GETTING TO H.S. IN BALTIMORE CITY

ABC’s of Successful Community Partnerships

Celeste Chavis, Ph.D., P.E.
Transportation & Urban Infrastructure Studies
Analyze issue systematically
Be open and transparent
Communicate with all stakeholders
Getting to High School in Baltimore
Analyze issue systematically

Example:
MTA provides poor service to H.S. students

Research Questions:
1. How long does it take H.S. students in Baltimore to get to school?
2. Does BaltimoreLink shorten travel times for H.S. students?
3. How can BaltimoreLink better serve students through improved tripper service?

Experience driven scope of work. Data driven conclusion.
High School Location & Student Residence

- High schools are not evenly distributed spatially across the city
- BCPSS students are concentrated in certain areas of the city
- Communities vary in the extent of high school and seat availability within close proximity.
- School types: choice lottery, specialized, academic entrance criteria
High School Location & Public Transit
(2016 bus routes)

- MTA operates subway, light rail and bus service
- Rail is predominantly in the NW quadrant
- All schools are near at least one transit line
- Many trips require commutes in and out of downtown
GTFS Travel Time Summary (2016)

- Mean travel time for students using public transit: **36.2 min**
- Mean travel time for adults to work using public transportation: **46.4 min** (Note: this includes Baltimore residents who commute outside of Baltimore)

Approximately 1 out of 8 MTA passenger trips is a high school student on his/her way to/from school.

1 in 4 students’ estimated commutes by public transit is greater than 45 min.

**Students:** 32% of trips do not require a transfer

**Adults:** 53% of trips do not require a transfer
Be open and transparent...
about challenges

Open Choice Schools

Use of public transit

Long & complicated commutes

Communication barriers btw BCPSS & MTA
Restricted by Regulations
Lack of Funding
Be open and transparent
...with data

- Publically available General transit feed specification (GTFS)
- PIA requests for disaggregate performance metric information
- Most data required approval and IRB consideration due to sensitive nature of data (home location, school location, etc.)
# of H.S. Accessible in 45 mins

Pre-BaltimoreLink

Post-BaltimoreLink

Difference in Service
Communicate with all stakeholder
Next Step: Tripper Optimization
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Access to Certain H.S. within 45 min

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High School</th>
<th>Pre-BaltimoreLink</th>
<th>Post-BaltimoreLink</th>
<th>Difference</th>
<th>% Change</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital Harbor</td>
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