

Midtown Corridor Alternatives Analysis

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
November 15, 2012

Today's Agenda

- Introductions
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Alternatives Analysis Process Overview
- Outreach Overview
- Introduction to the Midtown Corridor
- Relevant Key Issues
- Visioning Exercise

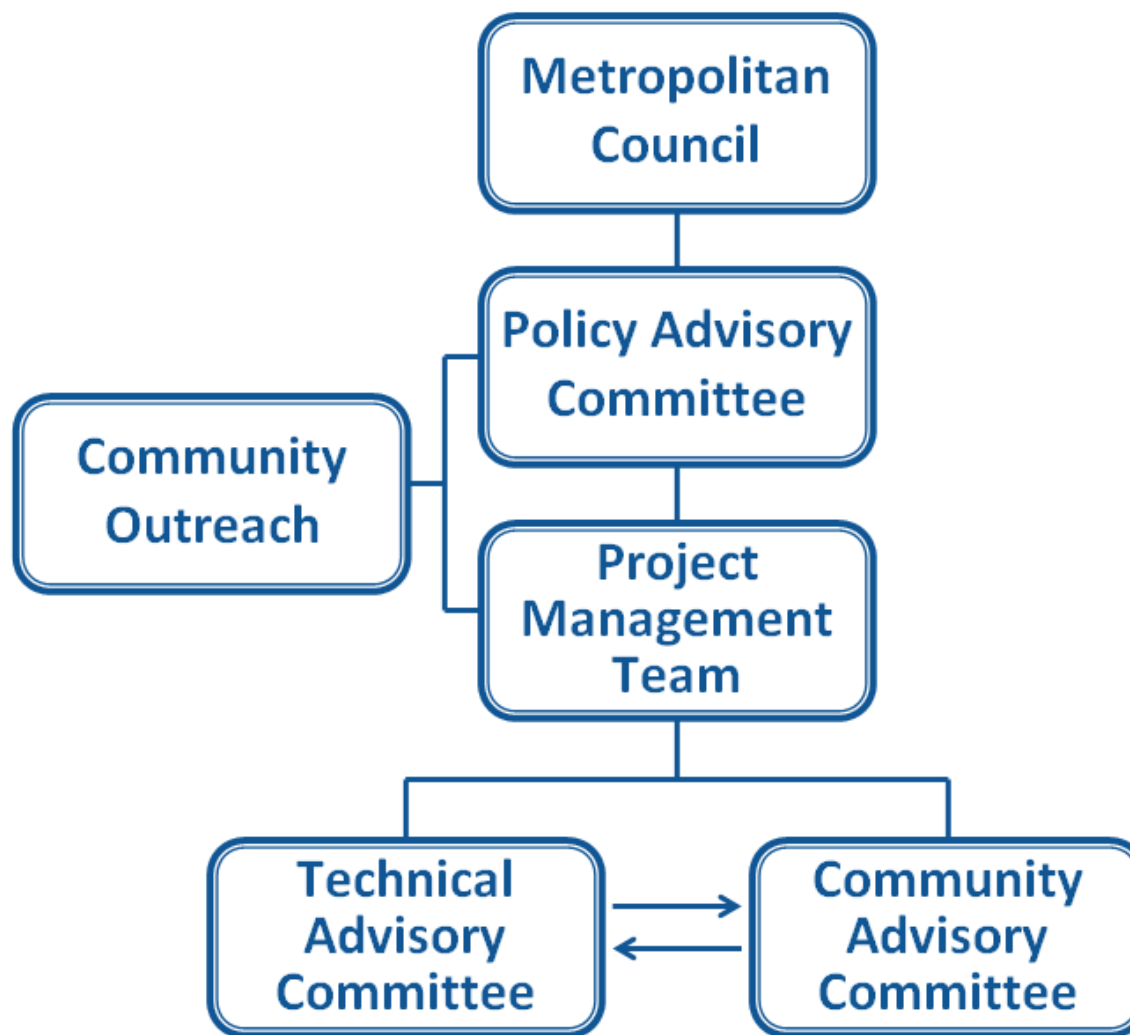
TAC Roles

- Staff representatives from partner agencies including Metropolitan Council, Metro Transit, Hennepin County, the City of Minneapolis, and MnDOT.
- Will provide technical input to the project and assist in the resolution of technical issues in their field.
- They could provide guidance to the PAC on the technical feasibility of alternatives.

TAC Responsibilities

- Attend all TAC meetings
- Review meeting materials prior to TAC meetings
- Review and provide input to all other project deliverables in a timely manner
- Attend at least one open house during each phase of the study
- Serve as a conduit for your agency, both by providing study information to them and relaying their feedback back to the PMT
- Keep the PMT informed on any agency projects that could affect the AA.
- Encourage co-workers to attend public meetings and provide input
- Provide input that is technically sound, objective and meets the project purpose and need

Decision Making Process



Overview of Alternatives Analysis Process



What is an AA?

- The purpose of an AA is to identify and analyze the **benefits, costs, and impacts** associated with various transit alternatives.
- Modes evaluated in an AA include:
 - Light rail transit (LRT)
 - Dedicated busway or bus rapid transit (BRT)
 - Enhanced bus
 - Streetcar



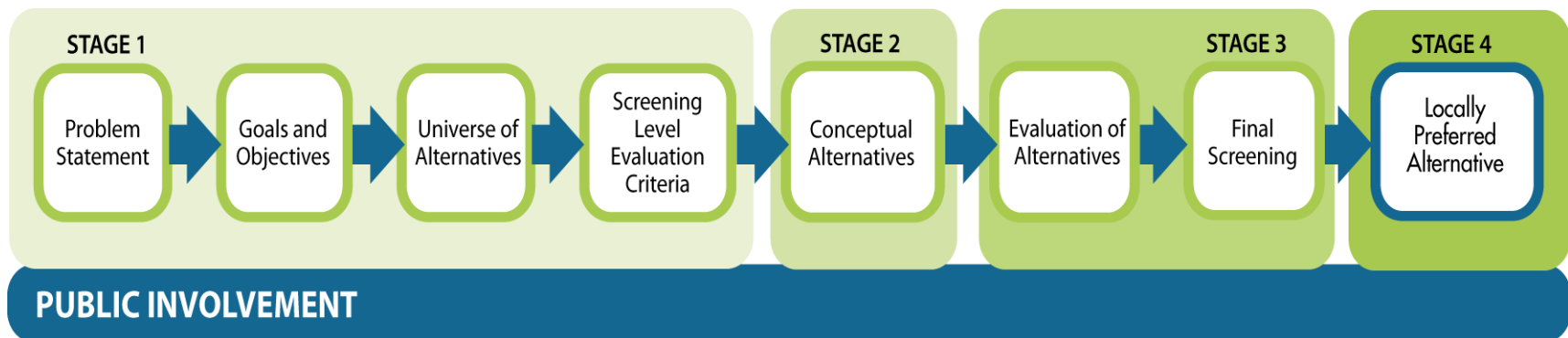
What is the outcome of an AA?

- The AA will result in the selection of a **locally preferred alternative (LPA) that best meets the identified purpose and need** for the project.
- Although an AA is no longer a requirement of the FTA's Project Development Process as defined in MAP-21, before a project can move into Project Development, a thorough evaluation of alternatives should be completed.

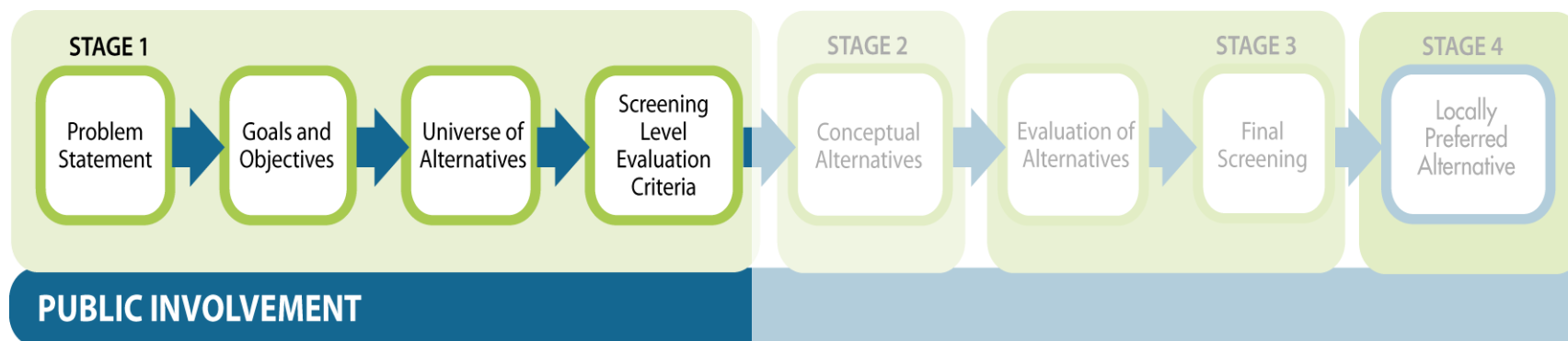
AA Work Plan

Four Stages in AA Process:

1. Project Initiation
2. Development and Screening of Alternatives
3. Evaluation of Alternatives
4. Final Assessment

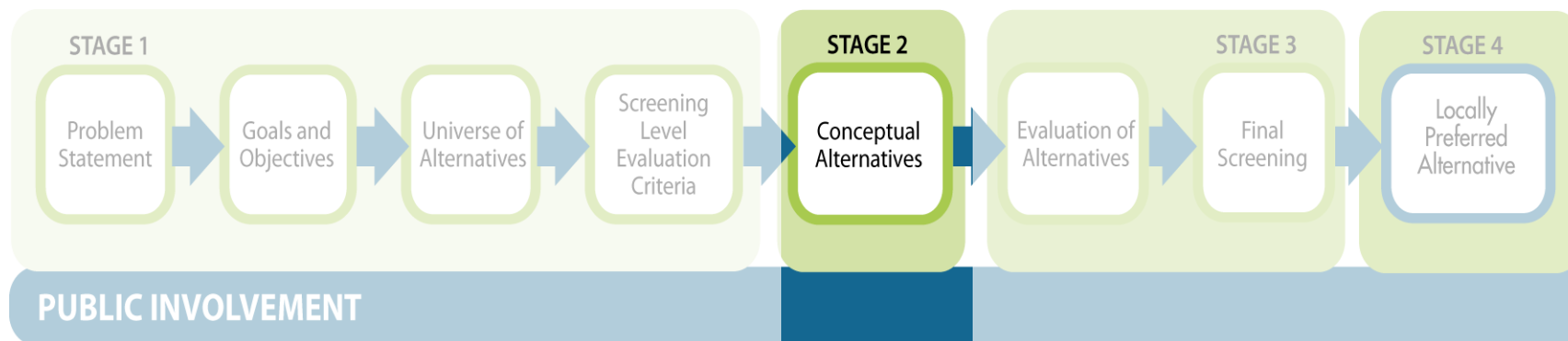


Stage 1: Project Initiation



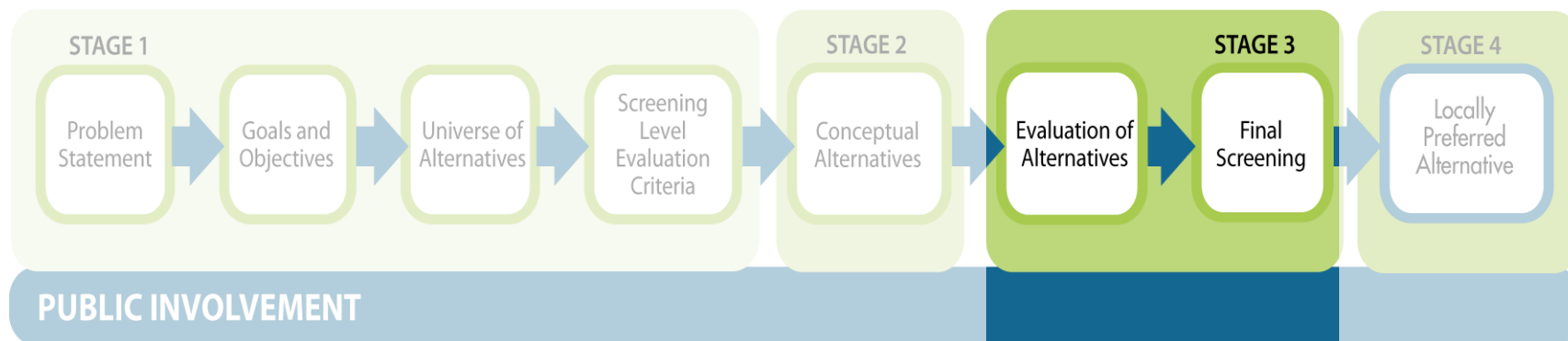
- Review and assess previously completed work
- Inventory physical features, utilities, land use, and travel patterns
- Identify universe of alternatives
- Identify deficiencies in study area
- Establish goals and objectives
- Define purpose and need

Stage 2: Development and Screen of Alternatives



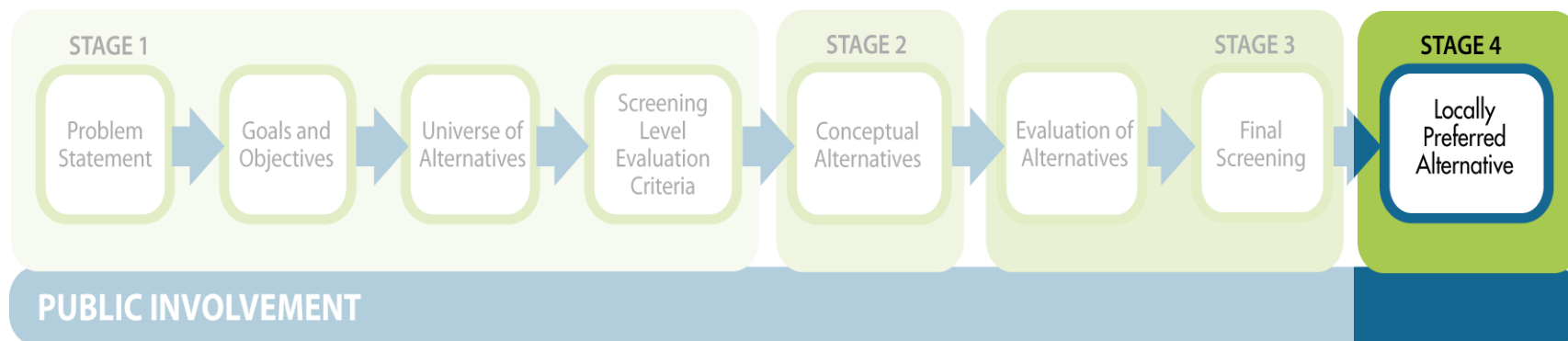
- Define a set of reasonable alternatives for more detailed analysis
- For each alternative define:
 - Mode
 - Alignment
 - Station locations
 - Span of service
 - Frequency

Stage 3: Evaluation of Alternatives



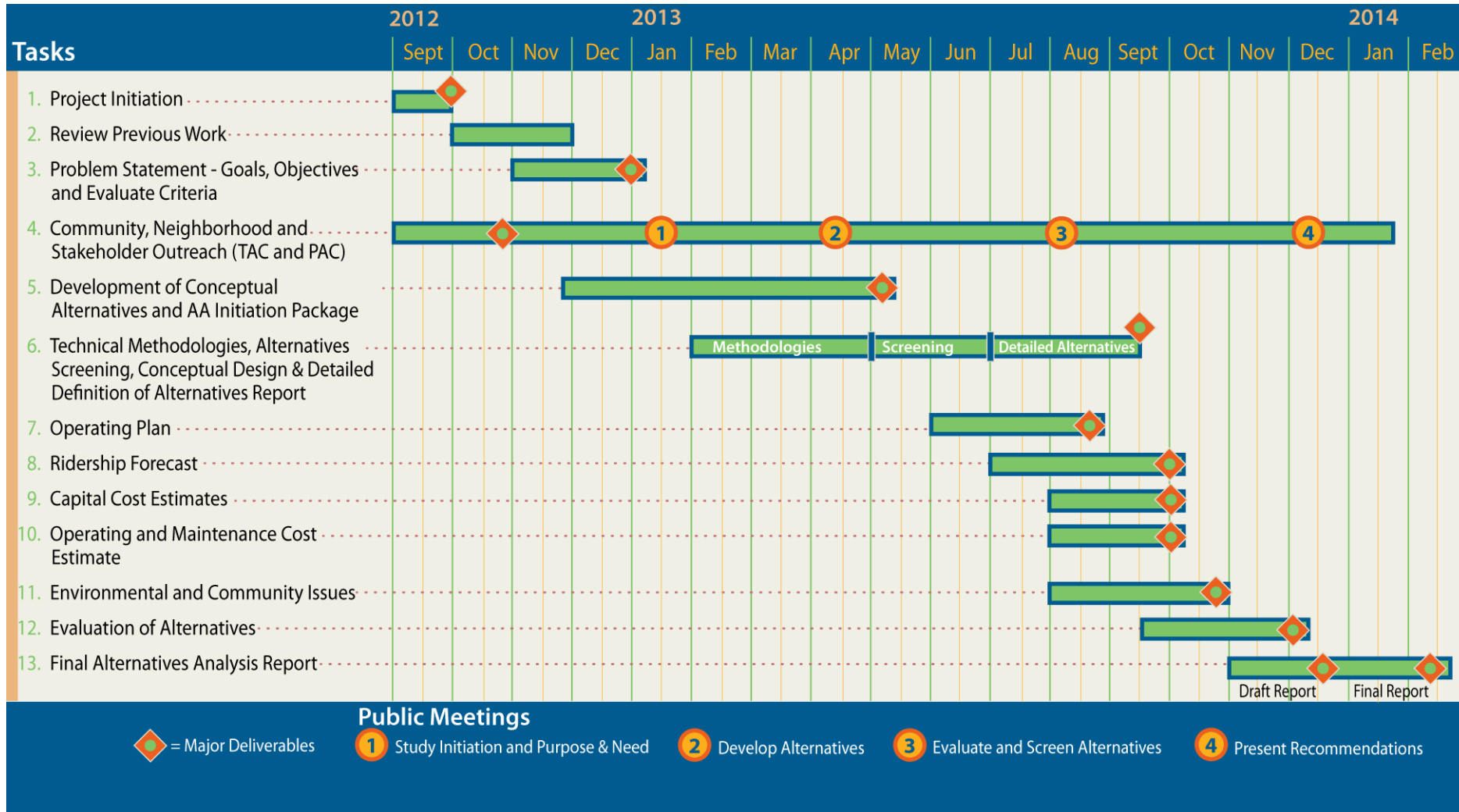
- Refinement and detailed evaluation of the most promising alternatives
- Details include:
 - Ridership forecasts
 - Capital and operations & maintenance costs
 - Environmental resource impacts

Stage 4: Final Assessment



- Final assessment of alternatives
- Complete evaluation to identify the alternatives that best meet goals and objectives and purpose and need for the project
- Prepare AA document
- PAC recommendation of LPA

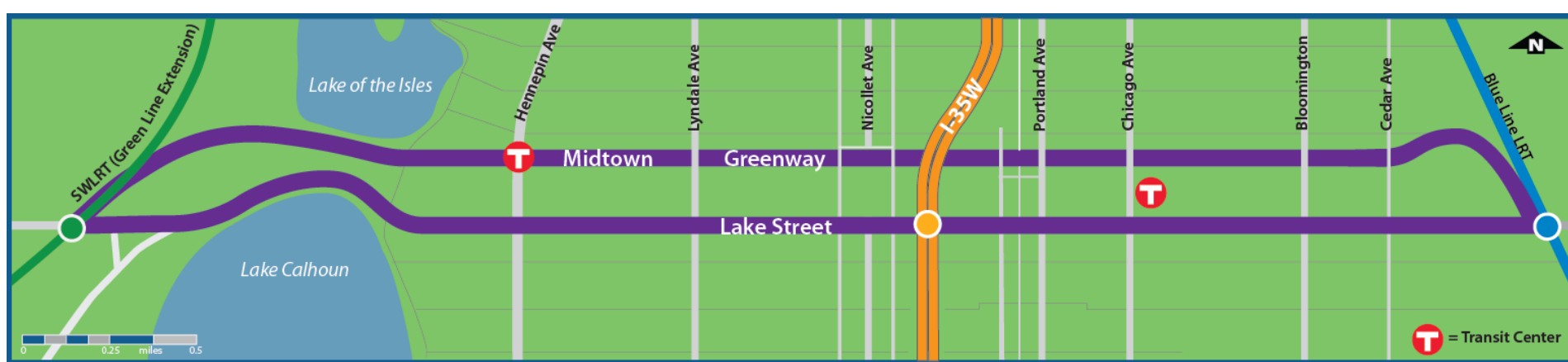
Project Schedule



Introduction to the Midtown Corridor

Study Area

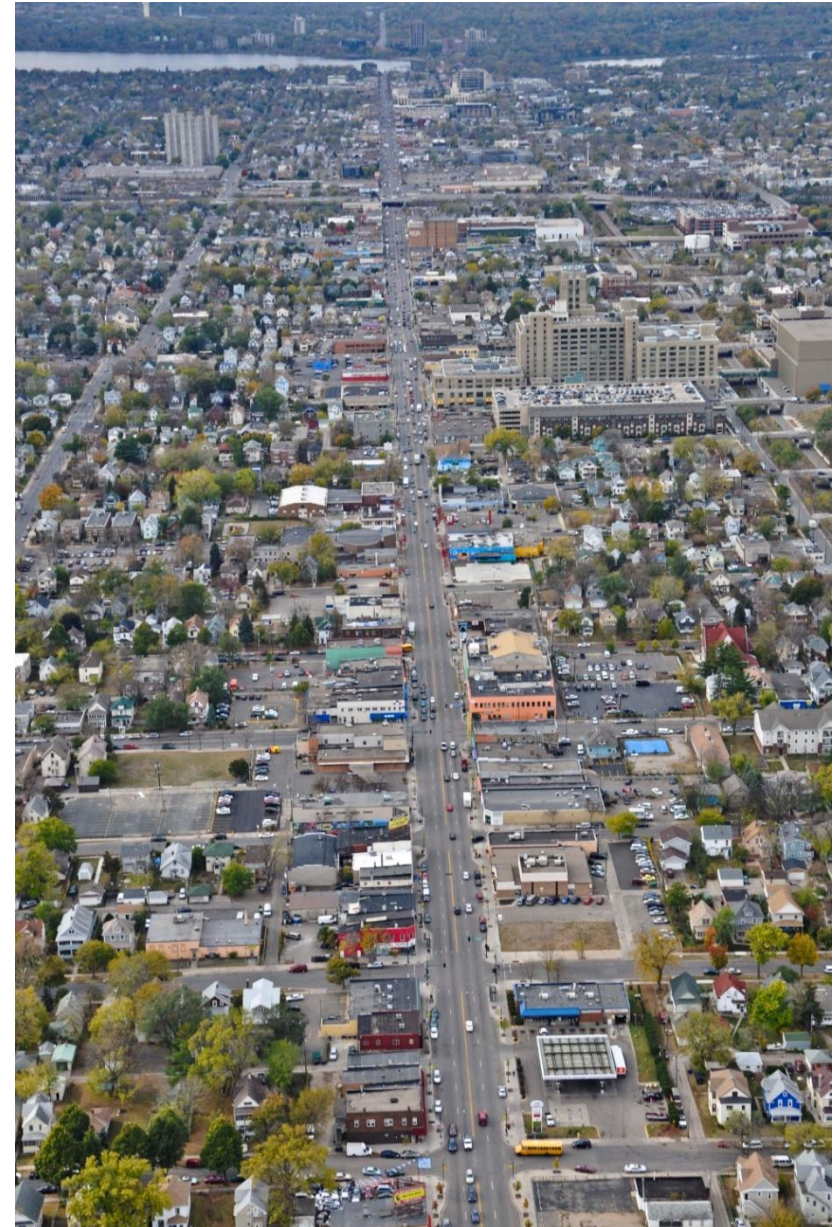
- The Midtown Corridor runs about 4.4 miles between the Blue Line (Hiawatha) Lake Street/Midtown Station and the Green Line (SW) West Lake Station.
- Two alignments are under study:
 - Midtown Greenway
 - Lake Street





Study Area

- Dense urban corridor
- Several locations along the corridor are major retail centers, activity centers, and sites targeted for growth and transit-oriented development.



Alignments

Lake Street



Midtown Greenway



Existing Conditions

Lake Street

- Busy arterial road with 2 travel lanes per direction and on-street parking
- Bus routes on Lake Street:

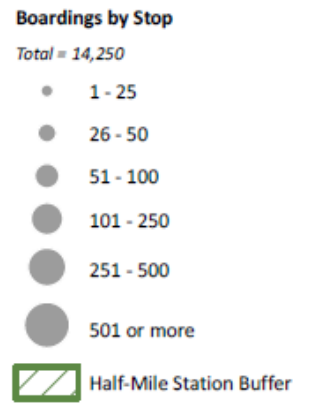
Route	Ridership
21 Weekday	13,850
53 Weekday	750
21 Saturday	11,250
21 Sunday	7,650

Midtown Greenway

- Former railroad corridor
- Currently being used as a bicycling and walking trail
- Up to 3,000 daily bicyclists
- Grade separated from street grid

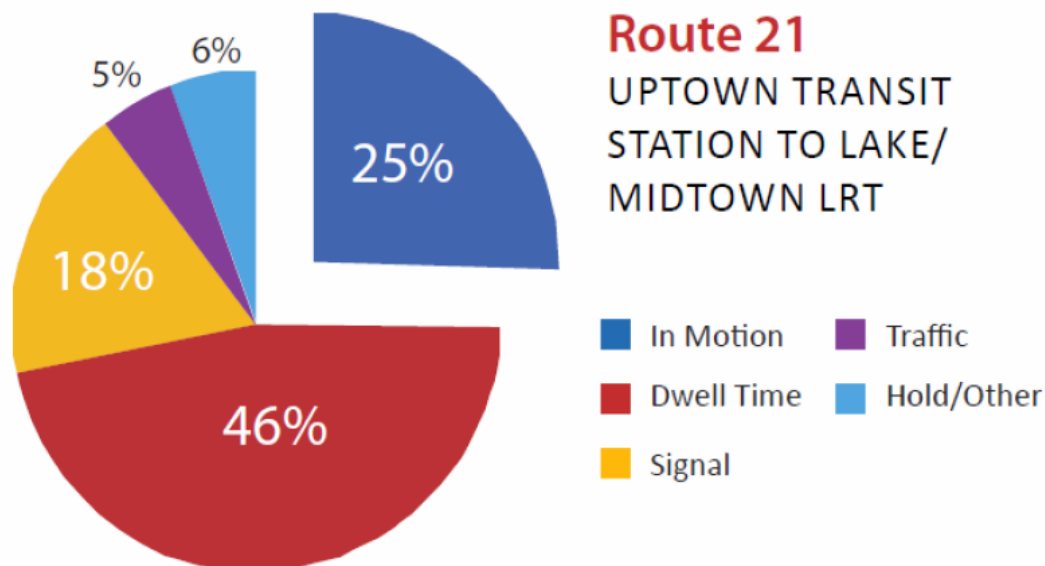
Attachment B

July 2011



Existing Transit Travel Times

- On the Route 21, buses are moving only **25%** of the time
- It takes 39 minutes to travel from the Uptown Transit Center to Lake Street/Midtown LRT Station



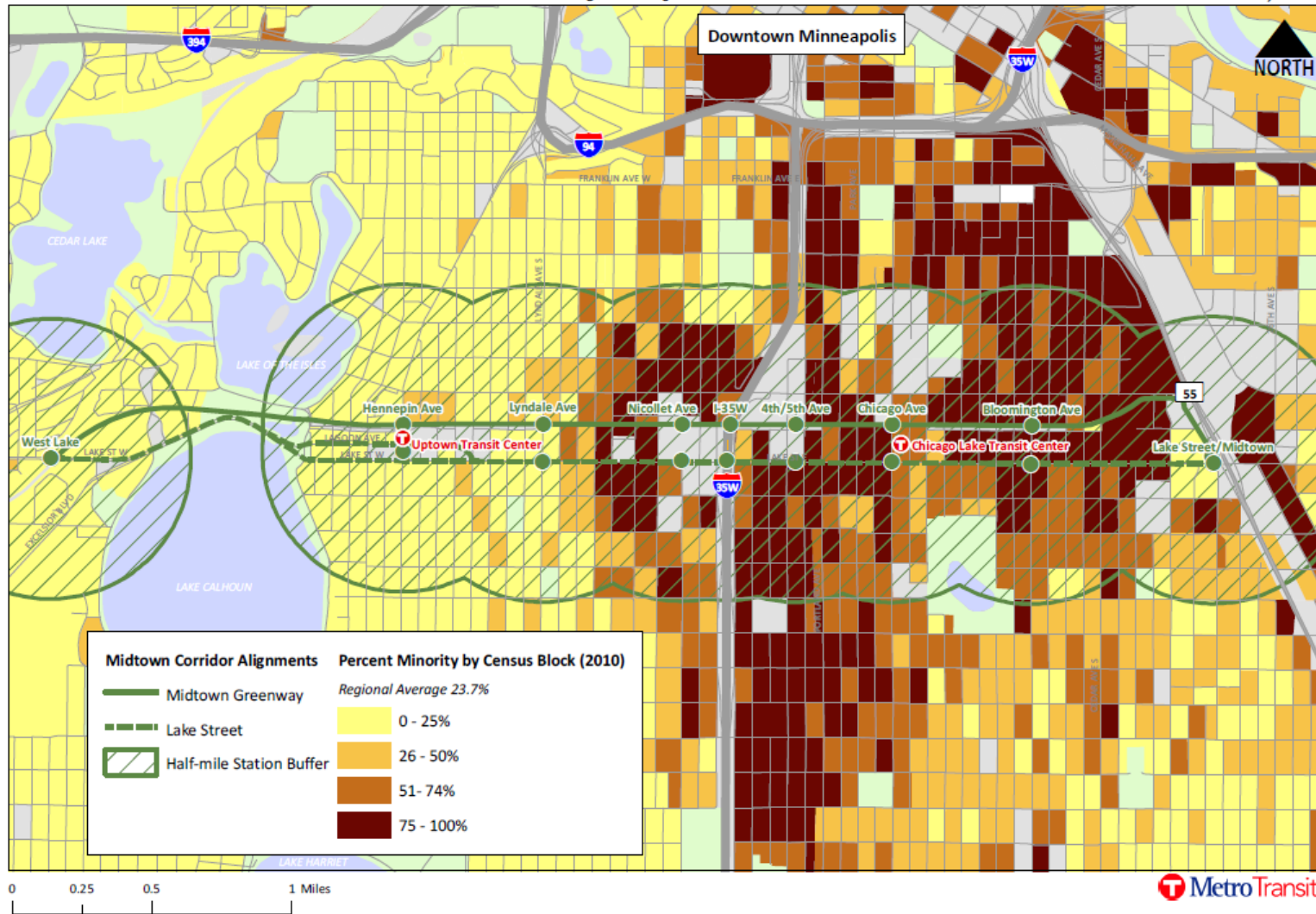


Existing Demographics

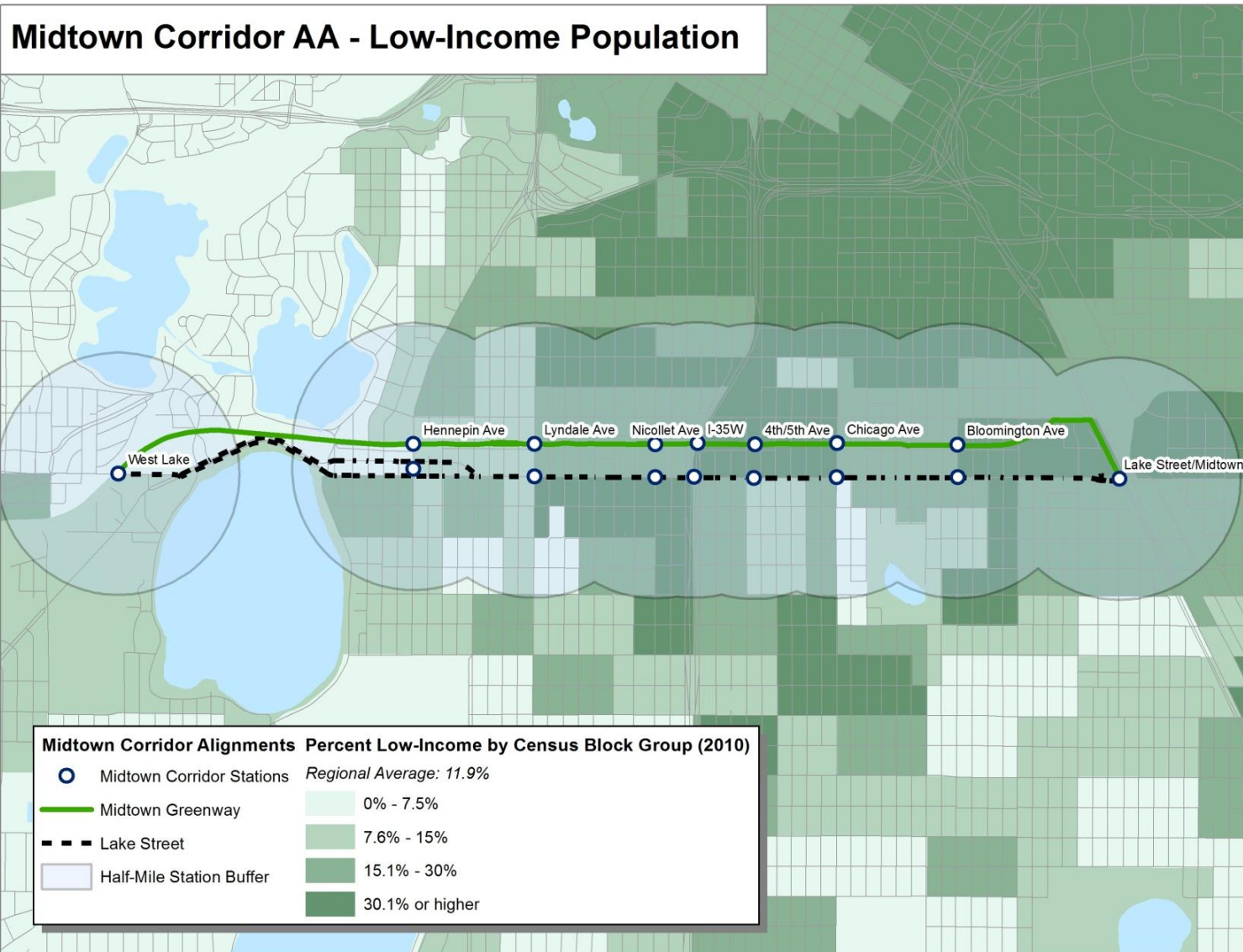
Attachment D

Midtown Corridor AA - Minority Population

July 2011



Existing Demographics



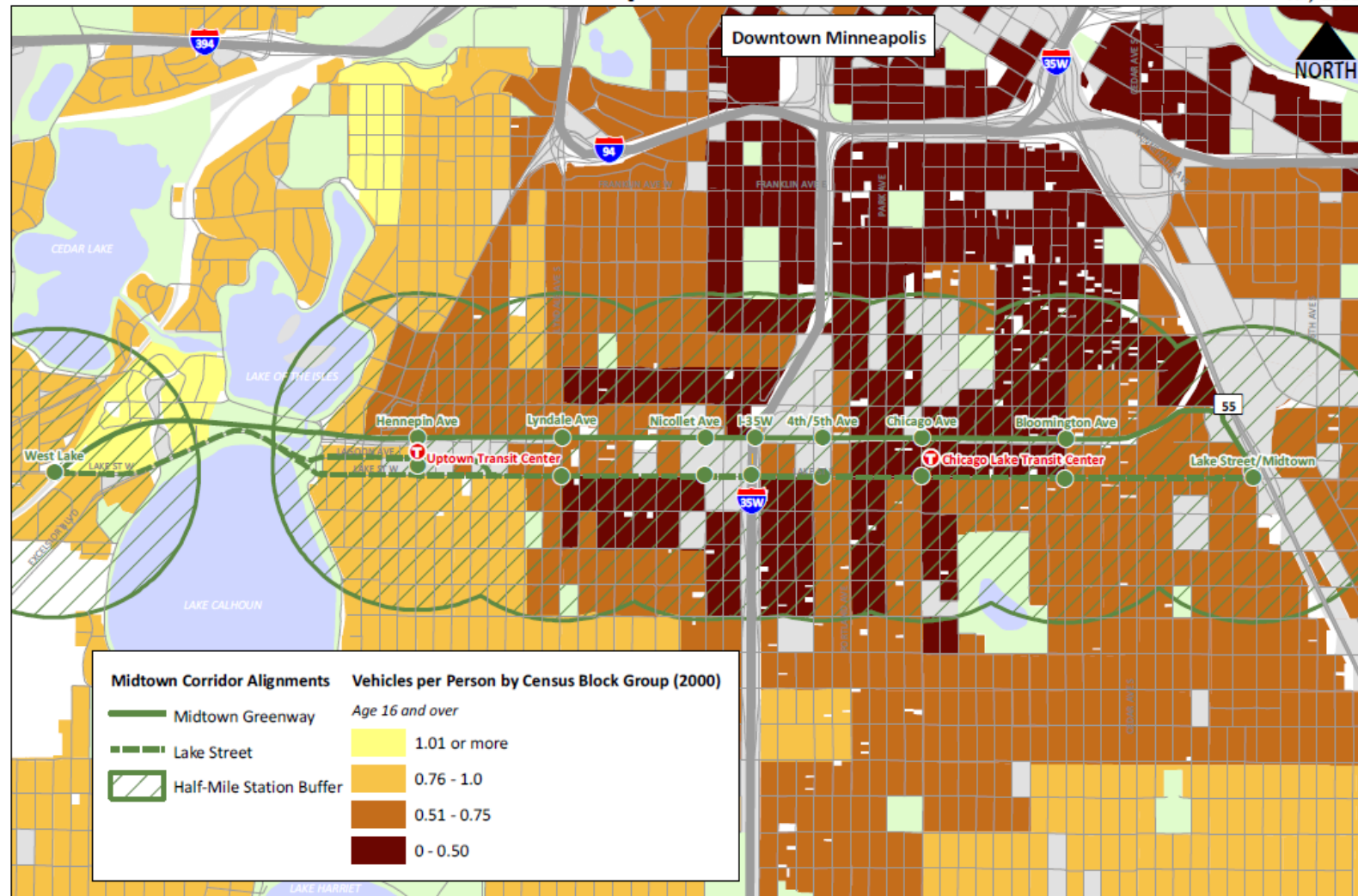


Existing Demographics

Attachment F

July 2011

Midtown Corridor AA - Vehicles per Person



What is the Desired Outcome of a Midtown Corridor Transitway?

- Increase ridership through high quality, frequent and reliable transit service
- Enhance connections with the region's system of transitways and regular route bus service
- Improve mobility by offering more attractive choices on the corridor
- Catalyze transit-oriented development along a key commercial corridor.



Outreach Overview

Outreach Goals

- Manage expectations
- Build understanding
- Involve under-represented populations
- Increase understanding of Midtown Corridor's role in regional transit system
- Build relationships and trust
- Build support for the project and consensus on a locally preferred alternative (LPA)

Outreach Process

- Provide timely, clear and comprehensive information
- Early and continuous participation of stakeholders
- Actively recruit stakeholders
- Ensure all interested stakeholders have opportunity to participate
- Reasonable availability of technical and other project information
- Open access to the decision-making process
- Proactive efforts to engage the public in the process, particularly under-represented groups



Stakeholders

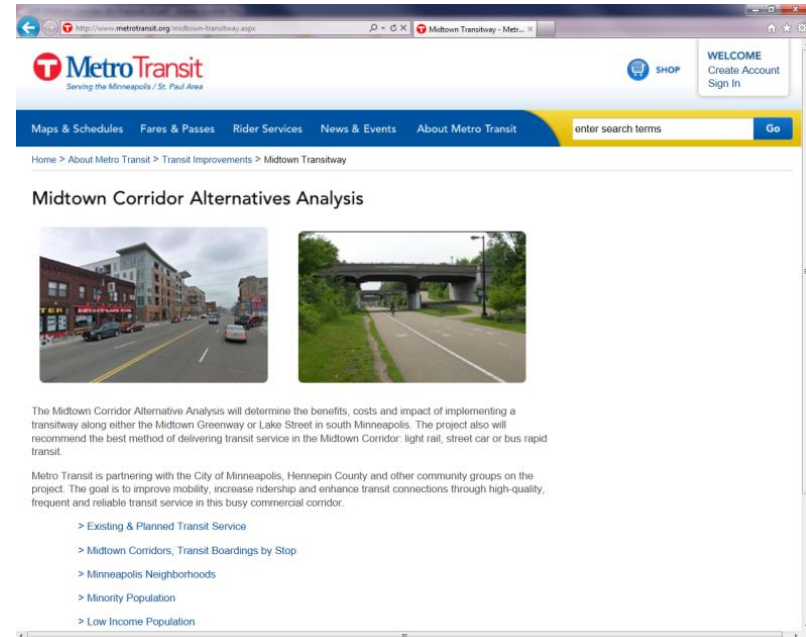
- Residents and neighborhoods
- General public
- Non-profit organizations and institutions
- Businesses and business associations
- Federal, state, regional and local agencies





Communication Strategies

- Project website
- Social media
- Email updates
- Project updates and factsheets
- Posters, display boards and maps



Public Open Houses

- Four rounds of open houses:
 - Purpose and Need - January 2013
 - Develop Alternatives - April 2013
 - Evaluate and Screen Alternatives - August 2013
 - Present Recommendations - December 2013



Outreach to Under-Represented Populations

- Meeting notices and project information translated to non-English languages
- News releases to non-English language media outlets (print, radio, television)
- Interpreters or bi-lingual staff at public meetings
- Attend meetings of established organizations
- Attend local events and festivals
- Work with community leaders, designated “ambassadors”, and/or ethnic organizations to help improve access to, and communication with, specific ethnic communities
- Accessible meeting locations

Key Issues for Evaluation in AA

Key Issues

1. Purpose and need
2. Modes
3. Alignments
4. Historic and cultural resources
5. Land use & development



Key Issue 1: Purpose and Need

The most important document for the project!

The purpose and need should:

- Identify markets
 - Commuters?
 - Intra-corridor travel
 - Link to regional system
- Identify deficiencies or problems in corridor
 - Existing transit service issues
 - Projected demand
- Identify needs
 - Serve existing and future markets
 - Encourage development/redevelopment

Key Issue 2: Modes

LRT	Streetcar	BRT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connection to Hiawatha and SW LRT• Operational considerations for interlining corridors• Operations & maintenance facility locations• Space considerations for double track alignment• Overhead catenary system clearances	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connection to Hiawatha and SW LRT• Operational considerations for interlining corridors• Operations & maintenance facility locations• Space considerations for double track alignment• Overhead catenary system clearances• Vehicle type	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exclusive or mixed-lane guideway• Alignment consideration• Street impacts• Operations & maintenance facility location

Key Issue 3: Alignments

Lake Street

- Parking considerations
- Traffic issues
- Signalized intersections
- Right of way constraints

Midtown Greenway

- Access considerations (vertical circulation)
- Right of way constraints
- Vertical clearance constraints due to bridges
- Historic corridor

Key Issue 4: Historic and Cultural Resources

- What types of modifications can be made to resources within the historic corridor?
- Will require extra coordination with SHPO to help identify potential issues that could delay the project implementation



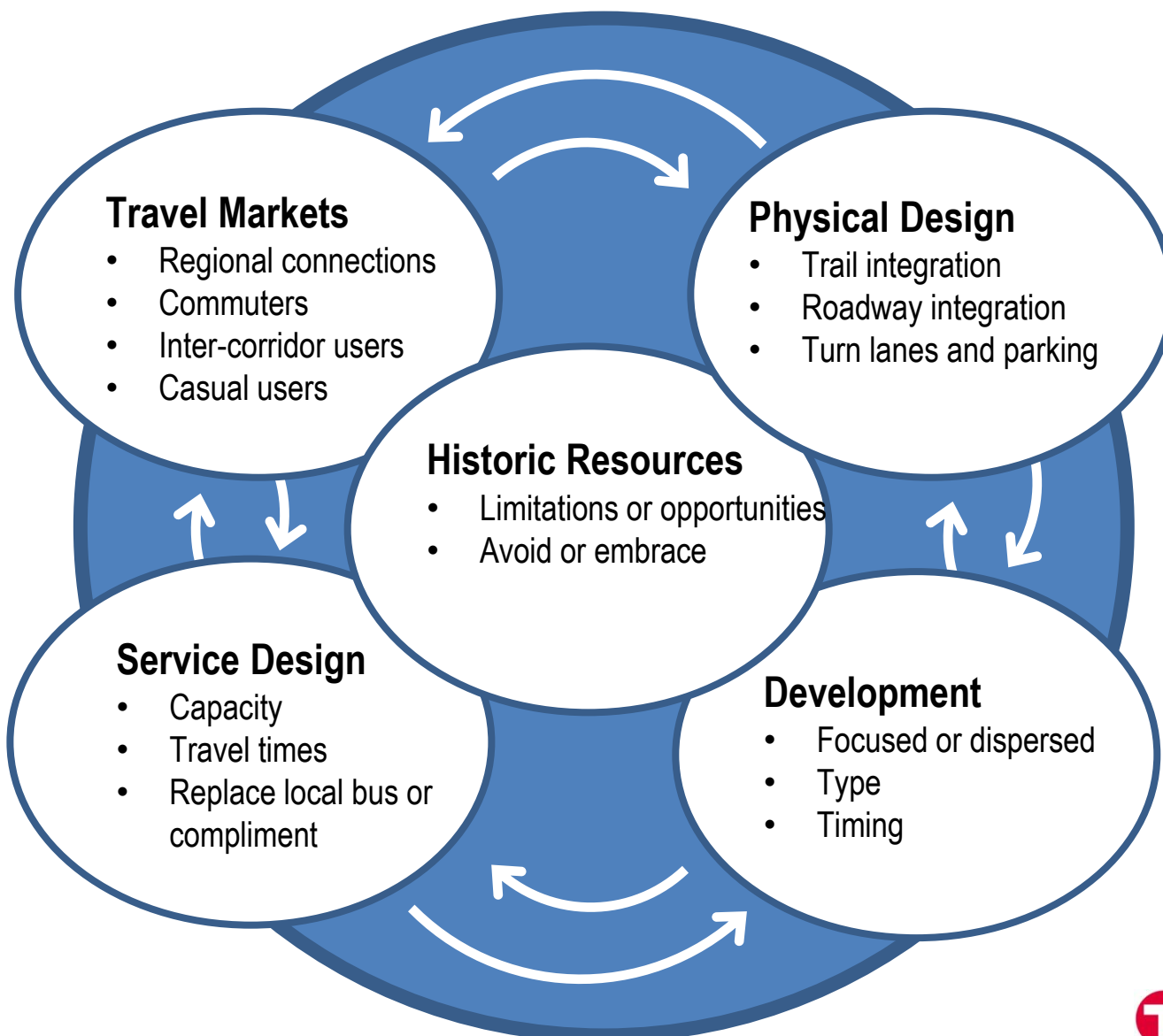
Key Issue 5: Land Use and Development

- Adopted land use plans will be used for this AA
- Are adopted land use plans transit supportive?



Visioning Exercise

Influencing Factors and Potential Tradeoffs



Questions?
