University Corridor

Project Development
FTA Project Development Process

1 – DEIS: Draft Environmental Impact Statement
2 - LPIS: Locally Preferred Investment Strategy
3 - PE: Preliminary Engineering
4 - FEIS: Final Environmental Impact Statement
5 - ROW: Right of Way
NEPA

…”The Congress authorizes and directs that, to the fullest extent possible, all agencies of the Federal Government… shall include… a detailed statement on alternatives to the proposed action…”

(The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Sec. 102 [42 USC § 4332].)

FHWA / FTA NEPA REGULATIONS

It is the policy of the Administration that…alternative courses of action be evaluated and decisions be made in the best overall public interest base upon a balanced consideration of the need for safe and efficient transportation.

23 CFR771.105 (b)
University Corridor

NEPA (EIS*) Process

NOTICE OF INTENT
Start of Federal Process

SCOPING
• Range of Alternatives

DEIS
• Evaluate all reasonable alternatives

CIRCULATION

FEIS
• Identify Preferred Alternative
• Describe Mitigation Measures

RECORD OF DECISION

*Environmental Impact Statement
Purpose & Need
Corridor Issues

- Traffic congestion
- Slow bus speeds / high ridership
- Economic development
- Major activity centers along corridor
- Other?
Alternatives to be Considered
Technologies

• Light Rail Transit (LRT)
  ▪ Electric – powered by overhead wires
  ▪ Hybrid – self-powered vehicle, no overhead wires

• Upgraded Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) - Bus operating in a fixed guideway with the same level of service as LRT, convertible to LRT in the future

• Enhanced Bus Service

• Other?
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Potential Evaluation Criteria
Issues to be Assessed (Environmental Impact Statement)

- Business / residential access
- Traffic congestion / management
- Property acquisition
- Removal of trees / streetscape / aesthetics
- Flooding – improvements needed
- Parking for businesses / stations
- Safety
- Other?
FTA New Starts

- Ridership
- Travel time savings
- Capital costs
- O&M costs
- Financial feasibility
Local Decisions Are Based On

• Trade off’s among:
  ▪ Ridership
  ▪ Costs
  ▪ Community impacts
  ▪ Community input
Next Steps
Public outreach will take place through three primary categories: Residential groups, Business groups, Town Hall meetings. Ongoing interaction with stakeholders will occur.

a. Formal public comment period on DEIS and public hearing
b. Public availability, FEIS

March 20, 2006