Public Involvement in Transportation Policy and the Funding Decision Making Processes

Mobility in our Socioeconomic System And Goals and Outcomes
Why are We Here Today?

• Two underpinning Reasons
  – Importance of mobility to us on a personal level
  – Importance of mobility to us as a country
• Not the Lord’s work, but next to it
  – I know this is the choir
  – But we need to sing from the same hymnal and page if we are to make a difference
• Passion is important
Mobility on a Personal Level

• We tend to take mobility for granted
  – How did you get here today – did you think about it?
  – What did you do yesterday? Church, shop, visit friends/relatives, recreation
  – How do we get emergency services/police, etc
  – What is the lynchpin to education
  – What are the arteries of commerce

• Mobility is the underpinning pillar of our socioeconomic system
Mobility on a Nation-State Level

• What distinguishes one country from another
  – Rule of law
  – Social and economic mobility
  – Stock of intellectual/human capital
  – System of knowledge/information creation
  – Quality and stock of infrastructure

• If U.S. is going to effectively compete in the 21st century we need to do all of these well

• Other countries are catching up, China, Brazil, India
Anecdotal Evidence

• NY Times story
  – China’s currency pegged to U.S. dollar
  – Starting to let the Yuan float
  – Improvement in infrastructure will easily outweigh any advantage gained by realignment of currency

• Several examples of ND citizens who are under a form of house arrest
  – Haven’t left home for 6 years
  – Were able to attend a brother’s funeral
Goals and Outcomes

• DOT needs to prioritize the level of service and quality and quantity of infrastructure
  – Simple economic fact – resources are limited
  – The feedback that you provide will assist them in developing a strategic plan
• Also provide input for legislators
• Help understand and strengthen the local/state/Federal partnership
• Distinguish between needs and wants
Important Point!!!

• We’re not trying to tell you what to think
• We’re hoping to give you something to think about