

Transit Project Prioritization Process

Georgia MPO Conference Briefing
December 2008



Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority



Agenda

- Study Background
- Approach
- Early Observations and Findings
- Next Steps
- Questions/Discussion



Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority



Study Background

The Atlanta Metropolitan Region is seeking to establish a project prioritization process for future Transportation Improvement Plans and Regional Transportation Plans

- GDOT taking lead in developing project prioritization process for roadway projects
- MARTA taking lead in developing prioritization process for transit projects appropriate at the regional and statewide basis
 - MARTA General Planning Consultant: DMJM Harris/Jordan, Jones & Goulding providing technical assistance



Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority



Approach

Transit Prioritization Study will be conducted in two phases:

Phase 1 – Review of Current Transit Project Prioritization

- Review and documentation of existing processes for prioritizing transit and/or transportation projects
- Transit Prioritization Roundtable Panel Discussion
- Regional/Statewide coordination and input
- Phase 1 – Technical Memorandum #1

Phase 2 - Application of Prioritization Process

- Develop quantifiable process to prioritize projects
- Sensitivity analysis of projects under consideration
- Coordination with GDOT on automation of process
- Phase 2 – Technical Memorandum #2



Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority



Early Observations and Findings

- *Transportation prioritization must work towards facilitating a transportation network that promotes the overall vision and goals of a specific region*
- *The transportation network must be improved as a system, not a collection of modes*
- *Congestion mitigation is not a good standalone measure*
- *Maintaining a state of good repair is critical to system expansion*
- *Project prioritization is a product of partnership*



Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority



Next Steps

Develop a transit project prioritization process that incorporates studying findings - This will involve:

- Develop a quantifiable prioritization tool based on research in Phase I including appropriate weights and measures acceptable to regional partners involved – ARC, GDOT, GRTA, and MARTA
 - Work with the travel demand modelers to identify which processes are measurable through the current travel demand model platform
 - Apply prioritization tool on list of transit projects in the Atlanta region
 - After testing and approval by the regional partners, coordinate with GDOT project prioritization team to automate the process
 - Continuous coordination with regional and statewide partners



Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority



Project Schedule

Tasks	8-Oct	22-Oct	5-Nov	19-Nov	3-Dec	17-Dec	31-Dec
Phase 1 – Review of Current Transit Project Prioritization							
Review of Existing Processes for Prioritizing Projects							
Transit Prioritization Roundtable Panel Discussion							
Regional/Statewide Coordination and Input							
Phase 1 – Technical Memorandum #1							
Phase 2 - Application of Prioritization Process							
Develop Quantifiable Process to Prioritize Projects							
Sensitivity Analysis of Projects Under Consideration							
Coordination with GDOT on Process Automation							
Phase 2 – Technical Memorandum #2							



Questions . . . ?



Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority



Questions . . . ?

What is the most important goal of the state's transit systems?

- A. Provide Social Equity (Serving the Transit Dependent)
- B. Balance Transportation and Land Use
- C. Promote Environmental Sustainability
- D. Promote Economic Development and Sustainability

What are the most pressing needs of the state's transit systems?

- A. Maintaining a State of Good Repair (Operations and Maintenance)
- B. Premium Transit Services to Promote Economic Development
- C. Expanding Commuter Related Services (Express Bus, BRT, Commuter Rail)
- D. Improving Existing Fixed Route Bus Service
- E. Providing Intercity Public Transit Service



Questions . . . ?

How can the state focus on supporting individual operators and still build infrastructure of statewide significance?

- A. Taking the lead in developing a Statewide Transit Plan
- B. Consider future transit infrastructure needs during roadway improvement projects
- C. Dedicate additional funding toward transit improvements
- D. Expand state programs to assist in matching federal funding opportunities (e.g., New Starts)



Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority



Questions . . . ?

If the state increased technical support and training programs, which area would be of most importance when considering the needs of the diverse pool of large urban operators, small urban operators, and rural operators within the State of Georgia?

- A. Planning for ADA Paratransit Services
- B. Fleet Maintenance Planning Assistance
- C. Route and Scheduling Planning Assistance
- D. Assistance in Marketing the Benefits of Transit



Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority



Questions . . . ?

What is the most important consideration when making decisions about how the state decides to spend its resources on transit?

- A. Facilitating Intercity Mobility
- B. Ensuring a Fair Mechanism for Funding Distribution
- C. Considering the Role of Transit in local and regional priorities



Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority

