

# Adding Multimodal Options to Existing Infrastructure Requires Collaboration



Image courtesy of Sound Transit (Seattle)

The 14-mile East Link light rail project will extend service between downtown Seattle and Redmond, Washington and provide travel alternatives.

## SCAN FOCUS

As roads and highways become increasingly congested, state DOTs must consider solutions beyond adding roadways to improve traffic flow and mobility. Domestic Scan 17-02 studied projects that have integrated a variety of transportation options, using the existing right-of-way (ROW) to benefit transit, bicycle, pedestrian, and automobile users.

## LEARNING FROM DIVERSE PROJECTS

The scan team focused on projects that have converted existing traffic lanes to exclusively accommodate bus or rail service. In addition, the team sought projects that represent a range of transportation solutions and a wide variety of partnership arrangements. Scan team members spent two weeks visiting and studying seven projects in six cities: Richmond, Va; Charlotte, N.C.; Detroit; Minneapolis; San Francisco; and Seattle.

## NEXT STEPS Put It into Practice

### MAKE NATIONAL CONNECTIONS

Engage with the scan team as it dialogues with national partners—such as AASHTO's Multimodal Task Force and the Federal Transit Authority—and develops mentoring for new transit and projects.

### GET CURRENT INFORMATION

Contact scan team participants (see page 2) for project updates and join the Domestic Scan LinkedIn group [linkedin.com/groups/13746540](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13746540).

### READ MORE

Completed in 2018, the full report of Scan 17-02 is available at [domesticscan.org/17-02](https://www.domesticscan.org/17-02).

### SUGGEST FUTURE SCANS

What topic do you have for a NCHRP Domestic Scan?

See [web.transportation.org/nchrp/20-68A](https://www.web.transportation.org/nchrp/20-68A).

## HIGHLIGHTS AND PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

During the scan, team members examined project sites and interacted with management and technical personnel. The scan team found that projects seeking to transform an existing ROW into a multimodal corridor require investment, cooperation, and compromise among a variety of state and local partners, as well as site-specific design and construction considerations. Understanding these challenges from the outset can help leaders prepare and successfully navigate these issues to achieve the shared goal.



Image courtesy of M-1 Rail (Detroit)

The QLine in Detroit is a battery- and electric-powered streetcar line that shares the road with traffic along a 3.3-mile corridor.

## PUTTING IT TO WORK

After discussing and comparing their onsite observations, the team compiled a list of eight strategies to help state DOT officials, transit agencies, and local authorities considering similar projects:

1. Adopt a shared vision.
2. Define roles and responsibilities.
3. Take planning and design into consideration.
4. Seek opportunities to improve transit.
5. Employ project controls.
6. Communicate and coordinate with stakeholders.
7. Integrate connections.
8. Improve person throughput.

## SHARING THE RESULTS

Scan team members have presented their findings to transportation officials at the national, state, and local level, and developed two webinars for the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO). The webinars, presenting scan highlights, findings, and insights, are available at [domesticscan.org/17-02](https://domesticscan.org/17-02).

**ABOUT THE PROGRAM:** The NCHRP U.S. Domestic Scan Program (NCHRP Project 20-68, [domesticscan.org](https://domesticscan.org)) recognizes the value of firsthand sharing of new technologies and practices. Launched in 2006, the program typically sponsors two or three scans per year, putting state and federal DOT practitioners who need solutions in touch with innovative peers around the country, speeding the transfer of technology and know-how. During the intense experience of the scan (typically one to two weeks), participants see how a new technology or practice works in the real world. They also develop close professional relationships that remain readily available to them years later.

## SCAN PARTICIPANTS



Image courtesy of Metro Transit (Minneapolis–St. Paul)

### SCAN TEAM

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### HOST LEAD AGENCIES

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Charlotte Area Transportation System        | San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency         |
| M-1 Rail (Detroit)                          | Sound Transit (Seattle)                               |
| Metropolitan Council (Minneapolis–St. Paul) | Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation |
| Michigan DOT                                | Washington State DOT                                  |
| Minnesota DOT                               |   |

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