









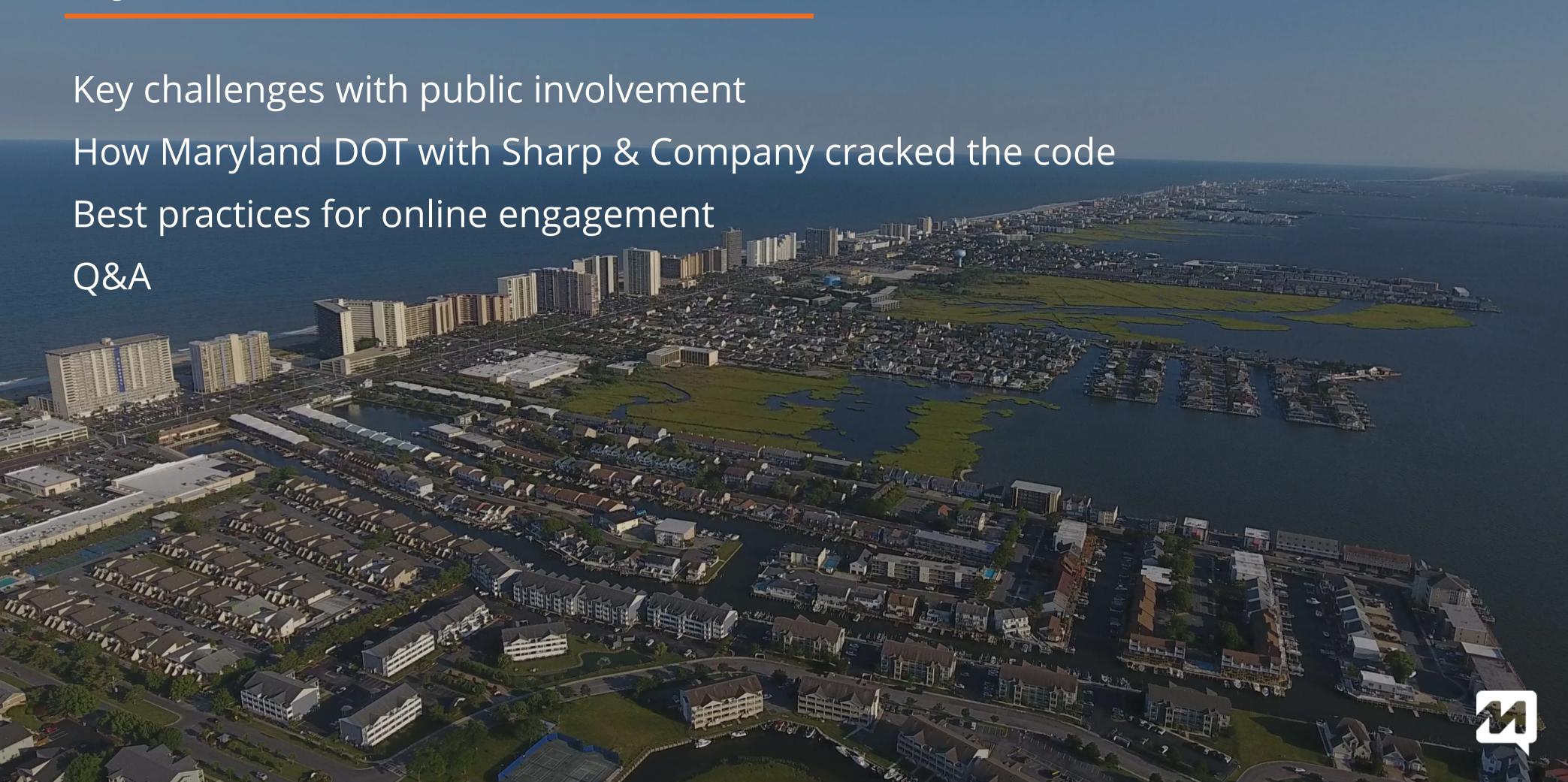




Dave Biggs
Chief Engagement Officer
MetroQuest



Agenda



20 years of best practices research











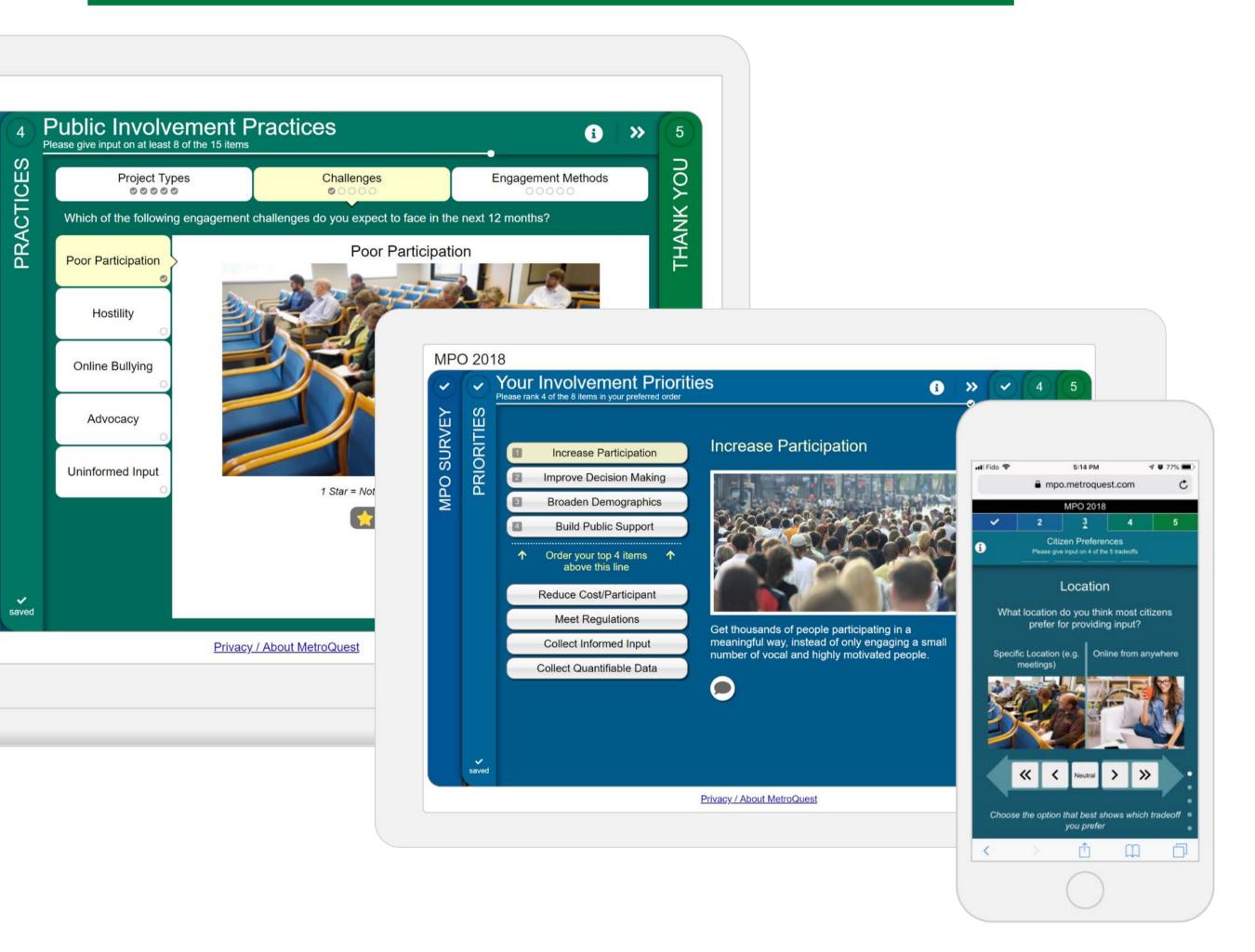


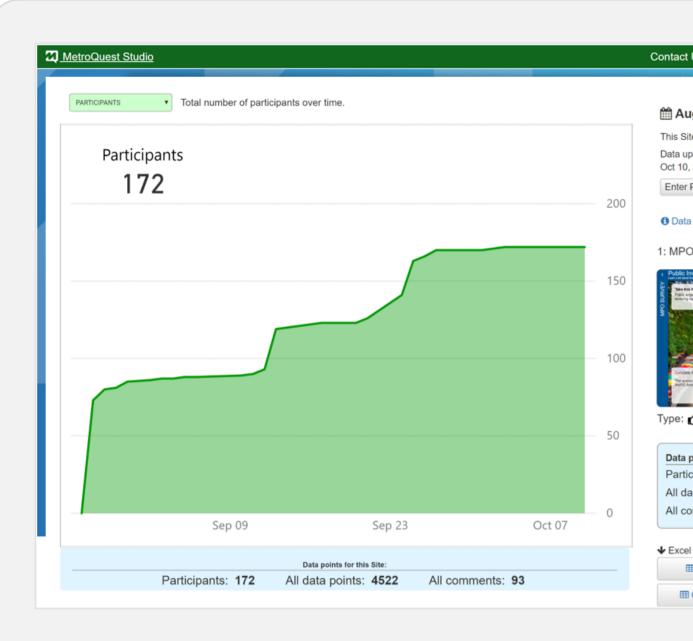
Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations





Public Involvement Matters Survey





#1 Challenge: poor participation

"Apathy and time commitment by the public."

"Currently we have very little public visibility, awareness, and involvement."

"People just don't make time to give input."

"Lack of participation. Reaching the same motivated people who may not be representative."

"Getting people involved and interested in the first place and getting a decent demographic cross-section of the population; not just elderly white people."

"Regardless of what advertisement methods we try, we get the same small crowd."



#2 Challenge: uninformed input

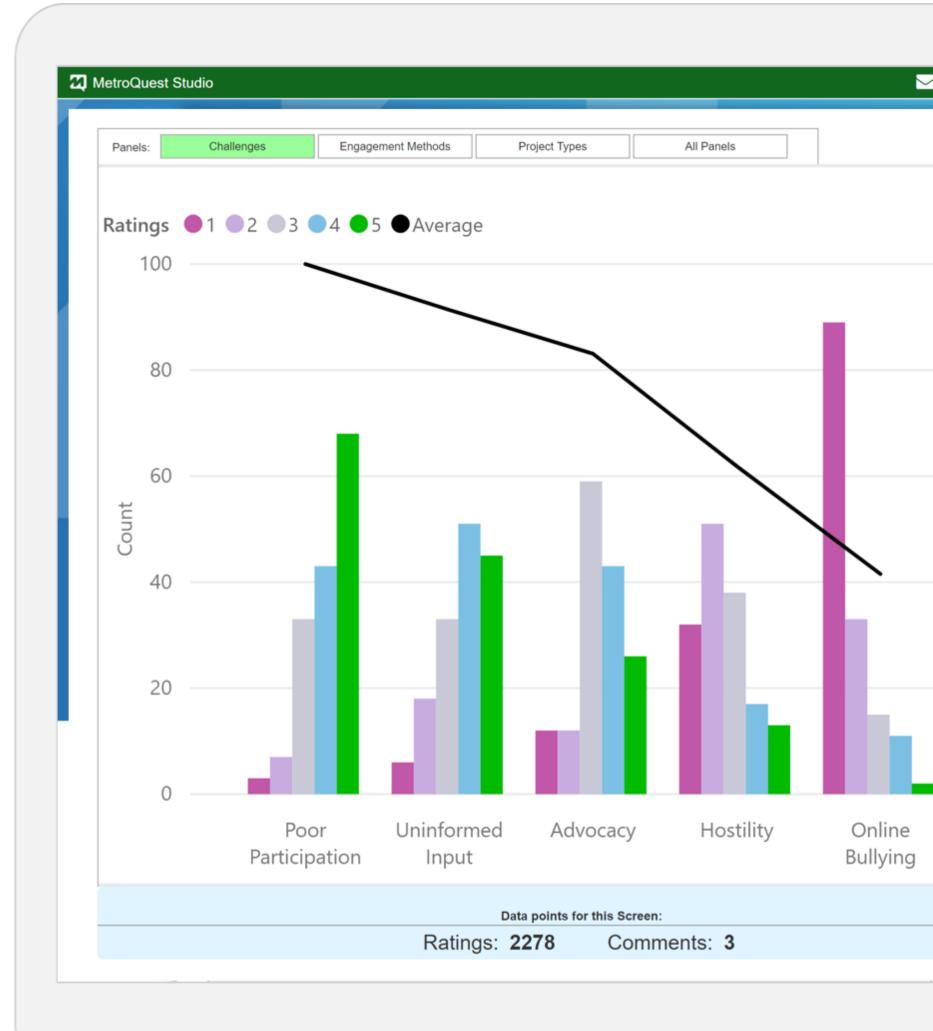
"Uninformed citizens trying to sway projects in a way they think they want to see."

"Uninformed input spread as fact through Social Media."

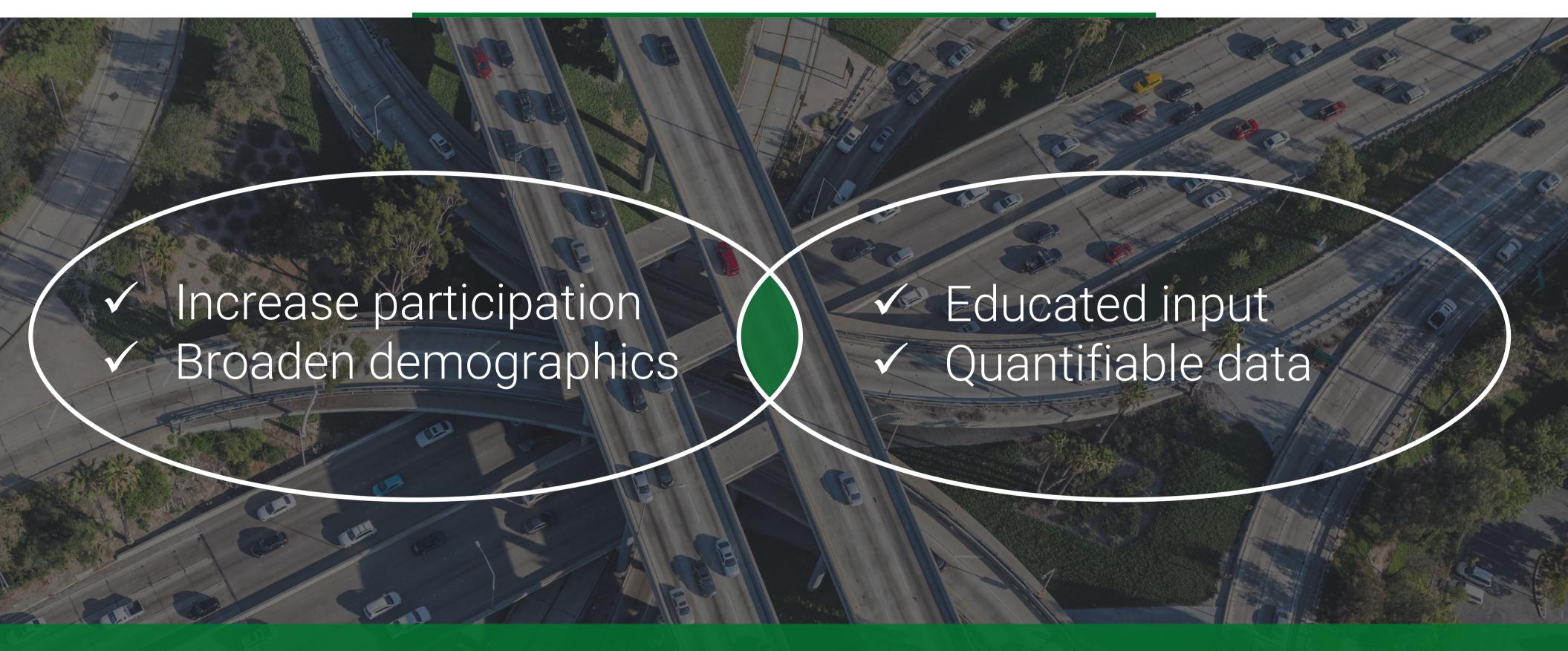
"Spread of dis-information. People only like to acknowledge their points of view. All others are wrong. People do not want to hear all sides or all information."

"The public being uniformed at meetings and giving uninformed feedback."

"Engaging people who are interested but may not have time to immerse themselves in a planning effort."



Top public engagement goals



maximum participation + informed input = actionable results





Increase participation

★★★★★☆

Broaden demographics



Inform & educate







Increase participation



Broaden demographics



Inform & educate







Increase participation



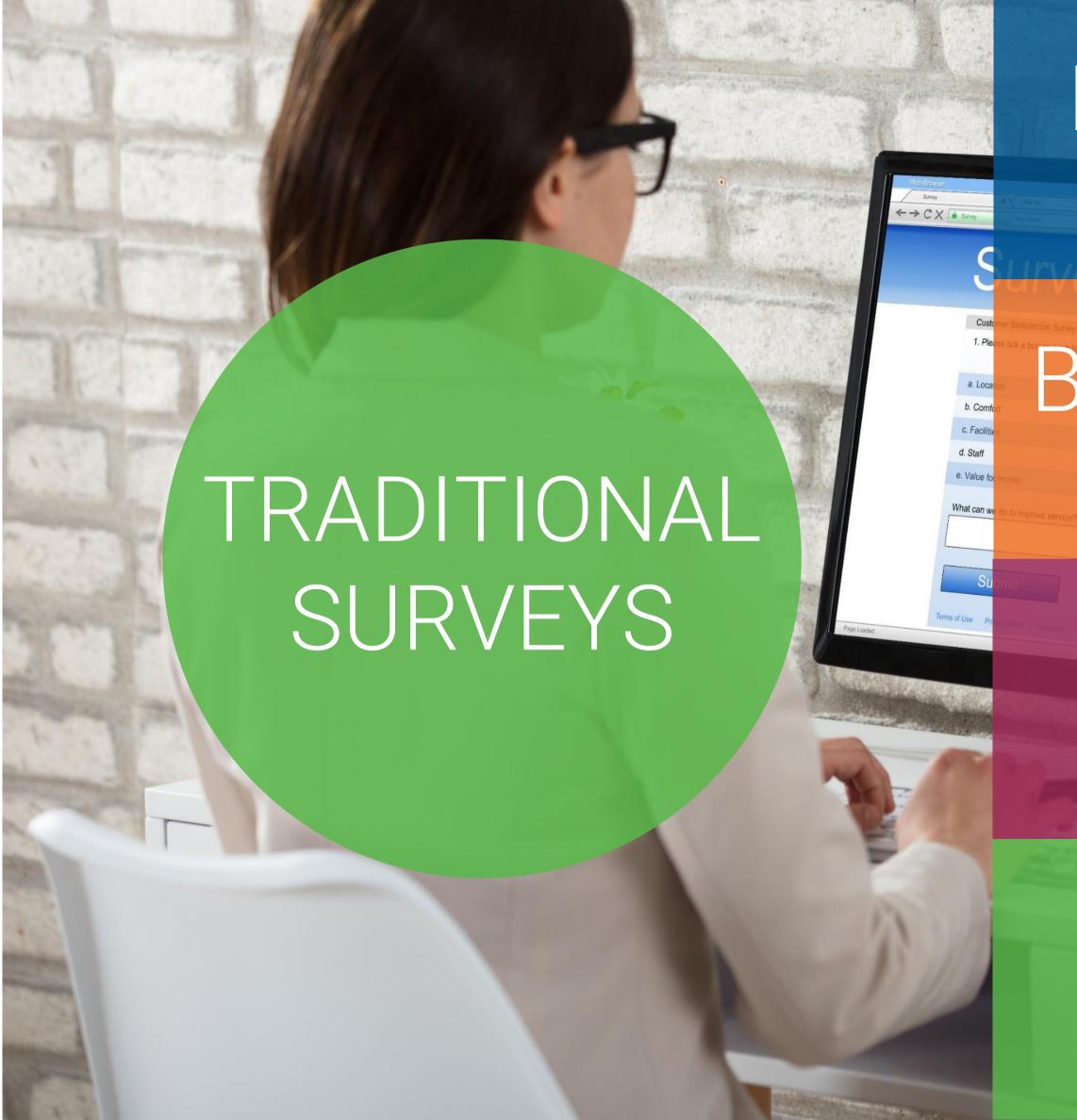
Broaden demographics



Inform & educate







Increase participation



Broaden demographics

Broaden demographics



Inform & educate









Michelle Martin

Assistant Director, Office of Planning & Capital Programming Maryland DOT



Susan Sharp

President & Partner Sharp & Company



Emily Aro

Social Media Wizard

Sharp & Company



Transit Plans to LRTPs – MDOT's Formula for Engaging Thousands

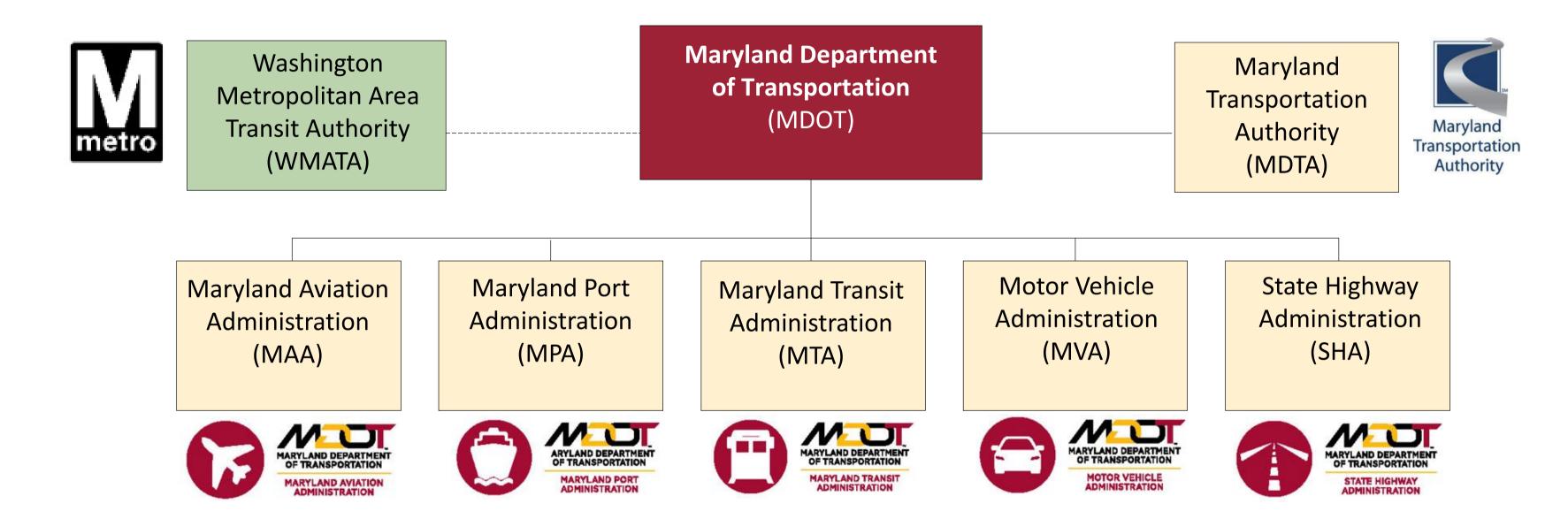
MetroQuest Webinar October 30, 2019



Maryland Department of Transportation







Mission Statement: "The Maryland Department of Transportation is a customer-driven leader that delivers safe, sustainable, intelligent, and exceptional transportation solutions in order to connect our customers to life's opportunities."

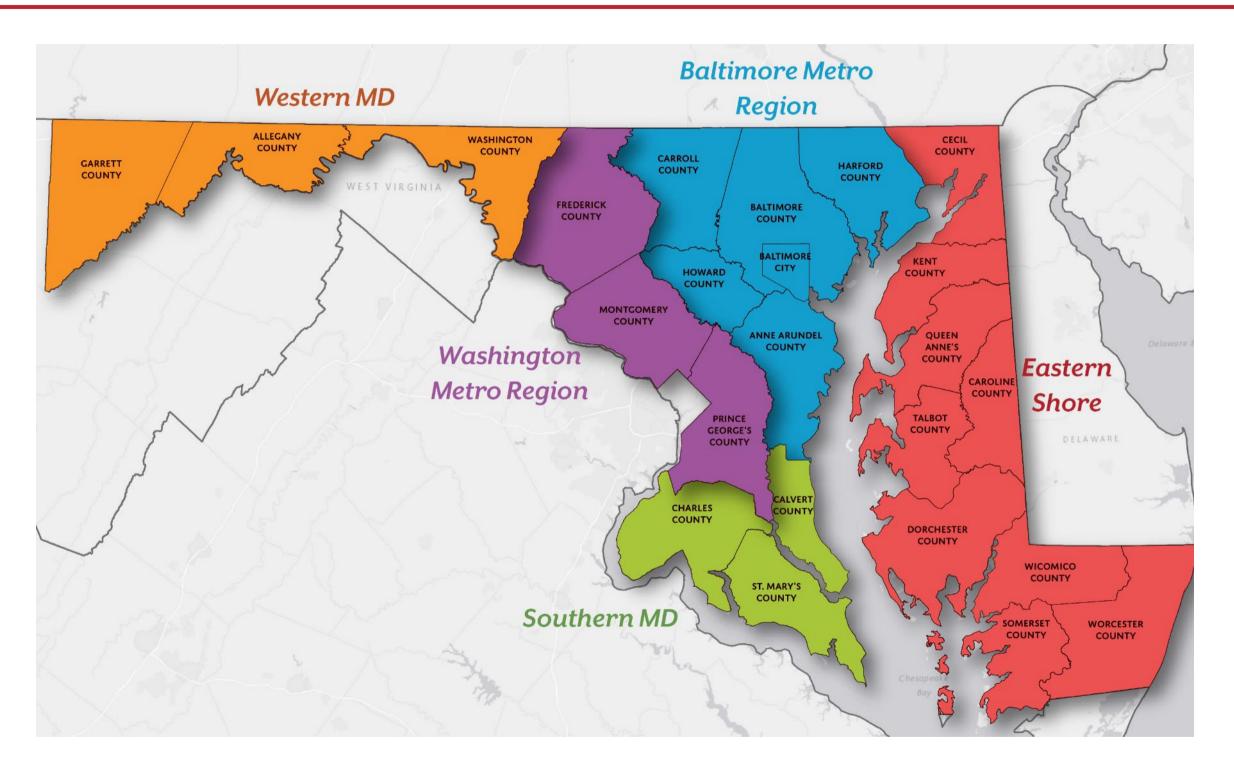


Maryland's Five Regions





Called America in miniature, the 9th smallest state contains a remarkable degree of geographic and demographic diversity. Each region has its own character, distinct needs, and associated transportation systems.

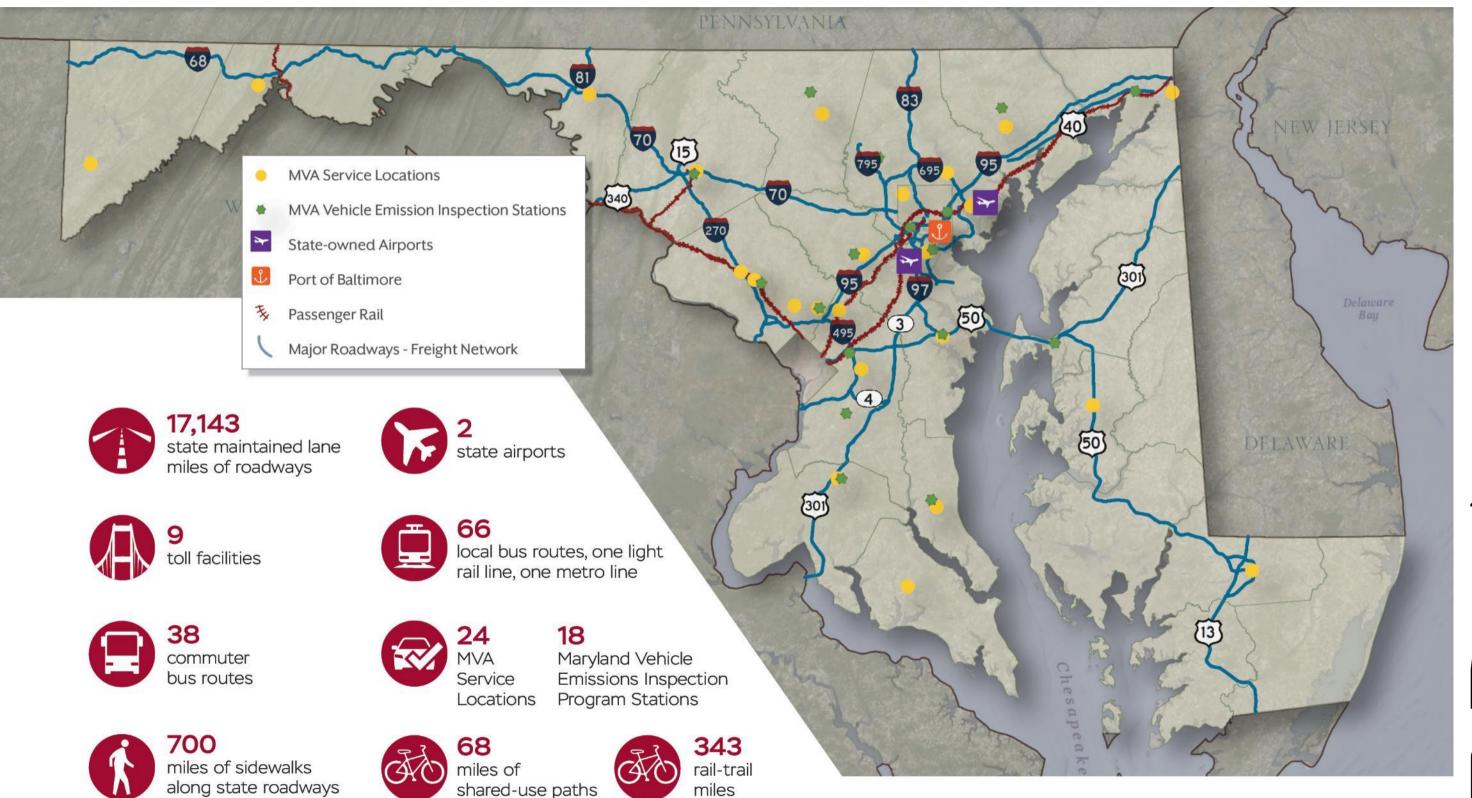




Maryland's Major Statewide Transportation System









Maryland has 452 electric charging stations and 1,147 charging outlets



Most of Maryland's freight movement is by truck



Much of Maryland's truck demand is in Central Maryland



Maryland congestion costs users \$2.167 billion annually



BWI passenger numbers are increasing over the long term (2000 - 2016)



Maryland transit ridership is slightly lower (2008 – 2016)



MVA transactions are increasing after a drop during the recession







miles of short line

Commuter (MARC)

Maryland Area Regional

freight rail and

State-owned public cargo terminals



international cruise terminal at the Port of **Baltimore**

MDOT also supports 33 public use airports in the State through federal grant programs, provides technical assistance for transit systems in 23 counties, and is a funding partner of the regional Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

The Maryland Transportation Plan (MTP)





- Updated every 5 years
- Establishes 20-year vision for multi-modal transportation outlining transportation policies and priorities
- Helps guide Statewide investment decisions for all methods of transportation, to meet both State and Federal requirements.
- Policy-Based Plan, not a Project-Based Plan
- Coordinated with all strategic statewide and regional plans
- Submitted annually to the Maryland General Assembly as part of the State Report on Transportation, along with the Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) and Attainment Report on Transportation Performance.



Maryland's Transportation Challenges and Opportunities





TRANSPORTATION

- Aging Infrastructure
- Connected and Automated Vehicles
- Electric Vehicles
- Safety & Congestion
- Security
- Shared Mobility Economy

POPULATION

- Aging Population
- Development Patterns
- Millennial Generation

ENVIRONMENTAL/SOCIAL

- Climate Impacts
- E-Commerce
- Shared Mobility
 Economy
- Support for Distressed Economic Regions



Importance of Public Engagement, Communication and Collaboration





- Long-range plan can only reflect the needs and priorities of Maryland's citizens if they participate and help shape the goals, objectives, policies and strategies that will fund projects for implementation
 - Challenging when focus is on transportation needs, goals, objectives, policies, and strategies
 - Easier to engage the public with specific projects, not plans
- Previous efforts:
 - Sometimes meetings were 5 staff to each stakeholder
 - Significant time, energy and money for little public engagement

Who and What is the Public?





Some Insights

- Not a homogeneous group
 - Different demographics
 - Different cultures
 - Different ways of obtaining and responding to information
- Requires developing a range of tools



Public Engagement, Communication and Collaboration





MTP Tools

- University of Baltimore Survey of Maryland residents on transportation needs and priorities
- MetroQuest Survey on transportation priorities
- Facebook, Instagram and Twitter updates at key milestones
- Periodic Email Blasts and briefings to state, regional, local and federal partner agencies and interested Maryland residents
- Meetings with each County's staff and elected officials as part of annual budget meetings





Public Engagement, Communication and Collaboration





MTP Tools

- Website with schedule, information, technical reports, and opportunities to provide opinions
- Dedicated 2040 MTP Email for comments/input
- Video/Webinar on the 2040 MTP, Draft Goals, Objective and Strategies
- Governor's Advisory Committee
- Link to YouTube video of 2040 MTP Overview: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UbM0hDKhDBk



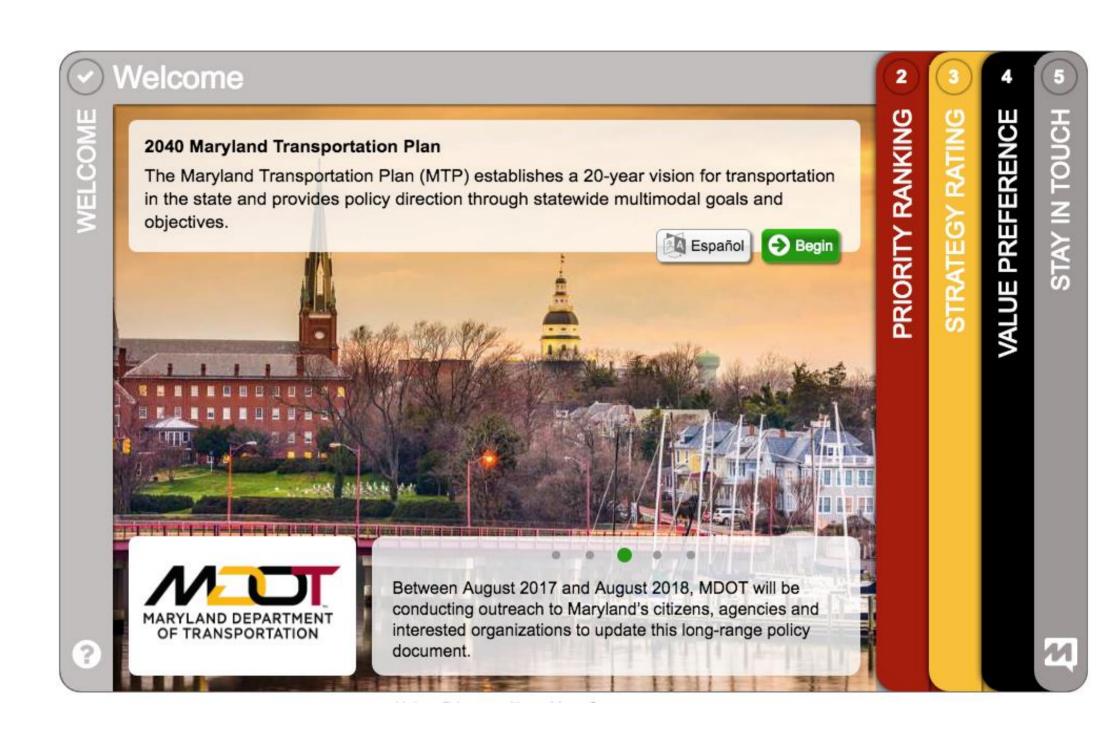


Public Engagement, Communication and Collaboration





- Developed an interactive MetroQuest Survey late Fall 2017
- Survey was available in both English and Spanish
- Public was made aware of survey being live via e-blasts, MTP website, MDOT website, MPO meetings, Facebook posts, Instagram and Twitter
- Approximately 1,500 surveys in almost two months
- However, when we added interactive Facebook Ads....



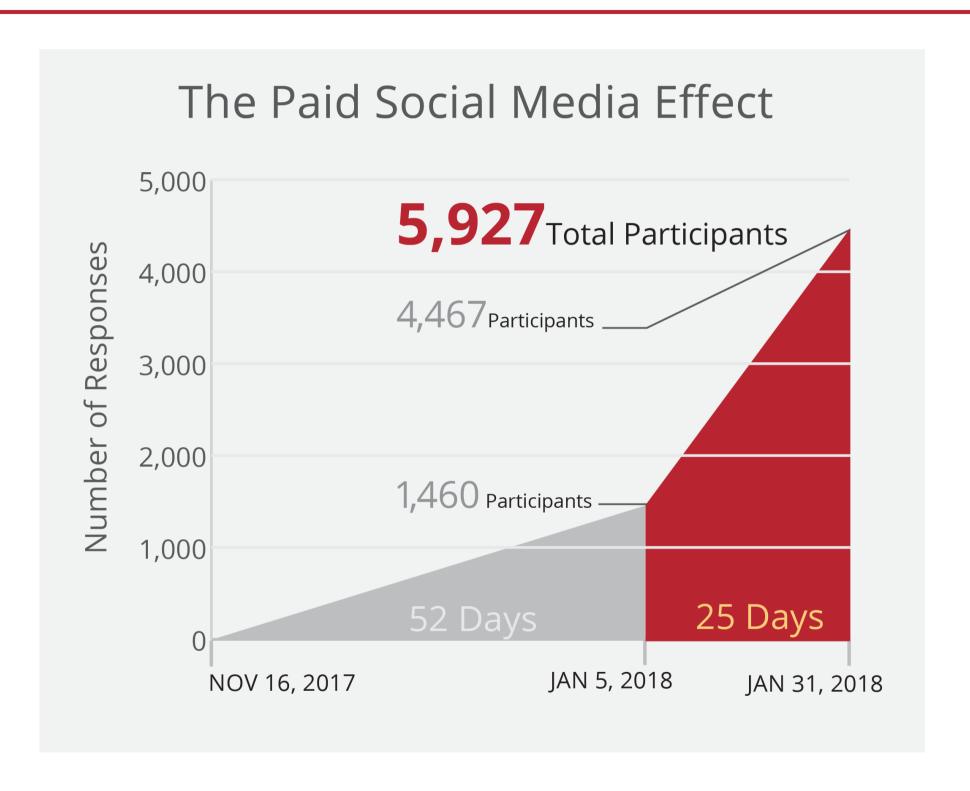


Growth in Participation





Results Speak for Themselves

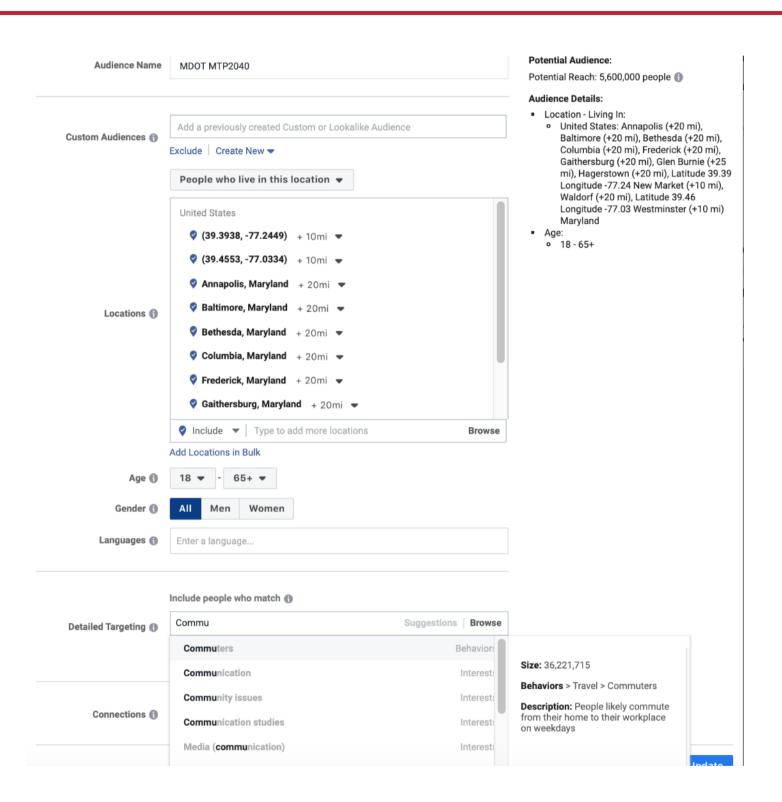


Growth in Participation





- What we did
 - Used Facebook Business Manager
 - Developed eye-catching materials
 - Focused on appropriate demographics and geographic areas to develop audiences and parallel the state's demographics
 - Laser focused on those most likely to click the survey
 - Attracted new audiences to the MTP and MDOT overall



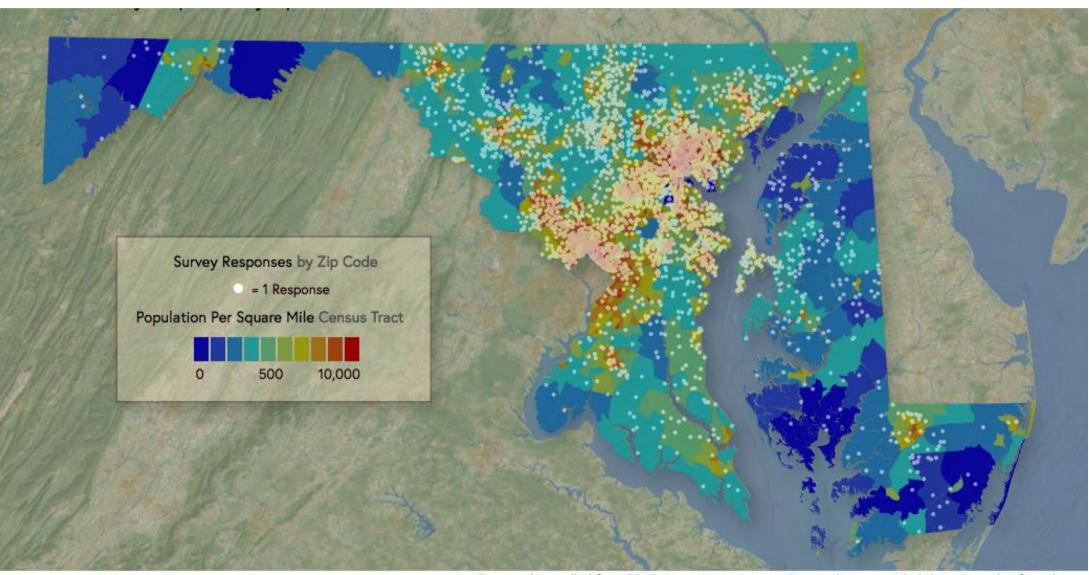
2040 MTP MetroQuest Survey





- Results of adding targeted paid promotion:
 - Growth in participation, especially in geographic and demographic areas where we usually had low participation
 - 5,927 total participants
 - 4,341 total comments
 - Over 500,000 impressions
 - Over 190,000 individuals reached
 - Over 300 shares to personal pages

Survey Participants by Zip Code



Survery data culled from 2040mtp.metroquest.com. Respondents provided their zip code of residence 3,896 valid Maryland zip codes responses submitted (from survey total of 5,927 respondents) Average of 8.8 responses per zip code



2040 MTP Survey – Top Priorities





MetroQuest Survey Enabled MDOT to:

- Better learn what our customers' top priorities are:
 - Travel Reliability
 - System Maintenance
 - Safety and Security
- Better understand Maryland's Top #1 Choices (most times at #1):
 - Tax Dollars Spent Wisely (28.2%)
 - Transportation Choices (27.6%)
 - System Expansion (27.1%)





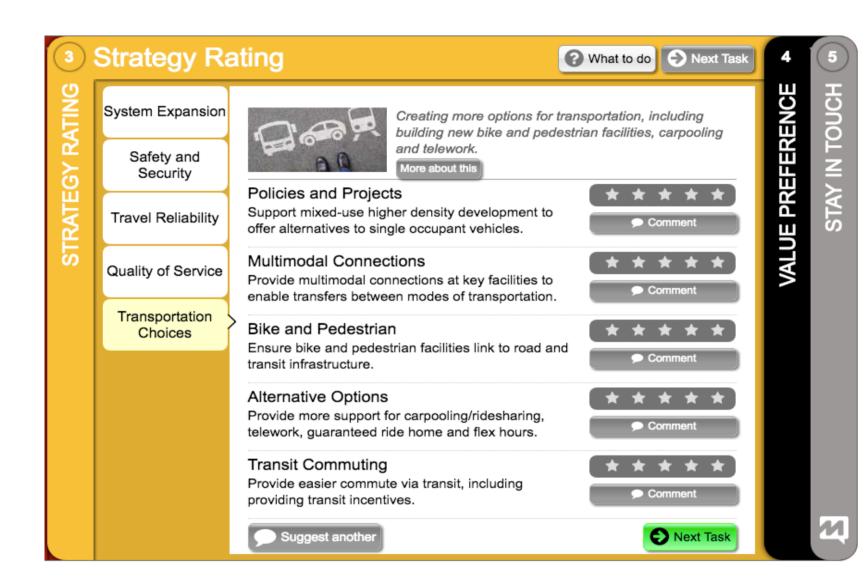
2040 MTP Survey - Top Strategies by Priority





MetroQuest Survey Enabled us to get a better understanding of Maryland's top transportation strategies:

- Maintenance of aging infrastructure.
- Invest in improvements.
- Reliable travel times.
- Preserve the existing infrastructure before building.
- Improve air quality.
- Invest in public transit services and vehicles to enhance the transit rider experience.
- Support mixed-use higher density development to offer alternatives to single occupant vehicles.
- New Technology.



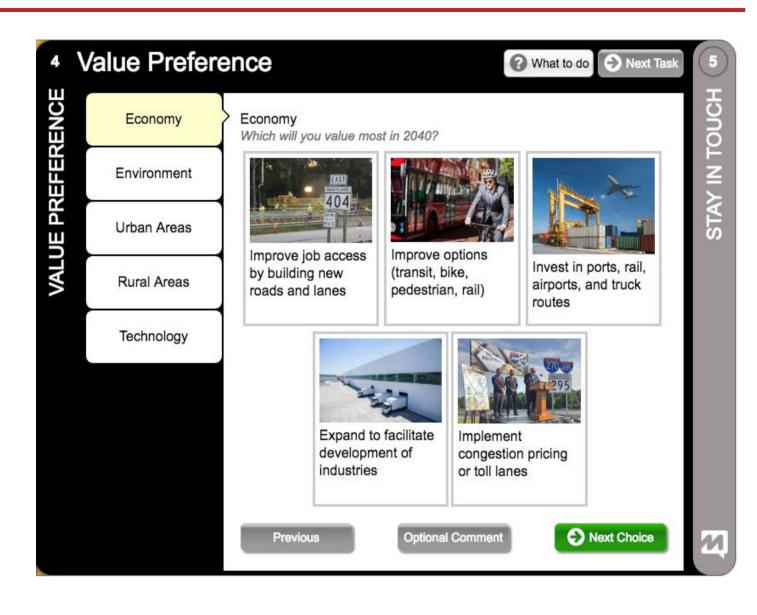
2040 MTP Survey – Top Value Preferences by Topic





MetroQuest Survey helped with visual preferences, what Marylanders want the State's transportation to look like in 20 years:

- Improve options for transit, bikes, pedestrians, and rail.
- Add alternative travel options such as transit, bicycle, and pedestrian.
- Deliver projects with more transportation options.
- Provide more transportation options.
- Improve operations for safety and congestion.

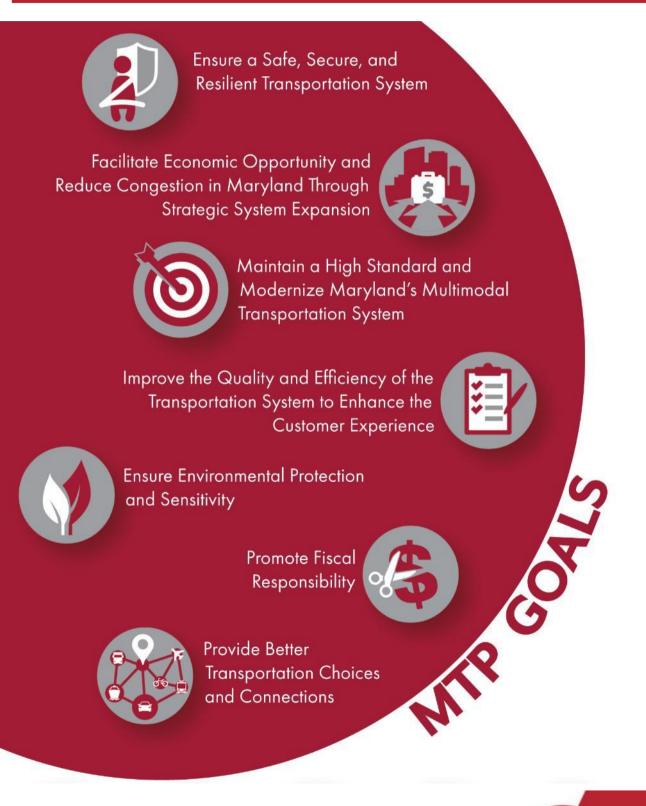




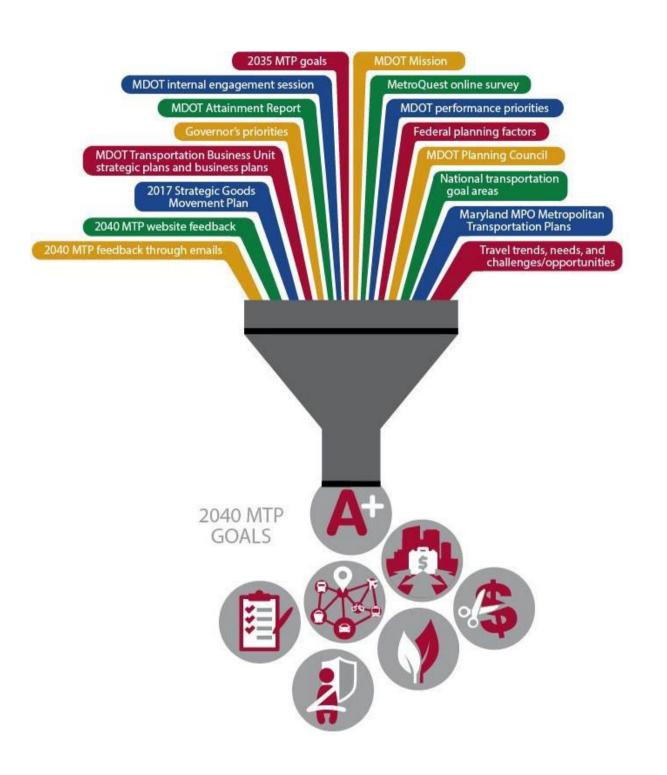
MTP Goals







- MTP now has seven goals.
- Each goal has objectives.
- Each goal/ objective has performance measures outlined for the annual Attainment Report (AR).



What did we learn from doing the survey?





- We learned that we could get more responses from the interactive survey:
 - from a handful of participants at in-person meetings in 2008,
 - to almost 2,200 participants in 2013,
 - to nearly 6,000 participants in 2018.
- We learned visual preferences about future priorities for the economy, urban/rural areas, the environment and technology, indicating a focus on transit, bikes/pedestrians, transportation choices and improving safety and congestion.
- We learned that technology, modernization and innovation were key themes along with transportation choices, system preservation, maintenance and reliability.
- We learned that fiscal responsibility and using our tax dollars wisely were important.

What did we learn from adding paid social media?





- We were able to triple our survey response/participation rate In half the time.
- We were able to target areas around the State with traditionally low participation.
 - We balanced higher response rate in major urban areas by promoting more heavily in non-urban areas.
 - We could drill down to better understand survey responses on transportation priorities based on these geographies (rural vs. urban interests).
- Paid social media allowed the State to attract new interest and participation.
- By targeting the budget we were able to significantly increase response.



What did we learn from new technology engagement?





- Stand-alone ads appearing on Facebook and Instagram are more effective when compared to boosted posts
- Reach a wider variety of demographics through audience selection of online behaviors and interests
- Ads performed better on Facebook when compared to Instagram

What did we learn from new technology engagement?



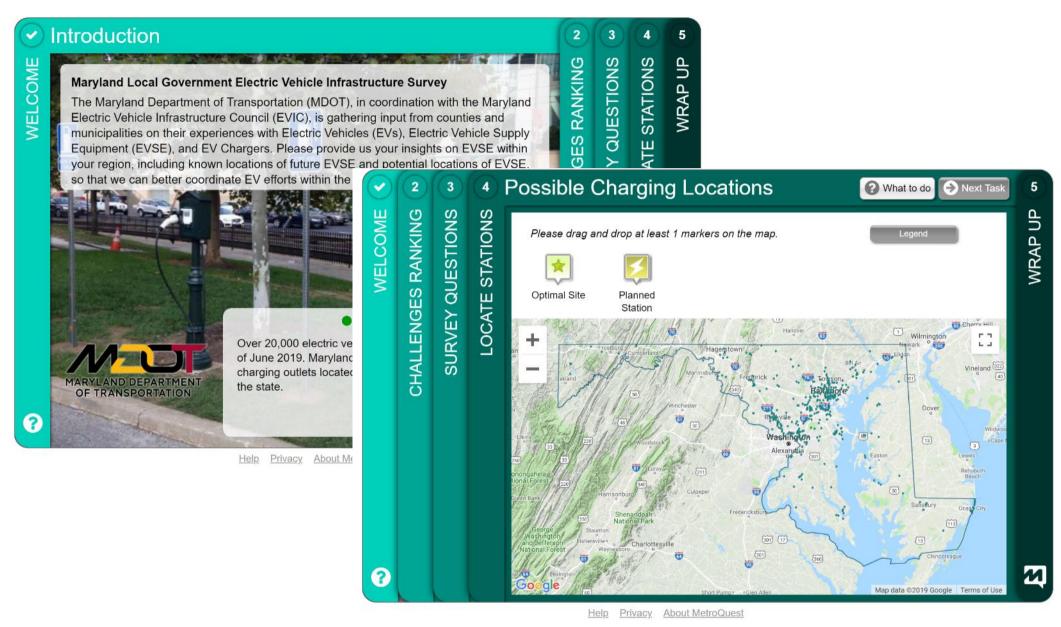


- Gain feedback from a variety of minority groups, genders, and age groups
 - Ages 18-34 made up almost 50% of the completed surveys on social media
- Higher than average click through rate
 - 85% of individuals who saw the ad and clicked the survey, completed the survey
- Very cost effective way to reach audiences
 - Facebook is a fraction of the cost of other paid media
 - Significantly better ROI than traditional public meetings

Other MetroQuest Surveys Underway







Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Commission Survey



Local Transportation Technical Needs Survey

And more ...



Other Opportunities to Use MetroQuest





MDOT Maryland Transit Administration's Regional Transit Plan for Central Maryland

25-Year Plan that:

- Defines the goals to be achieved through the provision of public transit
- Identifies options for:
 - Improvements to existing transportation assets
 - Leveraging non-Administration transportation options available to public transportation
 - Corridors for new public transportation assets
- Prioritizes corridors for planning of new public transportation assets
- Ensures consistency with local land use and transportation plans

Work in consultation with the Central Maryland Regional Transit Plan Commission and the Baltimore Metropolitan Council



Regional Transit Plan





MetroQuest Survey

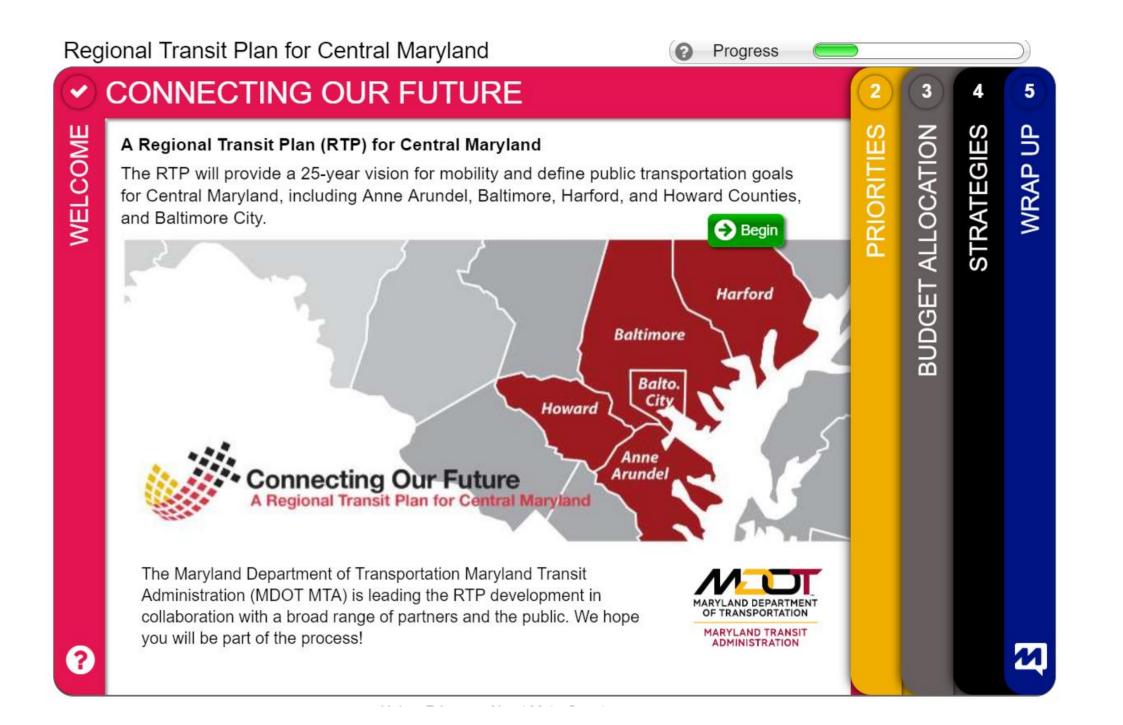


- Conducted Feb. 22 April 22, 2019
- Over 2,800 respondents from throughout the region (2,626 online)
- Targeted campaign to expand demographic/geographic reach
- Paper version available at pop-up events (218 using the paper survey)
- Input was synthesized with additional public output from Commission meetings and outreach events and will shape the goals and priorities of the RTP.

Regional Transit Plan

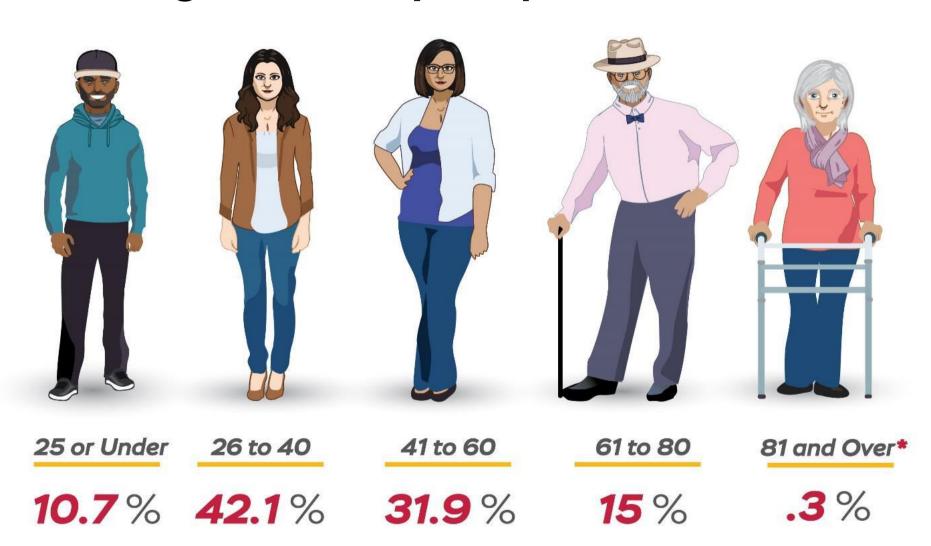








Age of Survey Respondents



Regional Transit Plan Survey Results

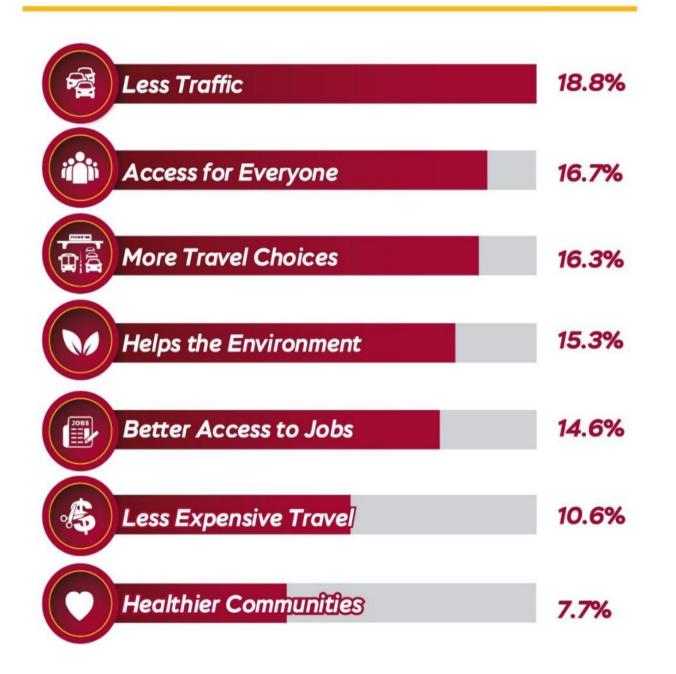


Connecting Our Future

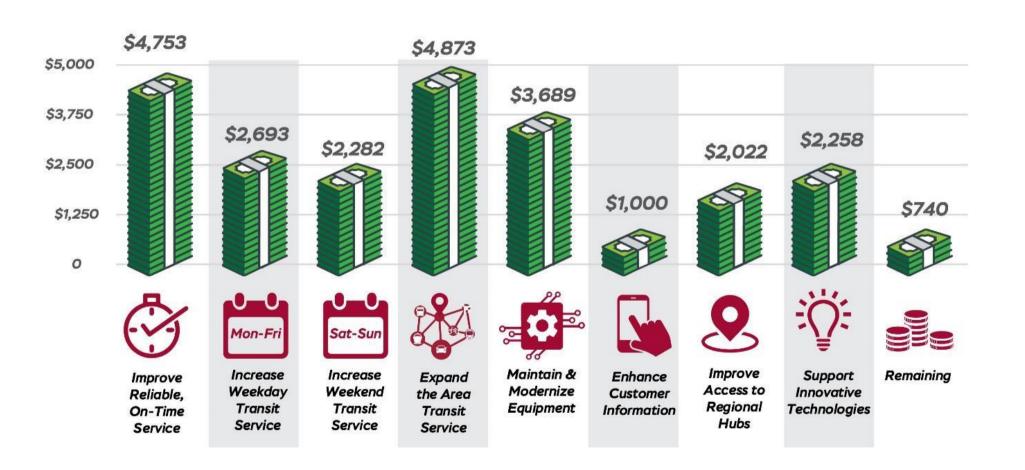
A Regional Transit Plan for Central Maryland



Benefits of Transit (Choose Top 3)



Transit Investment (Choose Top 5)



Regional Transit Plan Survey Results





How do you typically travel?









MDOT MTA Bus (CityLink, LocalLink, & Express BusLink)







Metro SubwayLink



Light RailLink

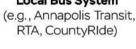
MDOT MTA

Commuter Bus

MobilityLink

Cycling (Personal Bicycle)

Local Bus System





(e.g., Uber, Lyft, Taxi)

0.3%

Bikeshare /

Scootershare

Carpooling or

1.2%



Vanpooling

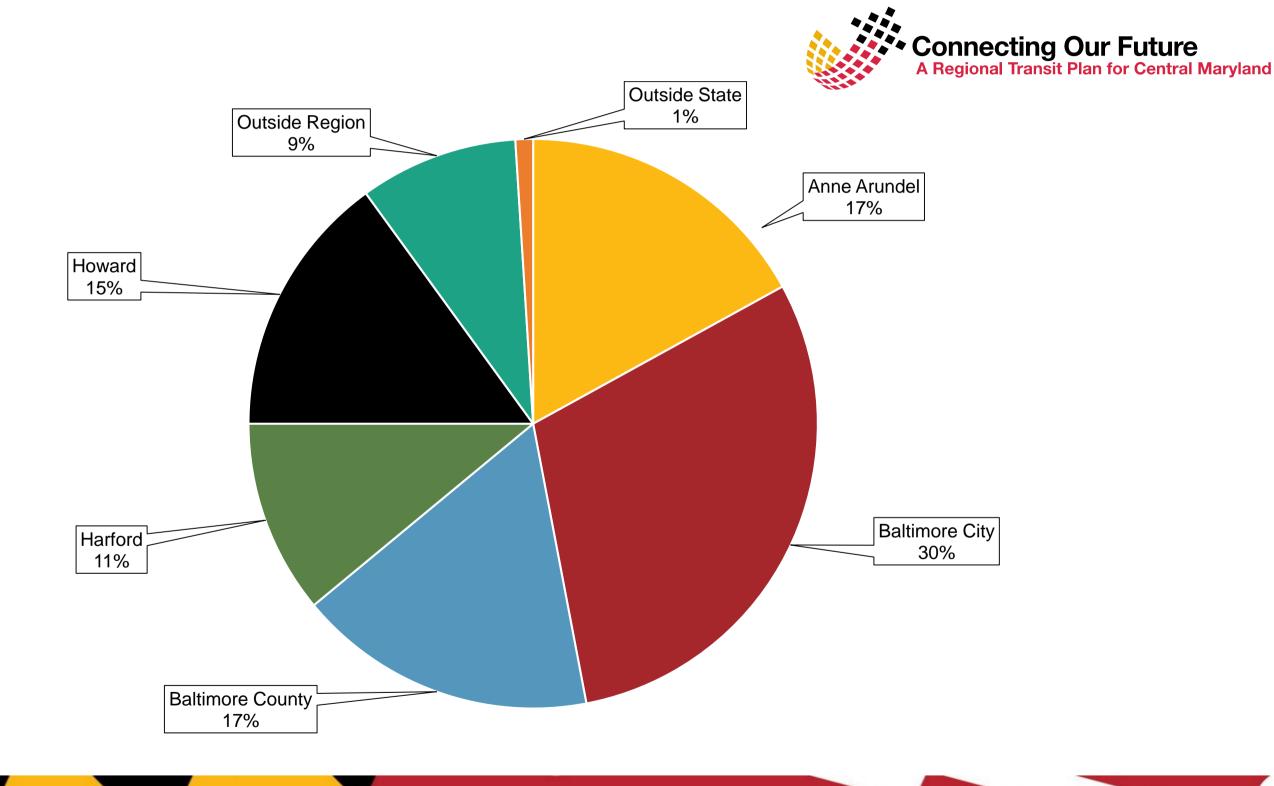


0.1%



(Hopkins Bus)

Other (Amtrak)





Regional Transit Plan Survey Results





What we learned



- We learned transportation priorities, not just the words, but how customers would focus funding through coin distributions.
- We learned which strategies were of most interest to Central Maryland transit customers.
- We learned specific comments on transit access and needs.

Regional Transit Plan Survey Comments



Connecting Our Future



Sampling of Survey Comments

- "That last mile (or three) can be a killer, especially depending on the time of day you are traveling."
- "Subways, light rail, train and bus must be integrated and have easy transfers where they cross."
- "Access to educational institutions is very important since not everyone can afford to live on campus or have a personal car for travel."
- "[Transit is] critical for community integration for populations who do not have cars and may be living on a limited income. This could include seniors and people with disabilities."
- "If [public private partnerships] are pursued it needs to be balanced with protections to ensure equity."
- "Commit to TOD around metro and light rail stations."



Regional Transit Plan





- Additional Tools for Public Engagement
 - Pop-ups
 - Transit stations
 - Shopping malls
 - Libraries
 - Community events
 - Fairs and festivals
 - Farmers markets
 - Regional open houses
 - Commission meetings







Regional Transit Plan: Lessons Learned

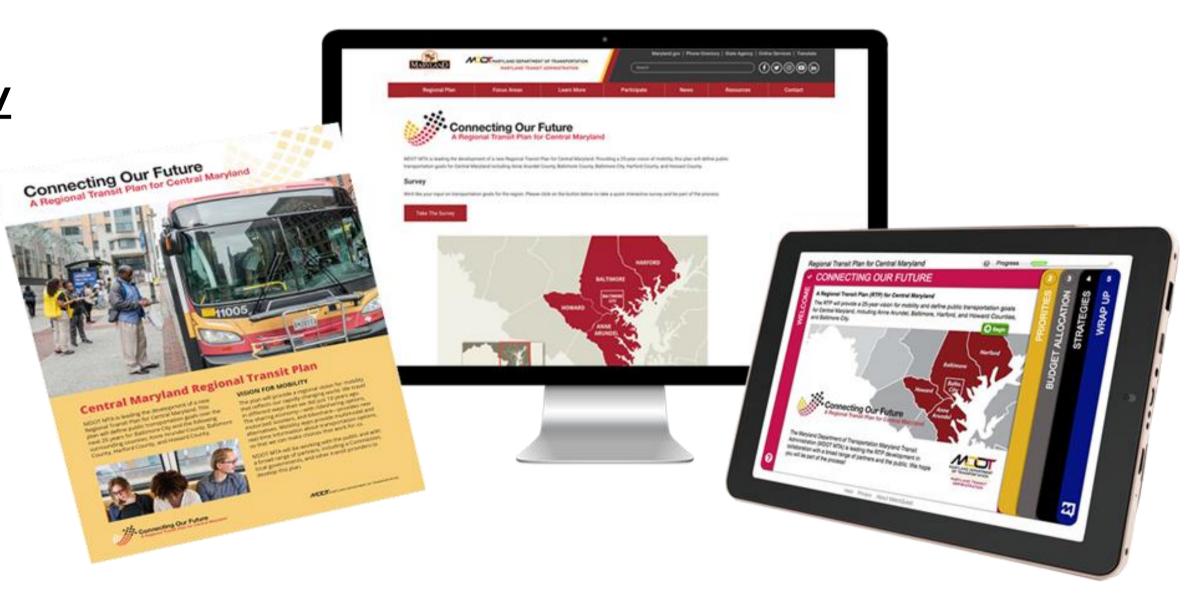




 Use both high-tech and low-tech (high touch) resources to share information



- RTP website:www.rtp.mta.maryland.gov
- RTP survey:www.rtp.metroquest.com
- RTP phone line:(443) 475-0697



Regional Transit Plan





Ongoing Goal Refinement



- Revisit and revise the goals throughout the year
- Continue public engagement to further refine goals
- Begin to consider strategies that fit within the draft goals



Using MetroQuest: What MDOT Has Learned





- MetroQuest offers a flexible, user-friendly platform that can be used in many different ways to obtain public input on projects
- Combining MetroQuest with effective paid social media can significantly increase input and reach new markets
- Using MetroQuest as part of a multi-dimensional public involvement process produces better results

Questions?





- Contacts
 - Michelle Martin, MDOT Planning (410) 865-1285 mmartin@mdot.state.md.us
 - Susan Sharp, Sharp & Company (301) 424-6133
 susans@sharpandco.com
 - Emily Aro, Sharp & Company (301) 424-6133 emilya@sharpandco.com

Select MetroQuest subscribers

State Agencies Texas Department of Transportation MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION... **MaineDOT** COLORADO **Department of Transportation**

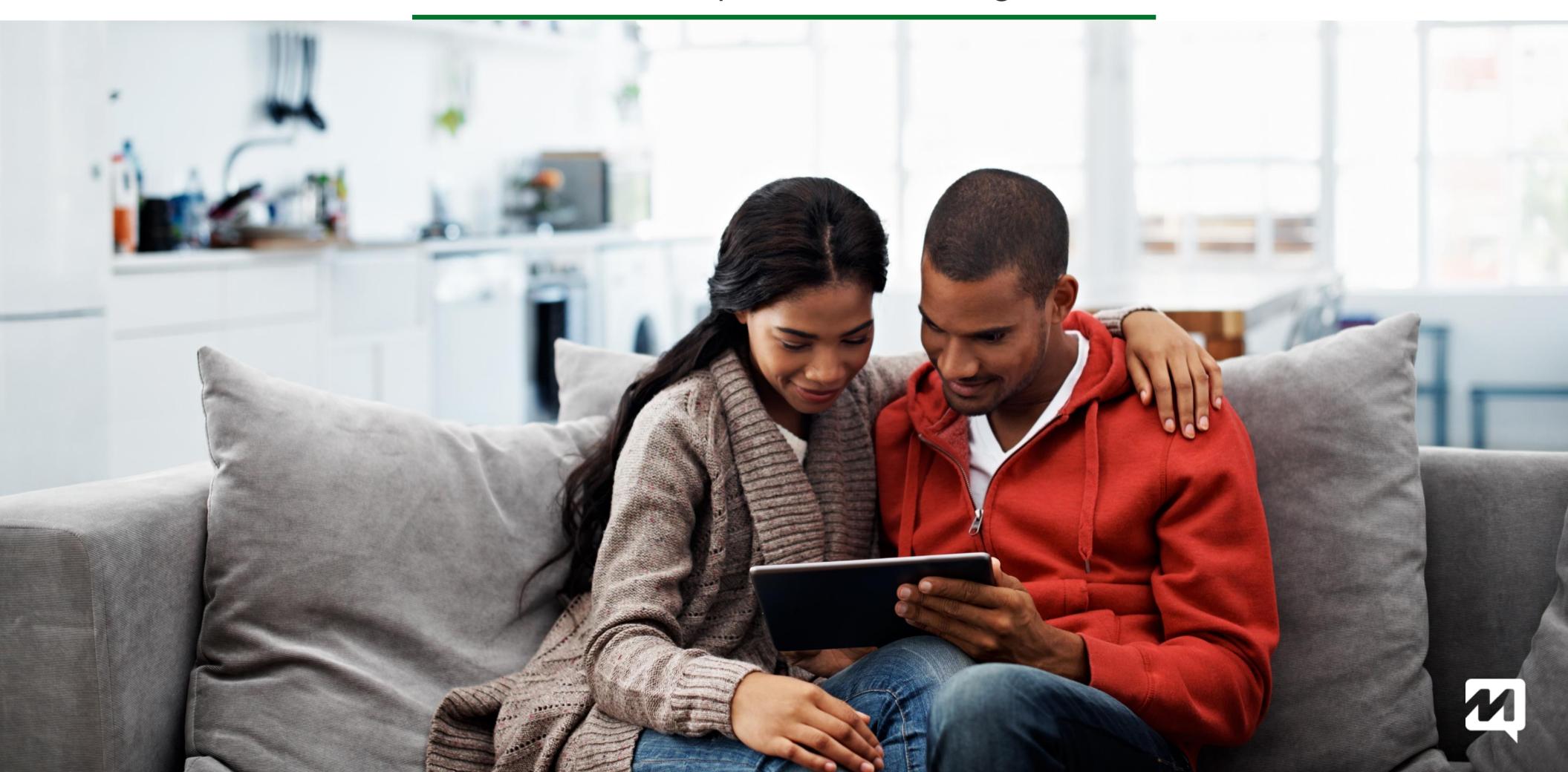


Consulting Firms Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL Kimley » Horn THE LANGDON **GROUP AECOM** FOURSQUARE ITP

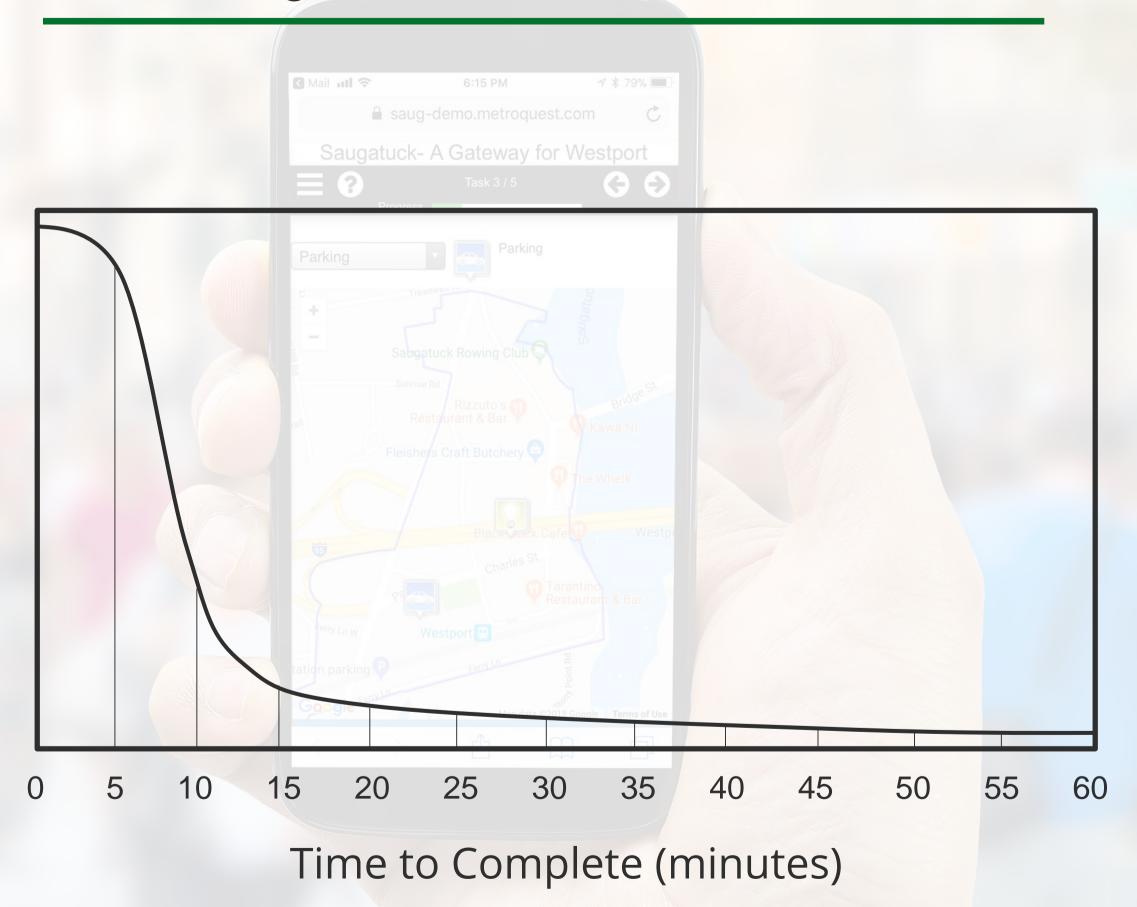




Make the experience delightful



Design it to take 5 minutes



Participants

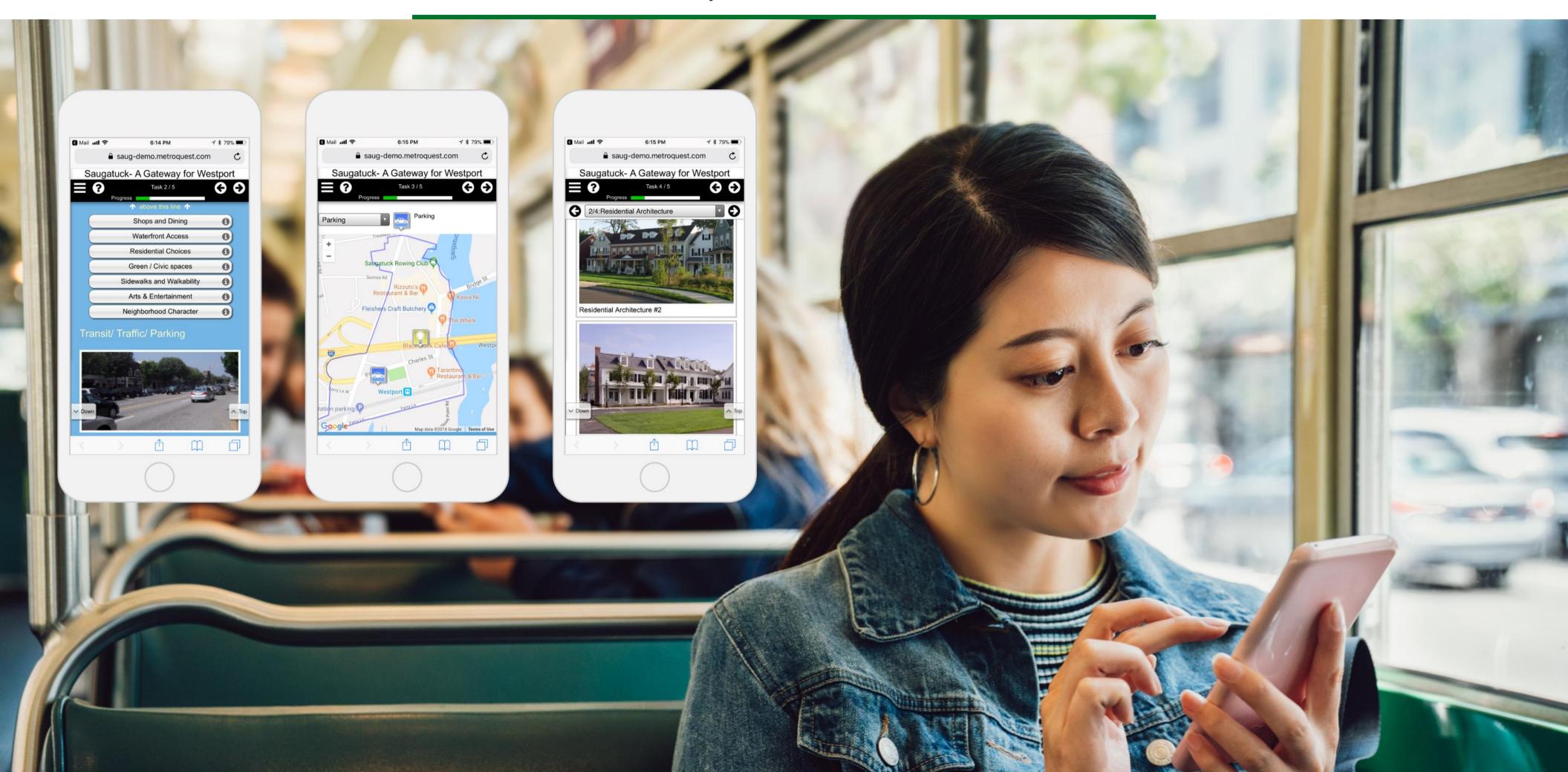


Be multi-channel



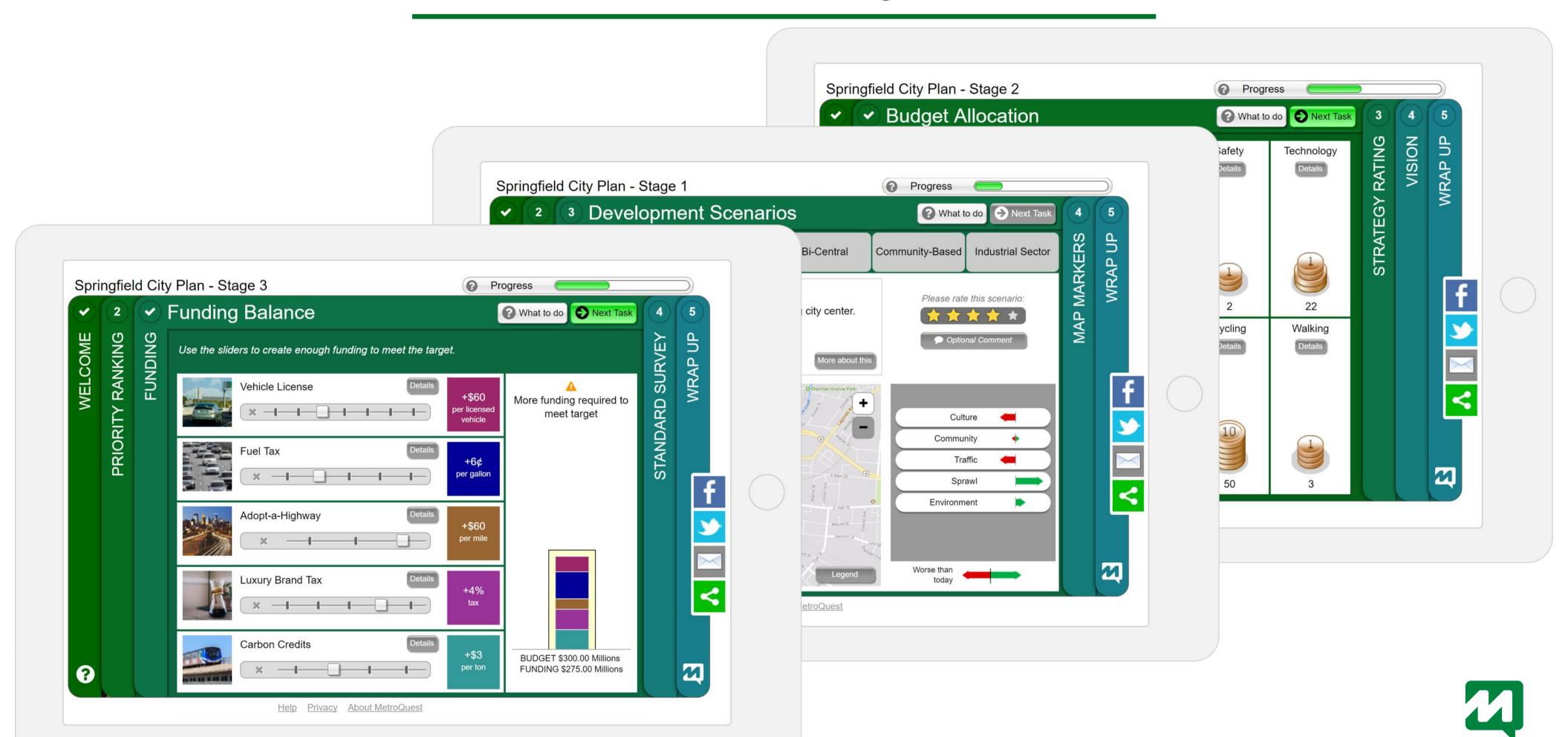


Make it responsive on mobile





Create microlearning moments



Use templates designed for planning



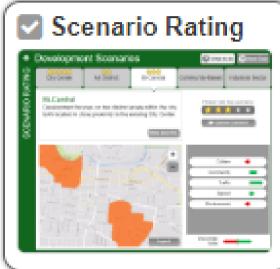


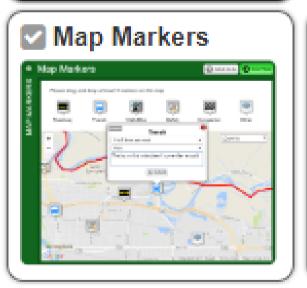




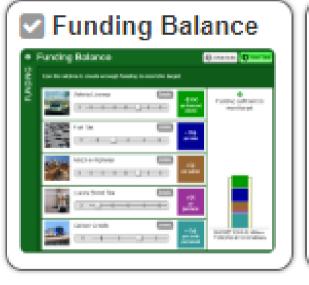


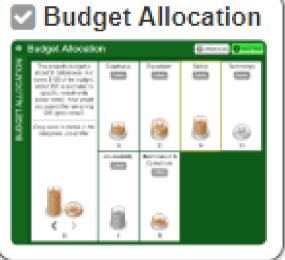




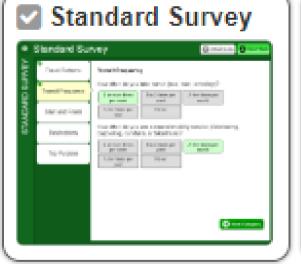








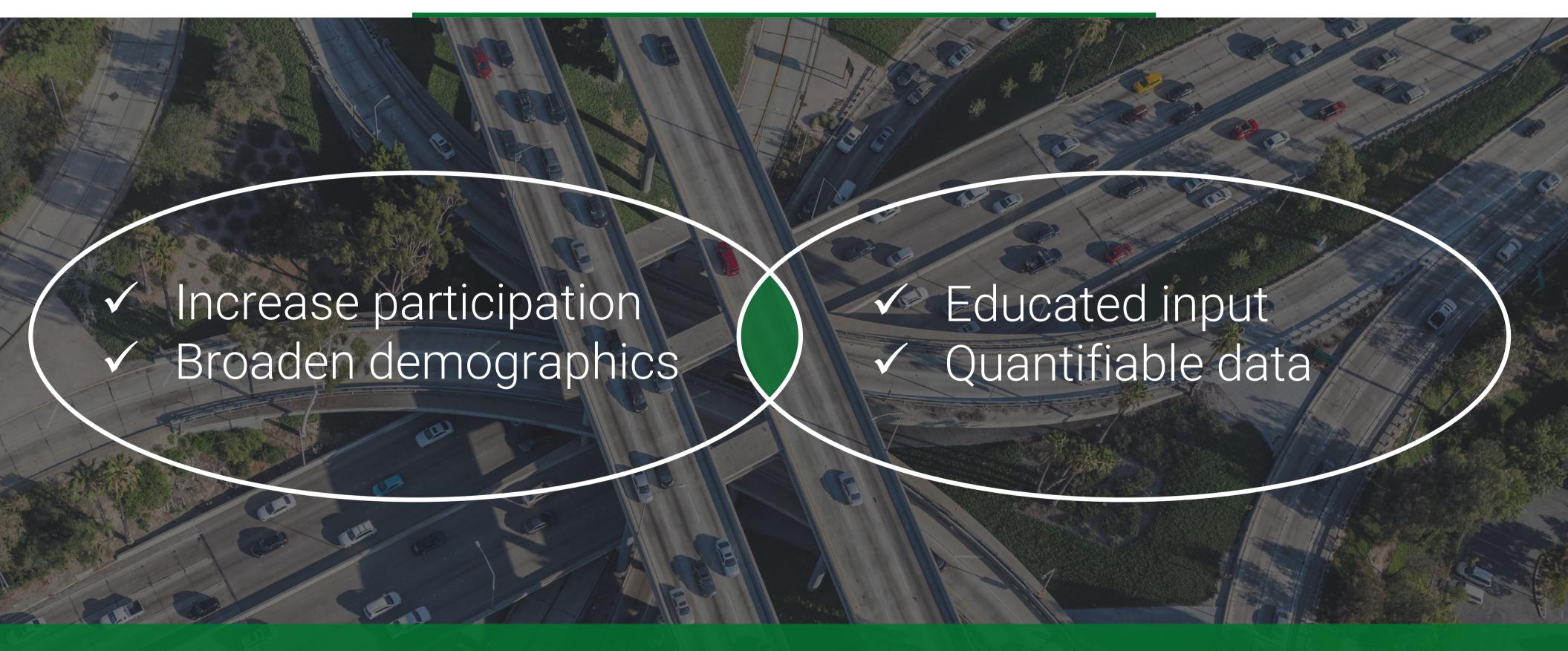








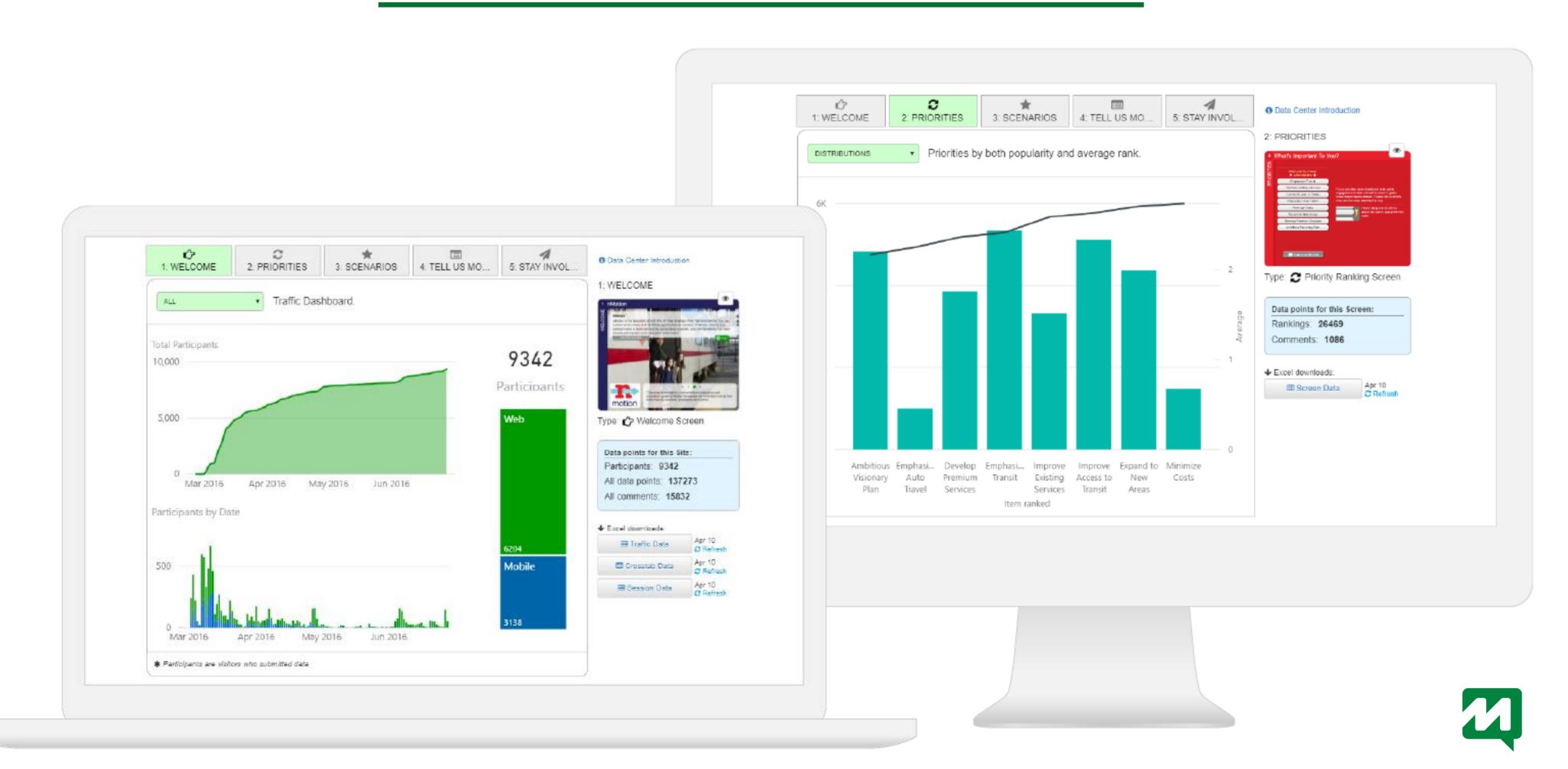
Top public engagement goals



maximum participation + informed input = actionable results

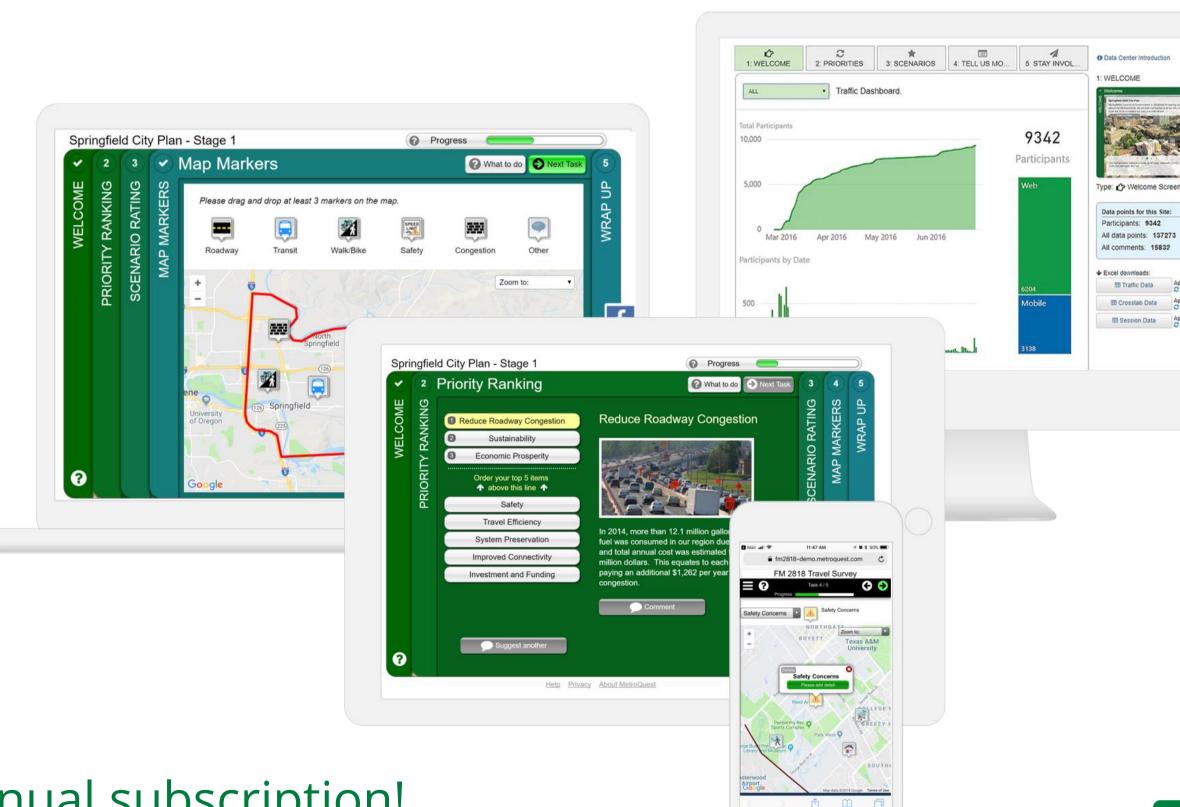


Leverage your dashboards



MetroQuest – Engagement Optimized

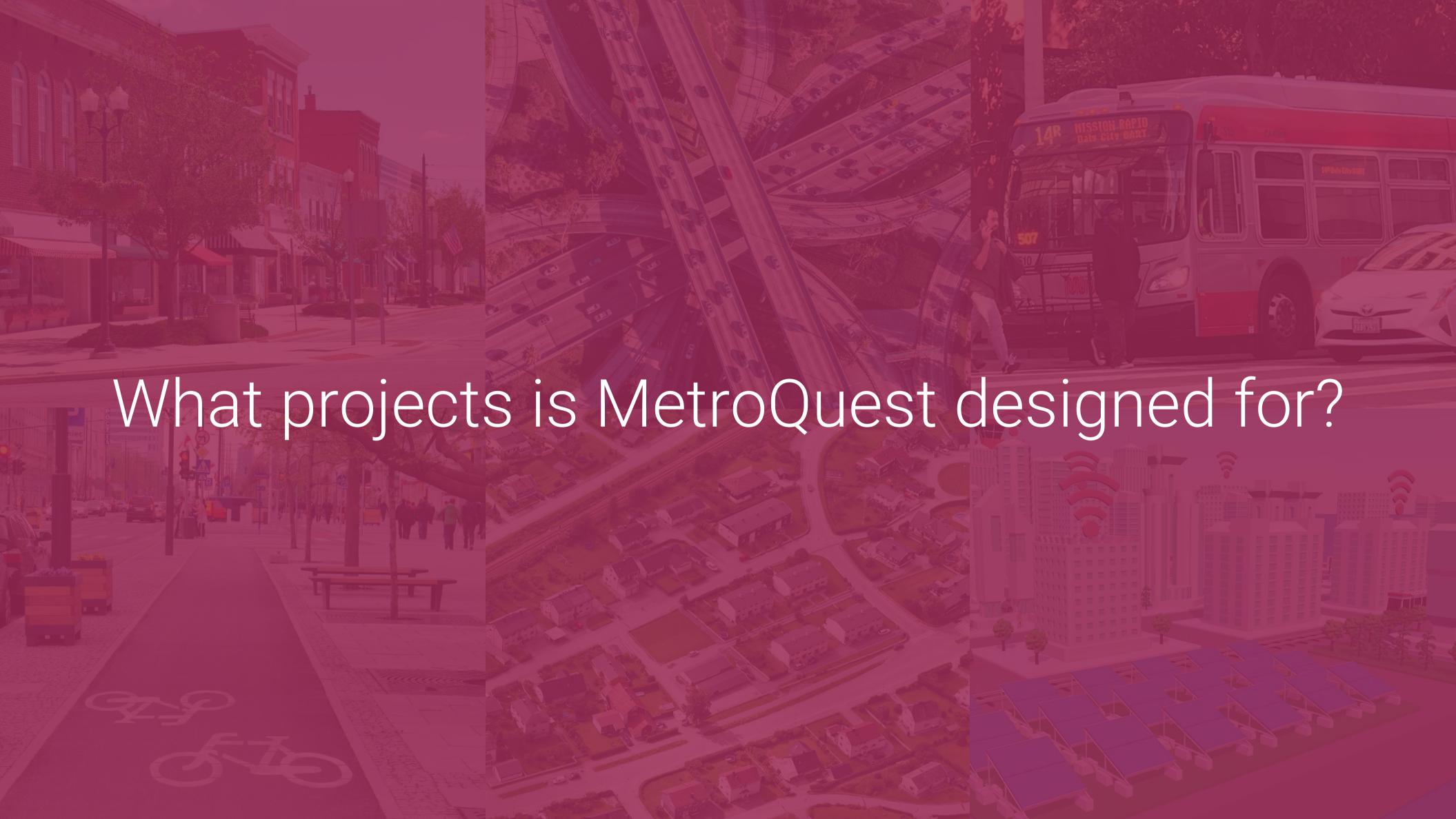
- ✓ Engage thousands online
- ✓ Involve a diverse audience
- ✓ Educate the public
- ✓ Collect informed input
- ✓ Deliver actionable results

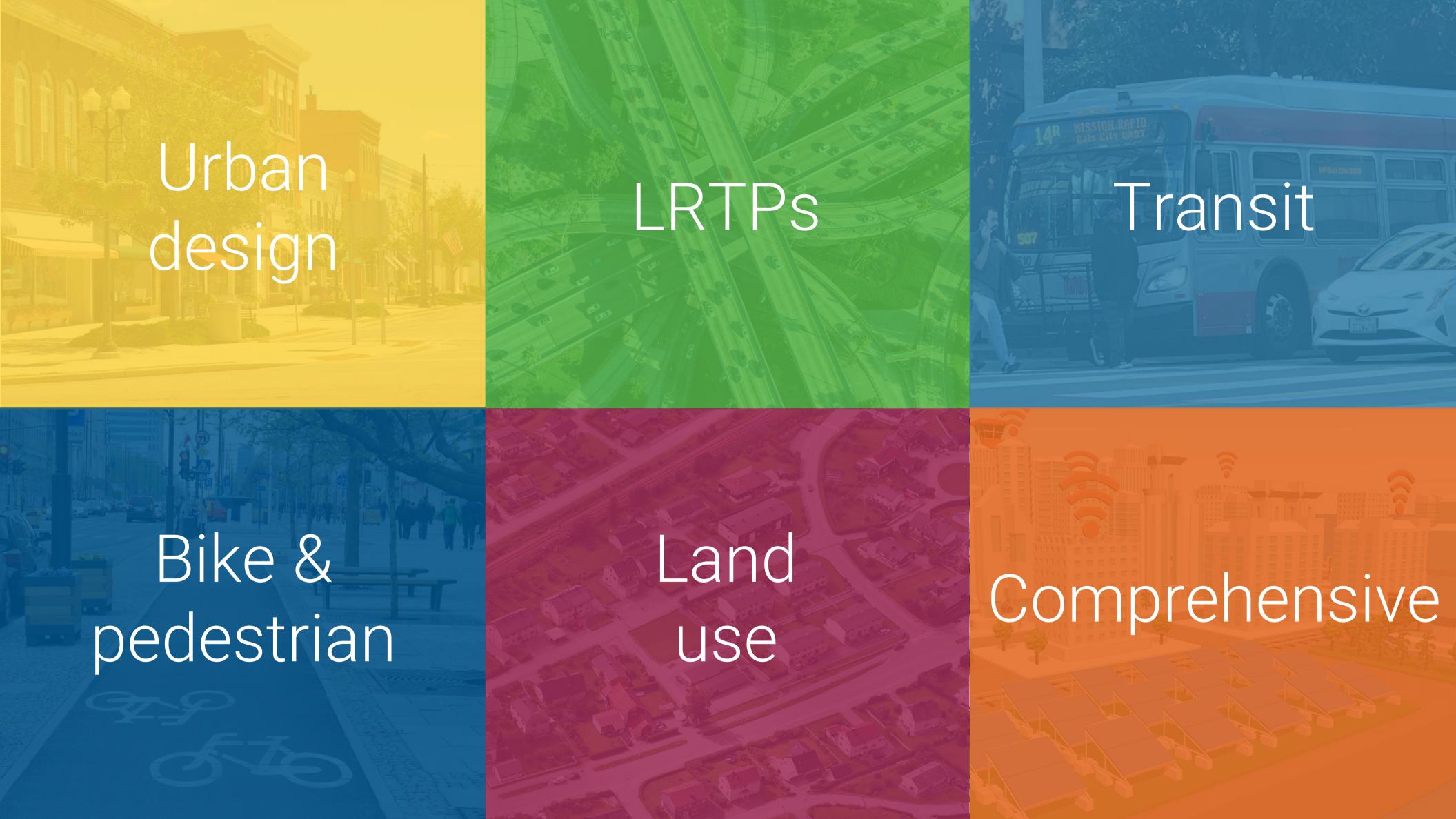


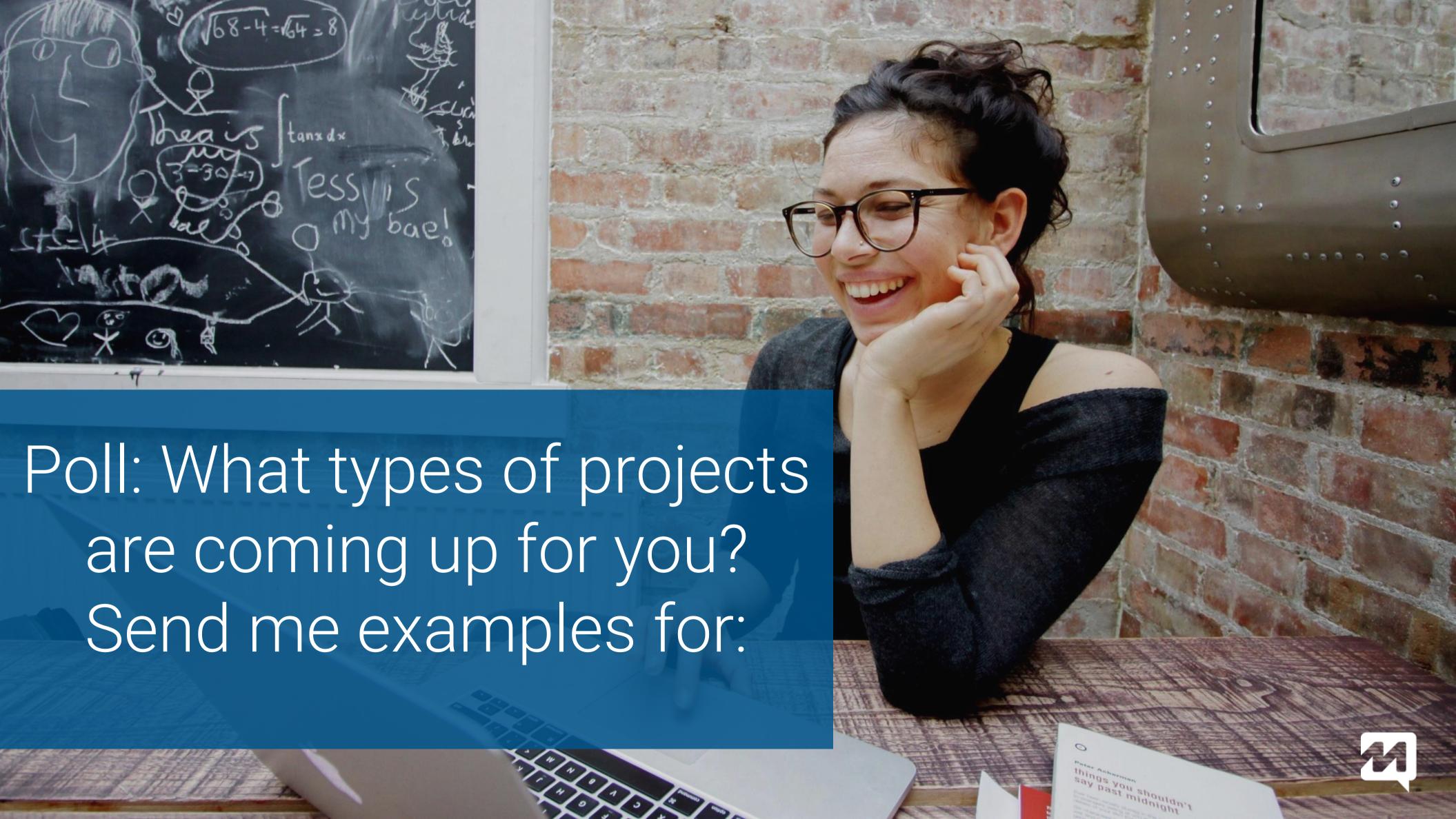
Unlimited surveys with your annual subscription!











NEXT Webinar

Indianapolis MPO's Formula for Actionable Public Input on Bike, Ped & Transit

Wednesday, November 20th

1 hour | 11 am Pacific | 2 pm Eastern

Educational Credit: 1.0 (APA AICP CM)

Poll: Save your seat!



Jen Higginbotham Principal Planner, Indianapolis MPO



FREE Playbook

12 Ways to Promote Your Online Survey Like a Pro

- 12 proven promotional strategies
- 70+ tips & tricks
- Real-world examples
- We will email you a PDF copy!



Thank you: MetroQuest subscribers!

Questions?



Michelle Martin

Assistant Director, Office of Planning & Capital Programming Maryland DOT



Susan Sharp

President & Partner
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Emily Aro

Social Media Wizard Sharp & Company

