Pull Together

Cooperative Planning for the Future of Transit Systems
Who’s This Guy

• Brian Gibson
  – Executive Director of the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization
A Brief History

• MPOs were born out of adversity and conflict
  – Lack of cooperative planning
• Different jurisdictions and agencies working in conflict with one another
Circulate

• Transportation moves “energy” (i.e., people) to the different organs of the city
  – Good circulation keeps those organs alive; bad circulation leads to disease and maybe death
  – Feed the needs
    • How do you know what the needs are?
      – You ask (that’s Cooperative Planning)
Context

• Many Different Kinds of Needs
  – Farm to market
  – Workers to jobs
  – Students to school
  – Grandma to grandkids
  – Shoppers to stores
    • (For now)
  – Justice
  – Equity
  – Environment
  – Health
  – Quality of Life
Benefits

• Asking the people who know
  – Providing solutions to problems

• Many hands make light work

• Reciprocity

• Get rich in your niche
  – What are you really good at?

• Better resource allocation
  – Everyone has limited resources; prioritization is key
Challenges

• Marriage is hard work
  – Interpersonal relationships
  – Trust
  – Communication
• It takes time to do it right
• Disagreements happen
  – Occasionally, people don’t work together in good faith
Examples

• Agency Transit Planner
  – $55K \times 1.3 = \$71,500$

• Shared MPO Transit Planner
  – $55K \times 1.3 = \$71,500$
    • $71,500 \times 0.2 = \$14,300$
    • $14,300 \times 0.2 = \$2,860$
Examples

• A lone voice is easy to dismiss. The more voices you have, saying the same thing, the more likely it will happen.
  – Many people/agencies are writing plans. Work together, not against one another.
Conclusions

• Cooperative Planning can:
  – Save time
  – Save money
  – Save effort
  – Result in better decisions
    • Everyone pulling together to reach the same goals

• If you want to go fast, go alone; but if you want to go far, go together