



# HJ 542 Virginia Transit Equity and Modernization Study

RRTPO Community Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) meeting  
May 19, 2022

# Welcome

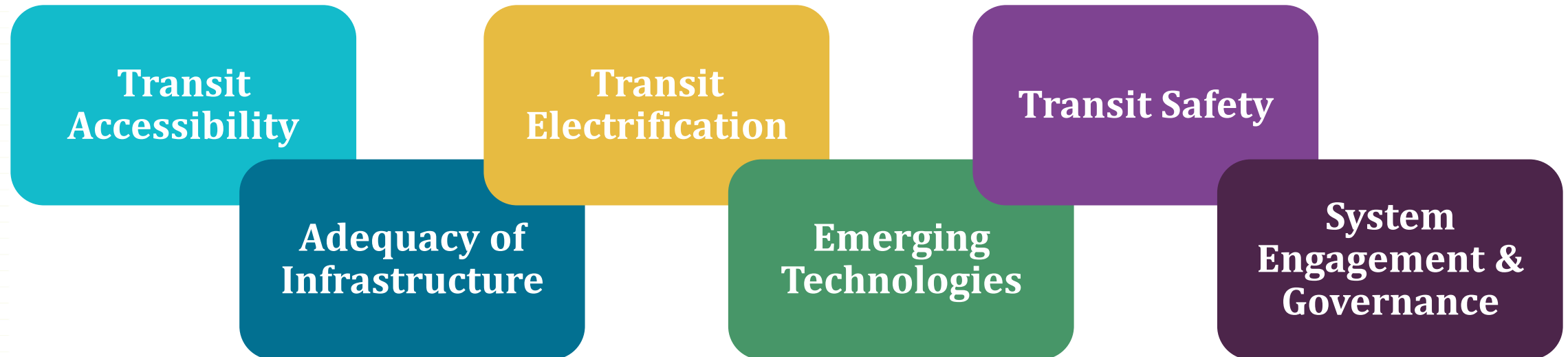
- Study Overview
- What We Heard
- State of Transit in Virginia
- Action Planning
- Q&A

# Study Overview



# How did we get here?

- HJ 542 (2021) bill passed
- The resolution requires exploring a variety of topics that will create recommendations to better equitable transit and forward modernization
- Emphasis on engagement opportunities for underrepresented communities



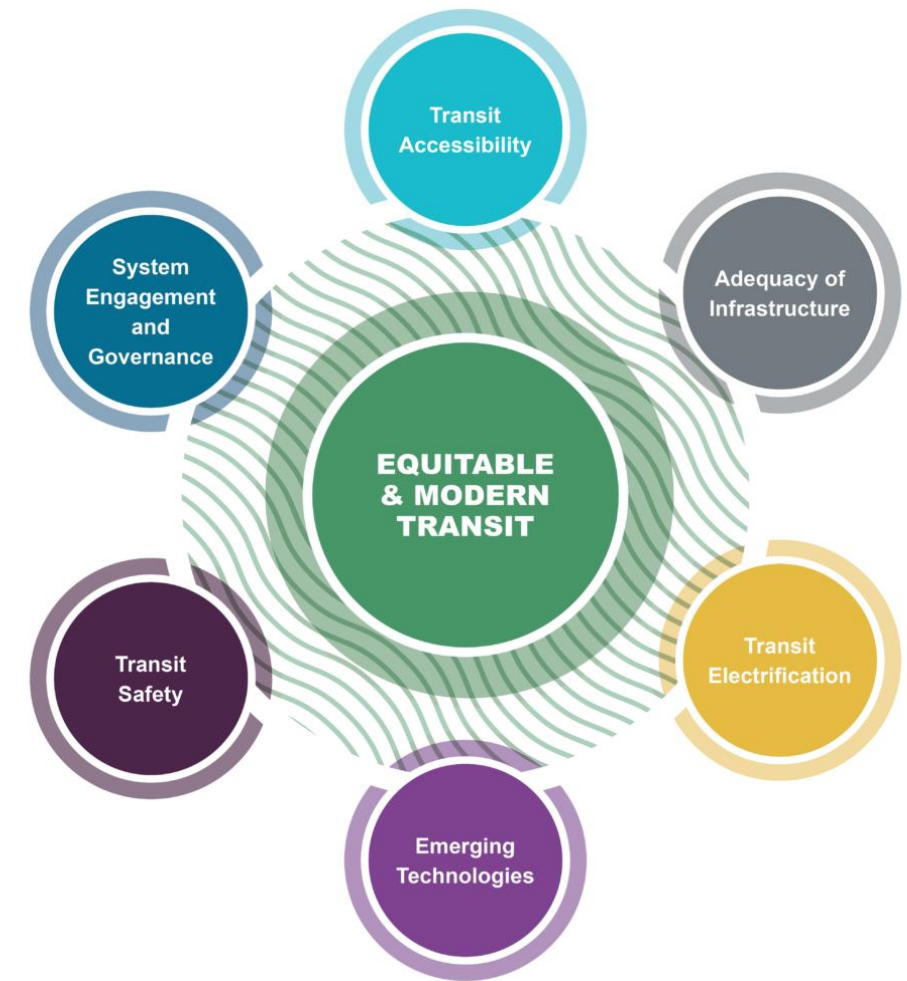
# Study Features

## The Interim Report has addressed...

- Opportunities or Gap Assessment of Transit Service
- Needs and barriers to improve transit infrastructure
- Opportunities to reduce carbon footprint through electrification

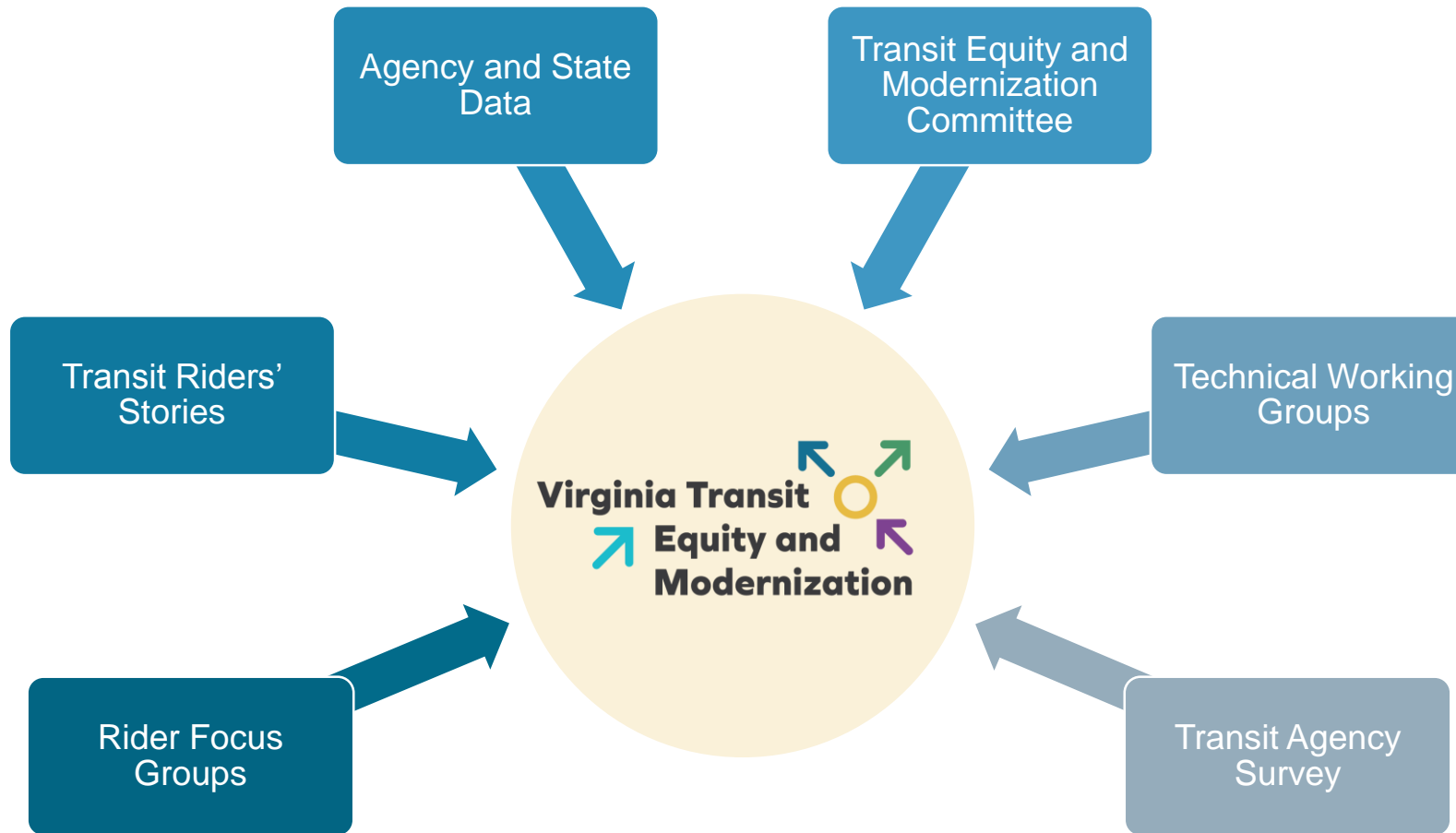
## Action Planning will address...

- Strategies to inform priorities of implementing emerging technologies
- Framework for identifying and engaging disadvantaged populations and underserved communities



# What We Heard







# Data Collection

## Transit Agency Survey

- **39** responses from VA Transit Agencies
- 42-question survey
- Technical area data requests
- Agency transportation equity efforts

## Transit Agency Data Collection

- GIS layers
- Board requirements
- Agency manuals & outreach plans
- Capital Programs
- National Transit Database
- TransAM

## Virginia State Agency Data Collection

- Statewide GIS layers
- Standards, Requirements, and Guidance for Transit Agencies
- Fleet Data
- Title VI Plans
- Transit Strategic Plans
- PTASP



**Baseline  
Conditions  
Assessment**

*\*Note: Data requests included, but were not limited to items listed above*



# State of Transit in Virginia



# Findings



There are unique needs for and barriers to adopting new and emerging technology among Virginia's transit agencies



Basic transit infrastructure is insufficient



There is increasing interest in piloting zero-fare service to overcome barriers to transit access



Availability of transit in Virginia is high, but gaps exist



There is strong interest in fleet electrification across Virginia transit agencies, but more resources are needed.



Numerous bus stops are poorly placed and not well-connected to sidewalks



Transit is among the safest ways to travel, but there is room to improve both perceived and actual safety for transit riders, operators, and employees



Transit riders have limited opportunities to be a part of the decision-making process



More and better data is needed to make informed and equitable decisions

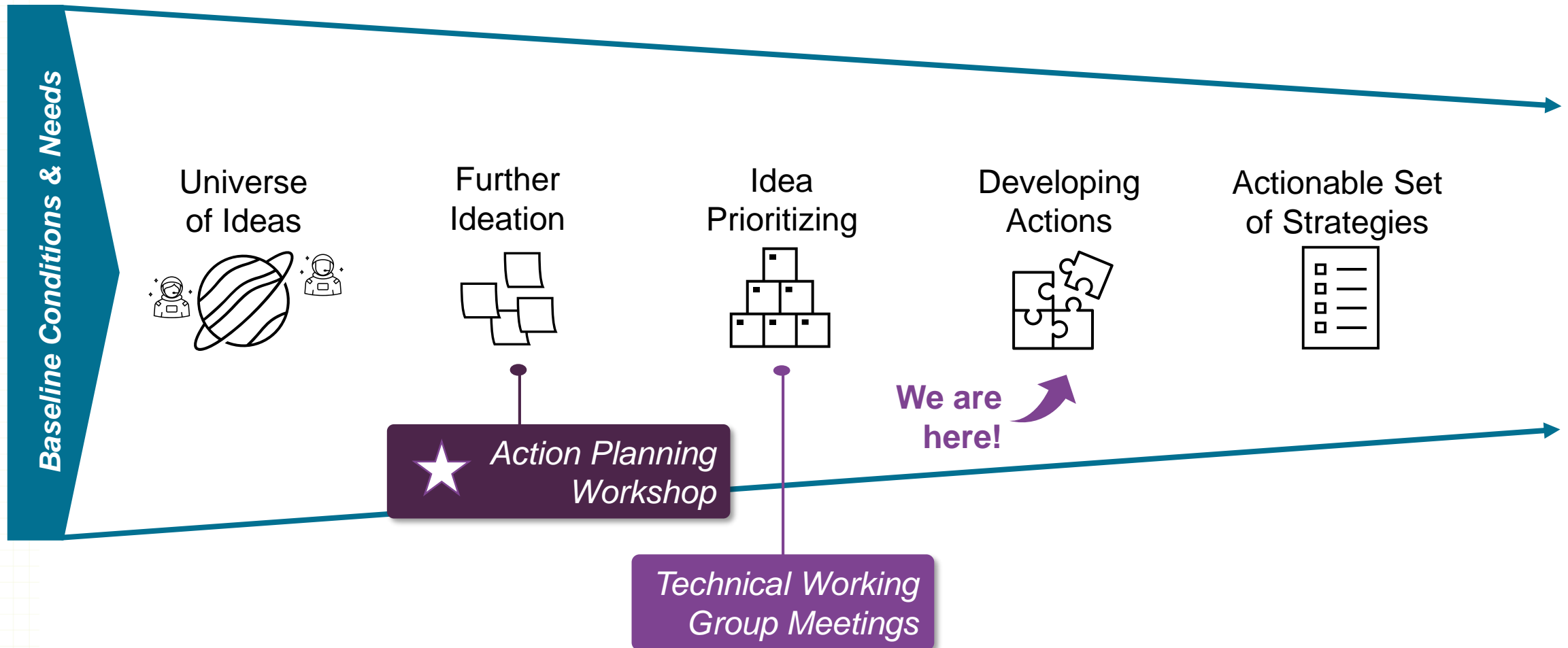
*Across All  
Technical  
Areas*

Equity and accessibility must be more heavily considered in guidance, requirements, and funding programs for transit agencies

# Action Planning Update



# Action Planning Process



# Baseline Conditions Needs & Opportunities

## *Program-wide*

### Baseline Condition Analysis

*Shared across multiple technical areas, there is a need to:*

Improve **data collection, management, and sharing** standards

Provide **technical support and guidance** to local transit agencies

Provide guidance that includes **best practices** for fair and modern transit.

Increase **coordination and collaboration** between transit agencies, community organizations, institutions, localities, employers, and regional planning bodies

Incorporate **modernization** into fair and just decision-making processes



# Potential Actions











# Higher Quality Transit Infrastructure

Related Actions	Implementation Timeline	Anticipated Level of Effort
Providing transit agency staff, local decision-makers, and the public with information about trade-offs to make decisions that provide the greatest economic and societal benefits	● ○ ○ Near	🔧 🔧 🔧 Low
Guidance or best practices to help streamline stakeholder coordination and prioritize improvements around bus stops	● ○ ○ Near	🔧 🔧 🔧 Medium
Technical guidance or policy on bus stop design elements and development	● ○ ○ Near	🔧 🔧 🔧 Low
Develop statewide unconstrained funding needs list	● ● ● Long	🔧 🔧 🔧 High





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Technical guidance or policy on bus stop design elements and development	 Near	 Low
Develop statewide unconstrained funding needs list	 Long	 High

# Improved Processes that Center Rider Needs

Example Related Actions	Implementation Timeline	Anticipated Level of Effort
Develop suggested best practices for coordination between land use planning and transit planning	● ○ ○ Near	🔧🔧🔧 Medium
Technical guidance or industry best practices for monitoring and reporting infrastructure performance	● ○ ○ Near	🔧🔧🔧 Low
Identifying and sharing inclusive transit safety training opportunities for agency staff	● ○ ○ Near	🔧🔧🔧 Low
Develop public engagement handbook that outline expectations and guiding techniques for more inclusive public engagement at the local level	● ○ ○ Near	🔧🔧🔧 Medium
Developing qualitative and quantitative metrics to measure reliable and effective transit service that promotes access to opportunity and lifeline services	● ● ○ Medium	🔧🔧🔧 Medium
Updates to MERIT scoring criteria to provide incentive for accessibility improvements to transit infrastructure	● ● ○ Medium	🔧🔧🔧 Medium
Update and enhance existing DRPT Transit Development Plan (TDP) and Transit Strategic Plan (TSP) guidance to provide stronger public engagement guidance for local agencies	● ● ○ Medium	🔧🔧🔧 Low
Sharing guidance regarding more inclusive performance measures in Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans	● ● ● Long	🔧🔧🔧 High



















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# Increased Use of State-of-the-Art Technologies

Related Actions	Implementation Timeline	Anticipated Level of Effort
Statewide goals for electrifying transit vehicles and transition plan to convert transit agency fleets	● ○ ○ Near	🔧🔧🔧 Medium
Recurring assessment of innovations in the electric transit vehicle industry	● ○ ○ Near	🔧🔧🔧 High (Ongoing)
Develop implementation resources for agencies to assist with fleet transition planning	● ○ ○ Near	🔧🔧🔧 Medium (Ongoing)
Recurring assessment of technology use and plans across the Commonwealth	● ○ ○ Near	🔧🔧🔧 Medium (Ongoing)
Recurring technology planning at agency level	● ○ ○ Near	🔧🔧🔧 High (Ongoing)
Guidance for establishing and negotiating technology contracts	● ● ○ Medium	🔧🔧🔧 Low
Allocation of funding that aligns with electrification goals	● ● ● Long	🔧🔧🔧 Medium-High
Expand opportunities for technology funding and implementation assistance	● ● ● Long	🔧🔧🔧 Medium
Expanded use of national or international data standards such as GTFS Realtime and GTFS-Flex	● ● ● Long	🔧🔧🔧 Medium

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Recurring assessment of technology use and plans across the Commonwealth	 Near	 Medium (Ongoing)
Recurring technology planning at agency level	 Near	 High (Ongoing)
Guidance for establishing and negotiating technology contracts	 Medium	 Low
Allocation of funding that aligns with electrification goals	 Long	 Medium-High
Expand opportunities for technology funding and implementation assistance	 Long	 Medium
Expanded use of national or international data standards such as GTFS Realtime and GTFS-Flex	 Long	 Medium

# Expanded Involvement in Decision-Making

Related Actions	Implementation Timeline	Anticipated Level of Effort
Create rider advisory councils within local transit agencies statewide	● ○ ○ Near (Ongoing)	 Medium
Develop public engagement handbook that outline expectations and guiding techniques for more inclusive public engagement at the local level	● ○ ○ Near	 Medium
Update and enhance existing DRPT Transit Development Plan (TDP) and Transit Strategic Plan (TSP) guidance to provide stronger public engagement guidance for local agencies	● ● ○ Medium	 Low

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# *New or Enhanced Transit Service*

## Related Actions

	Implementation Timeline	Anticipated Level of Effort
Providing transit agency staff, local decision-makers, and the public with information about trade-offs to make decisions that provide the greatest economic and societal benefits	 Near	 Low
Identifying areas with unmet demand for transit service and providing new or enhanced service	 Medium	 Medium
Allocating resources to prioritize expansion or enhancement of transit service to underserved areas and populations	 Medium	 High

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Providing transit agency staff, local decision-makers, and the public with information about trade-offs to make decisions that provide the greatest economic and societal benefits	 Near	 Low
Identifying areas with unmet demand for transit service and providing new or enhanced service	 Medium	 Medium
Allocating resources to prioritize expansion or enhancement of transit service to underserved areas and populations	 Medium	 High

# Q&A



**Visit the study website to view  
the Draft Action Plan Summary  
and contact the study team.**

**[www.vatransitmodernization.com](http://www.vatransitmodernization.com)**

**Thank you!**