

Traffic Engineers' Meeting - 2017





2017 Regular Session

- Waiting decades for a Governor who would support a transportation revenue package
- Seeking an increase of \$700 million/year
- Based on Scenario 4 in Statewide Plan
- Scenario 4 – 30 years pay-as-you-go
- 23 cents/gallon fuel tax increase; OR
- 16 cents/gallon + ¼ cent sales tax





2017 Regular Session

- HB 632 – Representative Steve Carter, BR
- 17 cents/gallon increase
- Would raise \$510 million annually
- Followed Statewide Plan for investing
- Allowed some bonding with debt service beyond 30 years





2017 Regular Session

HB 632 has support from:

- Republican & Democrat legislators
- Governor
- DOTD
- Chambers of Commerce
- Many individual businesses & industries
- Contractors
- Engineering Consultants
- Citizens





2017 Regular Session

Not Enough!

- Opponents prevailed
- Red herrings about DOTD





Fallout

Then

- DOTD keeping all programs/services going
- Preparing extra projects to immediately use new revenue

Now

- No light, just tunnel
- Parking projects
- Shifting more money to preservation
- Under federal mandate for performance targets
- Maintaining Access Mgmt, TSM, ITS, Traffic Control Device, Safety programs
- Capacity projects – state GO bonds or road transfer





Fallout

- Congestion will continue to grow
- Bridge closures will become more frequent and will last longer (some permanent)
- Pavement on lower order roads will continue to deteriorate
- Public frustration will continue to increase
- Eventually pain will lead to action





Until New Day Comes

- Pressure on traffic engineers will grow to make things better – somehow – magically
- Emotional arguments will intensify
- “No” will become more and more common
- Frustration leads to finger pointing & blame
- Elected officials will likely get increasingly derogatory





How to Handle

- Maintain professionalism no matter what
- With little money, infrastructure solutions may not meet current standards but will be better than doing nothing
- Analyses have to be top notch
 - We can't afford to be wrong
 - Design exception justifications must be thorough
 - Must be able to withstand challenges
- Won't win every battle

