

What is known about public preferences for BRT or LRT?

To date, project partners have collected public input on a preferred mode for the Southwest Corridor through open-ended questionnaires, online surveys, and in-person dialogue. Closed-ended survey responses in May, June, October and November 2015 point to important factors and outcomes that the public wants decision makers to consider for the project, including:

- reliable, fast travel times
- high ridership numbers that will result in fewer cars on the road
- access to employment and education centers

Open-ended survey questions and in-person discussions have provided a sense of how the public views the trade-offs between the mode options, and what further information people need in order to form an opinion about their preference. A sampling of comments include:

- Some respondents perceive BRT to be less noisy, more flexible and less expensive
- Some respondents feel that LRT is worth the upfront additional expense in order to have a system that will serve ridership long into the future
- Some respondents feel that LRT will be a more attractive option for the most riders
- Some respondents want more detail about how BRT would function in the corridor, including the location of transit stops and where BRT may run in mixed traffic
- Some respondents want more information on the costs and benefits of each option
- Some respondents want more information about how either mode option would impact existing local bus service
- Some respondents want more information about how each mode option would impact redevelopment potential for new retail, housing and employment in the area

In a December 2015 online survey, people were asked to indicate their preference between BRT and LRT for a Southwest Corridor HCT line. Respondents favored LRT over BRT at over a two to one ratio (61 percent LRT and 25 percent BRT), and 14 percent were unsure or neutral.

Results from December 2015 online survey (600 responses)



There will be several additional opportunities for the public to ask questions and provide feedback on their preferred mode choice in January and February.