# High Capacity Transit Task Force



Regional Collaboration • Transportation Planning • Multimodal Mobility

#### Today's Agenda

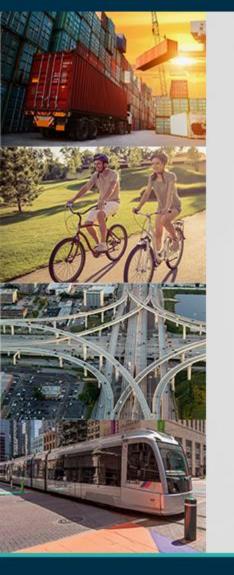


## Introductions

- Public Comment
- Review of Previous Work
- Additional Cost/Benefit Analysis
- Potential Priority Components
  Next Steps



#### **Public Comment**



# Please limit your remarks to three minutes. Thank you!

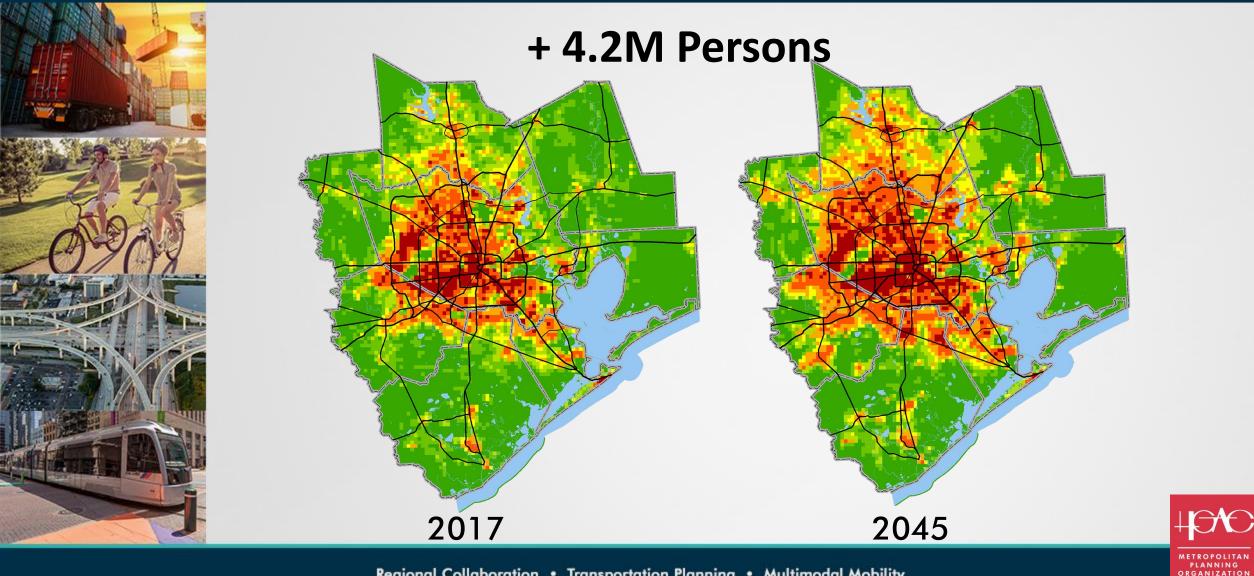


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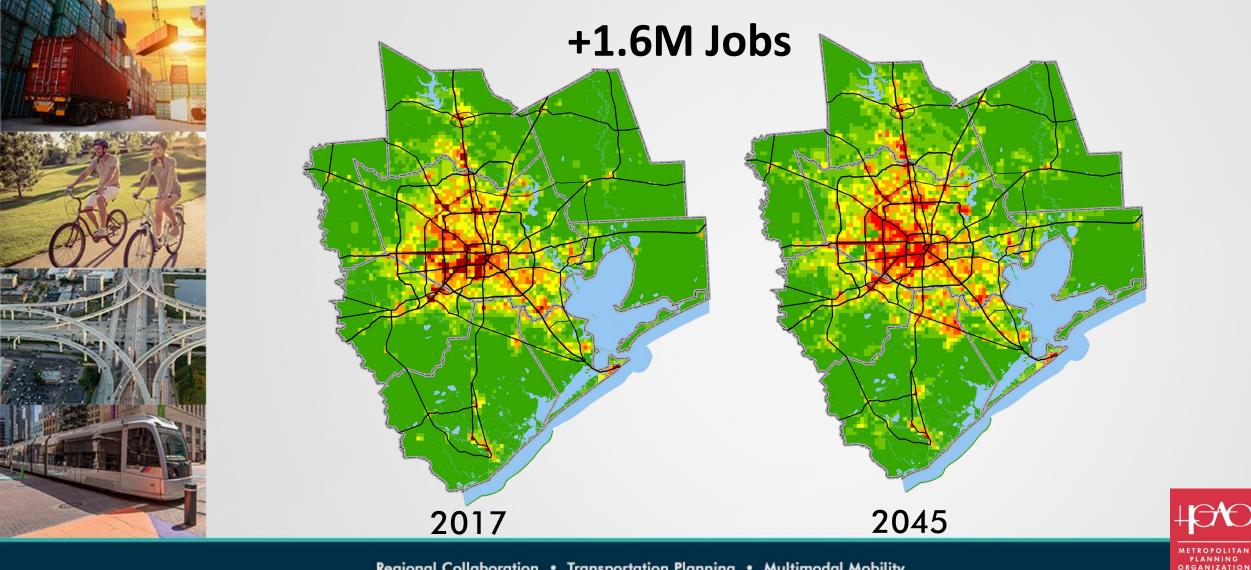
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#### **Population Growth**



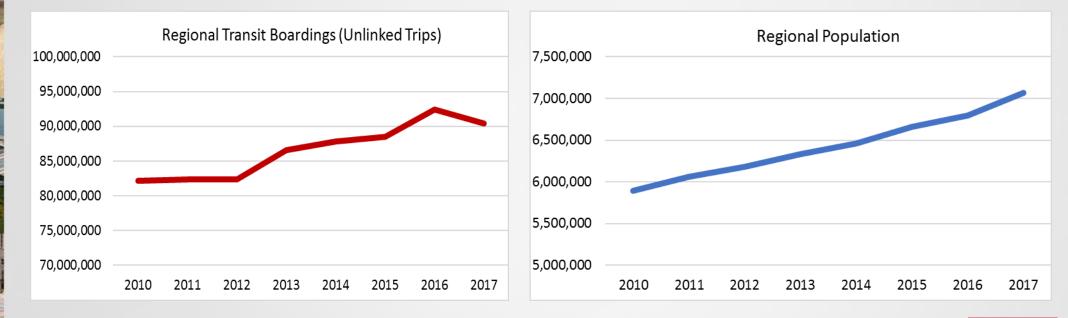
#### **Employment Growth**



#### Why High Capacity Transit?

Regional public transit ridership growth not keeping up with population growth

- Growth is occurring in areas not well-served by transit
- Network still tends to serve "traditional" commute patterns



Source: National Transit Database, US Census Estimates

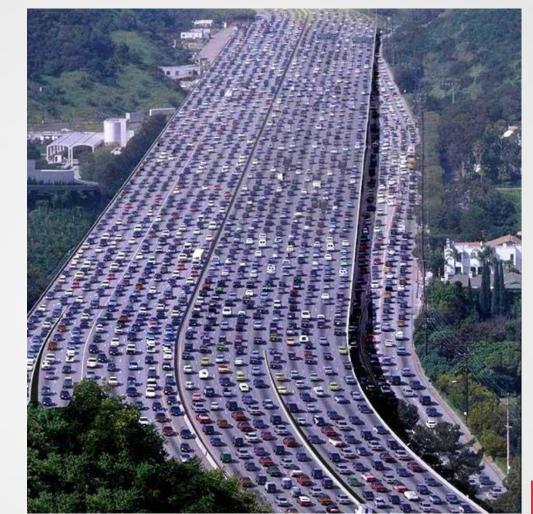


#### Why High Capacity Transit?



100 Million more vehicle miles traveled daily ?

Widening highways alone cannot handle growth !





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#### Impact of Regional Growth

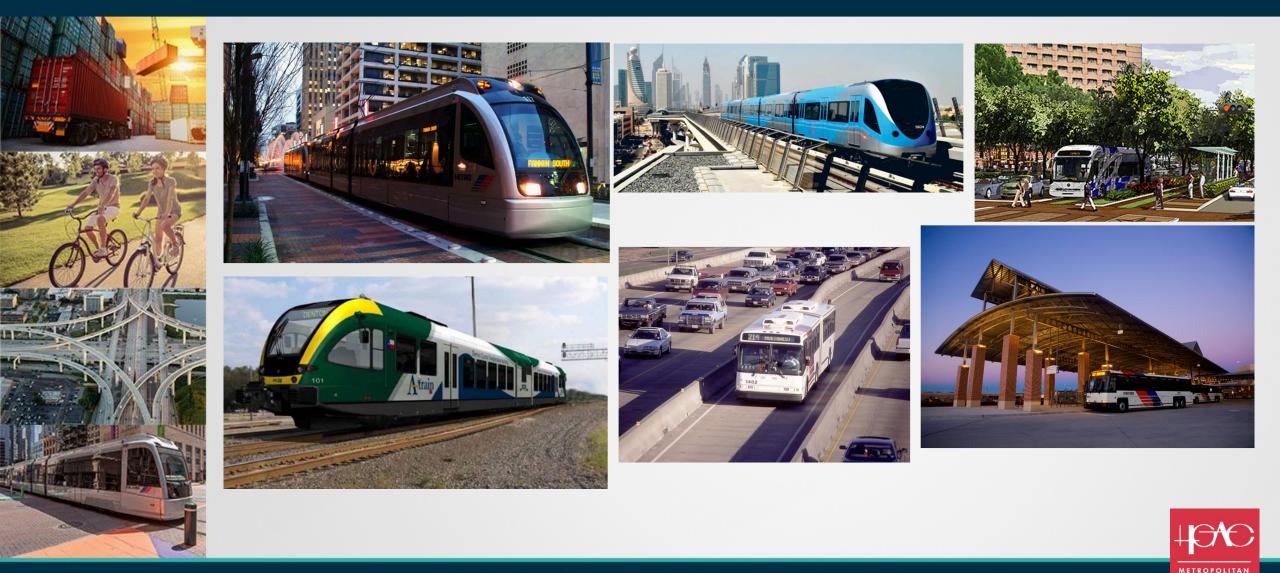


#### 6,000 <u>More</u> Lane Miles Needed Than in 2040 RTP



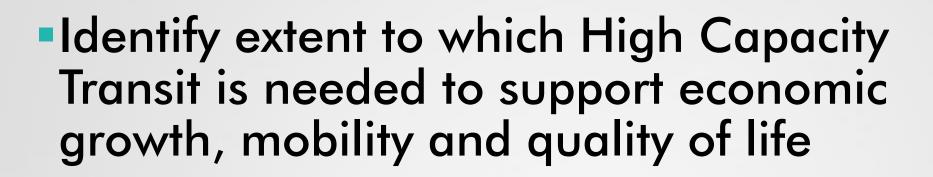
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#### What is High Capacity Transit?



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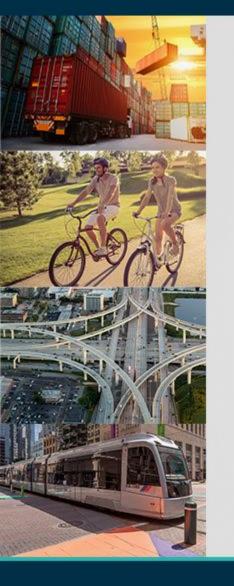
#### **Purpose of Task Force**



- Estimate what investment is needed
- Determine if there is a "Business Case" for investment in HCT



#### **Task Force Structure and Major Events**



- Three Workgroups:
  - Service Concepts
  - Innovative Finance
  - Economic Development
- Workshop (September 2017)
  Rail~Volution Panel (August 2018)



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#### **Tasks Completed – Service Concepts**



Reviewed examples of service types from other regions

- Created "Vision" network
  - Four capital expenditure scenarios
- Generated list of evaluation criteria
- Generated list of general principles and supportive concepts



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#### **Example Regions Review**

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Country	City or Region	Economic Impact	Service Concepts	Innovative Funding
	Atlanta	$\mathbf{\overline{A}}$	$\mathbf{\overline{\mathbf{A}}}$	
	Austin		$\checkmark$	
	Cleveland	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
	Dallas/Fort Worth	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	
	Denver	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$
	Los Angeles		$\checkmark$	
	Miami		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
	Seattle	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$
	Washington, DC	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
*	Ottawa			$\checkmark$
*	Vancouver		$\checkmark$	
	Dubai		$\checkmark$	





Does the proposed option improve access and mobility from communities to and from major activity centers such as:

- Workplaces/Employment Centers?
- Health and Education Centers?
- Economic Centers?
- High Capacity Transit Hubs?

Does the proposed option present the best travel alternatives to heavily congested freeways and roadways?



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Does the proposed option contribute to the economic development of the region or its standing as an international City/Hub?
Does the proposed option enhance the full spectrum of livability (live, work, play; see H-

GAC Livable Centers studies) for people of all incomes, abilities, and ages?



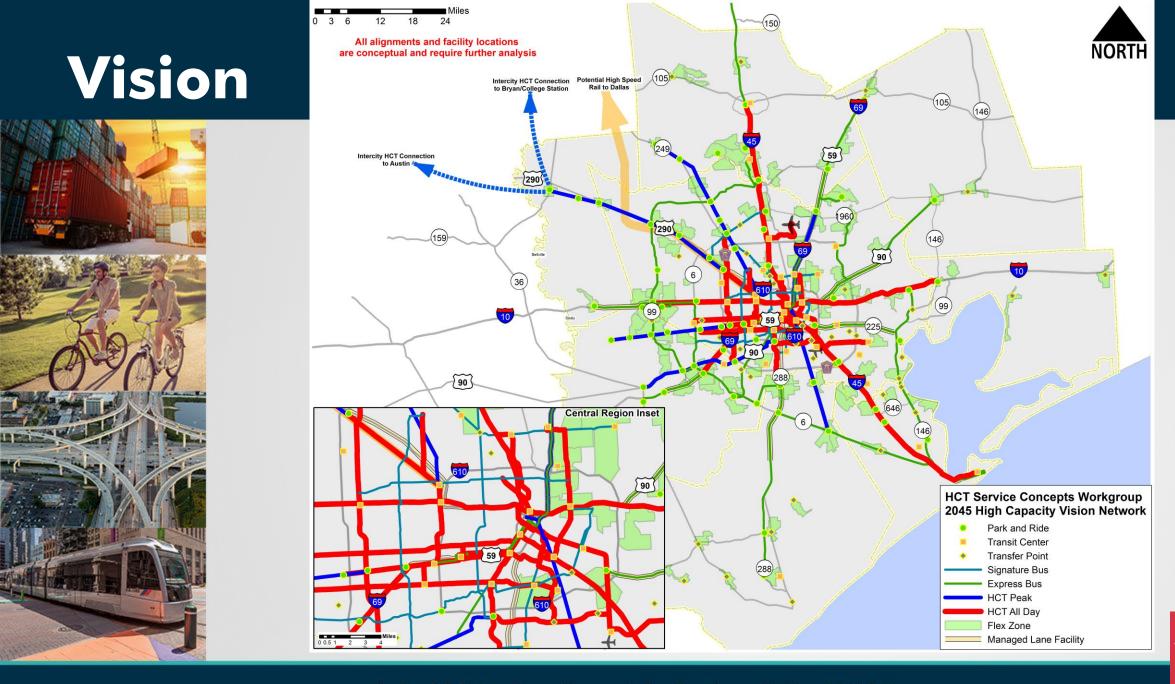
Does the proposed option allow sufficient flexibility to change service patterns as warranted by evolving demand?

 Does the proposed option provide connectivity for an integrated multimodal HCT system with system-wide, cohesive connections from start-to-finish (for the maximum span of service hours possible)?



- Does the proposed option make the transit system more resilient in the event of extreme demand or catastrophe?
- Does the proposed option allow transit users and non-users to travel safely?
- Does the proposed option contribute to emissions reductions?





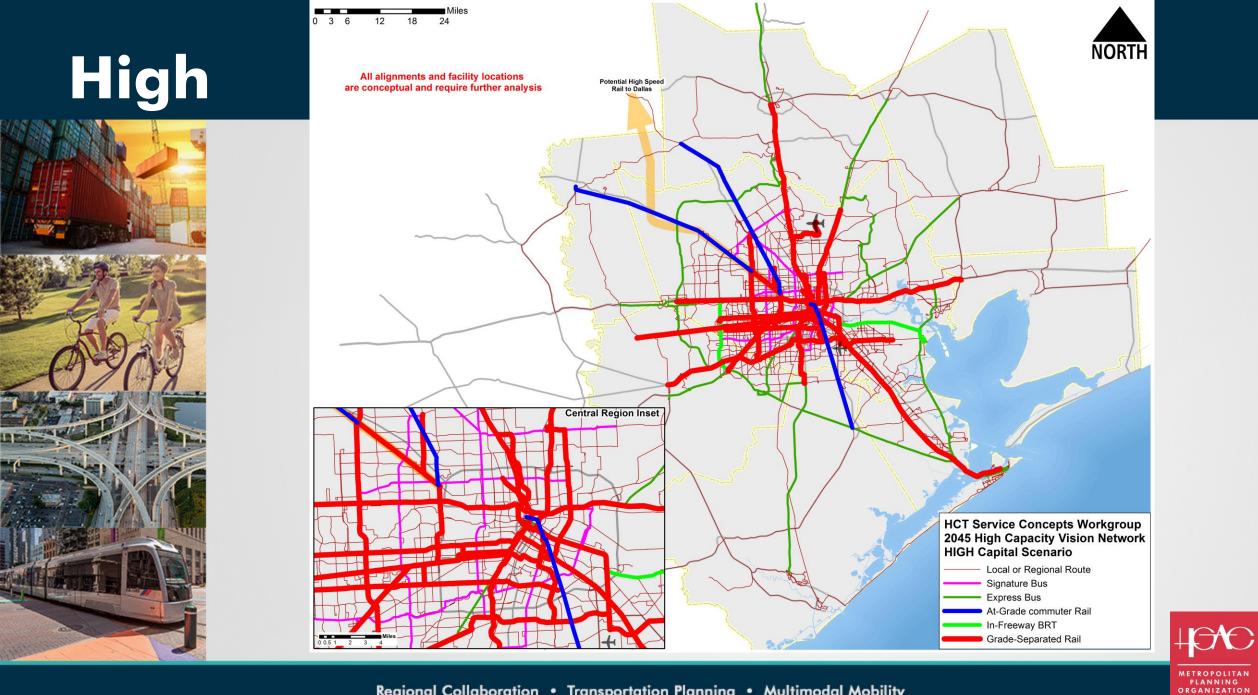
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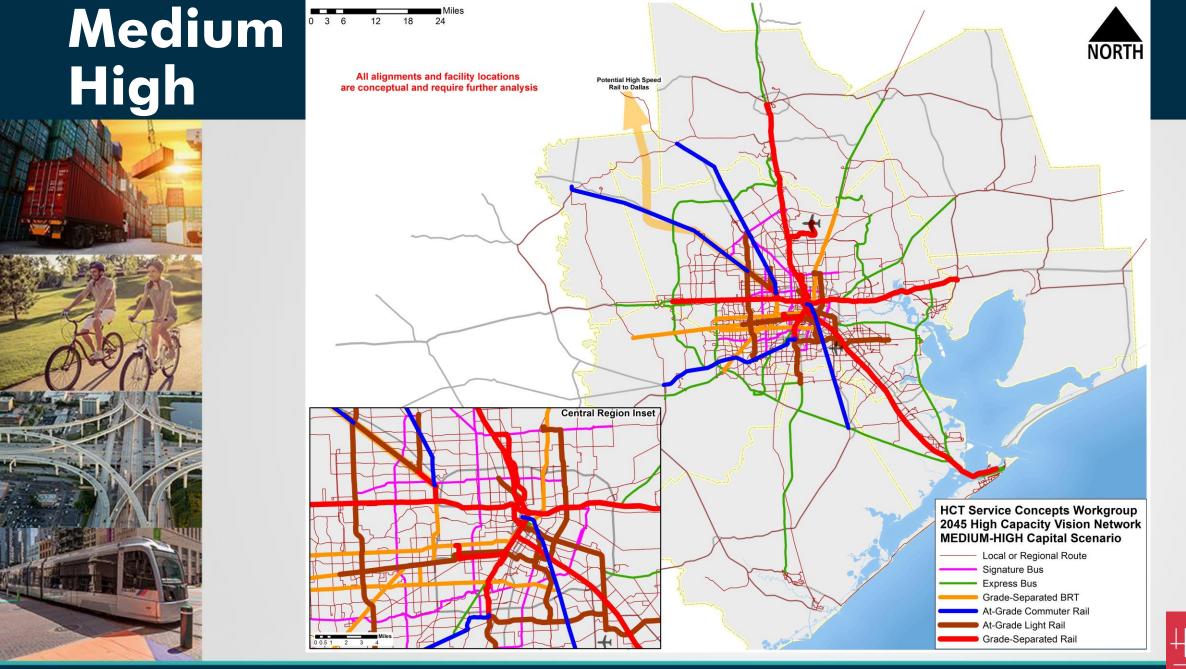
#### Included in Vision Network

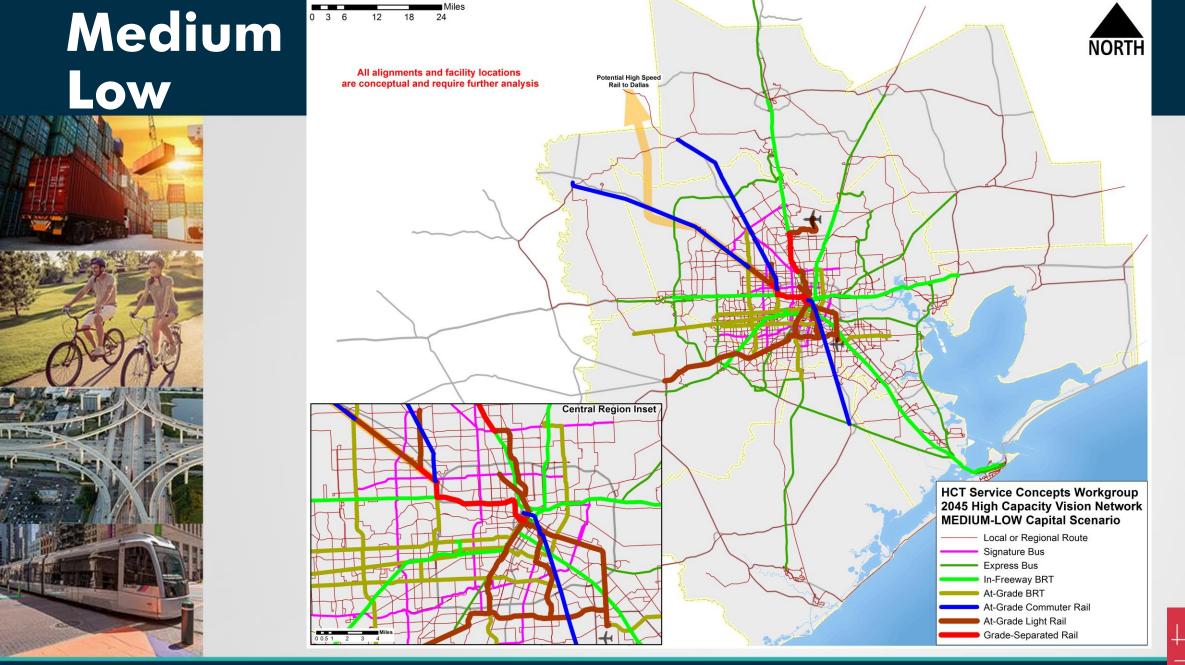
- Expanded local services (areas indicating high transit need that do not currently have service, e.g. Pasadena, Channelview, etc.)
- Regional services (connecting outlying communities to each other and urban core)
- Flex Zones (Community Connectors)
- Suburb-to-Suburb express bus services
- All services feed into HCT network (First Mile/Last Mile)

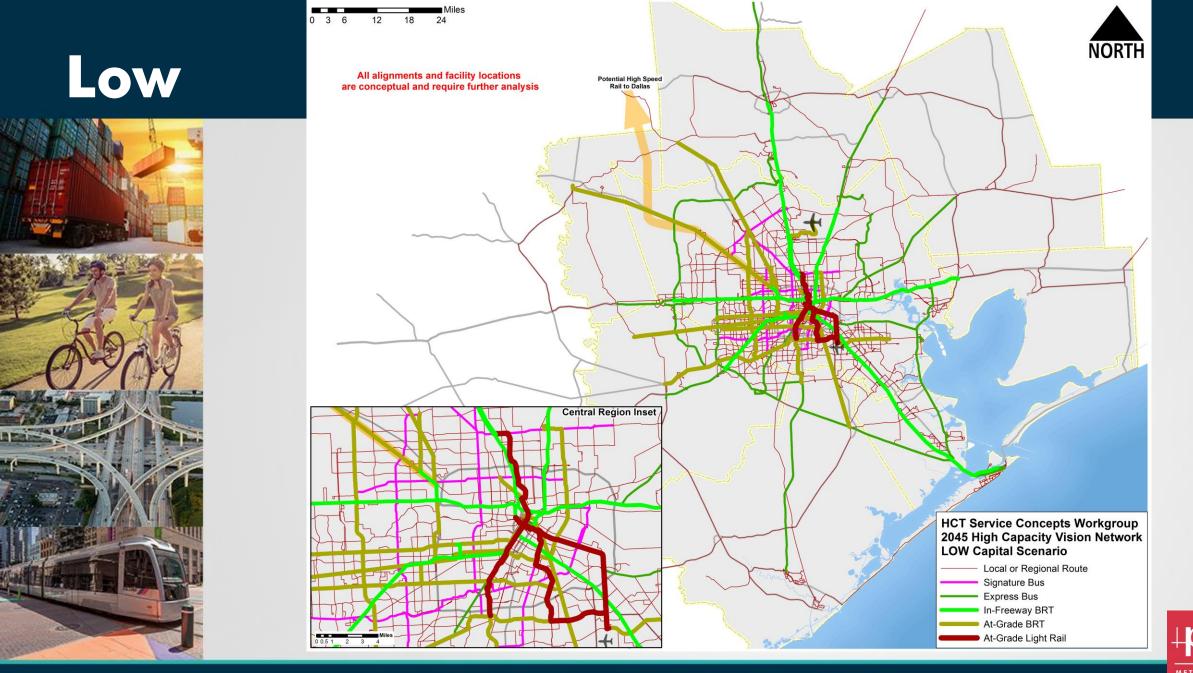


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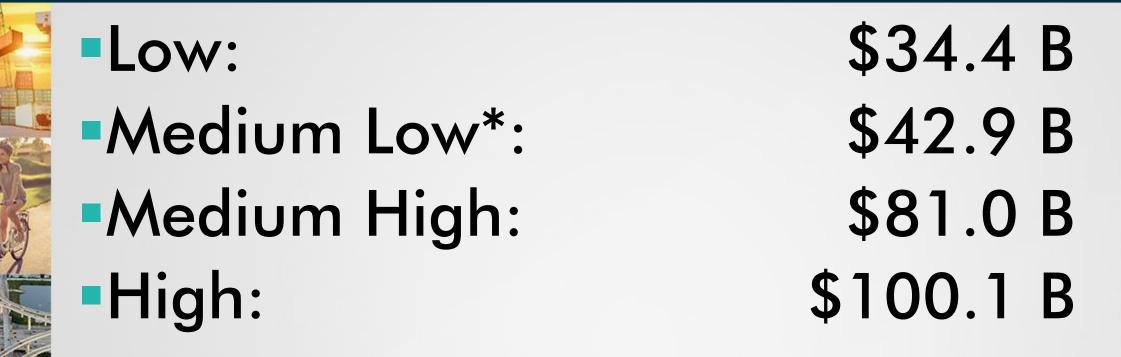
#### **Capital Costs**

- We generated a range of scenarios, from "low" (everything BRT at-grade) to "high" (everything LRT grade-separated)
- Same unit costs as used for METRONext
- Higher level of investment: faster speeds; more capacity, reliability, safety
- Passenger facility, O&M facility, and fleet costs (non-HCT) the same across all scenarios
- All scenarios include allowances for SOGR and Universal Accessibility



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#### **Capital Cost Scenarios**



\* Closest to draft METRONext Vision Plan



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#### **General Principles/Supporting Concepts**



#### Policies that should be in place to support/promote HCT in the region

- Regional Fare & Marketing
- Universal Accessibility
- First Mile/Last Mile
- Transit-friendly design and parking
- Regional HCT requires regional cooperation



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#### **General Findings – Service Concepts**



- Don't focus only on HCT services
- People need to get to transit in order to be able to use it
- Equity is a critical consideration
- Automation will create opportunities and challenges
  - AVs could substantially reduce cost of, and expand access to, transit service
  - AVs could worsen congestion



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#### **Tasks Completed - Finance**

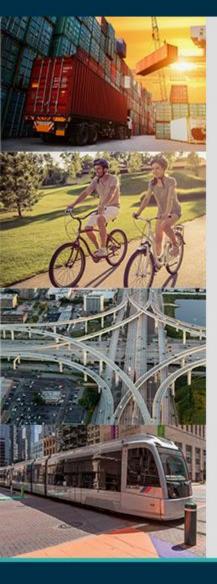


- Reviewed examples of innovative finance from other regions
- Reviewed examples of governance structures from other regions
- Developed a list of potential finance and funding options
  - Some options might not necessarily be feasible or appropriate for the region at this time



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#### **General Findings - Finance**



- Any significant expansion of HCT in the region will require revenue sources that do not currently exist
- No single revenue source is a "magic bullet" – multiple strategies are required
- The region must "speak with one voice" to lawmakers



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#### **Estimated Revenues (if nothing changes)**

- METRO Farebox:
- METRO Sales Tax (less GMP):
- Federal Formula:
- Federal Discretionary:
- Non-METRO Farebox:
- Non-METRO Local:

\$ 2.2 B
\$ 18.2 B
\$ 3.3 B
\$ 1.4 B
\$ .2 B
\$ .3 B

#### **ESTIMATED REVENUES** \$ 25.6 B

(Based on 2040 RTP revenue model and current NTD data, extrapolated to 2045 using current dollars)



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#### **Potential Base Strategies**



#### Public-Private Partnerships

- FTA new guidance re: Private Investment Project Procedures (PIPP) - intended to "address impediments to the greater use of public-private partnerships and private investment in public transportation capital projects."
- Not all transit projects will be eligible or appropriate for PPPs
- Private participation is usually "the last dollar in the bucket"



#### **Potential Base Strategies**



- Value Capture Strategies
  - Impact Fees
  - Special Assessment Districts (SAD)
  - Tax increment financing (TIF)
  - Parking and Station Revenues
  - Naming Rights
  - Joint Development/TOD



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#### **Potential Local Strategies**

- Allow transit projects to compete for highway funding based on performance criteria established by TPC
- Increase municipal and county funding support for transit outside METRO service area
  - Almost every regional municipality has reached 8.25% local sales tax cap



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#### **Strategies Requiring Legislative Action**

- Increase transit projects' eligibility for state funding
- Implement local/regional option tax
- Raise 8.25% local sales tax cap
- Congestion pricing programs



#### Tasks Completed – Economic Development



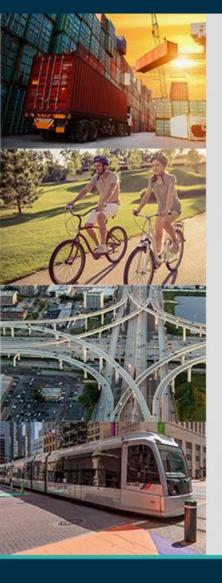
Reviewed examples of economic impact of transit projects from other regions

Reviewed benefit/cost analysis of Vision network - "High" capital expenditure scenario



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#### General Findings – Economic Development



Three types of economic benefit
 Individual/social

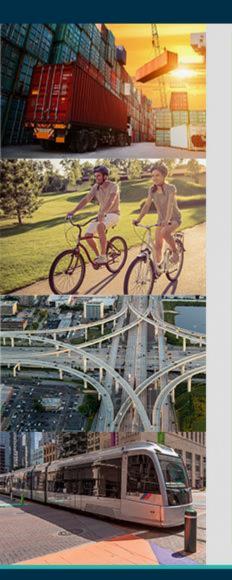
- Business
- Regional/community

This region is going to pay for growth/congestion, one way or another



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#### **Benefit/Cost Analysis**



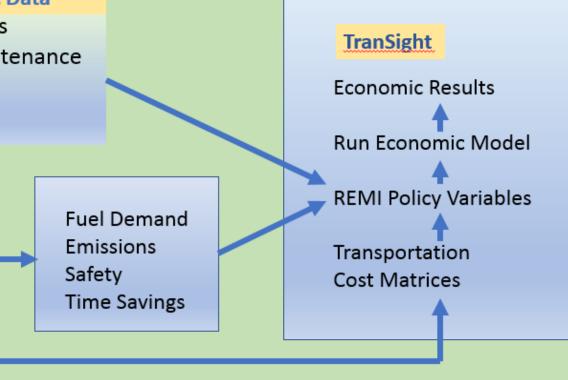
#### REMI TranSight Inputs for Transportation Projects

#### **From Project Specific Data**

- Construction Costs
- Operation & Maintenance
- Finance Options
- Regional Effects

From Travel Model

- VMT
- VHT
- VTT





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#### **REMI Benefit/Cost Analysis**



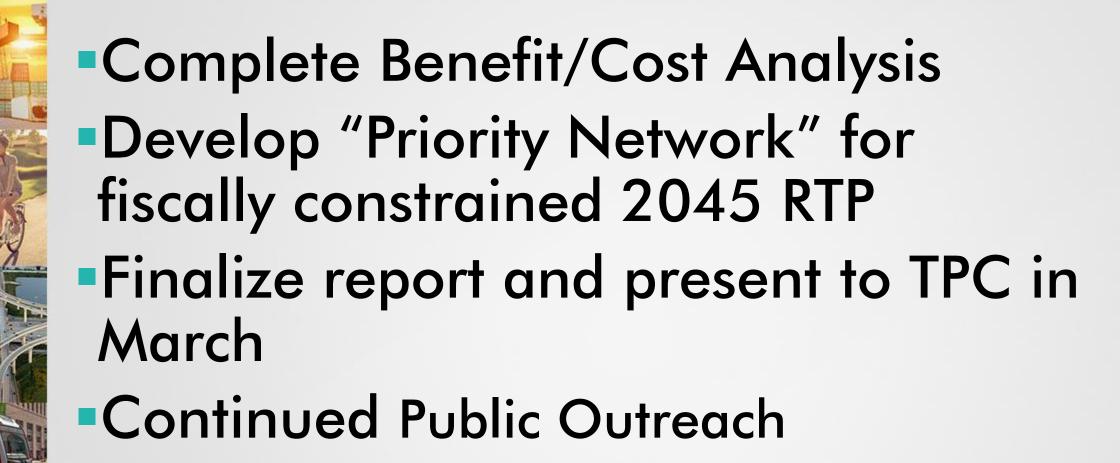
 Societal (user) benefits measurement: emission reduction, safety improvement, vehicle operating cost, and value of time

Costs and benefits converted to net present value (7% discount rate)



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#### **Next Steps**





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#### **Example of Priority Network Elements**

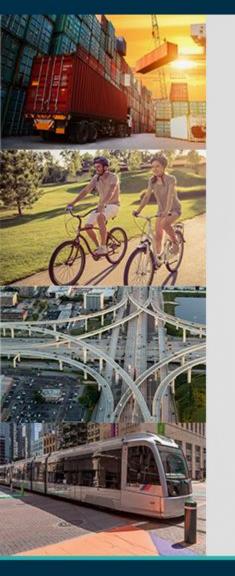
- METRONext Moving Forward Plan
   Expansions of Commuter, Local Transit Services in all eight counties

   I-45 North and South HOV in Montgomery,
  - Harris and Galveston Counties
  - New commuter corridors: SH 288 (Pearland), SH 249, US 90
  - Expanded P&R from Fort Bend County



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#### **High Capacity Transit Task Force**



## What are we missing?



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"Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood and probably themselves will not be realized."

#### -Daniel Burnham



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#### **HCTTF Service Concepts Workgroup**

## THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!!!



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