

What is Purpose & Need?

The purpose and need is a key factor in determining the range of alternatives considered in an Environmental Impact Statement. The “need” statement describes the problems that the proposed action is intended to address and, to the extent possible, explains the underlying causes of the problems. The “purpose” statement defines, as sharply as possible, the fundamental reasons why the project is being proposed based on meeting the transportation needs.

Purpose

- The purpose of an enhanced transit system in the RTC - SU and Eastwood - OCC corridors is to provide faster, more direct, more frequent, and more reliable transit service between major residential areas and activity centers in the Syracuse metropolitan area, at a reasonable capital and operating cost.

Need

- Fast, efficient, and environmentally sound transit connections between major activity centers are needed throughout the study corridors. Improved mobility for transit dependent populations throughout the study corridors is needed as well, along with a need to encourage redevelopment and revitalization that is supported by public transit.

.....> The Purpose & Need statement will be used, along with project Goals, shown on the next board, to evaluate different BRT and LRT alternatives along the 2 corridors.

What we'll try to achieve

Throughout the SMART 1 effort, we'll seek to accomplish a number of goals developed for the study.

Consensus Building

- Involve a large and diverse mix of community members through an unbiased, transparent, and meaningful outreach program.
- Support the planning goals of SMTC, Centro, City of Syracuse, NYSDOT, and other important stakeholders.
- Adopt a Locally Preferred Alternative that is technically feasible, includes a sound financial plan, and has the broad support of the Centro, SMTC, City of Syracuse and other key stakeholders.
- Follow standard FTA procedures to facilitate the transition to the project development process and assure project competitiveness in the Small Starts program.

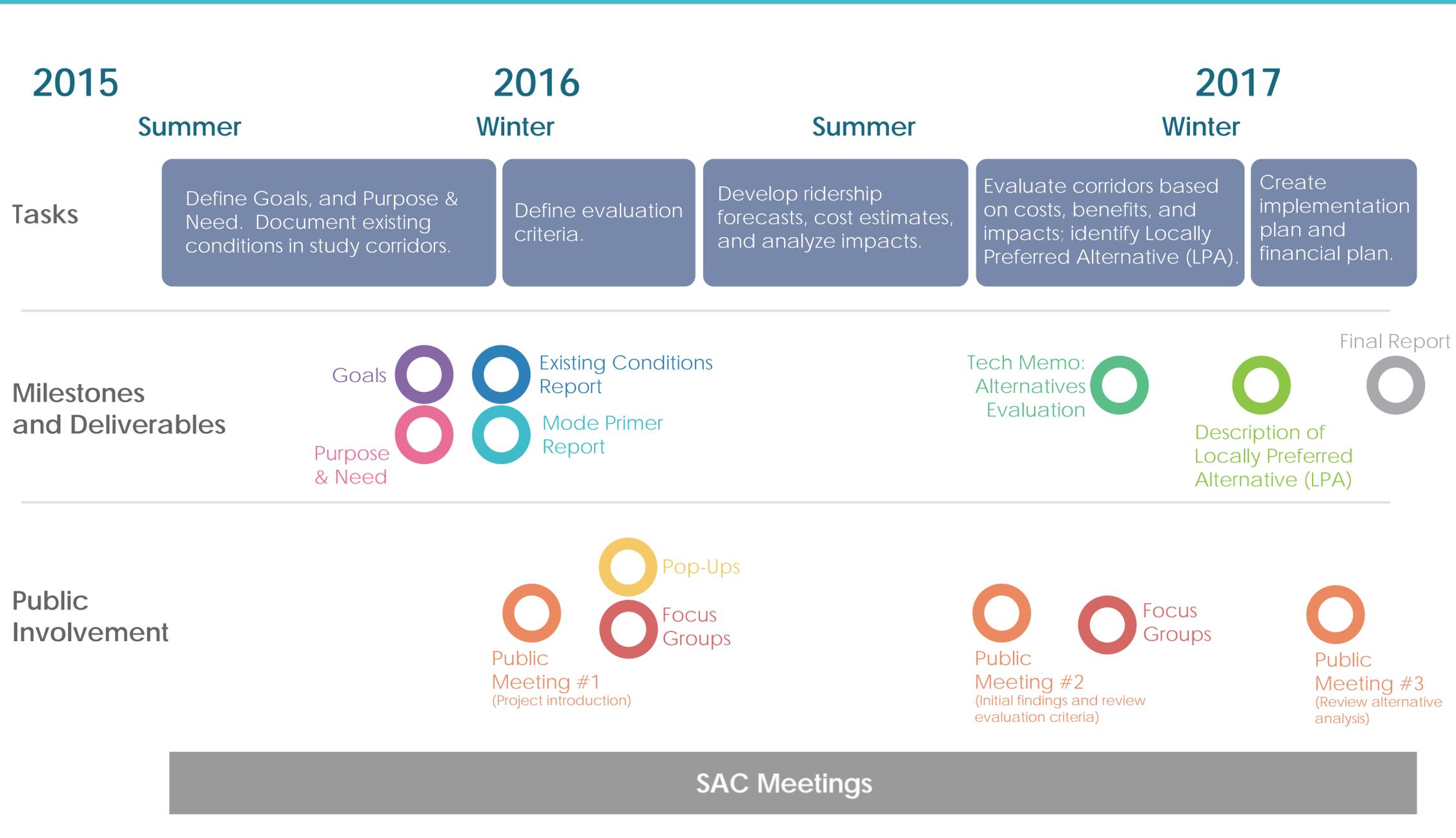
Transportation

- Build on the analysis and conclusions of the Syracuse Transit System Analysis and confirm the selection of the preliminary corridors.
- Improve the utility of transit service for riders by reducing travel time, improving headways, expanding route coverage, and generally increasing travel options.
- Develop a plan for a high-intensity transit investment that is preferred for trips to and within downtown Syracuse because it has:
 - Frequent service;
 - Convenient and accessible alignments and stops;
 - Comfortable vehicles; and
 - Seamless connection to other regional transit services.

Development

- Support revitalization of Syracuse and key neighborhoods along the selected corridors by encouraging transit oriented development and infill.
- Utilize transit to improve connectivity between key locations in Syracuse supporting economic, cultural, social, and health-related development opportunities.
- Plan to increase the effectiveness of transit in Syracuse, providing a vision for how it could contribute to a vibrant, inclusive, and prosperous city.

Schedule



The SMART 1 planning study started in Summer 2015 and is expected to be completed in 2017.

Throughout the course of the planning study, three public meetings/open houses are scheduled, along with various other public engagement activities such as focus groups, community/neighborhood meetings, and other events.