



Date: December 4, 2008
To: JPACT
From: Tony Mendoza, Transit Project Analysis Manager
Re: High Capacity Transit (HCT) System Plan Update

Introduction

The High Capacity Transit System Plan is being developed as a component of the RTP. The *HCT System Plan* will be a 30-year plan for prioritizing HCT investments in new corridors and changes to existing corridors. The results will be incorporated and further studied in the RTP and will be the basis for initiating future project development steps necessary to qualify for funding. Of the variety of public transit system functions (e.g., local bus, paratransit, regional bus, frequent bus and HCT), the *HCT System Plan* is designed to focus on the HCT element of the public transit system. HCT modes can include light rail, commuter rail, bus rapid transit or rapid streetcar and includes a significant amount of exclusive right-of-way. The *HCT System Plan* is not a funding plan. Future decisions will be made regarding investing in HCT projects versus other needed transit service improvements.

The *HCT System Plan* tells us where the best locations are for major rail and bus transit capital investments based on evaluation criteria derived from the *RTP*. The *RTP* tells us whether HCT is the right transportation choice relative to other potential transportation investments. *Making the Greatest Place* tells us whether HCT is the right transportation choice to support the land use in any given corridor or center.

Status

JPACT reviewed the HCT scope of work at their January 2008 meeting. Since that time Metro has developed a broad range of corridors and system improvement ideas through a series of community workshops, stakeholder interviews, web surveys and work with MTAC and TPAC. These meetings also helped develop a list of values that were categorized into the attached set of Evaluation Criteria.

The attached memo to TPAC illustrates work to date on screening the wide range of over 55 potential corridors and improvements to a reasonable set of approximately 15 corridors to be advanced through a feasibility and prioritization process. TPAC is scheduled to consider these corridors and Evaluation Criteria at their meeting on 12/5/08.

Next Steps for JPACT

- January 15, 2009 - confirm the corridors for further consideration as shown in the attached map, "Discussion Draft 12/04/08," and the Evaluation Criteria to be used to evaluate these corridors in the attached memo
- April 19, 2009 – Discuss recommended priorities and draft plan
- May 14, 2009 – Consider plan and forward for inclusion in RTP

Attachments:

TPAC Memo: HCT Evaluation Criteria – 12-5-08

TPAC Memo: High Capacity Transit System Plan Screening Criteria Update – Revised 12-5-08