Corridors of Opportunity
Innovations in Community
Engagement

• Joan Vanhala, Alliance for Metropolitan Stability
• Asad Aliweyd, New American Academy
• David Kang, Asian Media Access
• Wokie Freeman, African Career, Education & Resource, Inc.
The lines depicted on this map are in various stages of planning and are subject to change.
Community Outreach Grants
Corridors of Opportunity
Applying federal environmental justice principles

• Environmental Justice Policy Guidance For Federal Transit Administration Recipients August 2012

• The US DOT is committed to the principles of EJ:
  – To avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately adverse effects on minority populations and low-income populations.
  – To ensure the full and fair participation by all affected communities in the decision-making process.
  – To prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits.
Transit investments: What is at stake?

Everyone must benefit equitably:

- DBE Jobs, contracting and procurement
- Economic development investments
- Small business and entrepreneurship
- Access to a regional system especially for those who are transit dependent: walk, bike, and bus
- Long-term affordable housing
- Neighborhood preservation and livability
- Neighborhood prosperity
Transit project benefits of community engagement

- Identify issues early
- Integrated problem solving
- Prevent future conflicts
- Opportunity for win/win project solutions
- Results in a better project with community ownership
- Outcomes support neighborhood livability and placemaking
- Develop lasting community relationships
Community Engagement Opportunities in Transitway Development Overview

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
Environmental Protection Agency

**Scoping** → **Draft Environmental Impact Statement** → **Final Environmental Impact Statement** → **Record of Decision**

An environmental impact statement (EIS), under United States environmental law, is a document required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for certain actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. An EIS is a tool for decision making. It describes the positive and negative environmental (natural, social, & economic) effects of a proposed action, and it usually also lists one or more alternative actions that may be chosen instead of the action described in the EIS. Both the Draft and Final EIS are published for public comment.

**Lead Agencies**

New Starts Application
Federal Transit Administration

**Alternatives Analysis** → **Locally Preferred Alternative** → **Preliminary Engineering** → **Final Design** → **Full Funding Grant Agreement** → **Construction** → **Transit Service Plan**

Study of routes and modes (i.e. LRT, BRT, Bus, commuter rail) → Selection of preferred route and mode → Initial detailed engineering plans for construction → Final detailed engineering plans → Federal funds secured with local match → Contract compliance for community identified goals → Aligns bus system to transit stations

**Lead Agencies**

Land Use Planning
Local municipalities, counties, MPO

**Existing plans/corridor wide planning** → **Station Area Planning** → **Comprehensive Plans** → **Zoning Changes** → **Development Implementation**

Land use plans within ½ mile circle around the station include: zoning, infrastructure, multimodal access, economic development and green space. Governments in the metro area are required to submit comprehensive plans to the Metropolitan Council for coordinated regional planning. Zoning changes made to prepare for future development plans → Public and private investments secured

**Lead Agencies**