Federal Transit Administration’s
New Starts Process

Orange Line Extension
Alternatives Analysis Study

April 2009
Schedule for Tonight’s Meeting

- **Structure of the meeting**
- **Questions and answers process**
  - Submit your comments in writing on comment cards
  - Comments and questions will be grouped and answered by topic
  - All comments and questions will be addressed on CTA’s website - [www.transitchicago.com](http://www.transitchicago.com)
  - An interpreter for the hearing impaired and translators for the Polish and Spanish speaking communities are available this evening
Tonight’s Speakers

• Darud Akbar – Moderator
  – Chicago Transit Authority

• Jeffrey Busby – Strategic Planning Manager
  – Chicago Transit Authority

• Ronald Shimizu – Orange Line Study Area Manager
  – Parsons Brinckerhoff
Outline of the Presentation

- Discuss Status of Orange Line Extension Alternatives Analysis Study
  - New Starts Overview
  - Screen 1 Findings
- Screen 2 Preliminary Findings
- Public Involvement Process
Status of Study
FTA’s Required New Starts Process

- Concept Development
- Alternatives Analysis Study
  - Preliminary Engineering
  - Environmental Impact Statement
  - Final Design
  - Construction
  - Operation

Orange Line Extension Alternatives Analysis Study
Alternatives Analysis (AA) Studies

- FTA Requirement for federal funding for transit expansion (New Starts)
- Identifies transit opportunities and ensures all practical solutions are considered
- Ensures planning is consistent among all New Starts projects throughout the country
- Provides opportunity to gather information and receive public input
- Identifies Locally Preferred Alternative
FTA Evaluation Process

The Purpose and Need is first defined, the evaluation criteria are applied, and options within the Universe of Alternatives are eliminated until, at the end of the process, there is a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA).
Purpose and Need

• Relieve roadway, bus and passenger congestion at Midway Airport Orange Line station
• Better accommodate tremendous growth in employment opportunities along Cicero Avenue and air travel at Midway since the opening of the Orange Line in 1993
• Reduce lengthy bus trips to access Orange Line
• Alleviate traffic congestion due to expected growth in study area population and employment
Screen 1 Process

1. Define the Universe of Alternatives
2. Evaluate all Potential Technologies
3. Evaluate all Potential Alignments (Corridors and Profiles)
4. Evaluate all Potential Combinations of Technological and Alignment Alternatives
5. Advance Strongest Combinations to Screen 2
Universe of Alternatives - Technologies

TECHNOLOGIES

 Automated Guideway/Monorail
   Bus Rapid Transit
   Commuter Bus
   Commuter Rail
   Heavy Rail Transit
   High Speed Rail
   Light Rail Transit
   Local Bus
   MagLev
   Personal Rapid Transit
   Streetcar
## Universe of Alternatives - Profiles

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Corridors Considered in the AA Study

- Cicero Avenue
- Belt Railway / Cicero Avenue
- Belt Railway / Kostner Avenue
- Pulaski Road
Screen 1 Evaluation Process Findings

Bus Rapid Transit

- Cicero Avenue Corridor

Heavy Rail Transit

- Belt Railway / Cicero Corridor
- Belt Railway / Kostner Corridor

At Grade

Trench / Elevated

At Grade

Trench / Elevated

Trench / Elevated

Orange Line Extension Alternatives Analysis Study
Screen 1 Public Involvement Process

• Public Meeting on August 19, 2008 at Ford City Mall
• More than 100 people attended the public meeting
• Met with stakeholders and elected officials
• 108 comments submitted and answered
Screen 2

Analysis
Screen 2 Process

- **Step 1 – Alternatives Definition**
  - Conceptual Alignment Refinement
  - Operating Plans

- **Step 2 – Detailed Evaluation**
  - Physical Constraints
  - Social & Economic Factors
  - Environmental Factors
  - Transportation Factors
  - Capital Cost Comparison
  - Operating and Maintenance (O&M) Cost Comparison
  - Ridership Potential
Alternatives Definition

- No Build Alternative
- Transportation System Management (TSM) Alternative
  - Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) combined with TSM Alternative
- Heavy Rail Transit (HRT) Extension via Belt Railway/Cicero Avenue
- Heavy Rail Transit (HRT) Extension via Belt Railway/Kostner Avenue
No Build Alternative

- Existing CTA heavy rail transit service terminating at the Midway station
- Existing CTA and Pace bus service
TSM Alternative

- BRT redefined to be part of TSM Alternative
- Express bus between CTA Midway station and Ford City Mall
  - No exclusive lanes
  - No intermediate stops
  - Transit signal priority
**HRT Alternative – Belt Railway/Cicero Ave.**

- **Belt Railway section**
  - HRT under 59th St.
  - HRT under 63rd St.
  - HRT over Marquette Rd.
  - Around new Lee Pasteur/Hurley School
  - Over west side of railroad yard

- **Cicero Ave. section**
  - Above Cicero Ave. or
  - On east side of Cicero Ave.
HRT Alternative – Belt Railway/Kostner Ave.

- **Belt Railway section**
  - HRT under 59th St.
  - HRT under 63rd St.
  - HRT over Marquette Rd.
  - HRT turns to east just north of railroad yard
  - HRT over railroad yard

- **Kostner Ave. section**
  - Above Kostner Ave.
HRT Alternative – Belt Railway Section

63rd Street

BRC Right-of-Way
HRT Alternatives – Elevated Example

SB Cicero Avenue
Step 2 – Detailed Evaluation

- **Evaluation Factors**
  - Physical Constraints
    - Right-of-Way Requirements
  - Social & Economic factors
    - Demographics and Employment
  - Environmental Factors
    - Noise, Visual, Natural and Cultural Resources
  - Transportation Factors
    - Travel Time, Transit Connectivity and Traffic
  - Capital Cost
  - Operating & Maintenance Cost
  - Ridership Potential
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Screen 2 Evaluation – Preliminary Findings

- Locally Preferred Alternative Preliminary Recommendation

Heavy Rail Transit Extension via Belt Railway / Cicero Avenue
Next Steps
Next Steps

- Incorporate public comments
- Confirm Screen 2 preliminary findings for LPA and conclude Alternatives Analysis study
- Review findings with FTA
- CTA Board to approve LPA
- Ongoing public involvement
  - Sign-in cards will be used to create a contact list to send notices and updates
  - Project updates on CTA web site - www.transitchicago.com
Questions and Comments

- CTA representatives are available to answer additional questions
- Written comments and questions accepted through May 6, 2009 (two weeks from today)

Mr. Darud Akbar
Chicago Transit Authority
Government and Community Relations
P.O. Box 7567
Chicago, IL 60680-7567
dakbar@transitchicago.com
CTA Customer Service: 1-888-YOUR-CTA
TTY: 1-888-CTA-TTY1
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