

## **Beyond Lechmere Northwest Corridor Project Major Investment Study/ Alternatives Analysis Process**

**The Major Investment Study/Alternatives Analysis (MIS/AA) and environmental review processes will be developed based upon FTA AA/NEPA guidance and state MEPA regulations. The first step will be to develop the MIS/AA. The net result of the MIS/AA process will be a recommended transportation investment strategy for the study area. This strategy will include actions/options that meet the purpose and need of the study. From this strategy, a baseline alternative and several build alternatives will be developed for further study in the NEPA/MEPA document (Phase 2). It is a requirement to review every reasonable and viable alternative as build alternatives.**

**The MIS is designed to produce information for decision-making and to identify opportunities for federal funding to move the project forward. The process is used to assist in making informed transportation investment decisions in metropolitan areas by providing earlier and more comprehensive information on the options for addressing transportation problems (choices, benefits, costs, impacts and financing).**

**The MIS process builds on transportation planning principles. These principles include:**

- Developing a clear purpose and need statement;**
- Thorough consideration of all reasonable alternatives;**
- Early consideration of the various critical factors (social, economic and environmental);**
- Identification of appropriate screening criteria;**
- Narrowing of options under consideration;**
- Analysis of impact mitigation;**
- Determine use of resources; and**
- Public involvement**

**Detailed engineering is not performed at this stage. All analysis is done to a conceptual or "sketch planning" level detail. Layouts of alternatives are developed to the extent that feasibility and impacts of concepts can be determined and fatal flaws can be identified, if applicable.**

# MAJOR INVESTMENT STUDY/ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS PROCESS

