

# METRONext

## Public Engagement Update

### Board Workshop

March 28, 2019

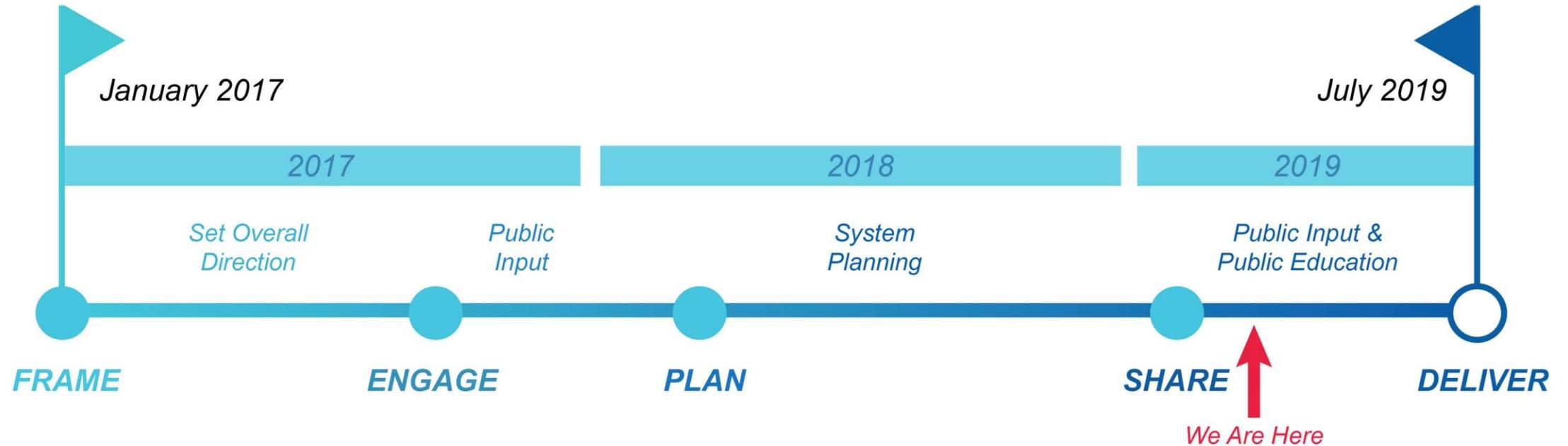


# Disclaimer

This presentation is being provided solely for discussion purposes by the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO) during a workshop session on March 28, 2019. It includes draft alternative transit plans, which utilize a range of modes of transportation based on different funding scenarios, including a draft long-term plan that provides a vision of future transit in the service area assuming unconstrained financial resources. The draft plans are based on various financial estimates, economic forecasts and other assumptions, which are subject to change. As a result, the final proposed plan could differ materially. Additionally, any proposed plan or project conducted by METRO is subject to certain approvals and authorization, including approval by the METRO Board of Directors.

METRO makes no claim, promise or guarantee of any kind, including with respect to the feasibility or future implementation of any proposed plans or projects discussed herein.

# Project Milestones



# SHARE

## Phase 2 Public Engagement



# Public Engagement

January 2019 – present

21 Public Meetings

Over 200 Community and Business Meetings

35 METRO Staff Speaking Engagements



# Public and Media Engagement

January 2019 – present

25 Community Festivals and Events

60 Transportation Fairs and Functions

76 Media Hits  
42 Social Media Posts  
108,000 Social Media Impressions  
34,000 New Website Visitors



# Elected Official Engagement

<b>14 Houston City Council Members</b>	<b>10 Multi-City Mayors and City Administrators</b>	<b>Harris County Judge and 1 County Commissioner</b>
<b>7 State Representatives</b>	<b>2 Multi-City Councils</b>	<b>2 Members of Congress</b>

## Generally positive feedback

### Some specific ideas:

- Invest in elevated rail wherever possible for safer and faster service
- More investment in light rail
- Light rail to Bush Intercontinental Airport (possible alternate routes)
- One light rail line to Hobby Airport
- Light rail to Hobby Airport should not travel on Broadway Street
- Reduce the number of stops on BRT and light rail lines for faster service
- Additional Community Connectors (Ft. Bend area, Hardy/Tidwell area, East End)
- Transit option to Memorial Park
- In lieu of BRT, Signature Bus routes on University and Gessner Corridors
- Continue General Mobility Program
- New and improved bus stops and shelters

**Dialogue with elected officials ongoing**

# SHARE

## Phase 2 Public Engagement – A Snapshot



# Phase 2 Public Engagement Comments

**December 2018 through February 2019:**

875 individuals commented

396 from public meetings/ events

469 from [www.METRONext.org](http://www.METRONext.org)

and from other media

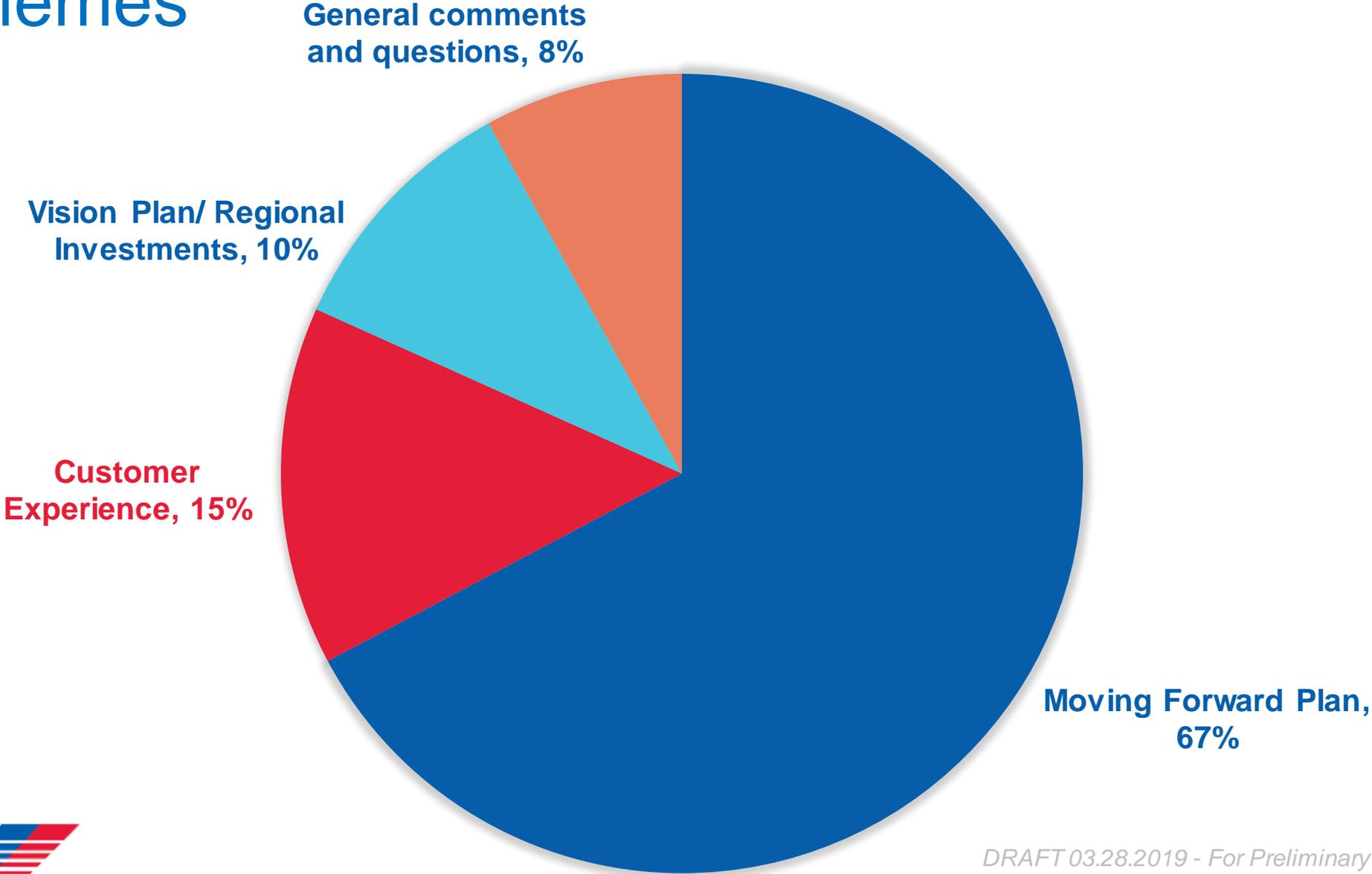
1,600 comments

34,000 new website visitors



# Phase 2 Public Engagement

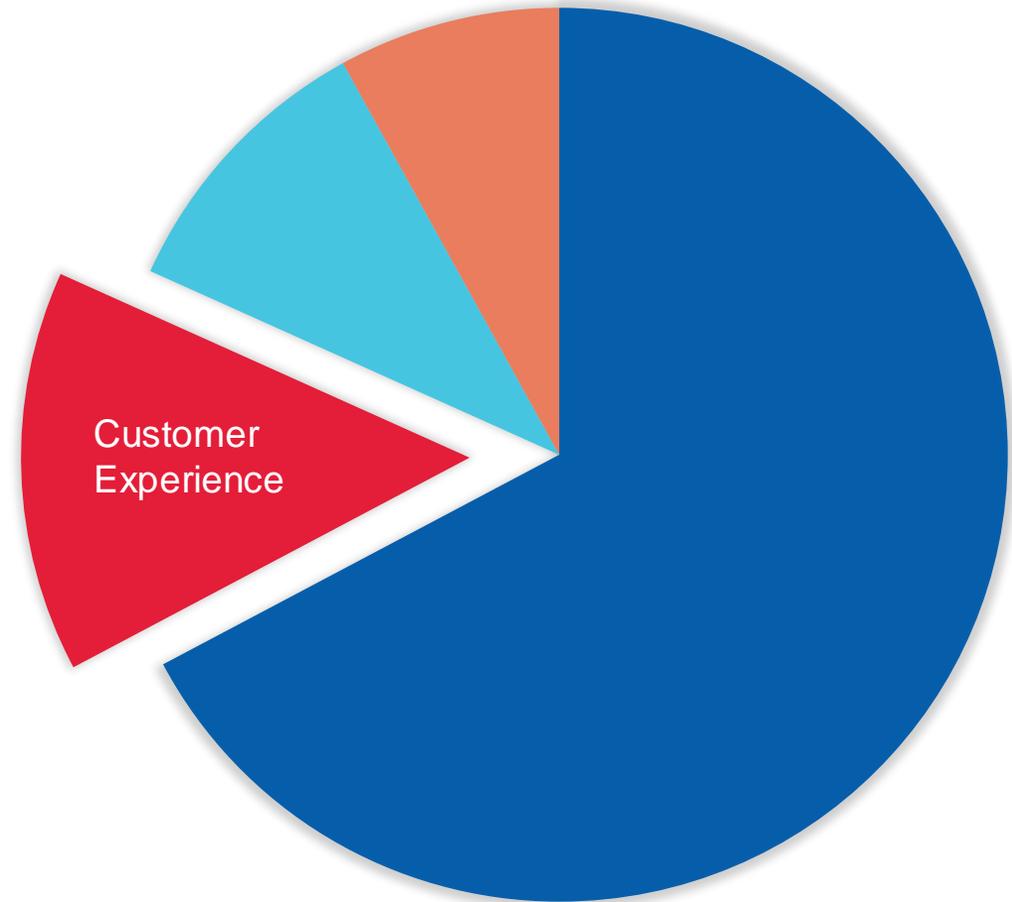
## Key Themes



# Customer Experience

## What we heard

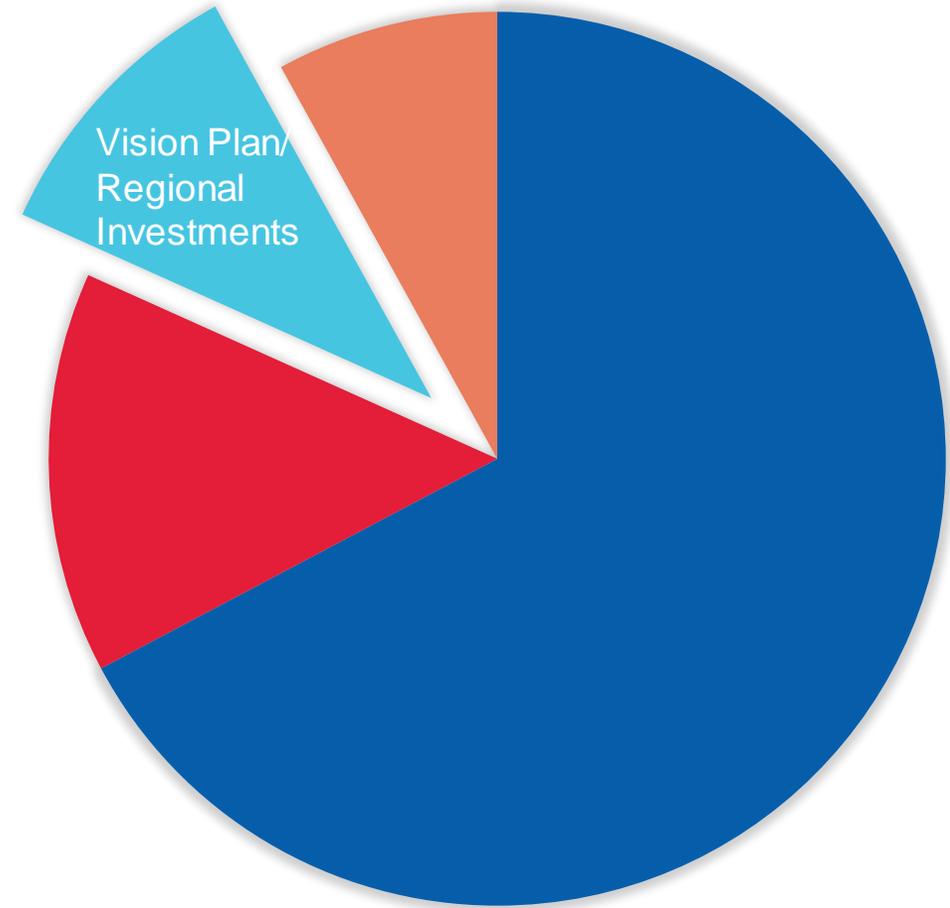
- Improve first/last mile connections
- Ensure Universal Accessibility
- Reduce or enforce fares
- Install Wi-Fi
- Improve stop and station amenities
- Increase security
- Provide multi-lingual passenger information



# Vision Plan/Regional Investments

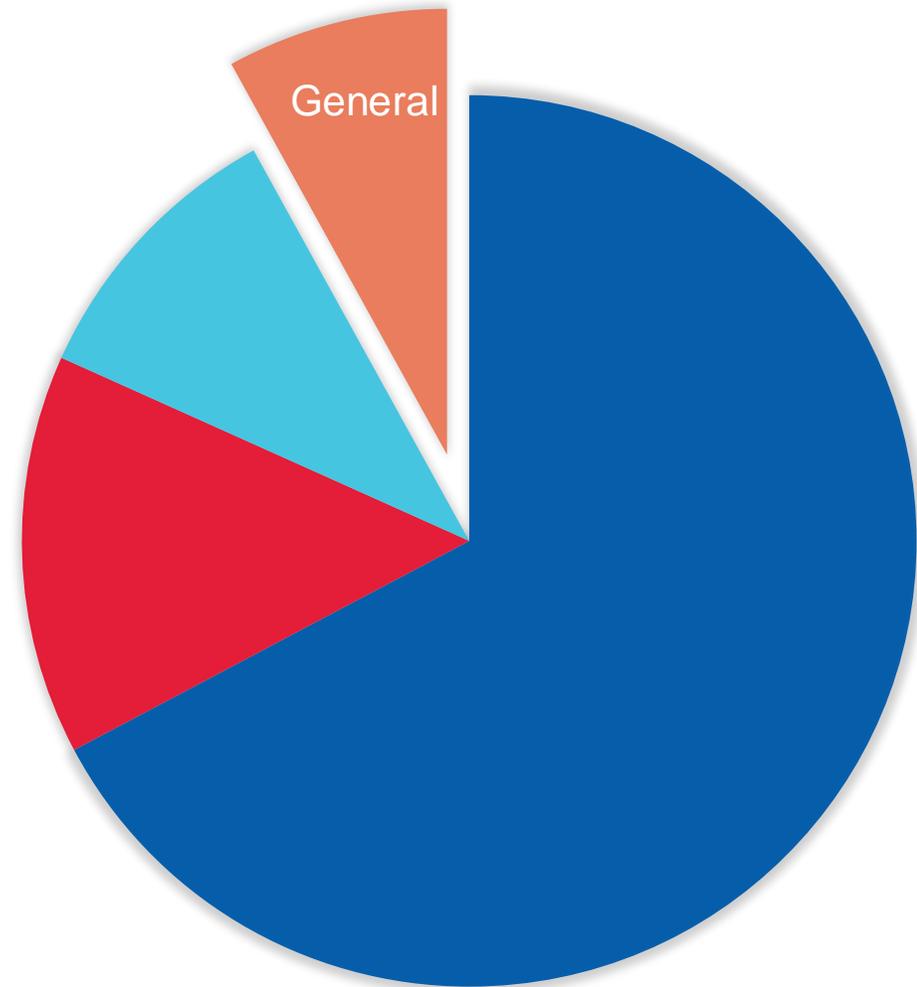
## What we heard

- Build more rail to suburban locations and beyond
- Invest in high-capacity transit service beyond the service area
- Build high-speed rail
- Locations
  - Pearland
  - Galveston
  - Others



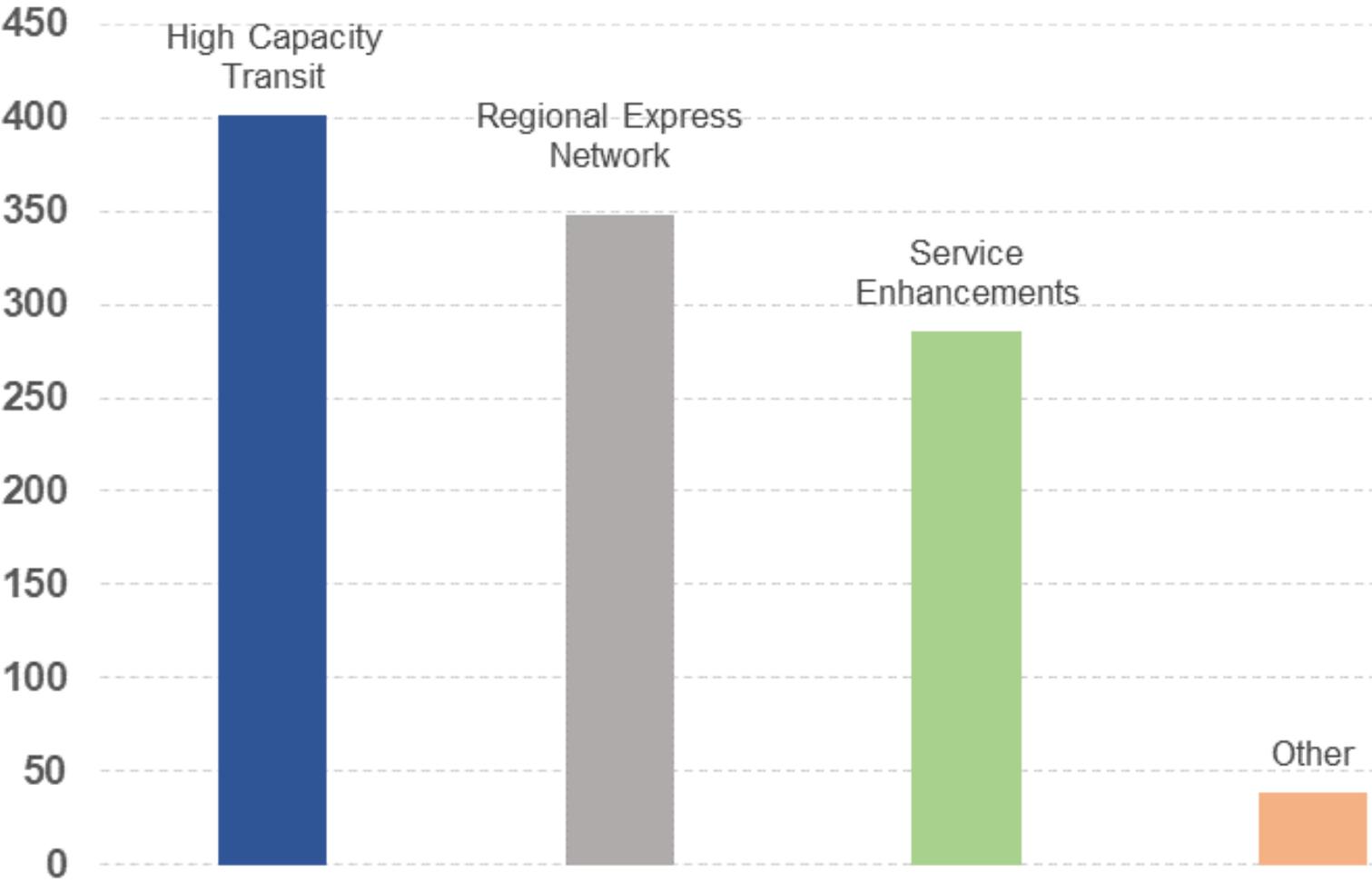
# General comments & questions

- Is the expense of LRT justified?
- Consider partnership opportunities in advance (including public-private partnerships)
- What is BOOST?
- Better naming to distinguish BRT vs. BOOST
- How will you prioritize?
- Consider free rides



# Moving Forward Plan

## What we heard



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# Moving Forward Plan

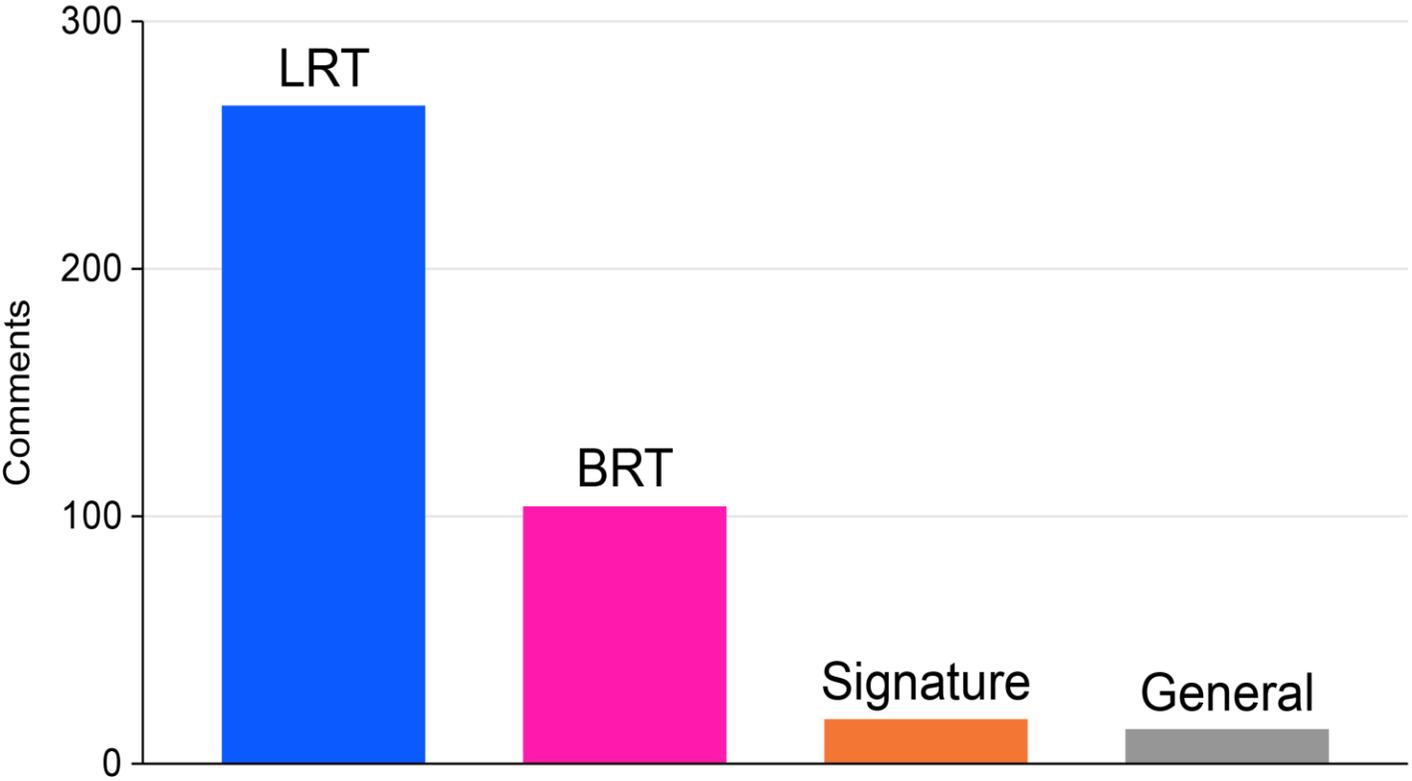
## Regional Express Network

- Spring/Klein/Tomball: Park & Ride, Local service
- Expand system and connect non-CBD activity centers
- Improve speed and reliability via two-way HOV
- Extend span of service
- Improve midday and evening frequency
- Offer weekend service



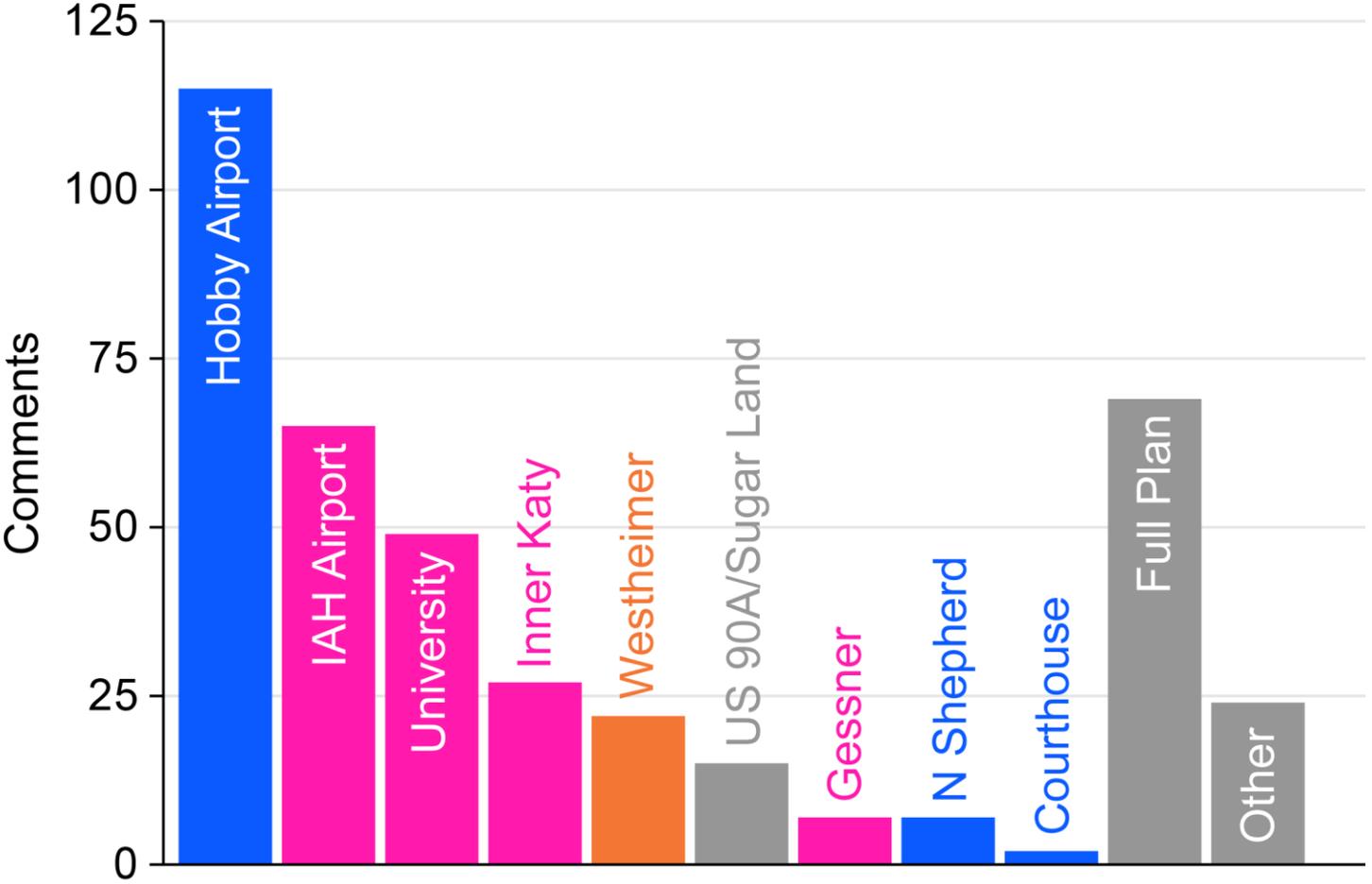
# Moving Forward Plan

## High Capacity Transit – by mode



# Moving Forward Plan

## High Capacity Transit – by corridor

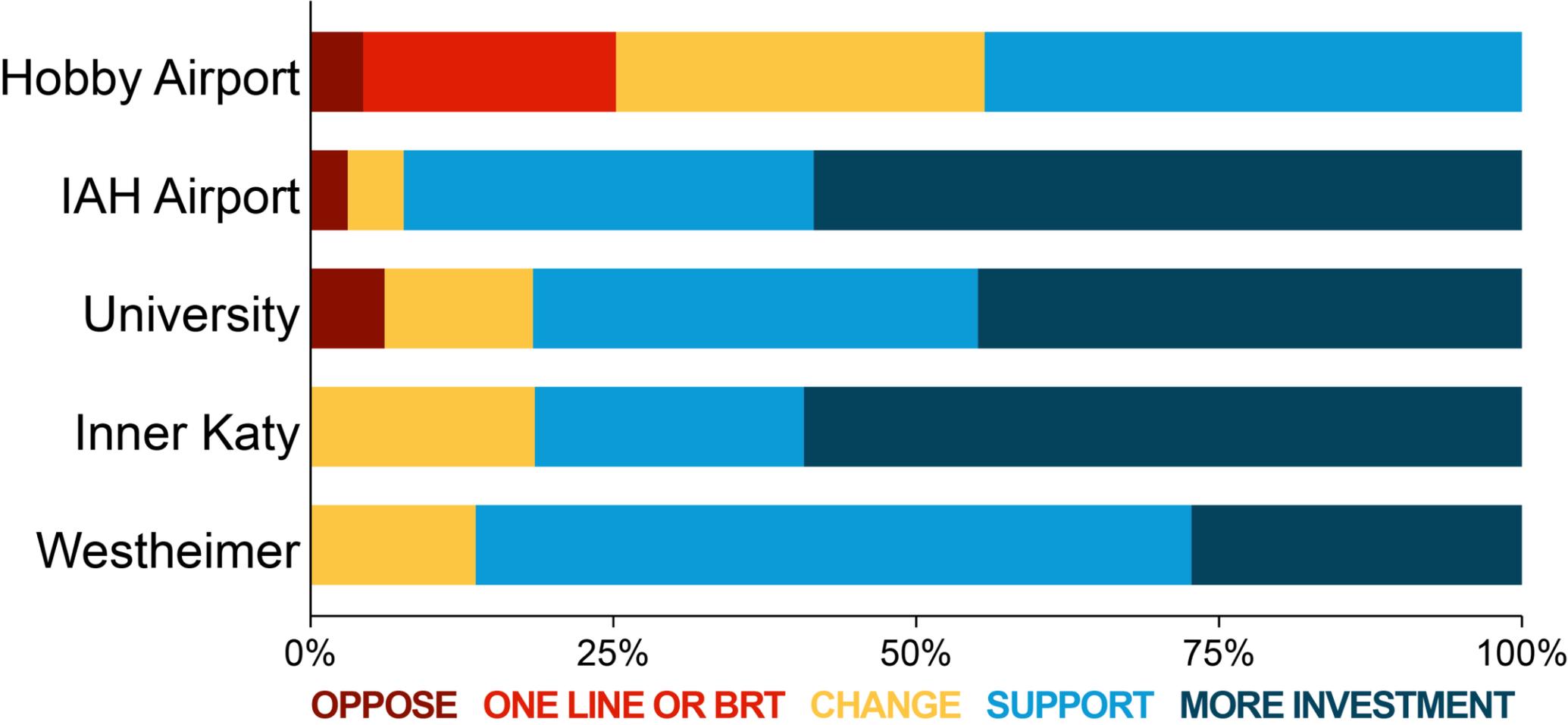


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# Moving Forward Plan

## High Capacity Transit – by corridor



# Moving Forward Plan

## Service Enhancements

- Increase frequency
- Improve speed and reliability
- Extend span including late night
- Expand coverage in Northeast
- Provide local connections to Park & Rides
- Implement Community Connectors





# Milestones

- › **March 2019** Snapshot of comments
- › **April 2019** Summary to Board
- › **May 2019** Revise draft plan & present to Board
- › **June 2019** Final public comment period
- › **July 2019** Board adoption of final plan