



# NEXT STEPS

# RECOMMENDATION AND NEXT STEPS FOR RIVERFRONT RAIL TRANSIT

## PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATION

Based on the evaluation matrix effort, along with the environmental studies and other assessment conducted to date, the Stakeholder Work Group identifies the **North Alternative** as the preliminary recommended alternative in that it best meets identified goals and objectives for the Riverfront Rail Transit.

## NEXT STEPS

All major projects that receive federal funding or require a federal action must comply with the *National Environmental Policy Act* (referred to as NEPA) and the rules and regulations of the *Council on Environmental Quality* (or CEQ). The federal agency or agencies sponsoring the project must follow the NEPA and CEQ guidance to ensure that proper consideration of environmental consequences is part of the decision-making process.

For the Eastern Corridor project, which covers a large area and is fairly complex, the federal and state agencies reviewing the project agreed that the NEPA work be conducted in two phases, or *tiers*. The first phase, or *Tier 1*, which was completed with the 2006 Tier 1 Record of Decision (ROD), established feasible corridors for the different parts of the multi-modal plan to be carried forward for further development. The multi-modal plan identified by the Tier 1 ROD included a proposed new 17-mile rail transit corridor (the Oasis Rail Transit line) extending from Cincinnati to Milford.

The Riverfront Rail Transit connection from the Boathouse to the Riverfront Transit Center is the first segment of this proposed Eastern Corridor rail transit to be carried forward into Tier 2 evaluation. The information presented at today's meeting is a summary of this initial Tier 2 work, which included further alignment development, environmental studies, and alternative evaluation working towards the identification of a recommended alternative.

Following this public meeting and consideration of comments received, along with the Tier 2 studies and evaluation conducted to date, a recommended riverfront rail transit alternative will be identified. Detailed environmental evaluation and design studies will be conducted for the recommended alternative, including developing specific location, operation and configuration details, right-of-way requirements, impact assessment and mitigation. Environmental documentation will be completed according to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. Results of this work will be presented at a future public meeting.

