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