

Federal Transit Administration's
New Starts Process

Orange Line Extension Alternatives Analysis Study

August 2008



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
 - An interpreter for the hearing impaired and translators for the Polish and Spanish speaking communities are available this evening

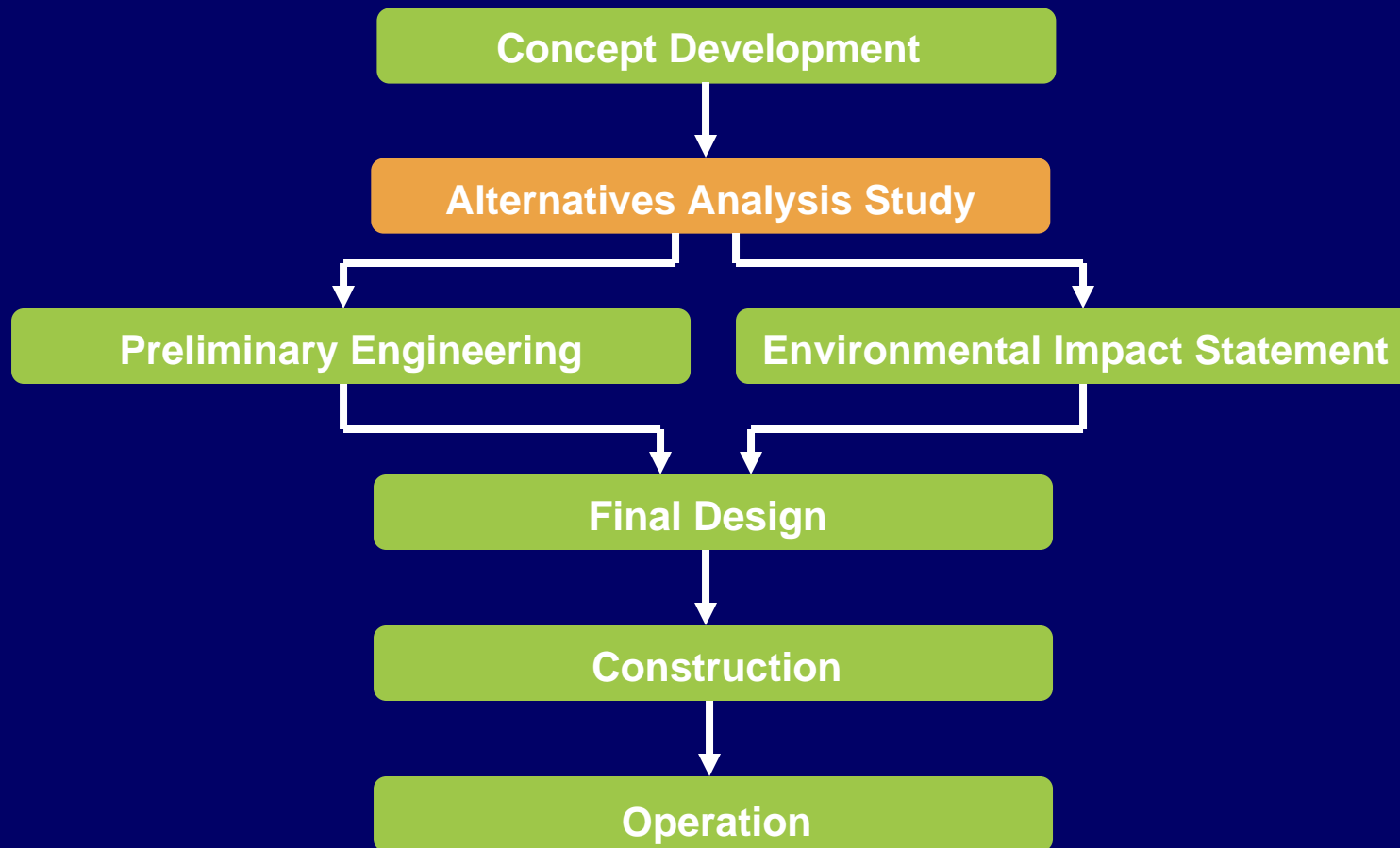
Tonight's Speakers

- **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

- Describe Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) required "New Starts" process
- Define Alternatives Analysis study steps
- Emphasize importance of public involvement process
- Discuss status of Orange Line Extension Alternatives Analysis Study

FTA's Required New Starts Process



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**

Alternatives Analysis Process – Key Steps

Public Involvement

- Define Purpose and Need
- Identify all possible transportation alternatives called the “Universe of Alternatives”
- Evaluate viability of possible alternatives through a screening procedure
- Identify Locally Preferred Alternative

Public Involvement Process

- **Key component of the Alternatives Analysis study**
- **Opportunity to provide information and receive public input**
 - Your comments are needed to complete this screening process
- **Community outreach**
 - General public, elected officials, community and civic organizations, local and state agencies
- **Ongoing public involvement / input**
 - Meetings announced through public notices and advertisements
 - Project updates on the CTA web site - www.transitchicago.com, accessible at local public libraries

Status of Study



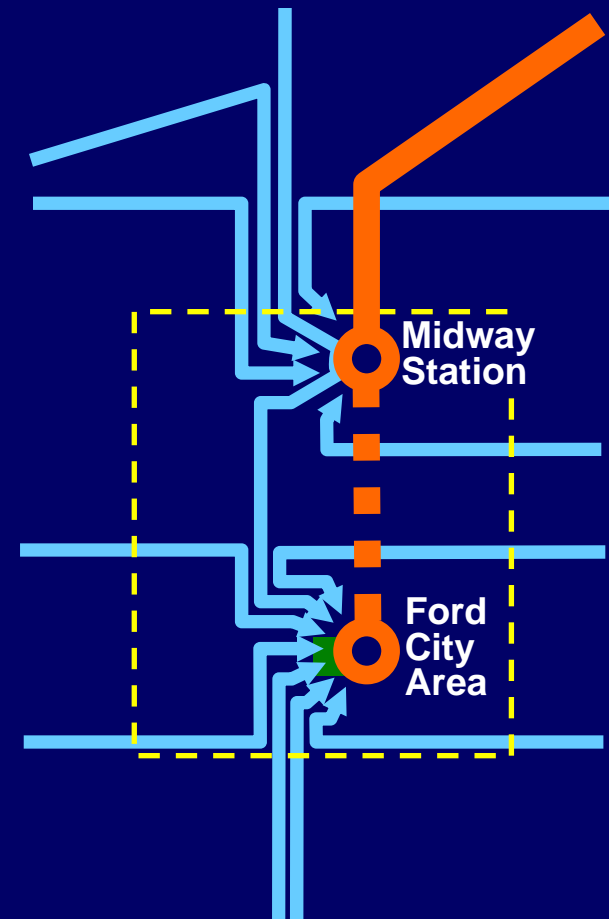
Purpose and Need

- 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

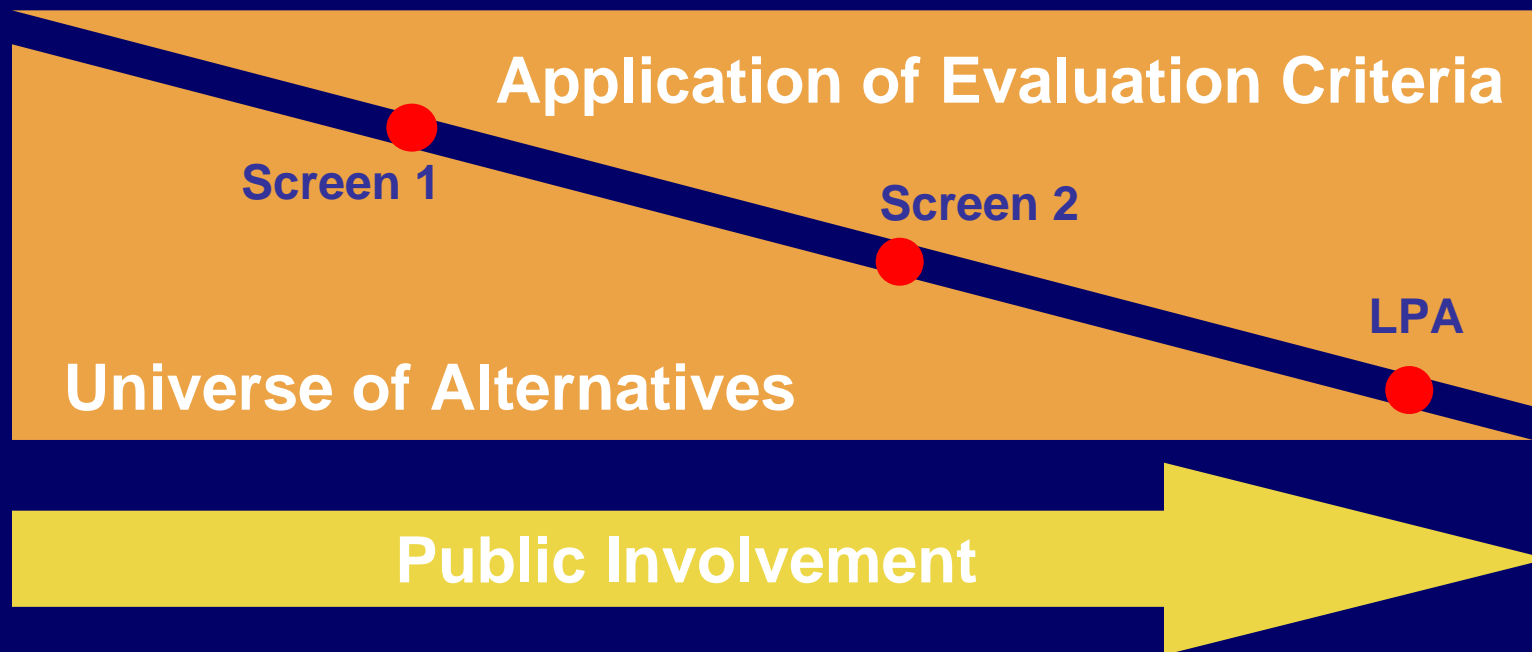
Opportunity for Improvement

- Extend rapid transit service south from Midway Airport Orange Line terminal:
 - Improve access to, within, and beyond study area
 - Support economic development and job opportunities
 - Shorten transit travel times through faster and more direct routings



FTA Evaluation Process

As the AA study progresses and the evaluation criteria are applied, options within the Universe of Alternatives are eliminated until, at the end of the process, there is a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA).



Evaluation Process – Screening Detail

- **Screen 1 – Review Universe of Alternatives**
 - Eliminate alternatives based on technology, corridor and profile
 - Advance strongest alternatives to Screen 2
- **Screen 2 – Detailed Definition and Evaluation**
 - Define alignments and operating service plans
 - Evaluate alternatives including transit ridership, capital costs, and neighborhood resources along the alignment
- **Locally Preferred Alternative**

Screen 1 Process

1. Define the Universe of Alternatives
2. Evaluate all potential technologies
3. Evaluate all potential alignments
(corridors routes and profiles)
4. Evaluate all potential combinations of
technological and alignment alternatives
5. Advance strongest combinations

Screen 1

Technologies Evaluated



Universe of Alternatives Considered

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

Screen 1

Technologies Reviewed



Automated Guideway/Monorail

Screen 1

Technologies Reviewed



Bus Rapid Transit

Screen 1

Technologies Reviewed



Commuter Bus

Screen 1

Technologies Reviewed



Commuter Rail

Screen 1

Technologies Reviewed



Heavy Rail Transit

Screen 1

Technologies Reviewed



High Speed Rail

Screen 1

Technologies Reviewed



Light Rail Transit

Screen 1

Technologies Reviewed



Local Bus

Screen 1

Technologies Reviewed



MagLev

Screen 1

Technologies Reviewed



Personal Rapid Transit

Screen 1

Technologies Reviewed



Streetcar