

8 Next Steps and Conclusion

The purpose of the Metro Connector Study is to consider options for providing fast, reliable, and frequent transit that connects major transportation hubs, regional activity centers, and residential neighborhoods in metropolitan Providence while achieving other State goals related to climate, sustainable housing growth, and economic development in an equitable manner. This Existing Conditions Report is a key piece of the Metro Connector Study; it provides an overview of opportunities and constraints within the study area, identifies the most relevant information and sets the stage for development and evaluation of rapid transit alternatives.

The Existing Conditions Report will be regularly referenced as the Metro Connector Study produces alternatives for high-capacity transit and refines those ideas to arrive at a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) or Alternatives that can be advanced for implementation.

The first application of the findings described in this report was during the first round of public outreach in the fall of 2024, where existing conditions data was presented to the public to inform initial scoping of potential high-capacity transit corridors. The Existing Conditions Report will guide other parts of the Metro Connector Study, as well. For example, factors like current zoning and land use will be used to assess the development potential of land near potential rapid transit corridors, and the market analysis will be used to estimate future demand for transit on potential high-capacity transit corridors.