Overview

• Project Overview
• Current Contracting Practices
• Assessment and Trends
• Product Preview
Project Process

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• Report in Final Stages of Editorial Review
Research Purpose

• To share information about different approaches for providing commuter rail service.
• To develop a guidebook to help public agencies understand and consider how and when to apply different approaches to implement new commuter rail services or evaluate changes for existing services.
Legacy Commuter Rail Systems (12)

- PATH, New York and New Jersey
- MBTA, Boston
- LIRR, New York
- Go Transit, Toronto, Ontario
- RTM, Montreal, Quebec
- Metro-North, New York City
- NJ TRANSIT, New Jersey
- SEPTA, Philadelphia
- MARC, Maryland–D.C.
- Metra, Chicago
- South Shore Line, South Bend–Chicago
- Caltrain, San Francisco–San Jose/Gilroy
Post-1989 Commuter Rail New Starts (19)

- Tri-Rail, South Florida
- SLE, New Haven, Connecticut
- Metrolink, Southern California
- VRE, Northern Virginia–D.C.
- COASTER, San Diego County
- WCE, Vancouver, British Columbia
- TRE, Dallas–Fort Worth
- ACE, Stockton–San Jose
- Sounder, Tacoma–Seattle–Everett
- Rail Runner Express, Santa Fe–Albuquerque
- Music City Star, Nashville
- FrontRunner, Salt Lake City
- WES, Tri-County, Oregon
- Northstar, Minneapolis
- MetroRail, Austin
- A-train, Denton County, Texas
- SunRail, Orlando
- RTD, Denver
- SMART, Sonoma/Marin Counties, California
CURRENT CONTRACTING PRACTICES
Approaches to Service Delivery

• Agency-Operated Commuter Rail

• Contracted Commuter Rail
  – Bundled
  – Unbundled

• Mixed Agency-Operated and Contracted Commuter Rail
Agency Operated

- PATH
- LIRR
- Metro-North
- NJ TRANSIT
- SEPTA
- South Shore Line
- FrontRunner
- SMART
Contracted-Bundled

- MBTA
- MARC
- SLE
- Caltrain
- COASTER
- TRE
- ACE
- Rail Runner
- Music City Star
- MetroRail
- A-train
- Denver RTD
Contracted--Unbundled

- Go Transit
- RTM
- Tri-Rail
- Metrolink
- VRE
- WCE
- Sounder
- SunRail
Mixed Agency Operated and Contracted

- Metra
- Northstar
- WES
ASSESSMENT AND TRENDS
Factors That Influence Approaches to Service Delivery

Every decision is made in the context of the local circumstances.

• Ownership for control of the railroad
• Commuter rail agency governance
• Agency capability to perform the primary functions for commuter rail
• Railroad employee considerations
Factors That Influence Decision to Bundle or Unbundle Contracted Services

- Functions provided by the railroad owner or operator
- Competitive marketplace for procurement
- Operating environment
- Government and policy considerations
Trends

• Agency-operated new starts
• Public-private partnerships
• Procurement practices
  – Longer contract terms
  – Unit pricing
  – Performance metrics
  – Competition
• More bundled contracts
PRODUCT PREVIEW
Guidebook Resources

- History
- Regulatory Environment
- Key characteristics
- Approaches to Service Delivery
- Decision Tree Analysis
- Case Studies (10)
- Profiles (31)

TCRP Research Report 200: Contracting Commuter Rail Services
QUESTIONS?