Community Forum Task Force on Transportation and Mobility

Upper Valley Mobility Report

THE ASPEN INSTITUTE
community programs

Four Decades of Traffic Jams

Should we care anymore?

The Cost of Congestion

Millions of wasted hours in traffic jams

Aggravation for commuters, visitors, residents, businesses

Noise & pollution

The Community Forum

31 Citizens Taking a Fresh Look

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Task Force Process

Expert Speakers

Research

Dialogue

Our Goals

Improve Upper Valley Mobility

Reduce Traffic Congestion

Values Based Transportation System

Essential Community Values	Operating System Values	Minimum System Requirements
Community Character	Traffic/Congestion Reduction	Safety
Environmental Quality	Social Equity	Financial Viability
	Convenience/Comfort	Functionality
	Adaptable to Future	

Options Matrix & Scoring System

	ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY VALUES		OPERATING SYSTEM VALUES				MINIMUM SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS		
OPTIONS	**Community Character**	**Environmental Quality**	**Traffic & Congestion Reduction**	**Social Equity**	**Convenience & Comfort**	**Adaptable to the Future**	**Safety**	**Financial Viability**	**Capacity to Move People and/or Reduce Travel Demand**
Ride Sharing Systems	67	51	43	45	39	62	29	61	47
Ride Hailing Systems	62	43	37	34	52	65	45	52	40
Light Rail Transit (LRT)	37	51	58	50	50	13	63	-29	55
Enhanced Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)	53	52	51	52	42	56	61	32	56
Snowmass Connection Enhancements	49	43	31	37	44	45	53	22	35
Mountain to Mountain Connection	54	38	14	18	33	13	46	4	16
Transit-Oriented Affordable Housing	55	50	44	45	51	34	49	21	37
HOV Lane Enforcement	48	42	42	38	29	48	52	59	38
Dynamic Road Pricing (VMT fees, etc.)	17	50	57	-6	20	59	46	60	53
Parking Strategies	45	47	44	6	3	47	33	49	34
Airport/Transit Connectivity	65	53	38	39	56	50	53	38	42
Increased Highway Capacity	-35	-37	-25	18	5	-13	-7	-23	-23

OPTION/VALUE RATING SYSTEM

3 = Fully consistent with this value. Substantial progress

2 = Adequately consistent with this value

1 = Minimally consistent with this value

0 = Neutral or Not Applicable

-1 = Inconsistent with this value

-2 = Extremely inconsistent with this value. Detrimental impacts

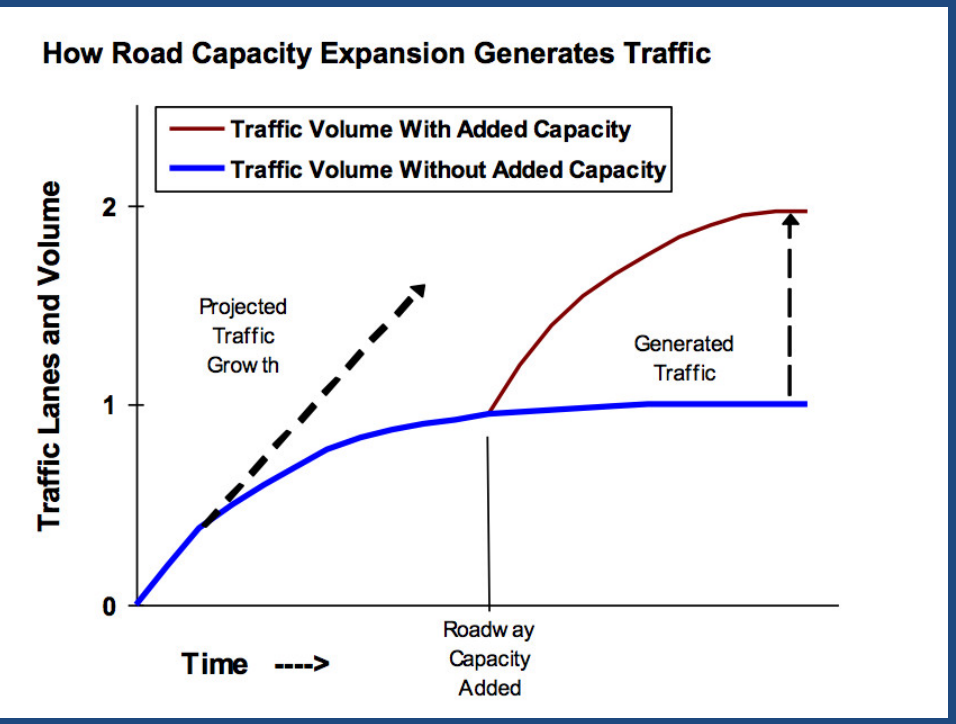
The Achilles Heel of added capacity…

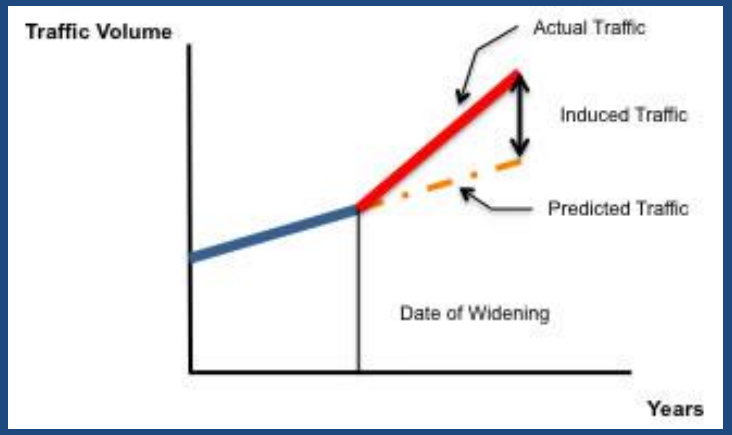
The Role of Induced Traffic

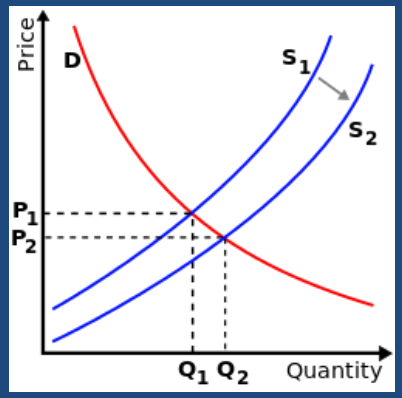
"Increased roadway capacity induces additional vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in the short-run and even more VMT in the long-run."

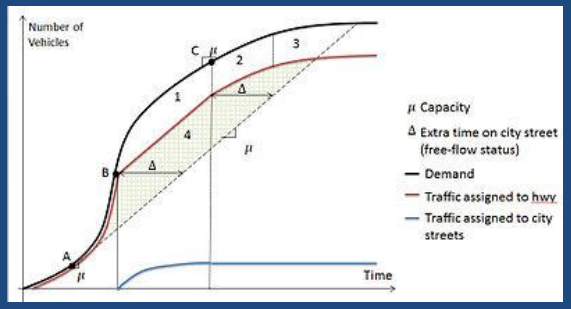
University of California, Davis 2015

A Universal Principle









“Widening roads to ease congestion is like trying to cure obesity by loosening your belt.”

– Roy Kienitz
Former Under Secretary of Transportation

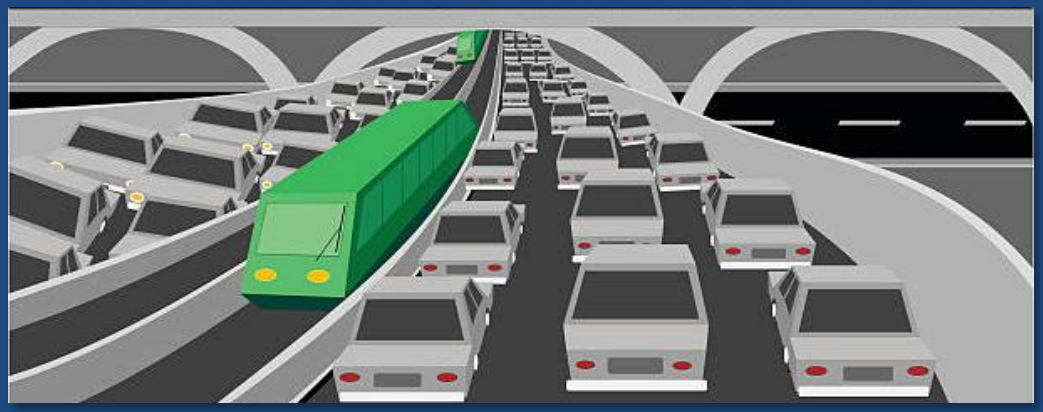
The Role of Transit: *Essential* …but Insufficient

"Public transit does not reduce traffic levels."

– Gilles Duranton, University of Pennsylvania
Matthew Turner, Brown University, 2011

“Add a new subway line and some drivers will switch to transit. But new drivers replace them. It’s the same effect as adding a new lane to the highway: congestion remains constant.”

– “Building Bigger Roads Actually Makes Traffic Worse,” Adam Mann, *Wired*, 2014



Systems… Not Silver Bullets!

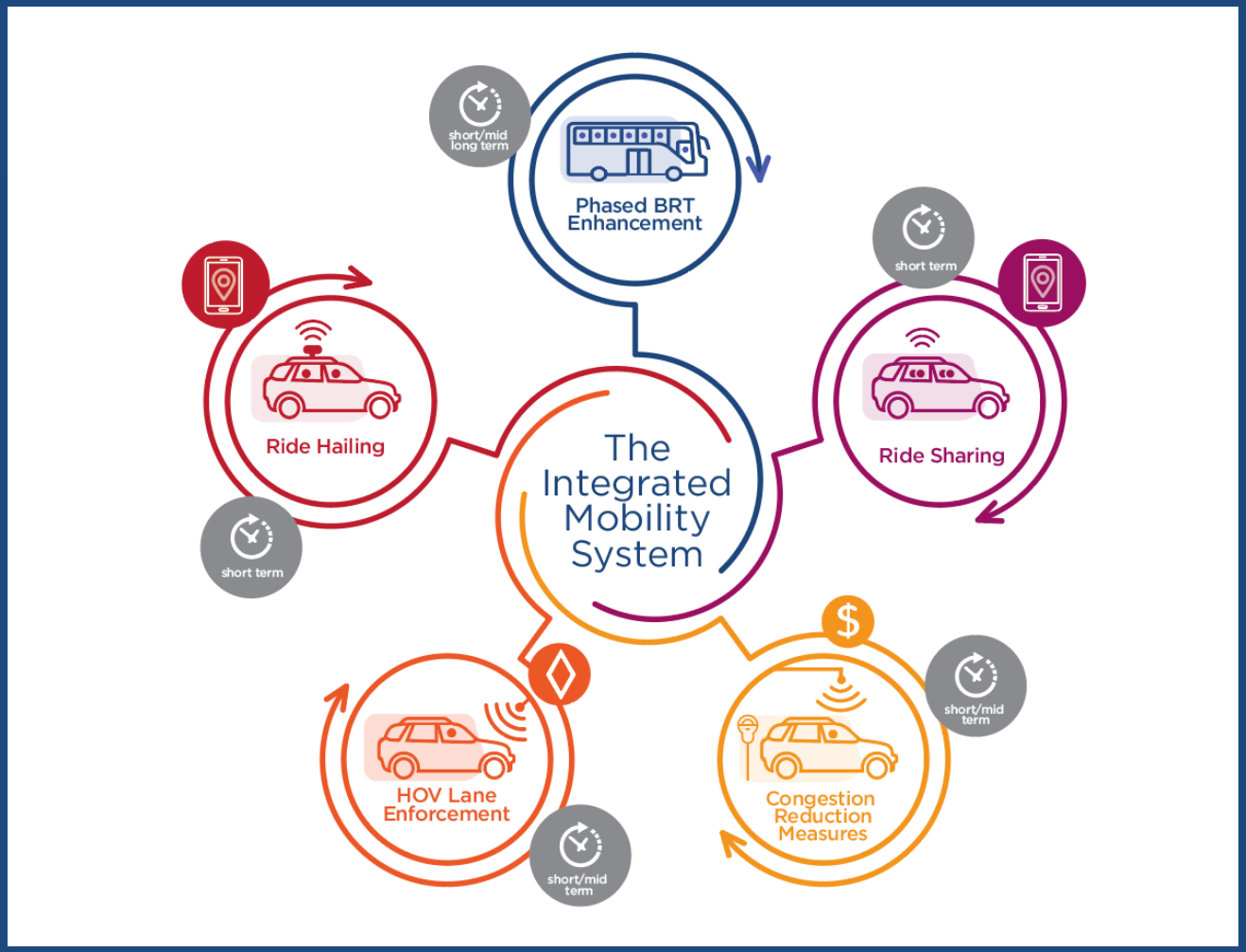
The Solution:
A Balance of Carrots and Sticks

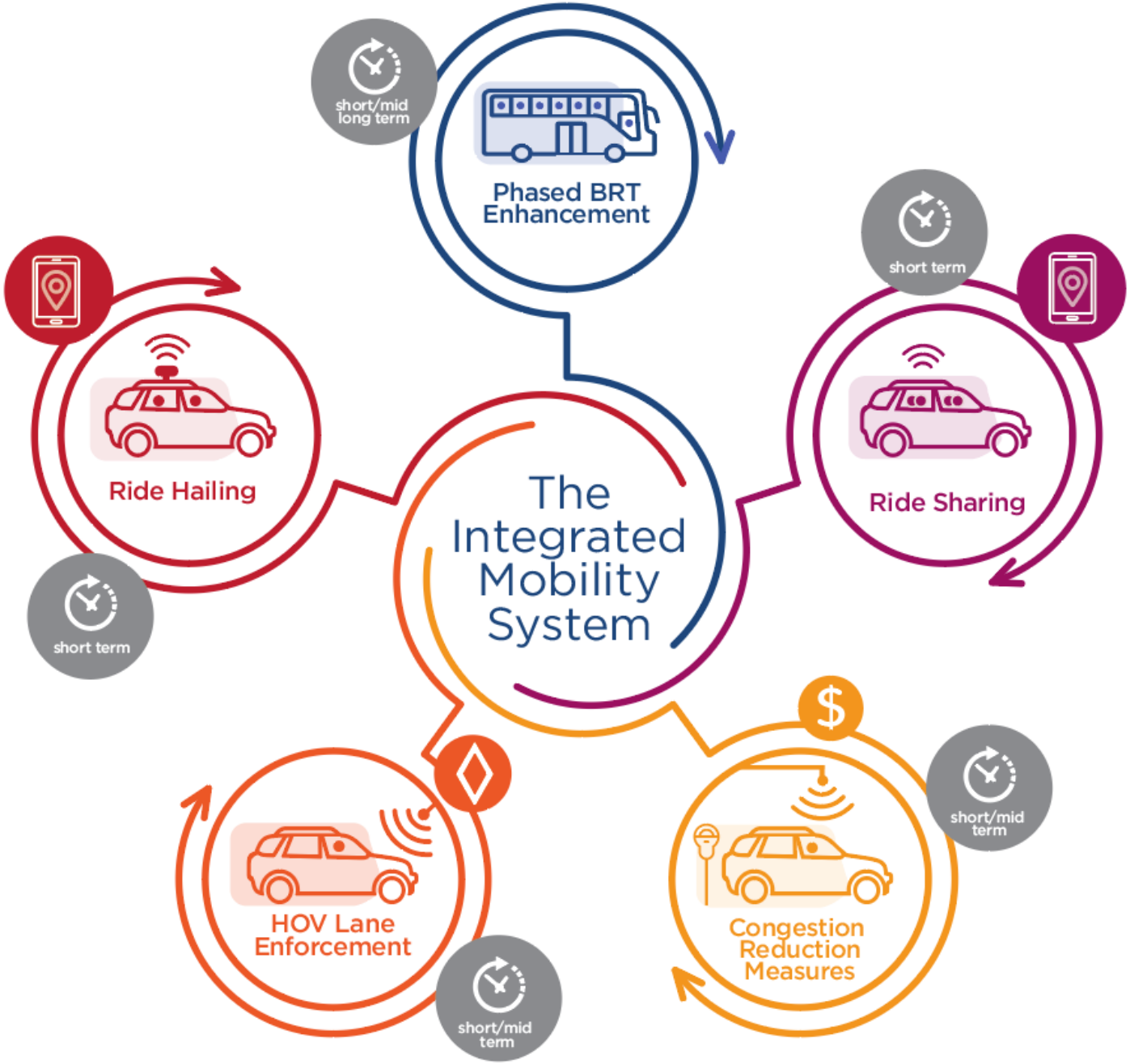
"The efficient solution to congestion is to use pricing or other incentives to test consumers' willingness to pay for road space…

"Congestion pricing can provide travelers with an incentive to reduce their peak period trips and use travel alternatives, such as ride sharing…"

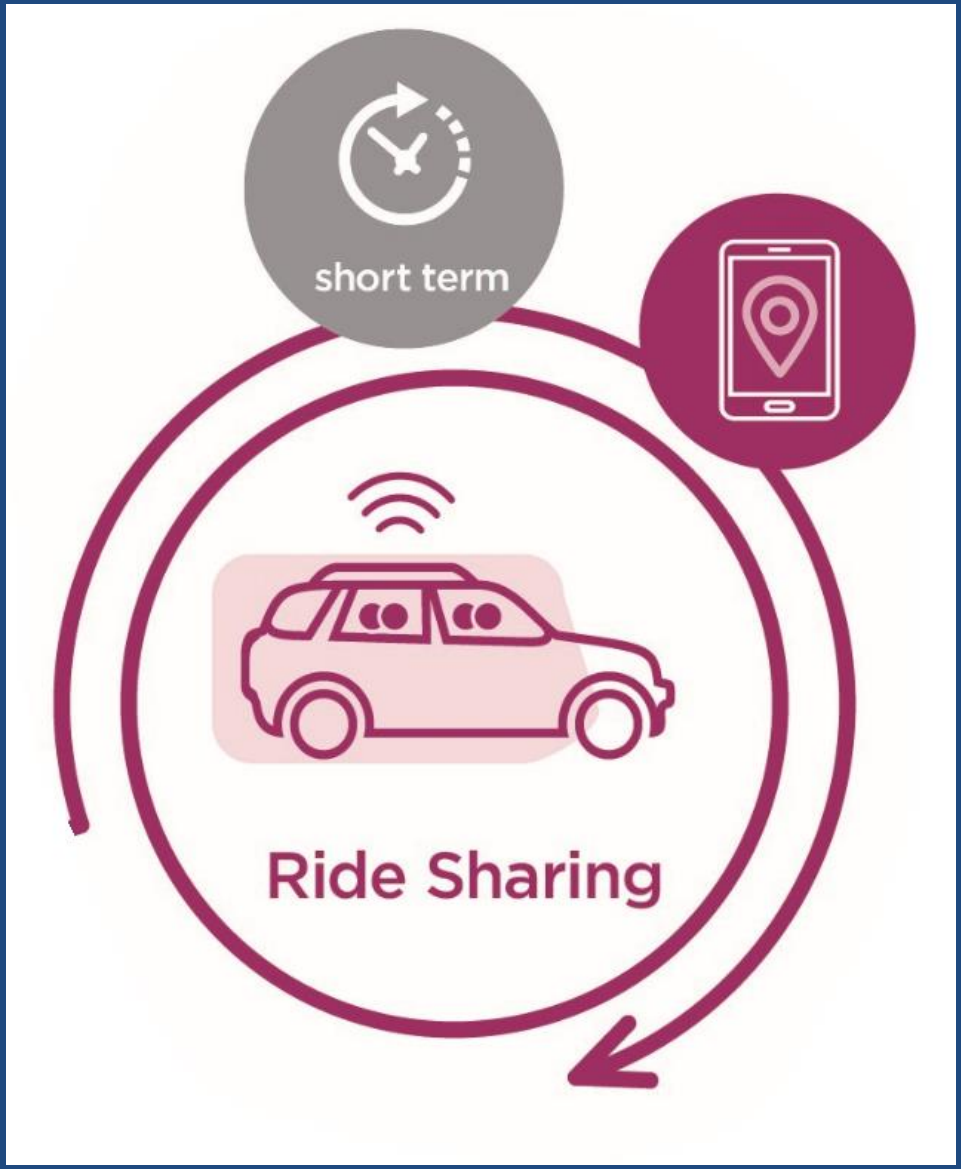
– Victoria Transport Policy Institute 2017

The Integrated Mobility System




The Integrated Mobility System
Phased BRT Enhancement
short/mid long term
Ride Hailing
short term
Ride Sharing
short term
HOV Lane Enforcement
short/mid term
Congestion Reduction Measures
short/mid term

Integrated Mobility System



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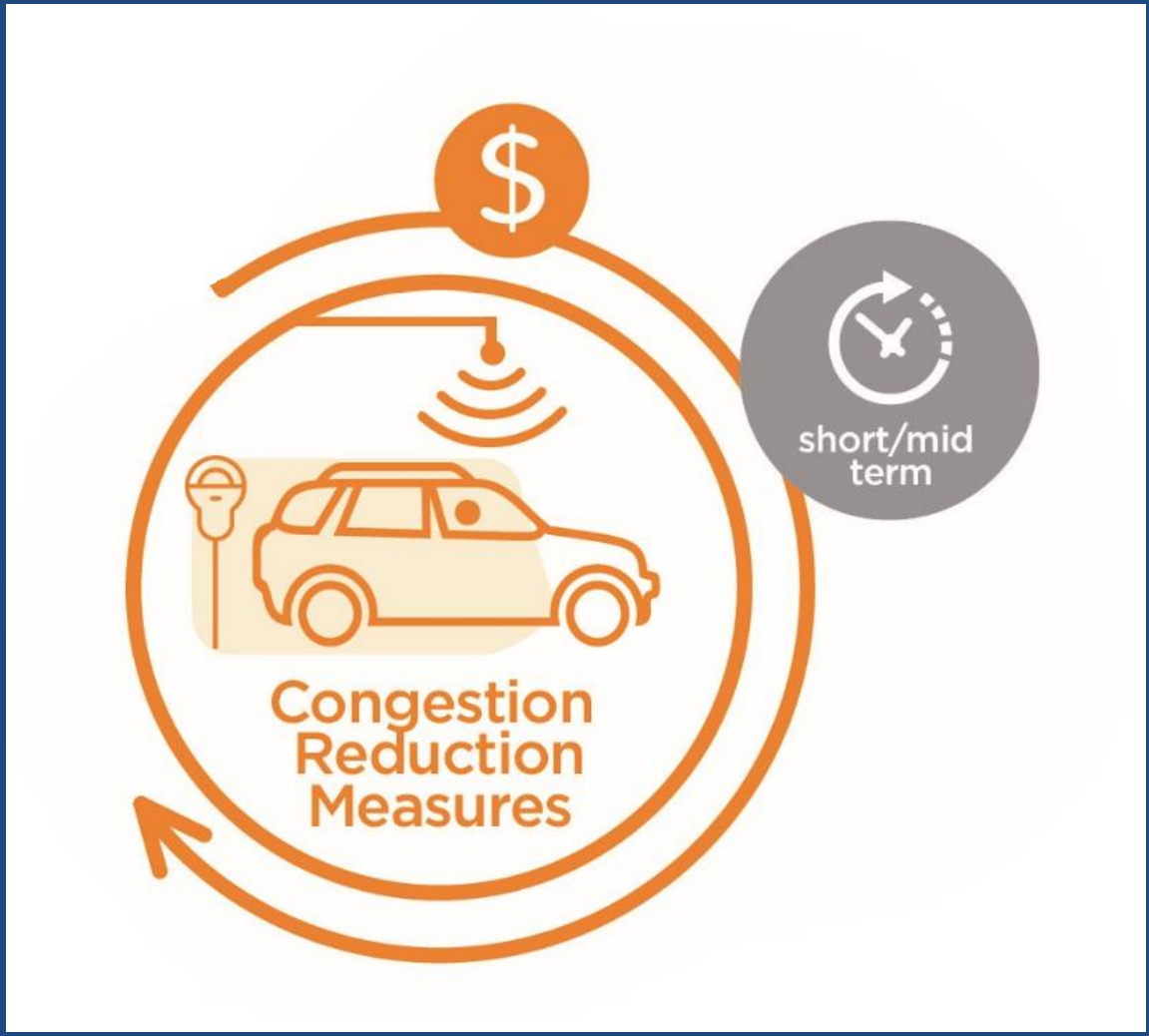

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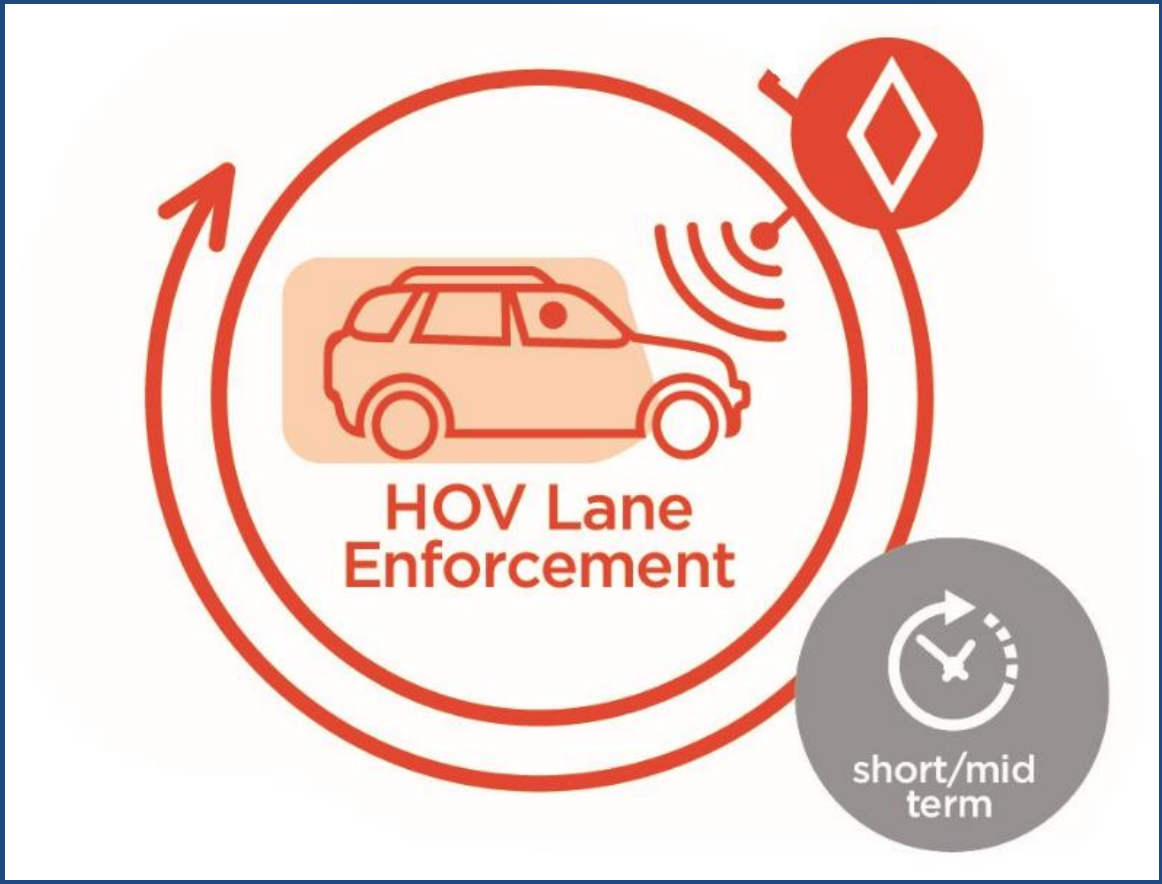

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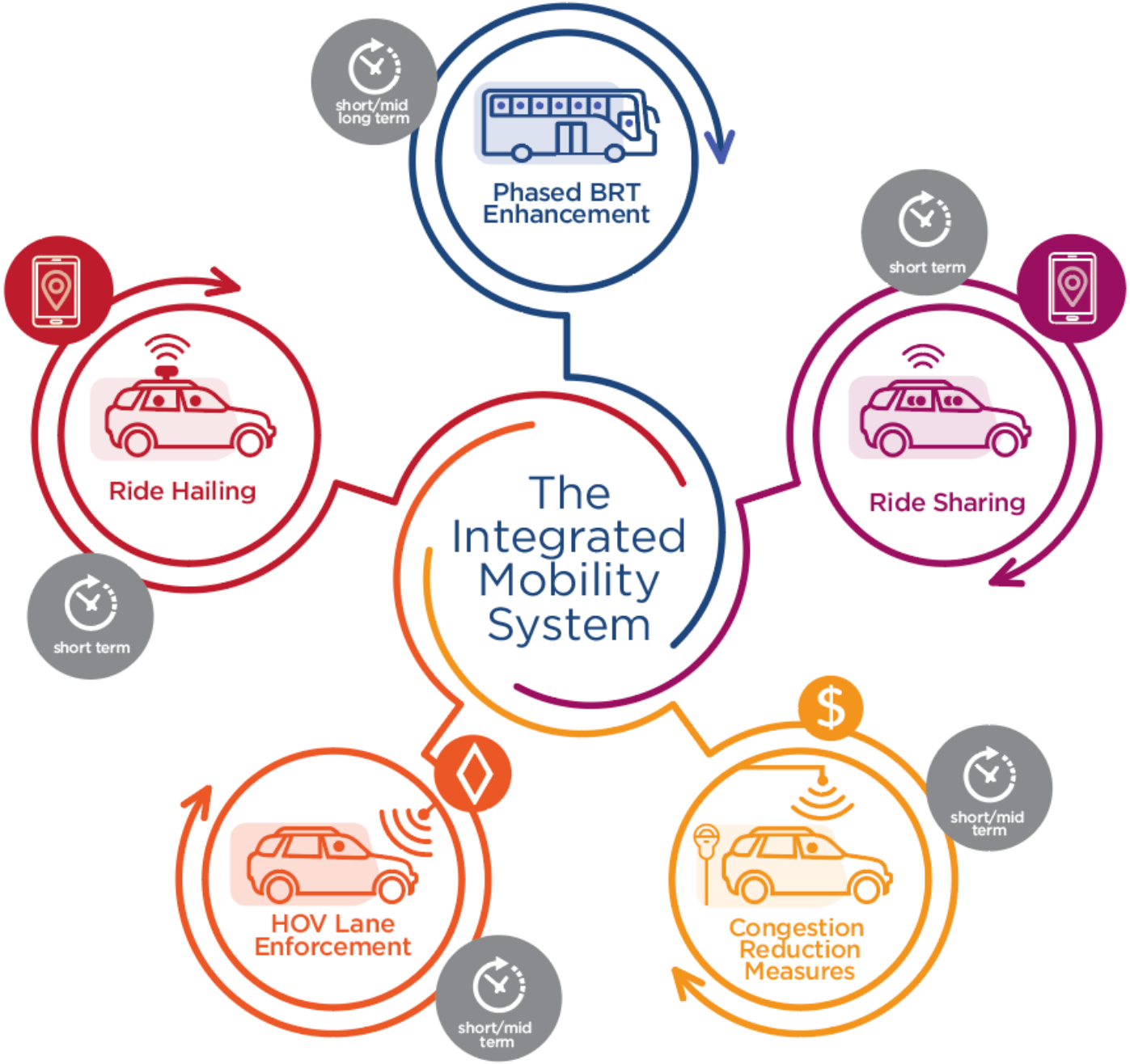
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short/mid long term
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Ride Sharing
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HOV Lane Enforcement
short/mid term
Congestion Reduction Measures
short/mid term

Long-Term Success

Fewer traffic jams

More mobility options

Commuters gain time for families & work

Visitors enjoy more vacation time

Less traffic, noise, pollution

Reduced carbon emissions

Integrated Mobility System

A Shift in Strategic Thinking: *Operational Innovation*

Invites Experimentation

Flexible

Reversable

Affordable

What Does Success Look Like?

An integrated mobility *system*

Reflects community values

Innovative options

Works for residents, commuters & visitors

The Bottom Line…
Quality of Life