Transforming Public Transportation in Los Angeles County

Therese McMillian
Chief Planning Officer
Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA METRO)

- Third largest public transit system in the USA
- Public transit system of buses, heavy rail, light rail
  - Major expansion possible with passage of Measure M
- Serves LA County population of 10 million
LA Metro: Connecting the Dots of Public Transportation and Public Health

- LA Metro’s portfolio embraces many intersections between mobility and public health
- First Mile/Last Mile Issues
  - Address need and challenge of getting to and from public transit system
- Transit Oriented Communities
  - Design and integrate public transit into neighborhoods so it will be used often, safely, reliably
- Address needs of those most dependent on transit
  - These individuals are often the most “health vulnerable”
- Link goals to outcomes – and outcomes to funding
LA Metro: Connecting the Dots of Public Transportation and Public Health

Example One: Public Transit and Vision Zero

- **Mobility AND health facts:**
  - Motor vehicle fatalities in City of Los Angeles up 20% from 2014
  - Pedestrians represent nearly half motor vehicle fatalities
  - Leading cause of death among children 5-14

- **Key conclusion:** *Traffic deaths and severe injuries are predictable and preventable*

- **Response:** Vision Zero – City’s commitment to eliminate all traffic deaths by 2025
  - Multidisciplinary partnership to develop goals, strategies and measurable objectives for eliminating motor vehicle fatalities and injuries
  - Focus on most vulnerable: children, older adults, walkers and cyclists
  - Increased public transit use reduces vehicle use, and decreases risk....BUT
  - Need to ensure getting to transit is safe too – thus the need to connect with Vision Zero policies

- **Key to enhancing public transit use is convenient access – and access needs to be safe**
LA population: 10 million
  o 11% seniors
  o 37% with a disability
  o 13% living at/below poverty line

Goal
  o Improve mobility for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and persons of low income by removing barriers to transportation services and expanding the availability of transportation mobility options
  o Increase opportunities for physical activity by walking or biking the first mile/last mile of the transit trip

Plan development
  o Occurred at local level with multiple stakeholder participation
  o Process included inventory of available services, needs assessment and identifying gaps and prioritizing funding to address gaps
  o Survey: 50% consumers & stakeholders report medical trips as the most often difficult to make

Public transportation as ACCESS to preventive health care services emerging as key strategy to develop going forward

“Rides to Wellness” – FTA model of partnerships between transportation agencies and health care providers
A New Long Range Transportation Plan for Los Angeles County: Connecting Dots on the Largest Scale

- **Objective**
  - Follow through on the transportation vision for the region
  - Work with diverse partner communities to fulfill that vision

- **Approach:** modular approach will inventory current efforts, highlight connections and fill in any gaps
  - Who we serve, what they need and where do they go?
    - A Plan for Communities, Partners, and Outcomes
  - How to achieve outcomes today and in the future?
    - A plan to Manage, Serve, Fund, and Build

- **Public engagement is necessary**
  - Meaningfully engage with stakeholders and the public at the “intersections” between modular efforts

- **Key opportunity for public health outcomes to be integrated into mobility priorities and investments**