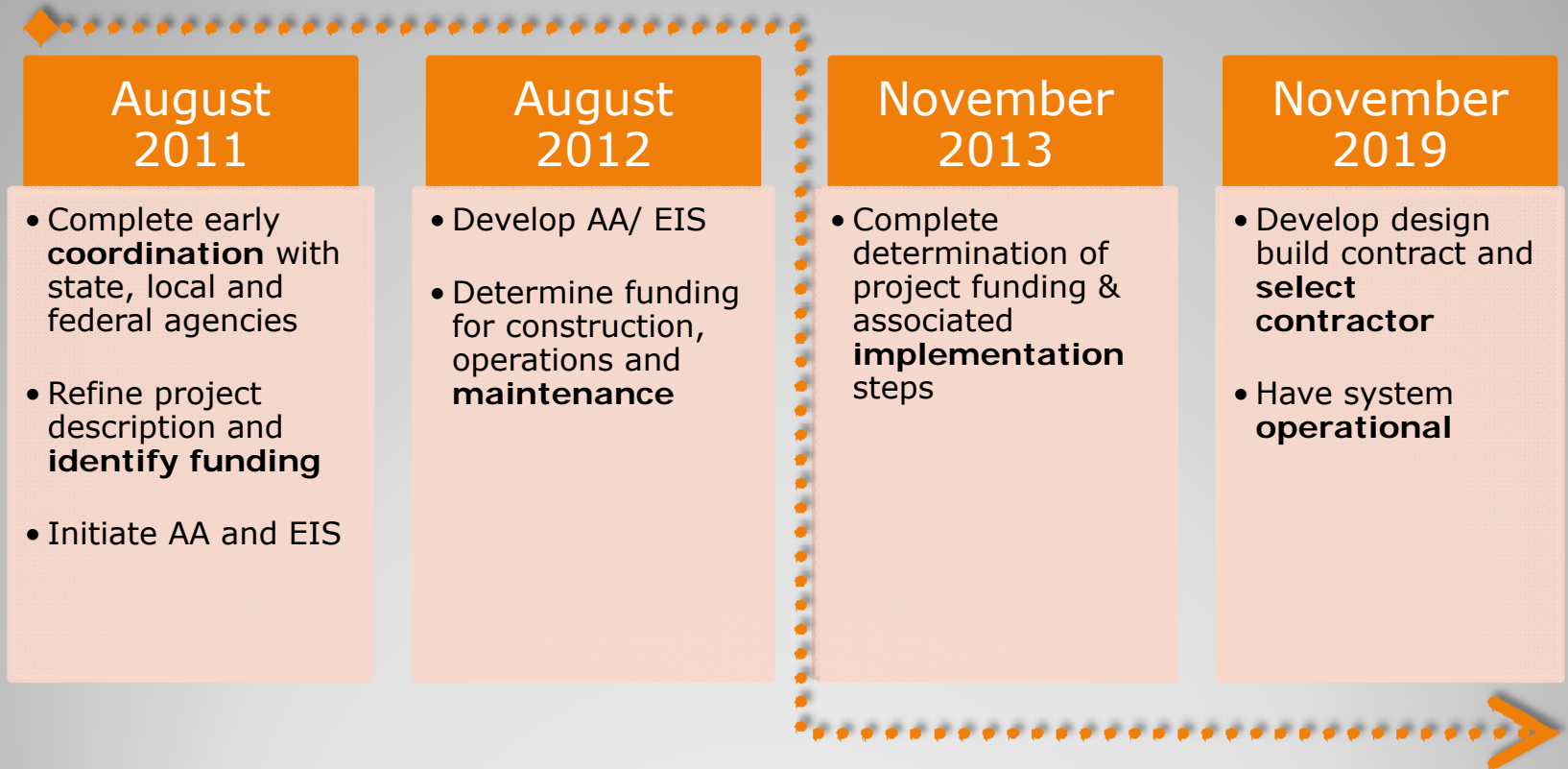
	Length (miles)	Number of Stations	2025 Projected Daily Boardings
Trunkline	14.61	7	45,400
Cumberland Circulator	14.1	33	37,600
Town Center Circulator	12.4	21	9,600
Total	41.1	61	92,600



Ridership Projections

- ❖ Annual operating costs \$18-\$37 M

- ❖ Potential funding sources
 - ❖ Federal sources
 - ❖ Fare revenue
 - ❖ Variety of potential other sources
 - ❖ CID participation
 - ❖ Parking fees
 - ❖ Cities/County participation





- ✓ Provides an alternative to automobile travel
- ✓ Positive impact on the regions air quality
- ✓ Reduce congestion and automobile emissions
 - along I-75
 - along US41/Cobb Parkway
 - within Cumberland & Town Center areas
- ✓ Allow land to be developed and redeveloped in accordance with smart growth principles resulting in a positive impact on land use

Benefits of Cobb Light Rail

**A Vision for
a Better Future**

Light Rail Transit Systems Review

- ❖ Charlotte, NC
- ❖ Newark, NJ Region
- ❖ Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN
- ❖ Denver, CO
- ❖ Phoenix, AZ
- ❖ Los Angeles, CA
- ❖ Vancouver, BC
- ❖ Many others



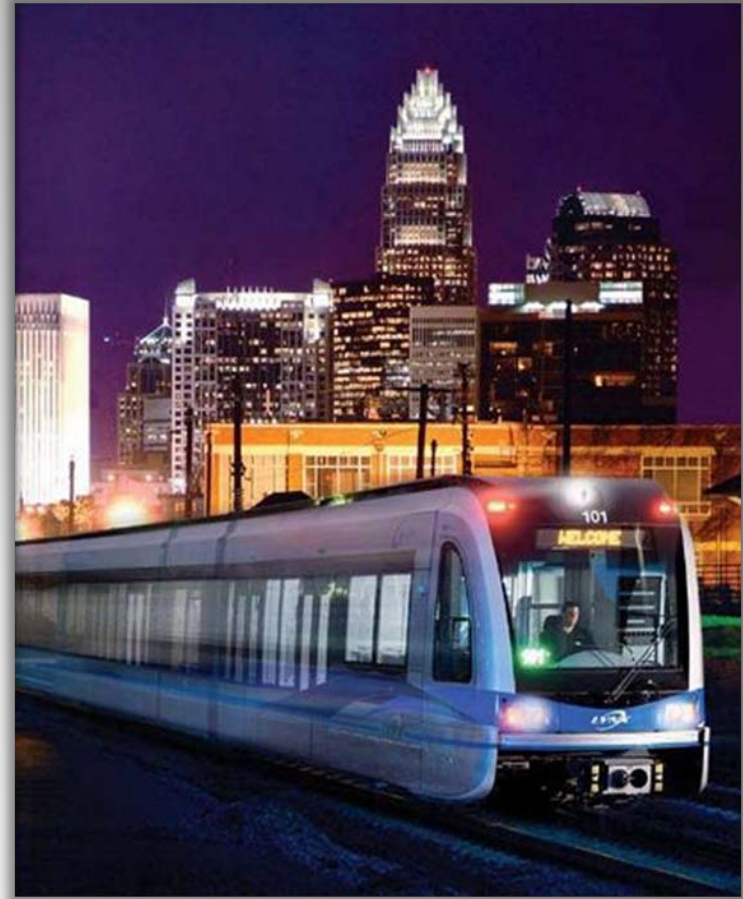


Metropolitan Phoenix

- ❖ Light rail construction began in 2004
- ❖ Line is 20 miles long, 9 stations
- ❖ \$7.4 B in public/private development within walking distance of LRT
- ❖ 35,000 daily riders



Selected Examples – Phoenix, AZ



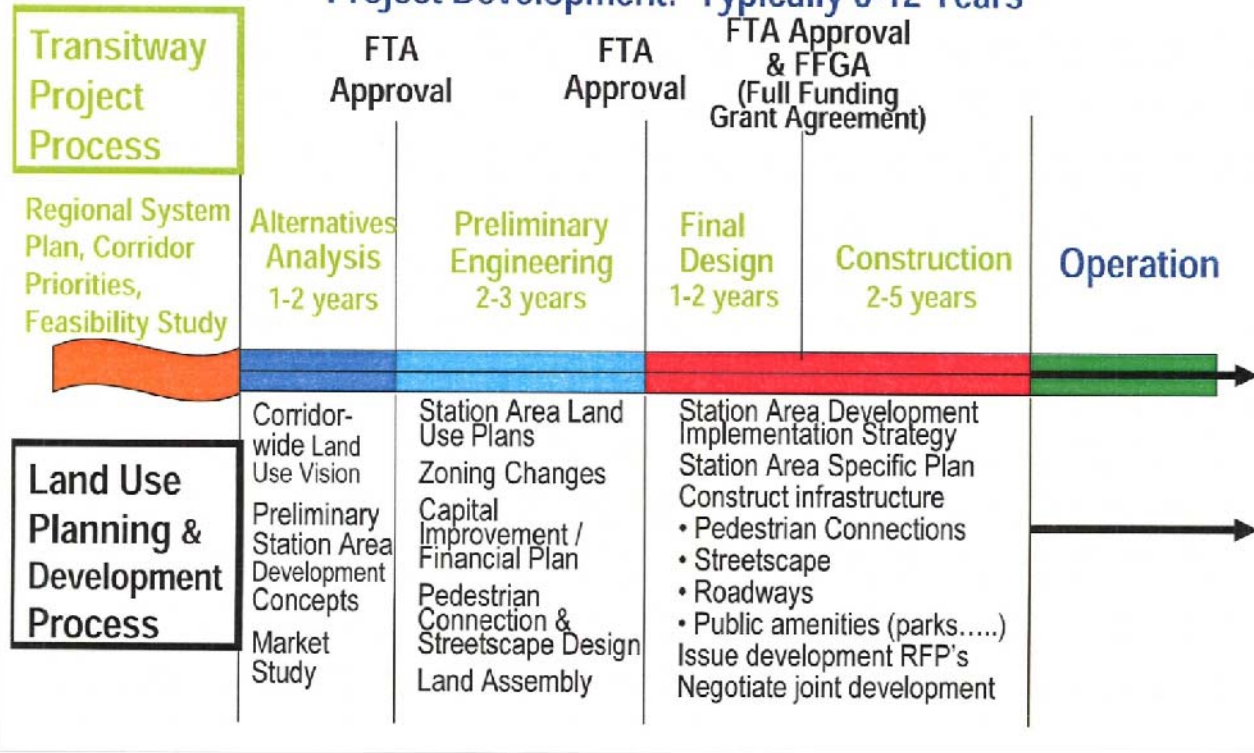
Selected Examples – Charlotte, NC



Selected Examples – Minneapolis

Land Use Planning Process During Transitway Project Development

Project Development: Typically 6-12 Years



Typical Project Development Process

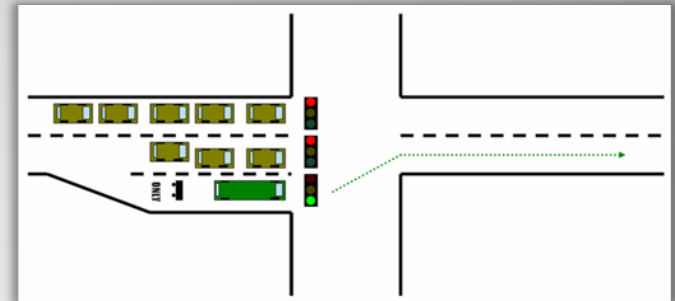
- ❖ Public Engagement Activities
 - ❖ Commissioner Town Hall Meetings
 - ❖ Charrettes & speaking engagements

- ❖ Planning Studies/requirements
 - ❖ Regional Plan 2040 activities
 - ❖ Initiate environmental studies



Next Steps

- ❖ Prepare corridor for Light Rail
 - Develop detailed corridor plan
 - Implement Express Bus Service
 - Build ridership
 - Further define service needs
 - Signal Preemption
 - Queue jump lanes
 - Other



- ❖ Coordinate with Regional Partners
- ❖ Regional LRP 2040 Development



**A Vision for
a Better Future**

Questions?