

The path to partnership

Collaboration to make urban transit work

Steven Higashide, TransitCenter

August 8, 2018

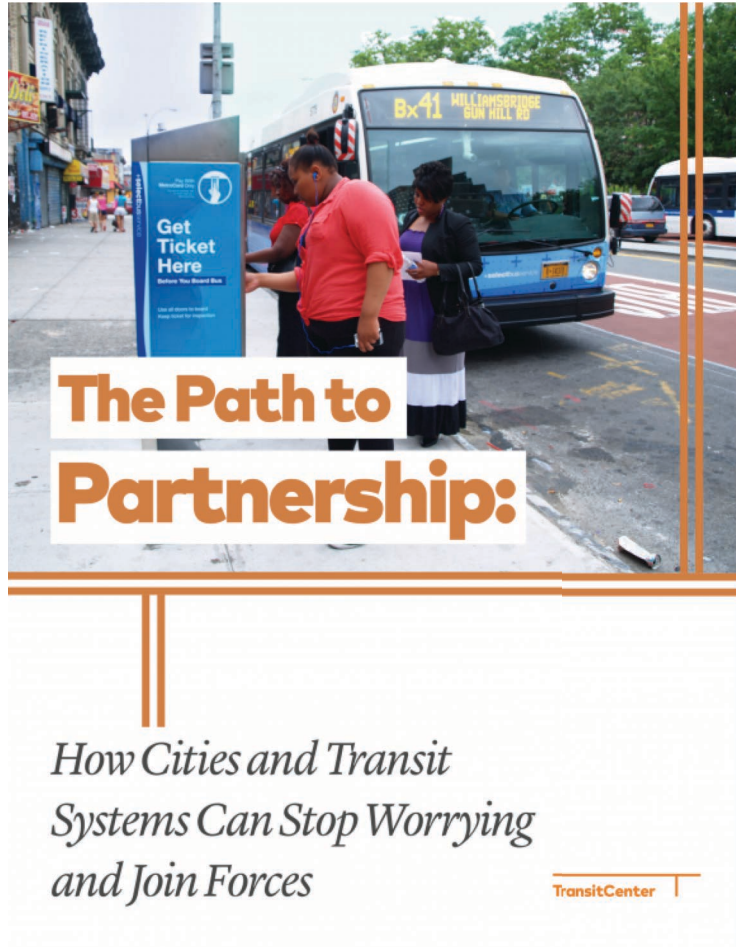
@TransitCenter

About TransitCenter



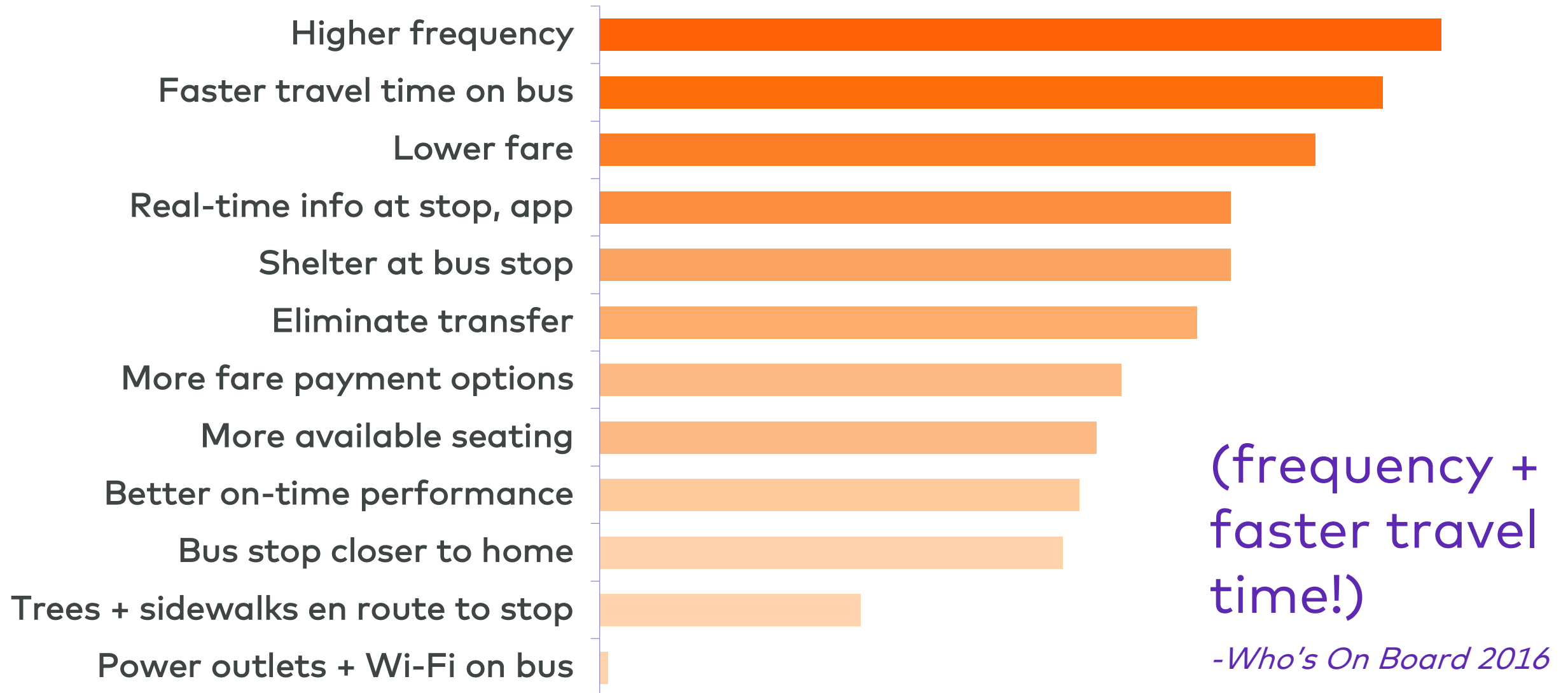
TransitCenter is a foundation working to improve public transportation and urban mobility, through grantmaking, research, training, and events.

Cities & transit agencies must work together



- Case study research including interviews with staff from 11 agencies in six regions (Seattle, Portland, Denver, Boston, Chicago, New York).

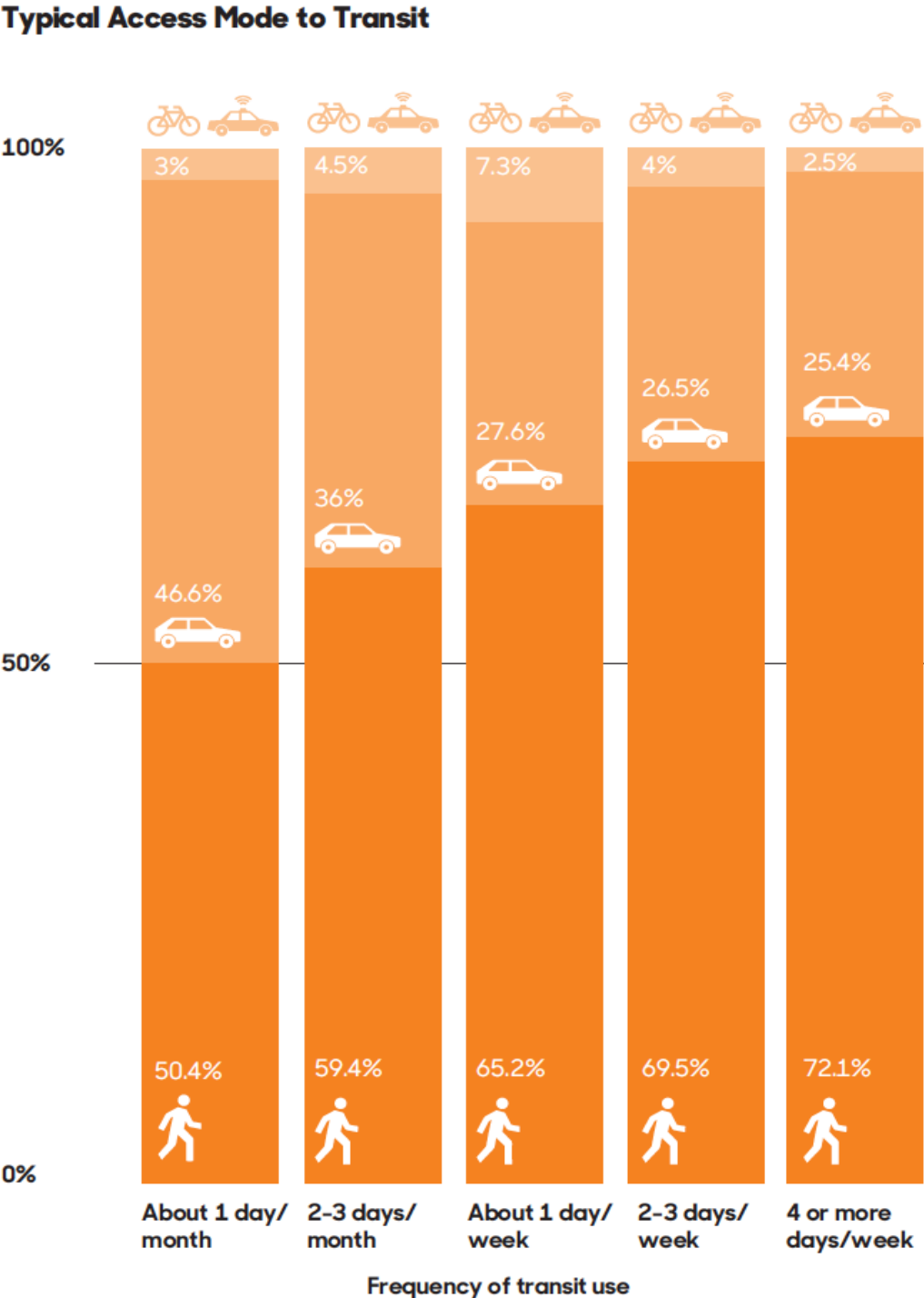
What matters to riders: Frequency & travel time



What matters to transit riders: Walkability

(72% of frequent transit riders access it via walking.)

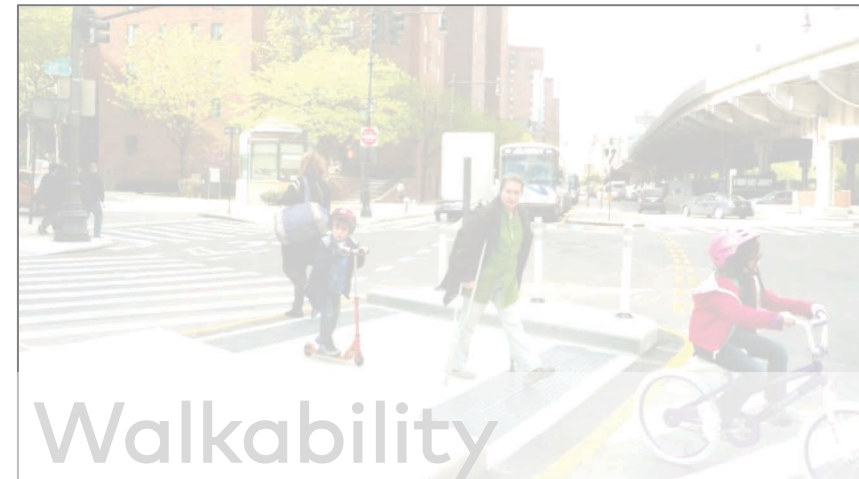
-Who's On Board 2016



The recipe for building transit ridership



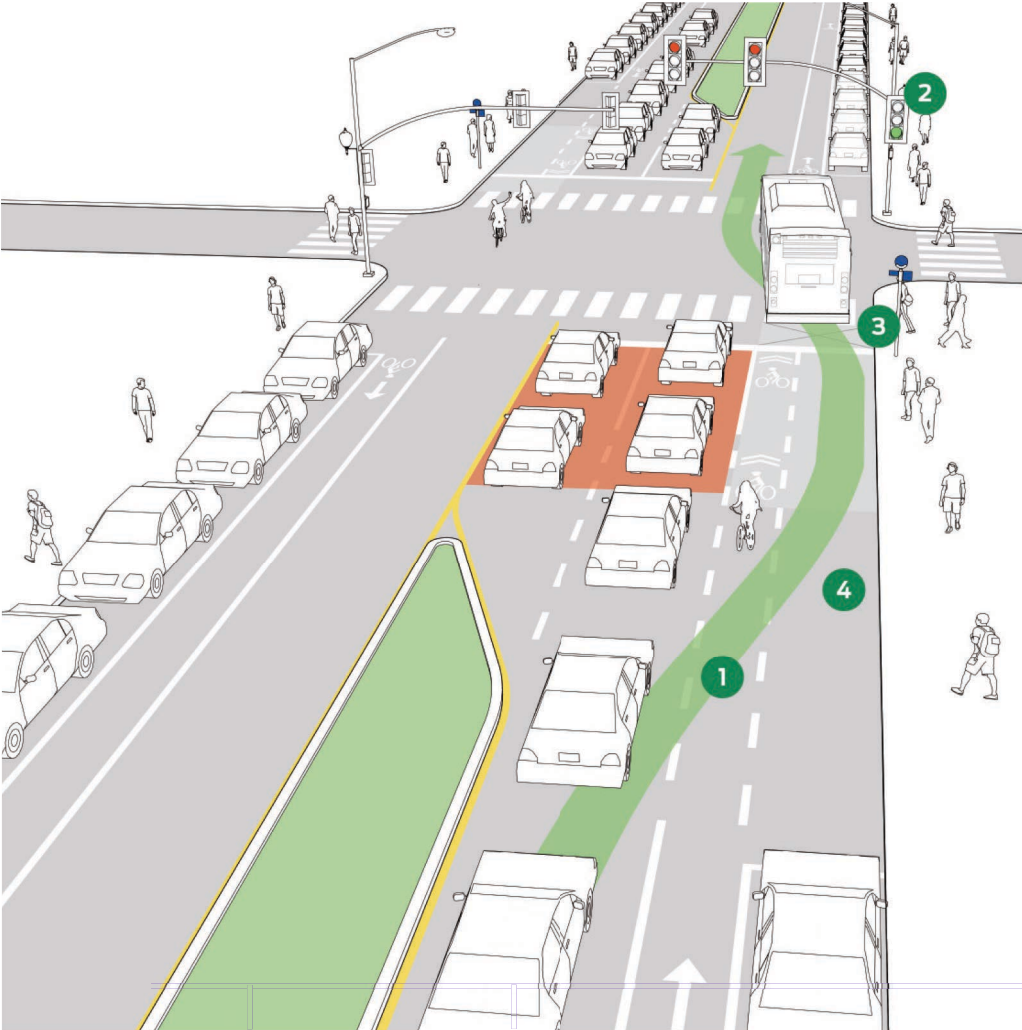
What do transit agencies influence?



What do cities influence?



Transit speed toolbox



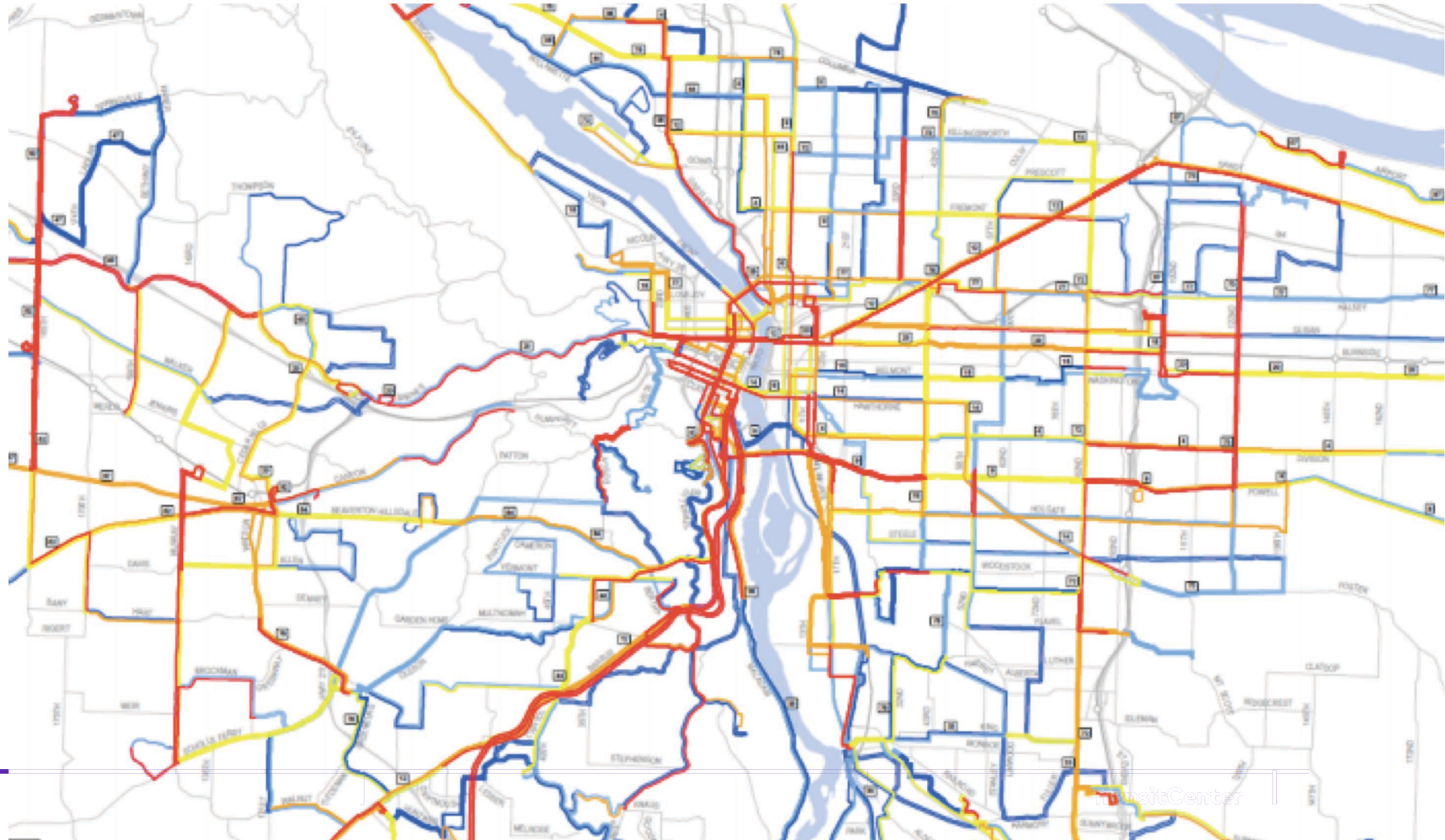
Bus-only lanes (all-day or peak-only)
Queue jump lanes
Transit signal priority
Stop location (far-side intersection)
Bus bulbouts
Level boarding
All-door boarding
etc.

What do cities do when they treat transit as if it's their own?

They identify where transit bogs down on the street

Red = more than 43% variability in travel time between 90th and 10th percentile days

(Portland Bureau of Transportation)



They give transit the credit it deserves when measuring street performance



Dexter Ave road diet w/bus islands and bike lanes (Seattle):
From 19,700 people to 22,400/day

They give transit the credit it deserves when measuring street performance



“We know that 10,000 people a day ride the bus down Broadway, and that it’s **half the mode share** during certain times of day. We don’t need much more than that to say that justifies taking parking and prioritizing transit.”

- Jay Monty, Planner, Everett, MA

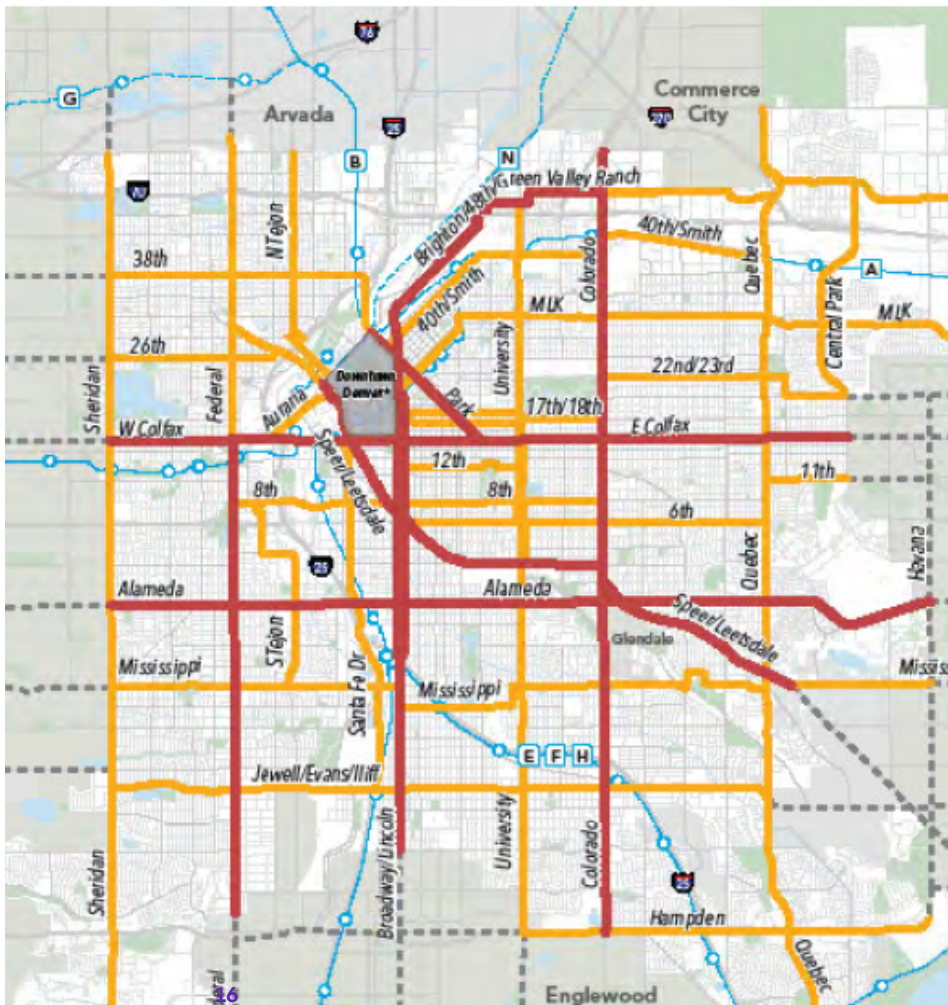
They co-plan transit street projects with the transit agency



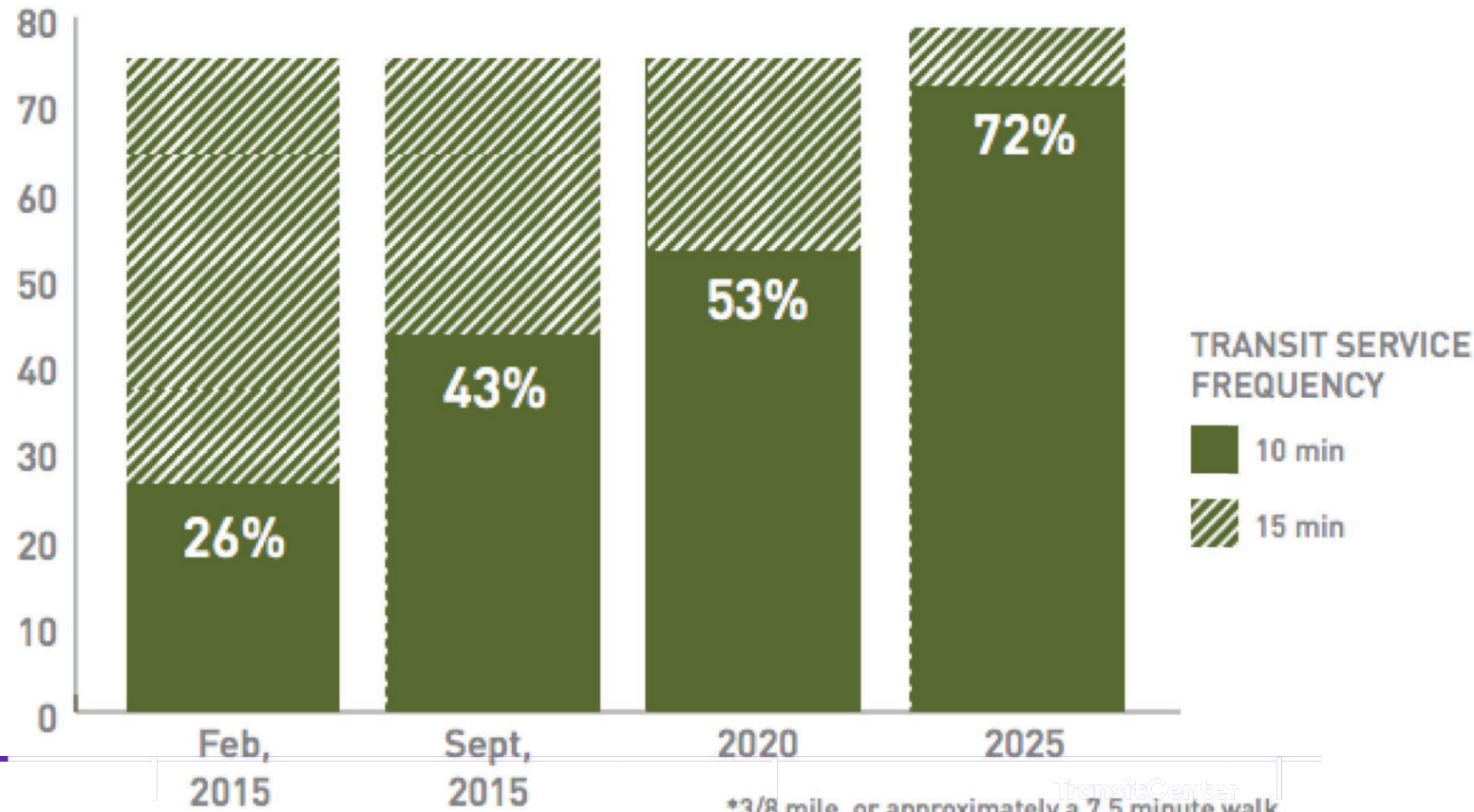
How do cities and transit agencies scale up collaboration?

Cities define their transit goals & plans

Denver's Frequent Transit Network Vision



HOUSEHOLDS WITH TRANSIT SERVICE WITHIN CLOSE WALKING DISTANCE*



Cities hire and build internal transit units

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh Staffs Up for Better Bus Service and Safer Walking and Biking

Walsh's budget signals a commitment to act on his transportation promises.

By Angie Schmitt | Apr 4, 2018 | 7

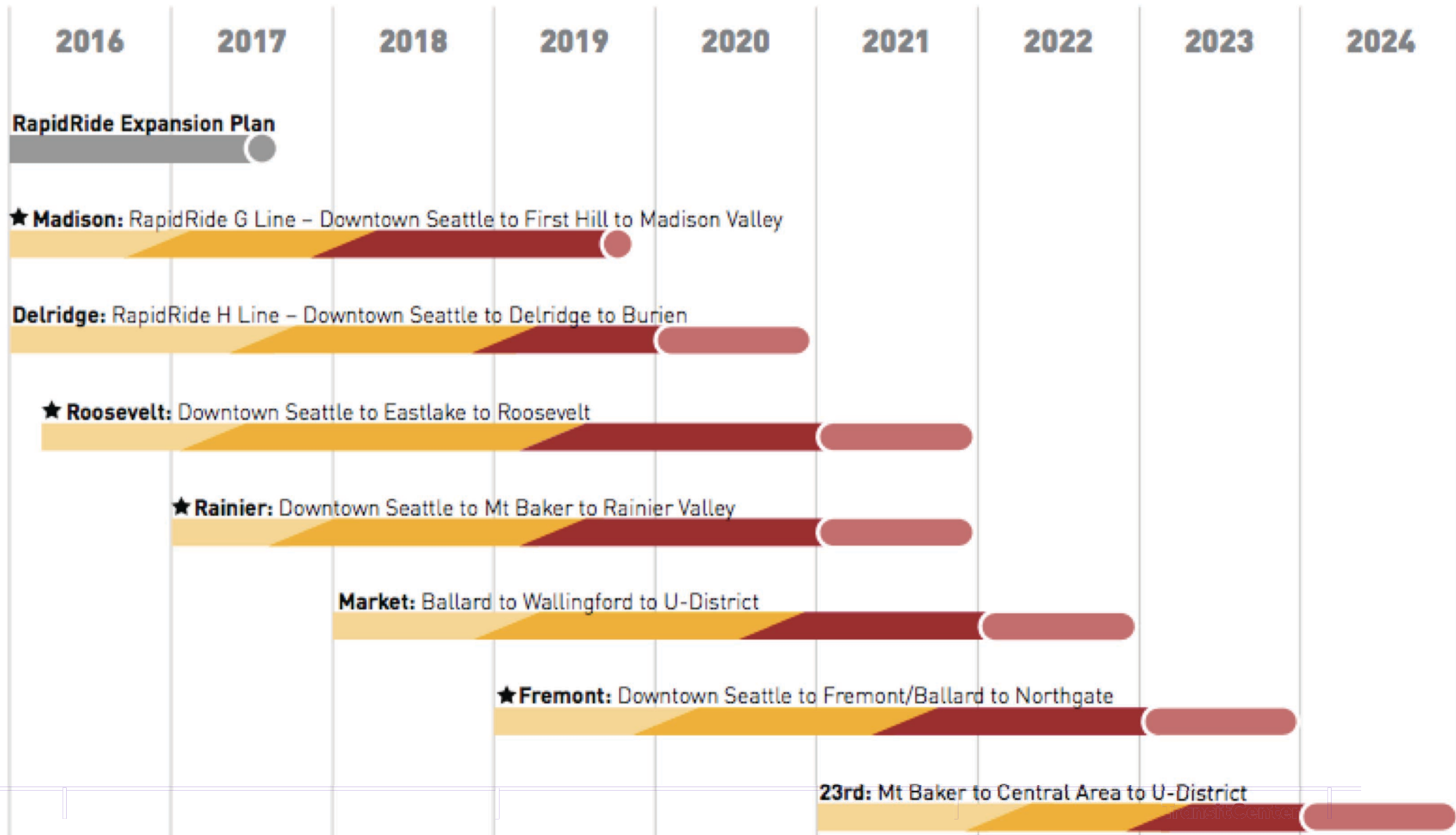


Five of the new city employees will be assigned to speed up bus service by designing and managing bus lanes and implementing transit signals that give buses fewer red lights.

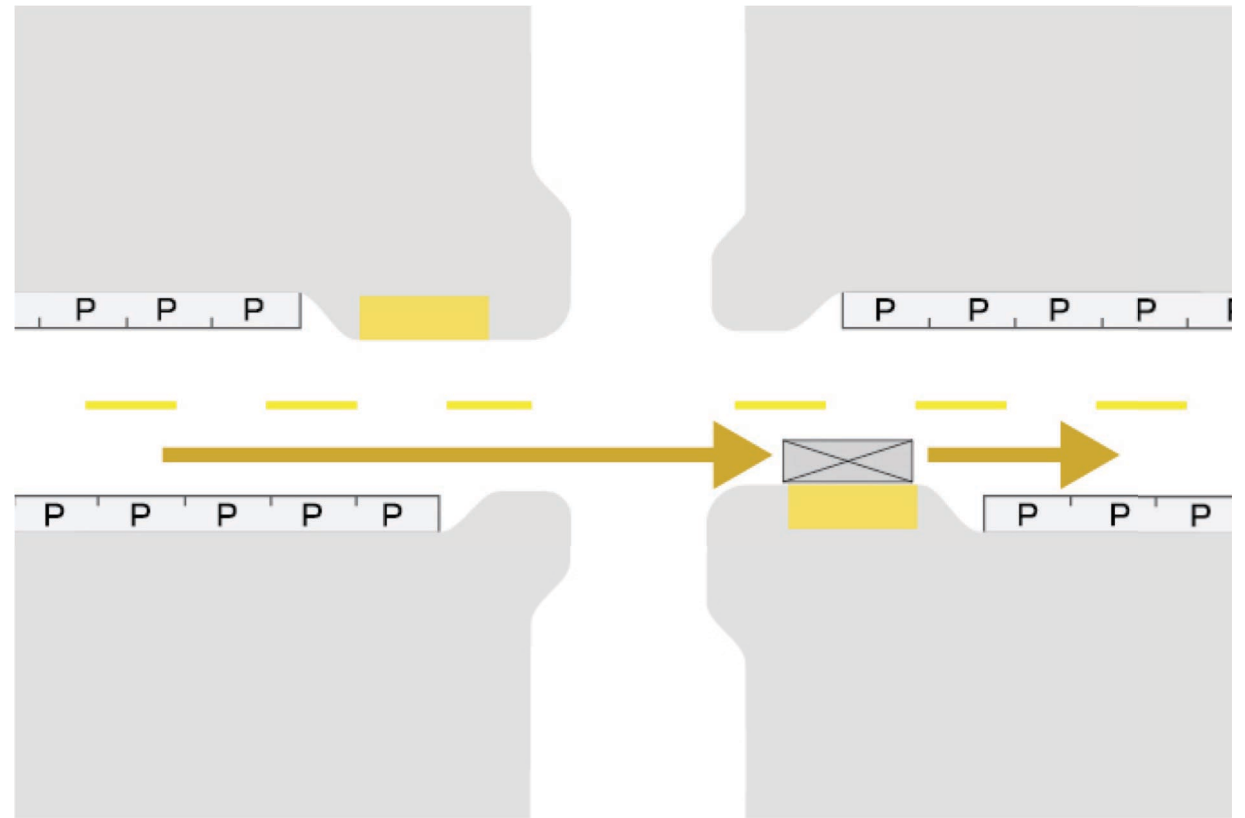
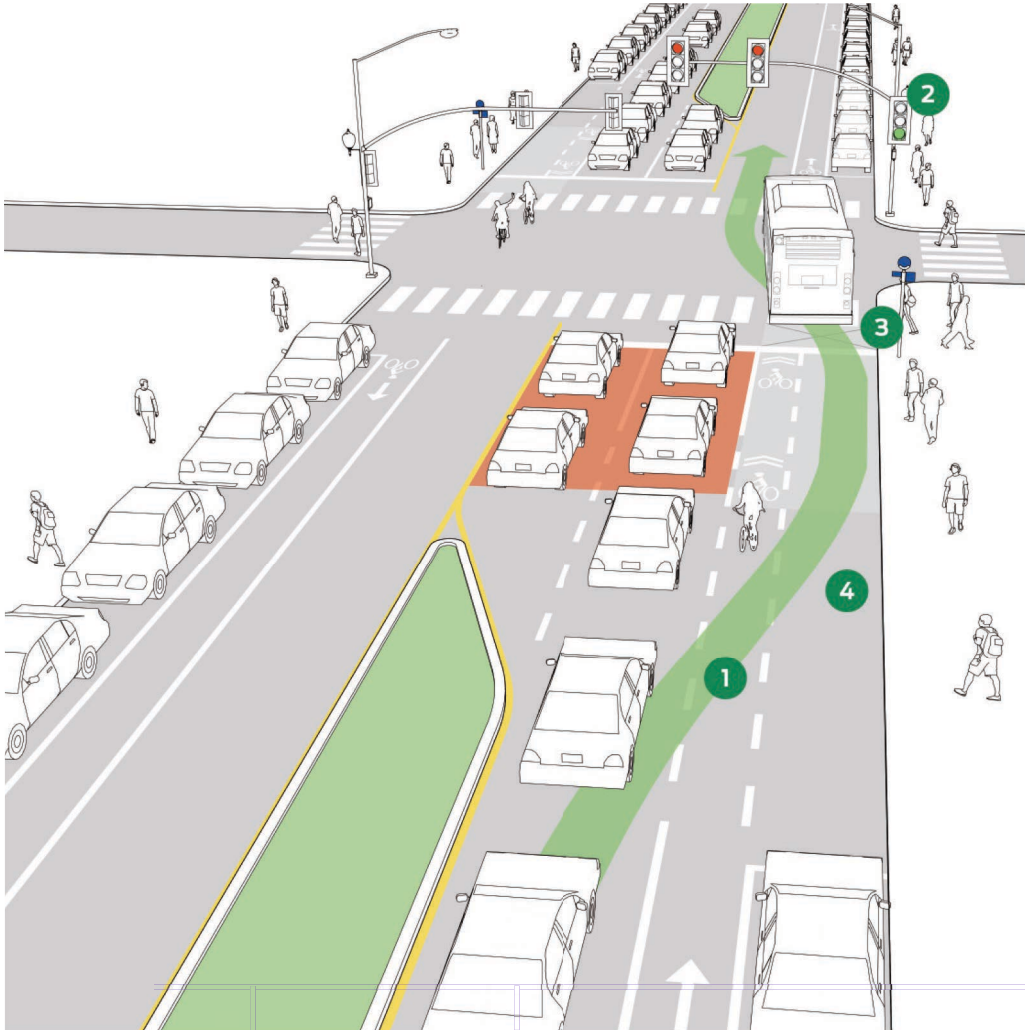
They work out process & financial questions

- Which agency is responsible for paying for different types of capital improvement?
- Can one agency “front” the other money for a project?
- Is the city willing to “buy” additional bus operating hours from the transit agency?
- How will the city and transit agency prioritize transit corridors?

They build a pipeline of transit street projects



They fix transit slow zones system-wide



They coordinate communications



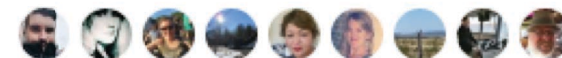
Lisa Bender
@lisabendermpls

Following

We are working with **@MetroTransitMN** to test bus-only lanes on Hennepin Ave in uptown on May 15-17! This is a small test of an idea that could mean big improvement for local bus service across our system. Really glad for this partnership with Metro Transit! metrotransit.org/bus-only-lanes ...

2:42 PM - 7 May 2018

33 Retweets 152 Likes



What about small municipalities?

- Still need a designated staffperson on transit issues
- Technical & planning assistance can come from agencies with more capacity (MPO, state DOT, transit agency)

What is your city's stance toward transit?

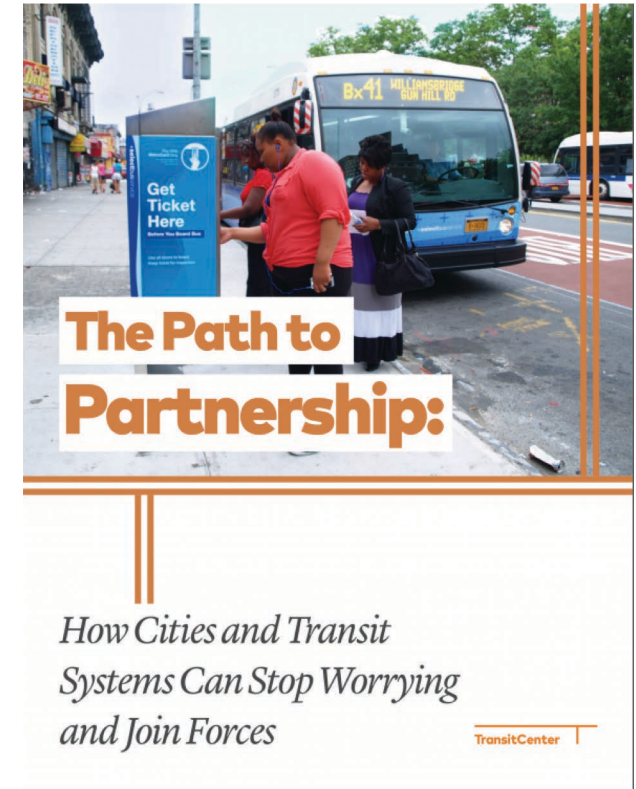
Indifference/hostility: City leaders view transit as "someone else's problem" or fight efforts to improve transit

Oversight: City leaders use oversight roles, board seats, bully pulpit to call for changes at transit agency

Supportive: City leaders create neighborhoods that transit can serve, advocate for transit funding

Partnership: City leaders view transit as an essential service they help deliver and are accountable for

TransitCenter resources



transitcenter.org | Steven Higashide, Director of Research
shigashide@transitcenter.org | @shigashide