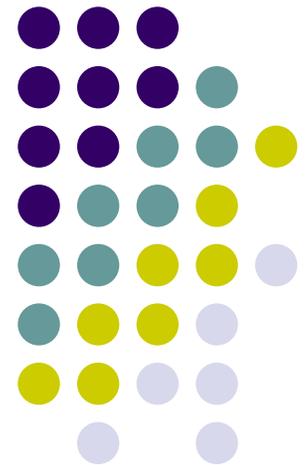
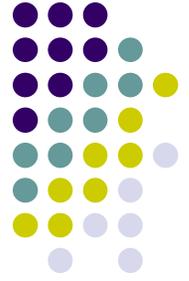


FTA State Programs Meeting

“Beyond the Recession: Current Issues and the Road Ahead”



Embracing Change



“We are committed to defining and benefiting from the New Normal”

Because we at MDOT recognize that

“None of us is as smart as **ALL** of us”

MS- Financial and Budgetary



- Budget challenges.... but no “crisis”
- Unemployment at 9.2%
- 10% reduction in state agency budgets
- Hiring freeze through June 2009
- Major economic development activities on hold (e.g. Toyota plant & casino expansions)



Challenges

- Ridership reduced due to layoffs (e.g. casinos and other manufacturing destinations)
- DARTS service has seen 25% reduction in farebox revenue
- Local municipalities/government contributions stagnant
- Longer trip distances
- Lower wages

Opportunities



- Growth in job development and training programs means more potential riders
- Growth in healthcare /medical sectors means more demand for access to primary health care centers
- Coordination opportunities increasing(e.g. more contracts, increased collaboration and shared resources)



Legislative Efforts

- Stabilize Multi-modal Capital Program Funding
- House Bill designed to establish a legislative taskforce to study and make recommendation to legislature and governor- died in committee
- Possible bill to develop government sponsored rideshare projects for State employees

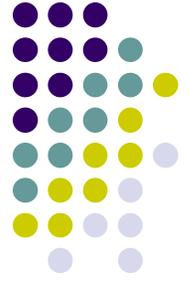
General Updates-Initiatives



- Statewide Coordinated Planning Initiative
 - Statewide Coordination Plan
 - Statewide Summit
 - Regional Coordination Work Groups
 - MDOT funded regional planning grants
 - Increased public participation/out reach through series of “Town Hall Meetings”
 - Regional Call Center

Other Initiatives

- Statewide ITS Workgroup
- Regional Transportation Centers
- Statewide Marketing/Promotion video





Questions.....



- For additional Information:
 - Public Transit Division
 - MS Department of Transportation
 - P.O. Box 1850, Mail Code 61-01
 - Jackson, MS 39201-1850
 - 601-359-7800 (p)
 - 601-359-7777(f)