Rebuilding & Reimagining: Route 6-10 Connector

Public Forum
March 23, 2016
History

- Built as a highway bypass around Olneyville in 1950s
- Design work dates back 30 years ago
- Project funding never identified
- EIS Completed 10 years ago with no plans for moving entire interchange into construction
- Many bridges shored with temporary supports – some 15 years old and in need of repair
- This year RIDOT is putting out a $6 M repair project
- This will be just a Band-Aid to keep the interchange in operation
- A throwaway project - dollars are basically a wasted investment as the bridges must be replaced
Existing Conditions

Traffic Volumes

- 53,800
- 82,700
- 97,300
Existing Conditions

Structurally Deficient Bridges
Existing Conditions

Northeast Corridor
Existing Conditions

Topography & Elevation Differences
Original Design
Opportunities for transit

- Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Systems a success across the country
- Newest BRT in neighboring Hartford - CT Fastrak
- Preliminary 6/10 BRT Ridership – up to 4,000 potential new transit trips
- 10,500-13,000 total potential transit trips
RhodeWorks provides $400 M in local funding for the 6/10 project.

RhodeWorks anticipated leveraging this local funding to attract an additional $400 M in federal funds.
Finding a solution

- After long delay, 5-year Federal authorization act passed by Congress in December 2015

- $800M available in FY 16 for new federal competitive grant for projects of national significance – called FASTLANE

- USDOT will prioritize projects that “strengthen communities through neighborhood redevelopment; mitigate negative impact of freight movements on communities … particularly for disadvantaged groups.”

- USDOT may consider “whether a project’s design is likely to generate benefits for all users … including non-driving members of a community…”
Finding a solution

- Obama administration has accelerated the application deadlines:
  - Program Announced: February 26
  - Letter of interest due: March 25
  - Application due: April 14
- RIDOT will likely apply for at least $100 M for Route 6-10
Reconstruction with BRT
Boulevard with Highway and BRT
Reconstruction with BRT
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Reconstruction with BRT
Boulevard with Highway and BRT
Proposed Timeline

- Forum 3/23/16
- FASTLANE App. Due: 4/14/16
- FASTLANE Award Announcement Likely Fall 2016
- Award Contracts for NEPA and Preliminary Engineering
- End 2016: New Starts Project Initiation
- 2017: Advertise RFP for Construction
- 2018: FASTLANE Construction
- New Starts Funding Agreement 2018
- 2019: BRT Construction
- 2016: Project Initiation
- 2017: Advertise RFP for Construction
- 2018: FASTLANE Construction
- 2019: BRT Construction
Thank you

Peter Alviti Jr.
Director

Peter Garino
Deputy Director

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