


# How Can We Build Megaprojects Right?

An aerial photograph of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge during sunset. The bridge's steel truss structure is illuminated by the warm, golden light of the setting sun. The bridge spans a large body of water, with a city skyline visible in the background. Several construction barges and cranes are visible in the water around the bridge, indicating ongoing work. The bridge's design features a central pylon and multiple spans supported by various types of piers.

Alix Bockelman  
Deputy Executive Director, Policy  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission

SPUR San Francisco  
May 2, 2019



# Bay Bridge New East Span



## Costs:

- 2001 estimate incl. tower: \$2.6B
- 2005 AB144/SB66 budget: \$5.5B
- Final budget: \$6.5B

## Governance/Oversight:

- Caltrans
- Toll Bridge Program Oversight Committee (Caltrans, BATA, CTC)

## Delivery challenges included:

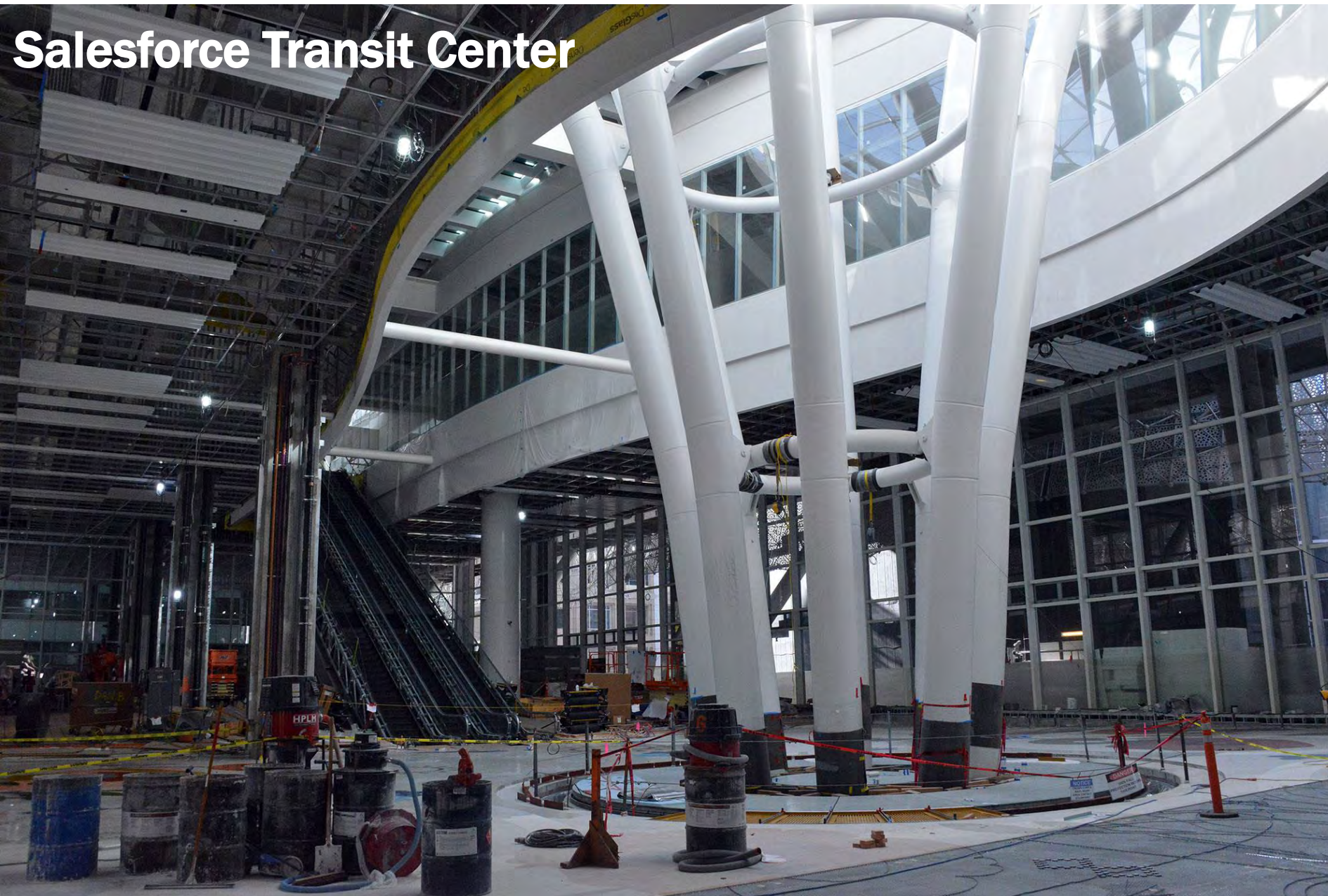
- Debate on alignment and design
- Increases in materials costs
- Construction quality control

## Post reviews:

- State auditor



# Salesforce Transit Center



## Costs:

- 2010 budget (incl. train box): \$1.6B
- Final budget: \$2.3B

## Governance/Oversight:

- TJPA
- Cost Review Committee (SF, MTC, TJPA)

## Delivery challenges included:

- Low/optimistic estimates
- Unfavorable bidding market
- Congested work area
- Fractured beams

## Post reviews:

- Peer reviews and governance (MTC/ SFCTA)



# Plan Bay Area 2040 Megaprojects

## Transbay Terminal Phase 2 – Downtown Extension



- ~\$4B
- >50% funds not committed
- Project owner and oversight?
- Pennsylvania Ave as Phase 3?
- Caltrain, High Speed Rail

## Diridon Station Expansion



- Cost TBD
- High Speed Rail, Caltrain, ACE, Capitol Corridor, BART, VTA coordination
- Airport connection?
- VTA is RM3 project sponsor

## California High Speed Rail Bay Area Segments



### SF to SJ

- ~\$2.4B incl. HSR funds for Caltrain Elect. and DTX
- Shared tracks with Caltrain

### SJ to Gilroy

- ~\$2.8B w/ at-grade Diridon
- Uses UPRR ROW

## Express Lanes Network

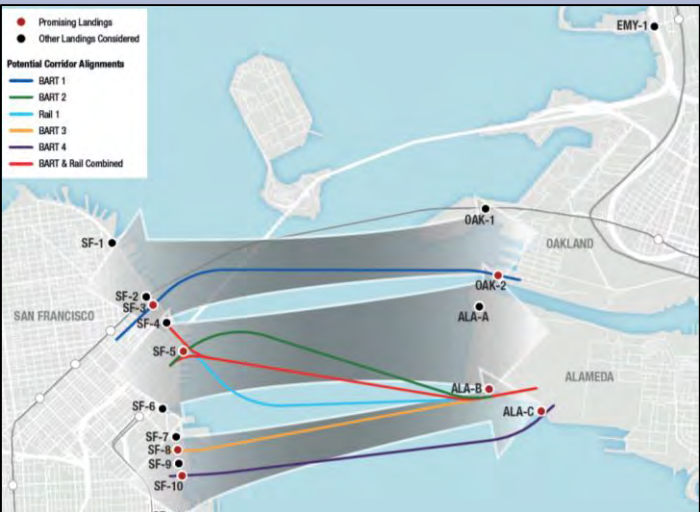


- >\$2B of potential projects in region
- \$300M in RM3 funding
- San Mateo 101 starting construction



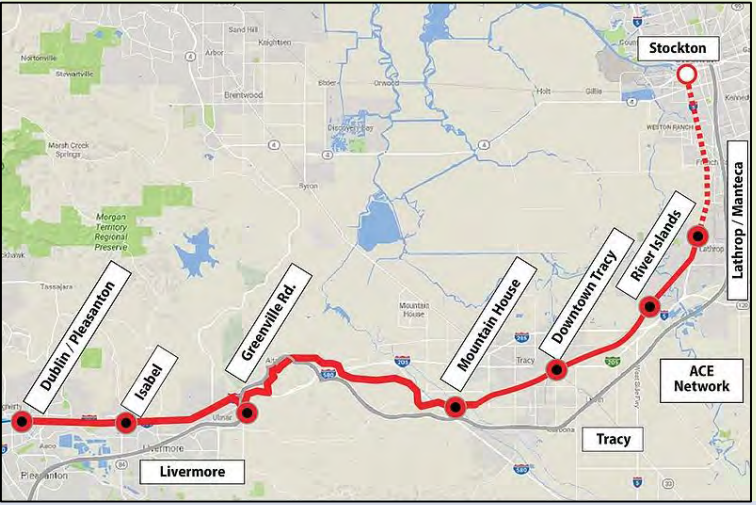
# Looking Ahead – Potential Upcoming Megaprojects

## New Transbay Rail Crossing?



- Many \$ billions
- No capital funding
- Route, tracks, operators?
- SF, East Bay connections?

## Valley Link?



- ~\$2B Phase 1
- ~\$600M funding identified for corridor
- Megaregion operations?
- BART, ACE connections?

## Dumbarton Rail?



- Southern Alameda Rail Analysis
- DB Corridor Study
- Technology, operator, cost?
- Peninsula, East Bay connections?

## State Route 37?



- ~\$5B
- Sea level rise, capacity?
- Tolling?
- Enhanced transit in corridor?



# Other Recently Delivered Megaprojects

E-BART + SR 4 Widening (\$1 billion)



BART to Warm Springs (\$890 million)



Caldecott Tunnel 4<sup>th</sup> Bore (\$417 million)

## Successes and Lessons Learned

- Solid coordination from beginning
- Cooperative strategy for funding
- Laser and transparent focus on costs, including from funding partners
- Favorable bidding environment



# Context and Challenges Ahead

- Construction costs  
(*highest on the planet?*)
- Fragmented governance
- Funding silos and limits
- Supportive land use and other policies





# Conception, Governance and Implementation of Rail Station Megaprojects Learning from France



**Eric Eidlin, Station Planning Manager  
City of San Jose**

**SPUR San Francisco  
May 2, 2019**

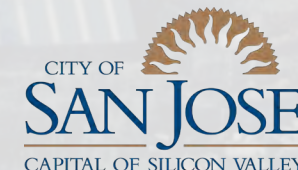


**Caroline Gallez**

**French Institute of Science and  
Technology for Transport, Development  
and Networks**

**Karen Trapenberg Frick**

**UC Berkeley Department of  
City and Regional Planning**





# Megaprojects: A Major Challenge

Projects that are exceptionally costly, controversial, context-specific, challenging to design, complex to construct

- Often strain institutional capacities
- Takes skill to keep them from becoming catastrophic, career-ending
- Examples: Channel Tunnel, Eastern Span - Bay Bridge, London congestion pricing, many urban rail projects





# San Francisco Chronicle

Don't despair over Transbay Transit Center cracks: Fix how we do megaprojects

By Gabriel Metcalf and Ratna Amin | October 4, 2018



FILE - In this file photo taken Aug. 15, 2018, food trucks line up outside the new Transbay Transit Center in San Francisco. San Francisco officials shut down the city's \$2.2 billion transit terminal Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2018, after a crack was found in a steel beam. (AP Photo/Lorin Eleni Gill, File)

[... more](#)



November 18, 2017

SYSTEM FAILURE

# How Politics and Bad Decisions Starved New York's Subways

Disruptions and delays have roiled the system this year. But the crisis was long in the making, fueled by a litany of errors, a Times investigation shows.

# The New York Times



# Los Angeles Times

How California's faltering high-speed rail project was 'captured' by costly consultants

By RALPH VARTABEDIAN APR 26, 2019 | 11:30 AM







The new eastern span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge seen on September 3, 2013. // REUTERS/Stephen Lam

## From \$250 Million to \$6.5 Billion: The Bay Bridge Cost Overrun

[ERIC JAFFE](#) OCT 13, 2015



# **Track Record in California and U.S.**

**From a comparative international perspective:**

- Poor performance according to traditional project delivery measures of cost and schedule**
- Many recent projects have shown design flaws**
- When considering transit and passenger rail projects, the approach to project delivery may be less holistic and there seems to be less of an emphasis on maximizing broader social benefits**



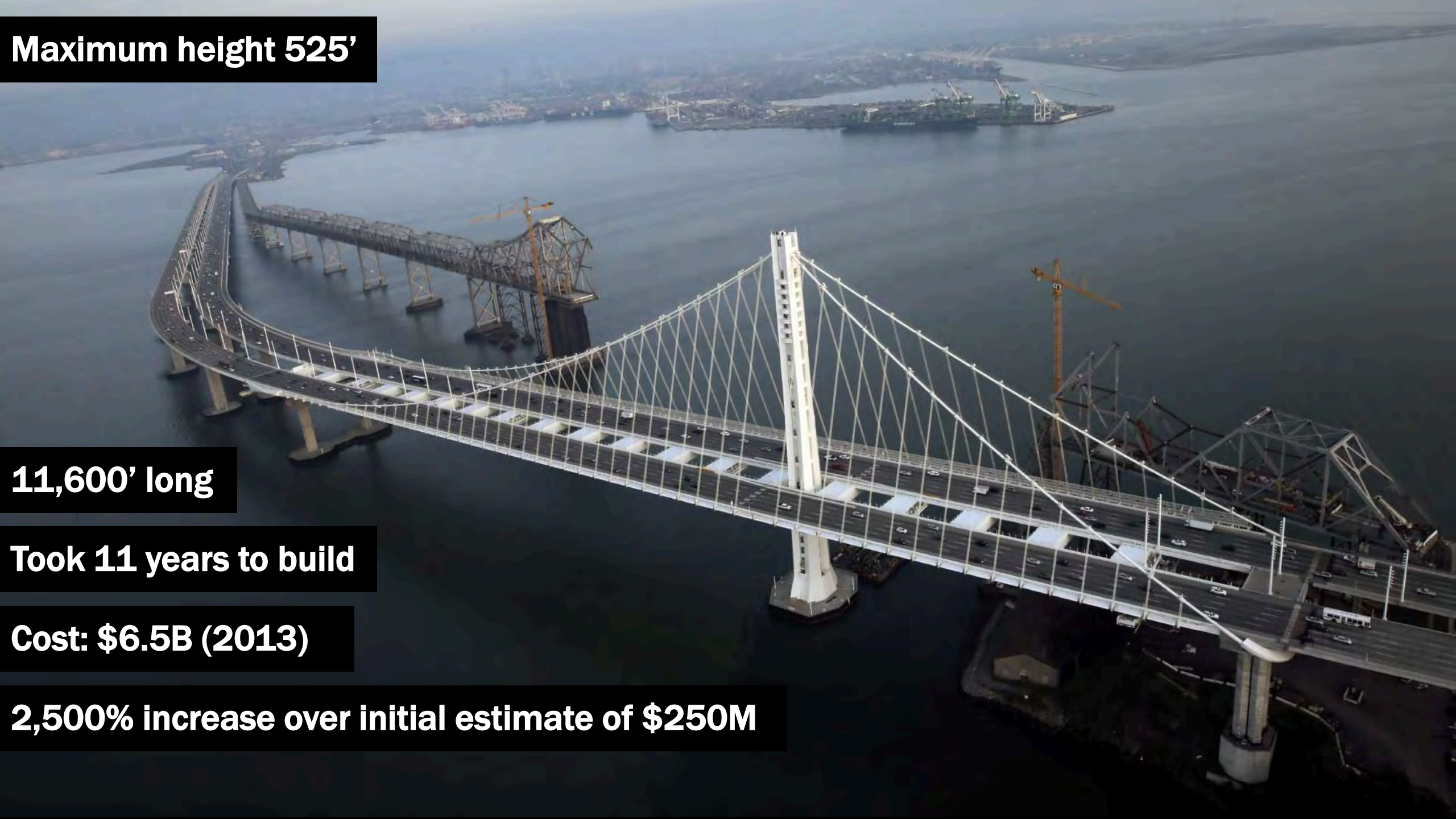
**Maximum height 525'**

**11,600' long**

**Took 11 years to build**

**Cost: \$6.5B (2013)**

**2,500% increase over initial estimate of \$250M**





**How can we do better?**



**Tallest bridge in the world (1,104')**

**8,200' long viaduct**

**Took 3 years to build**

**Cost: \$524 M (2004)**



**Viaduc de Millau**



**France known for**

**Bold land use planning**

**Integrated transportation  
and development**

**Political leadership**

**Efficient project delivery entities**

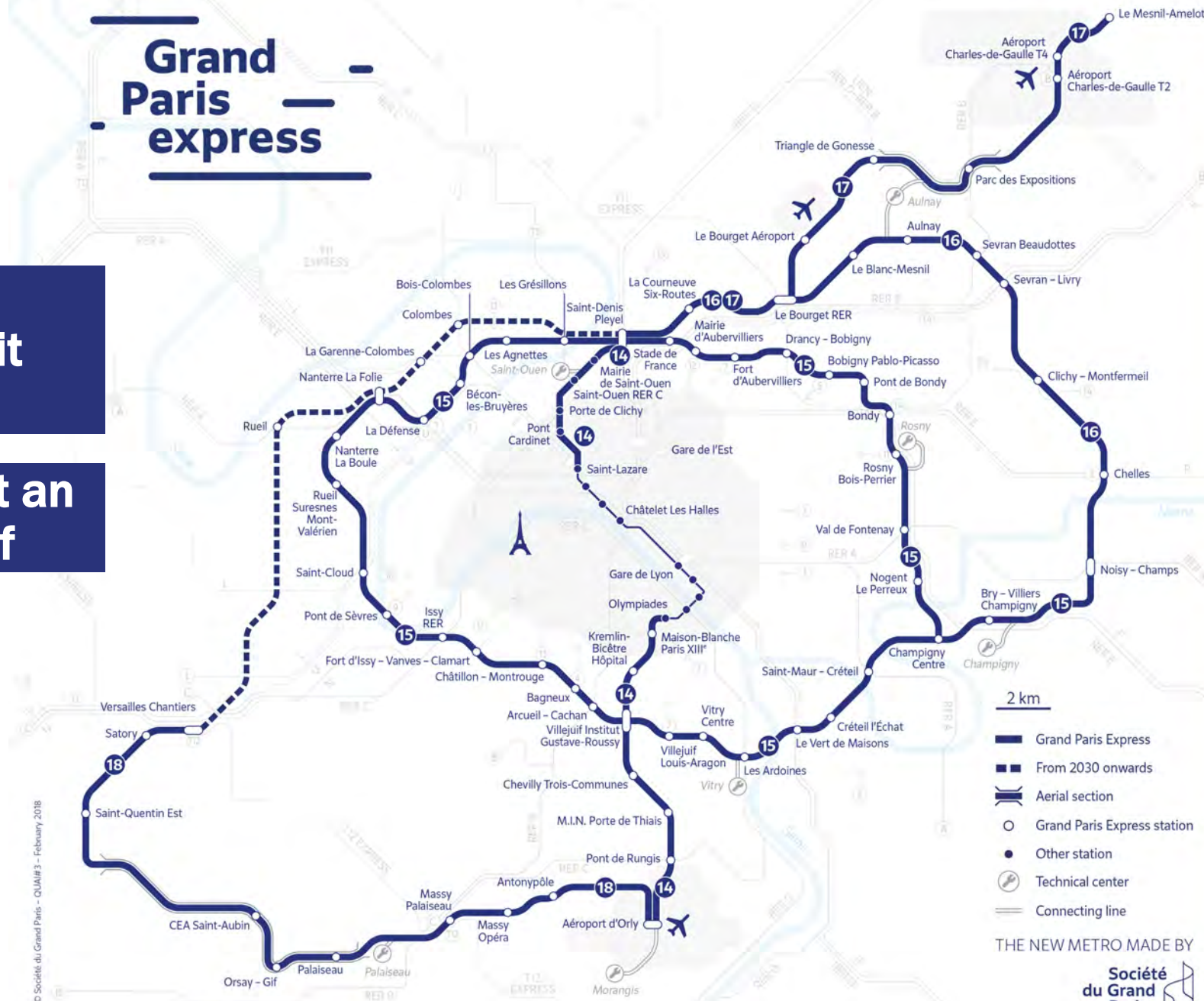




# Grand Paris express

Strong regional approach to transit and land use

Transportation not an end in and of itself



## Opening

2020 - 2021



2024



2027



2030



THE NEW METRO MADE BY

Société du Grand Paris

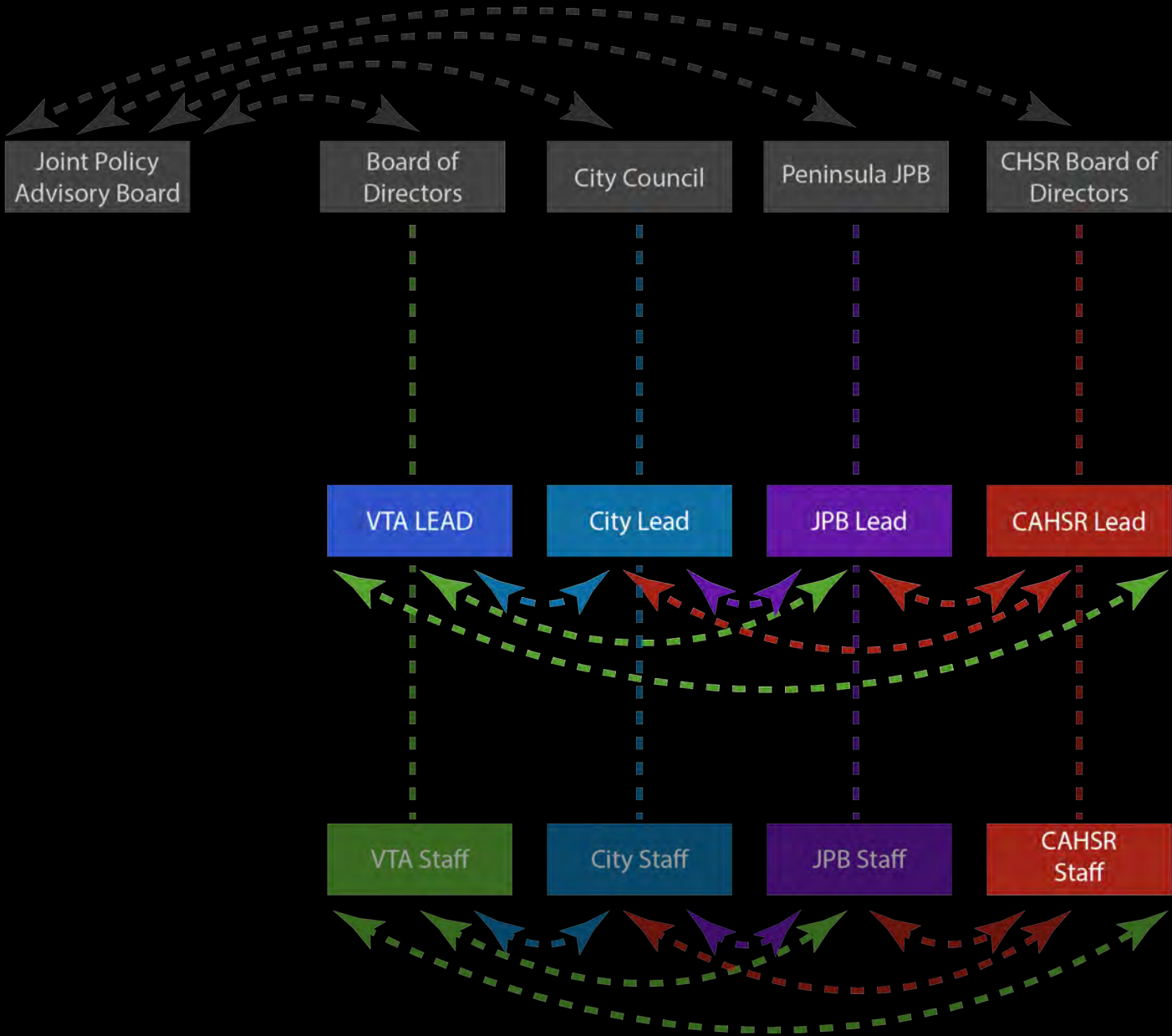


# **Key Aspects of French Project Delivery**

- **Emphasis on public sector in-house expertise / capacity**
- **Strong regional approach to transportation and land use planning**
- **Governance models and planning processes at different geographic scales that**
  - **facilitate project implementation**
  - **maximize public benefits from transportation investments**
- **Holistic and cross-disciplinary approach to transportation investments and city building**



The way in  
which we  
currently work  
together





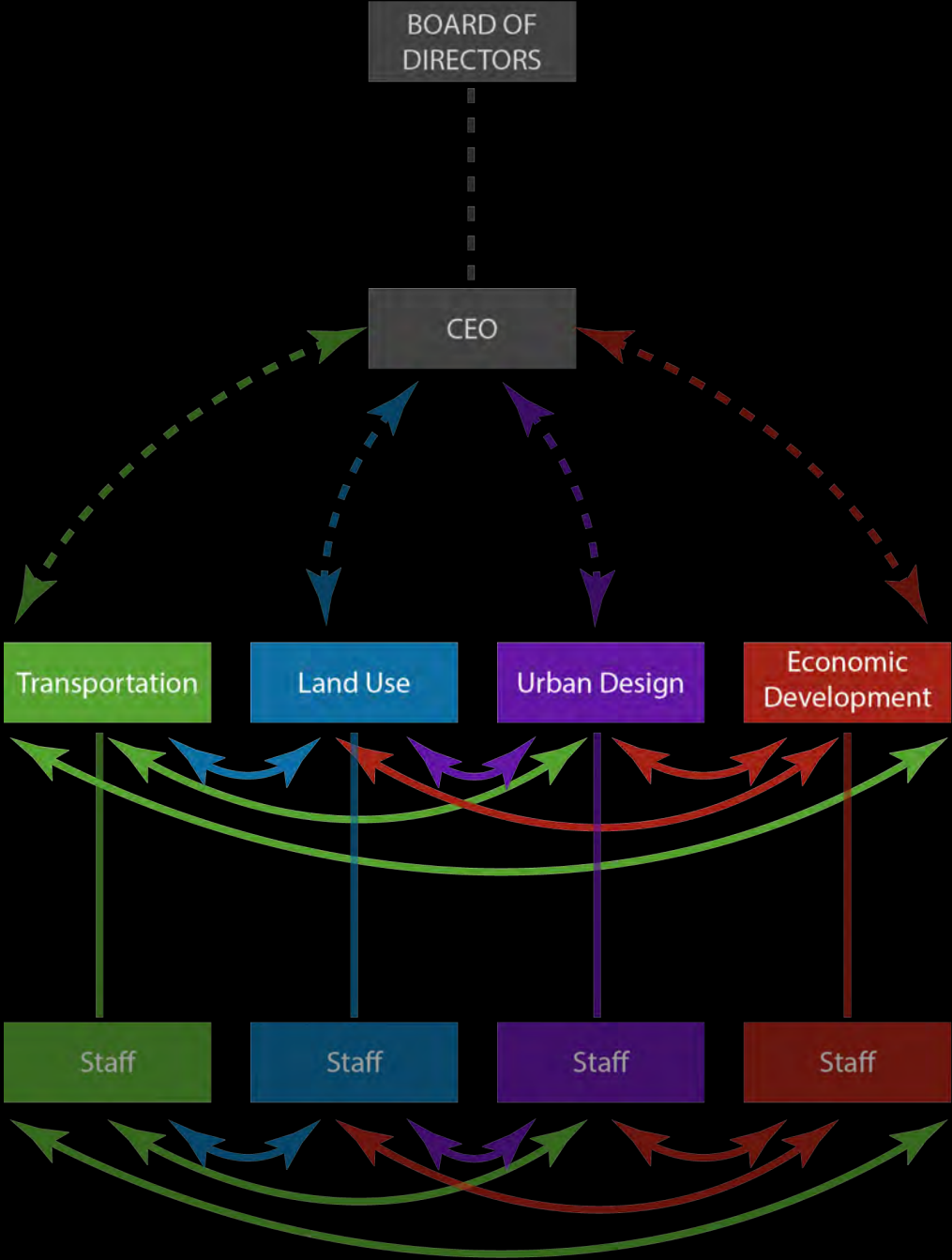
# Bordeaux- Euratlantique



- French station projects are typically led by small, cross-disciplinary governance entities formed in the initial stages of project development.
- They have high levels of in-house expertise on all topics related to station area development.
- This allows them to effectively direct all aspects of station area work.



# French Station Area Governance Entities





# Conception, Governance and Implementation of Rail Station Megaprojects Learning from France



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City of San Jose**

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May 2, 2019**

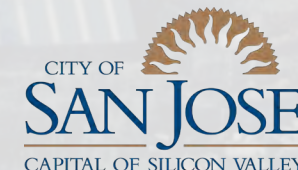


**Caroline Gallez**

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**UC Berkeley Department of  
City and Regional Planning**



# **Taking the High Road to More and Better Infrastructure, Including Mega Projects!**

Dena Belzer  
Strategic Economics  
May 2, 2019



## US Cities face an infrastructure and climate crisis

- \$3.6 trillion by 2020 in basic infrastructure needed

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- \$188 billion in city weather damages in metro areas

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- Most carbon emissions emanate from cities

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- Affects competitiveness

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- Opportunity for increased productivity and quality of life

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- But standards are needed to elevate the right projects

# Our Team Was Asked: How Do We Produce More and Better Infrastructure



- Project Lead



- Pre-Development activities, exchanges, infrastructure



- Pre-Development activities, municipal finance, case studies



- Investors and pension funds



- Federal policy and engagement



- Case studies, blended capital funds



- Case studies, blended capital funds





# What We Found: When We Plan Infrastructure, We Usually Plan (and pay for) One System at a Time



# What's the Result of This Approach: Low Road Infrastructure

Single purpose projects that get built without considering externalities, life cycle costs, or community impacts

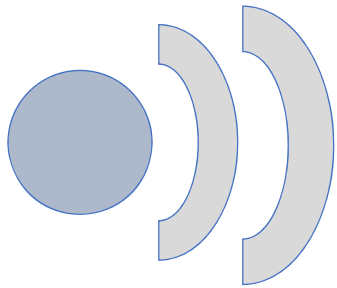


Black Bottom neighborhood of Detroit being cleared for to make way for I-75 and I-375



# The High Road Approach:

Redefining Infrastructure Projects to Include a More Diverse Set of Outcomes that Amplify/Extend Project Benefits, While Saving Money in the Long Run



Conventional Infrastructure



High Road Infrastructure

# High Road Infrastructure Funding/Financing Does Two Things Differently Than Conventional Infrastructure Planning and Delivery

## 1. Expects every infrastructure project to deliver benefits in 4 areas:

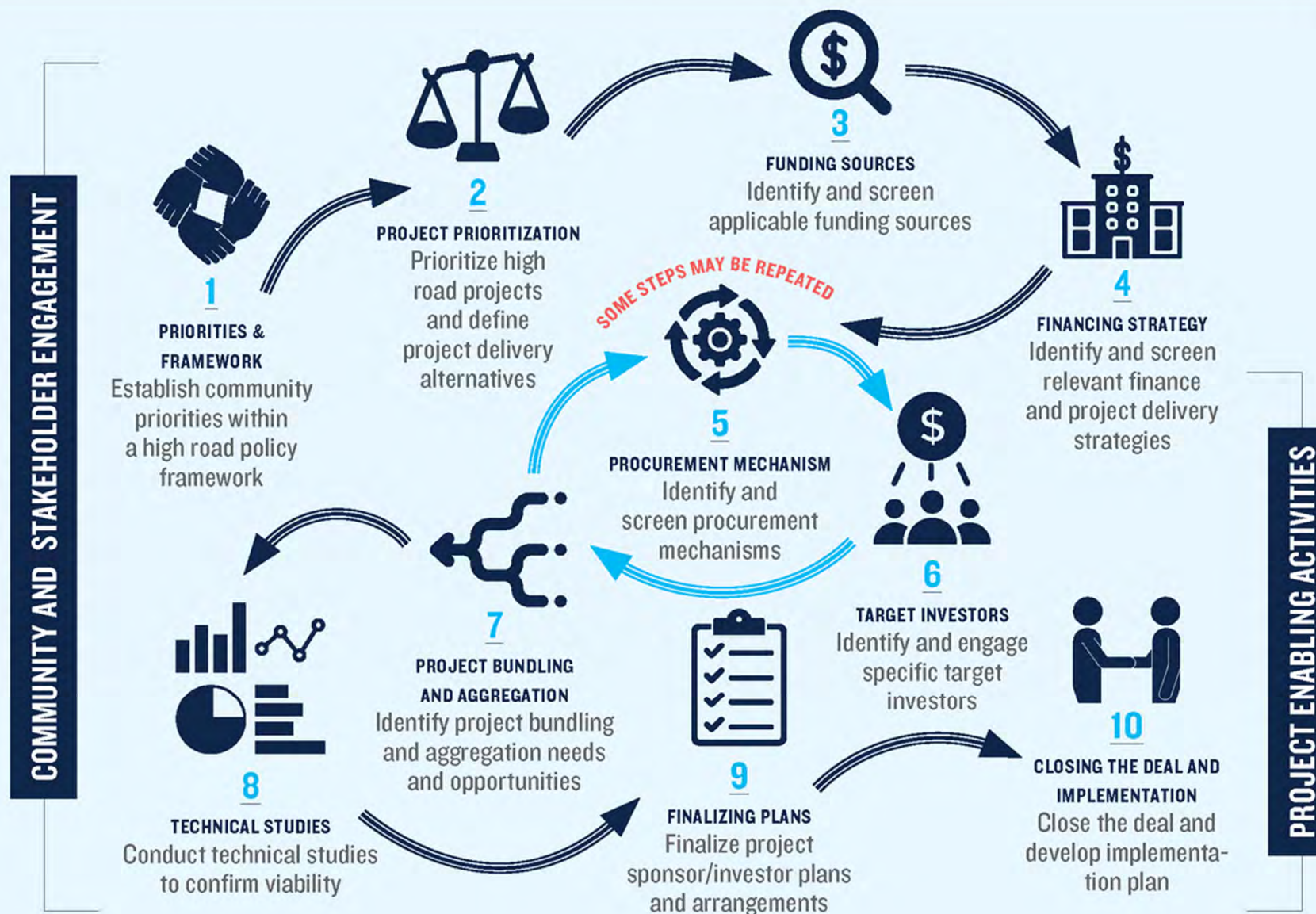
- Environmental Improvements
- Resiliency
- Social and Economic equity
- Governance and Community Accountability

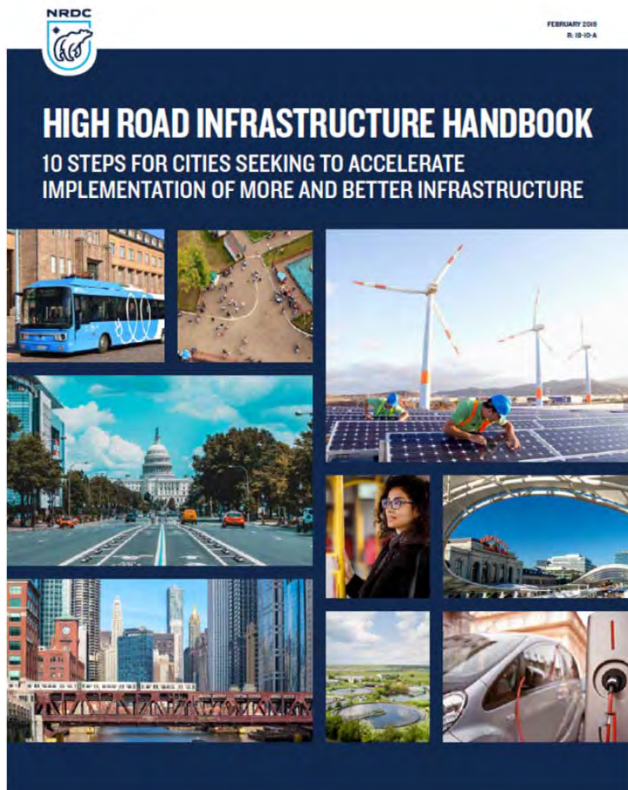
## 2. Use a High Road Predevelopment Process to Deliver Infrastructure Projects

- Establishes a community framework
- Identifies a High Road project pipeline
- Uses innovative funding, financing and procurement



# HIGH ROAD PREDEVELOPMENT MAP





<https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/high-road-infrastructure-handbook.pdf>





2019 San Mateo CWP Team



## Clean Water Program & Masdar City Program Overview

May 2, 2019



Masdar City Team



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# What is the Clean Water Program?

The Clean Water Program is a comprehensive plan to upgrade the aging wastewater collection and treatment systems with advanced infrastructure that will provide reliable services for decades to come.

The goals of the Clean Water Program are to:



**Replace** aging infrastructure and facilities



**Build** wet weather sewer system capacity assurance to prevent overflows



**Meet** current and future regulatory requirements



**Align** with the City of San Mateo and Foster City's sustainability goals

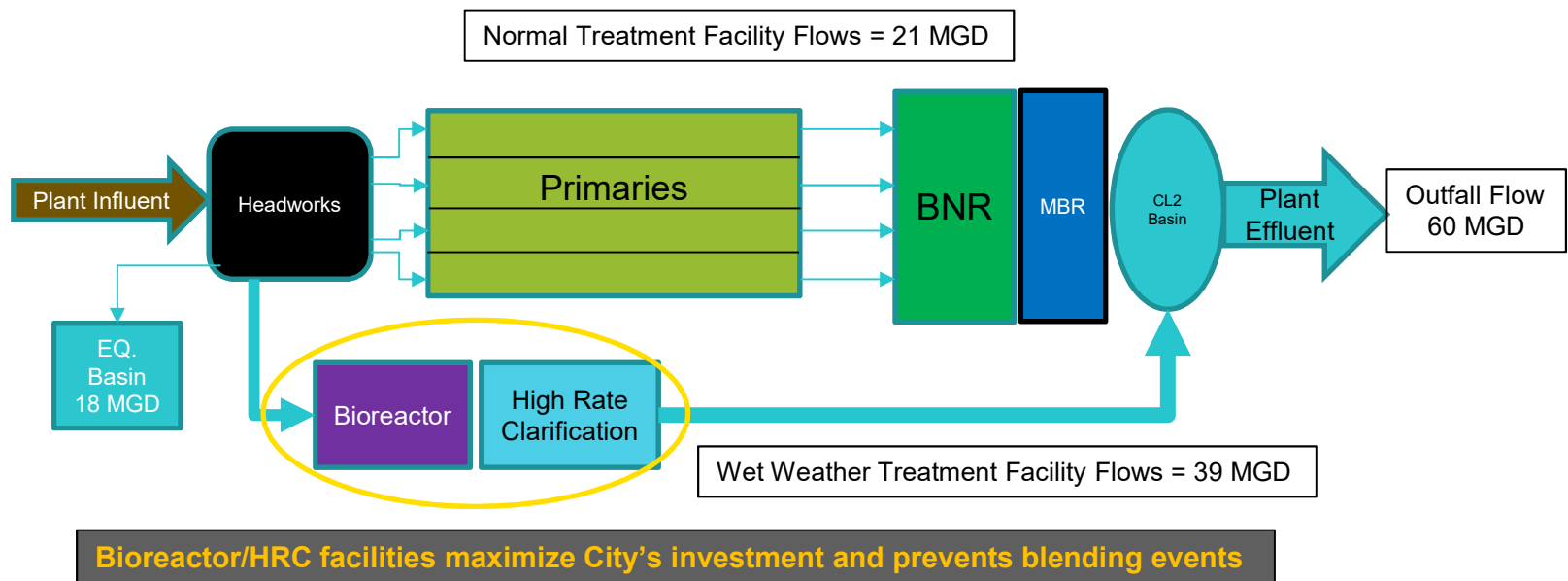


## CWP uses a Program Management Delivery Platform – *Just In-Time Services, Commitment, Strategies & Expertise, Right Fit to Ensure Success*



"Project Managers are at the Center of the Program Universe Model"

## Technology Innovations – Allows Complete Water Flow Management Year Round that saves **\$150 million** over Traditional Approaches



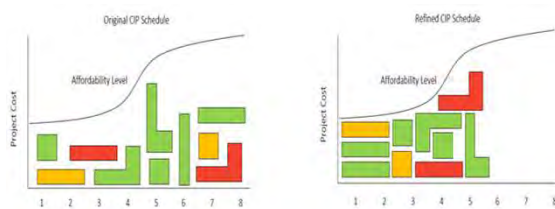


# Innovation – Project Bundling, Sequencing and Technology

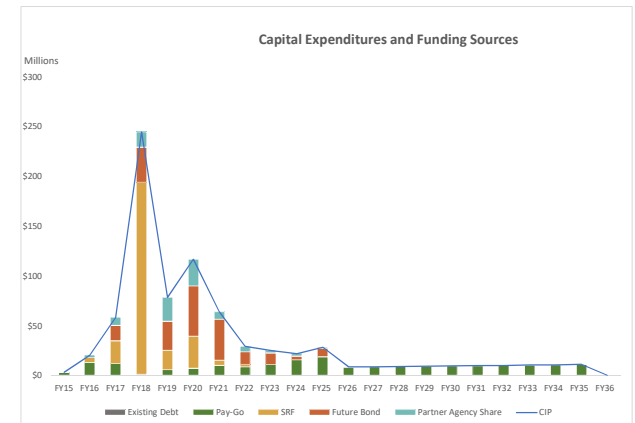
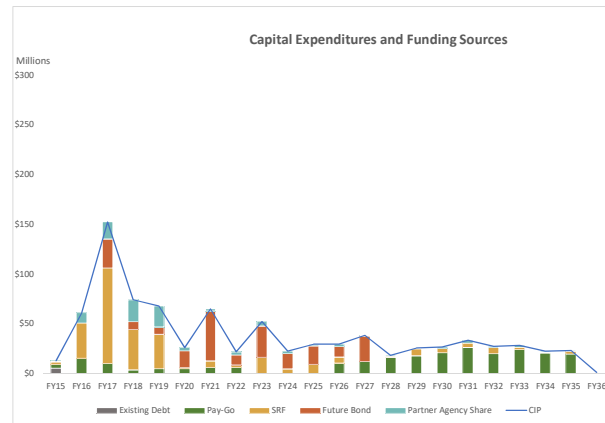
## Innovations allowed Program to be Done in 10 Years

Original Master Plan Approach  
**20 Years – \$1.2 Billion**  
**12% average rate increases**

CWP Programmatic Approach  
**10 Years – \$1 Billion**  
**10% average rate increases**



Project Bundling & Sequencing



**Approximately \$200 million savings by compressing from 20 to 10 Years**

## Masdar City's Approach to a Sustainable City



MASDAR CITY مدينة مصدر



Masdar City Fast Facts	
Total Site Area:	700 ha
Large Square:	225 ha
Small Square:	55 ha
Supporting Infrastructure:	45 ha
Landscape:	375 ha
Resident Population:	40,000
Commuters:	50,000
Residential Density:	140 People/Hectare
Peak Daily Density:	245 People/Hectare

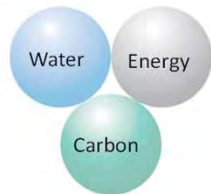


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# At Masdar City - The Old Way Isn't Going to Work

What it *was*...



What it *is*...



What it is *becoming*



Water-Energy-Carbon Nexus



"This really is an innovative approach, but I'm afraid we can't consider it. It's never been done before."

***New thinking – Using carbon as currency  
vs. \$ for Technology Selections***

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# Masdar City's Thinking based on Mega Trends

## Mega Trends Globally

Rapid Urbanization

Environmental  
Improvement

Social Citizenship

## Future Cities



Compact Integrated Resource Efficient Sustainable



CH2M-Masdar City 2010

## Innovation Focus Areas

Solid State Lighting

Sustainable Data & City Operations Management

Intelligent Transportation System

Monitoring

W-E-C Nexus

Behavior Changes

Solar/Thermal Heating & Cooling

Security

Green Supply Chain

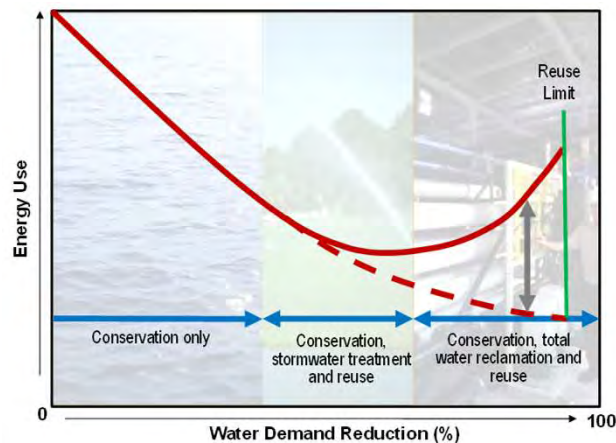
Smart Grid/Buildings

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# New Thinking Is Needed To Manage The Water-Energy-Carbon Nexus In Digital Smart Cities

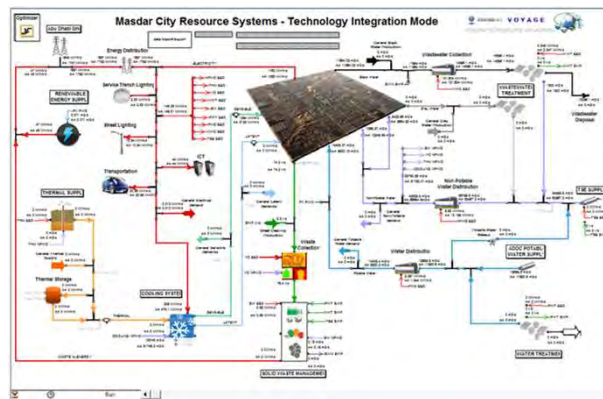
## Conventional Water Treatment Is Energy Intensive



### Innovations Needed:

- Resource Recovery
- Novel Technology Breakthrough
- Utilize Excess Capacity
- Change from “Waste” to Resource Thinking

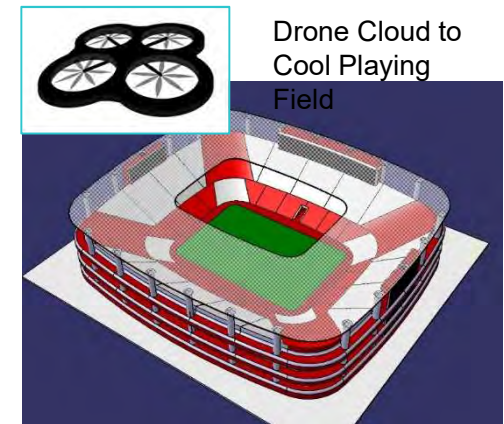
## Stovepipe City Planning & Operations



### Innovations Needed:

- Resource Balancing
- Total Integration & Balance
- One Waste is Another's Building Block
- Behavior Change Drivers

## Accepting Past Practices



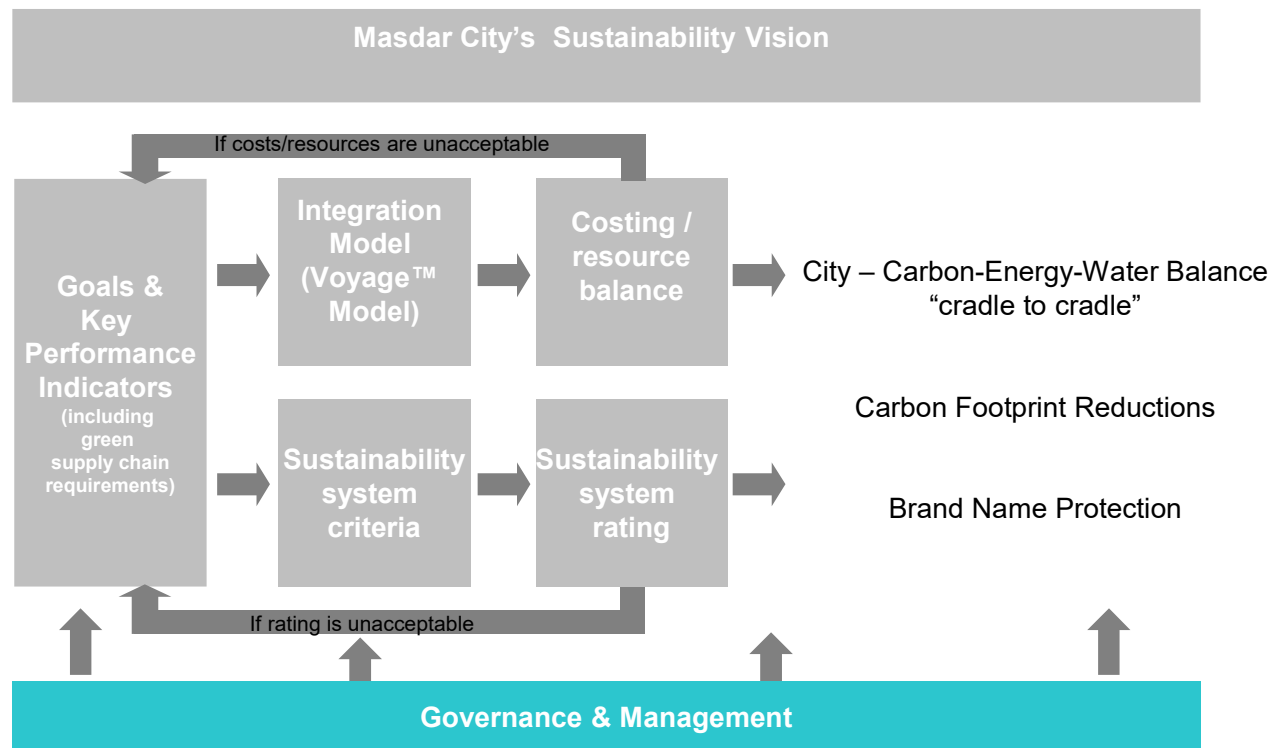
### Innovations Needed:

- Resource Management
- Savings with Innovations
- Active & Passive Systems Alignment & Effectiveness

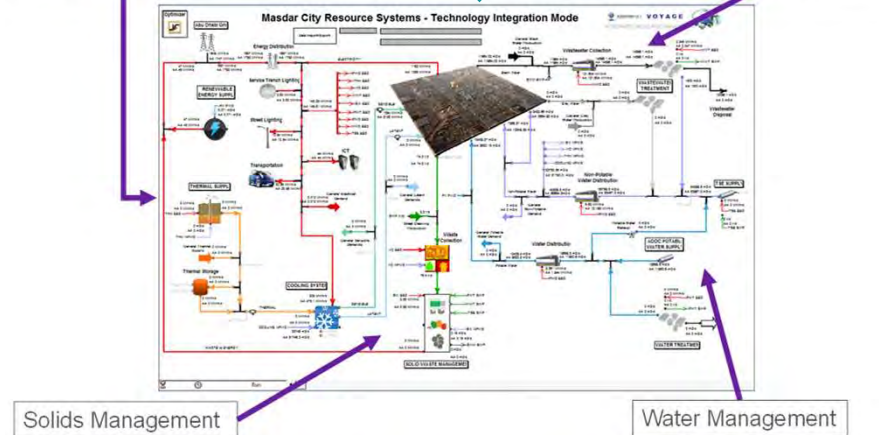
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CH2M-Masdar City-Qatar2020FIFA

## Working from multiple angles to answer the question: What can achieve that is sustainable, commercially viable, and retains the Masdar City brand?

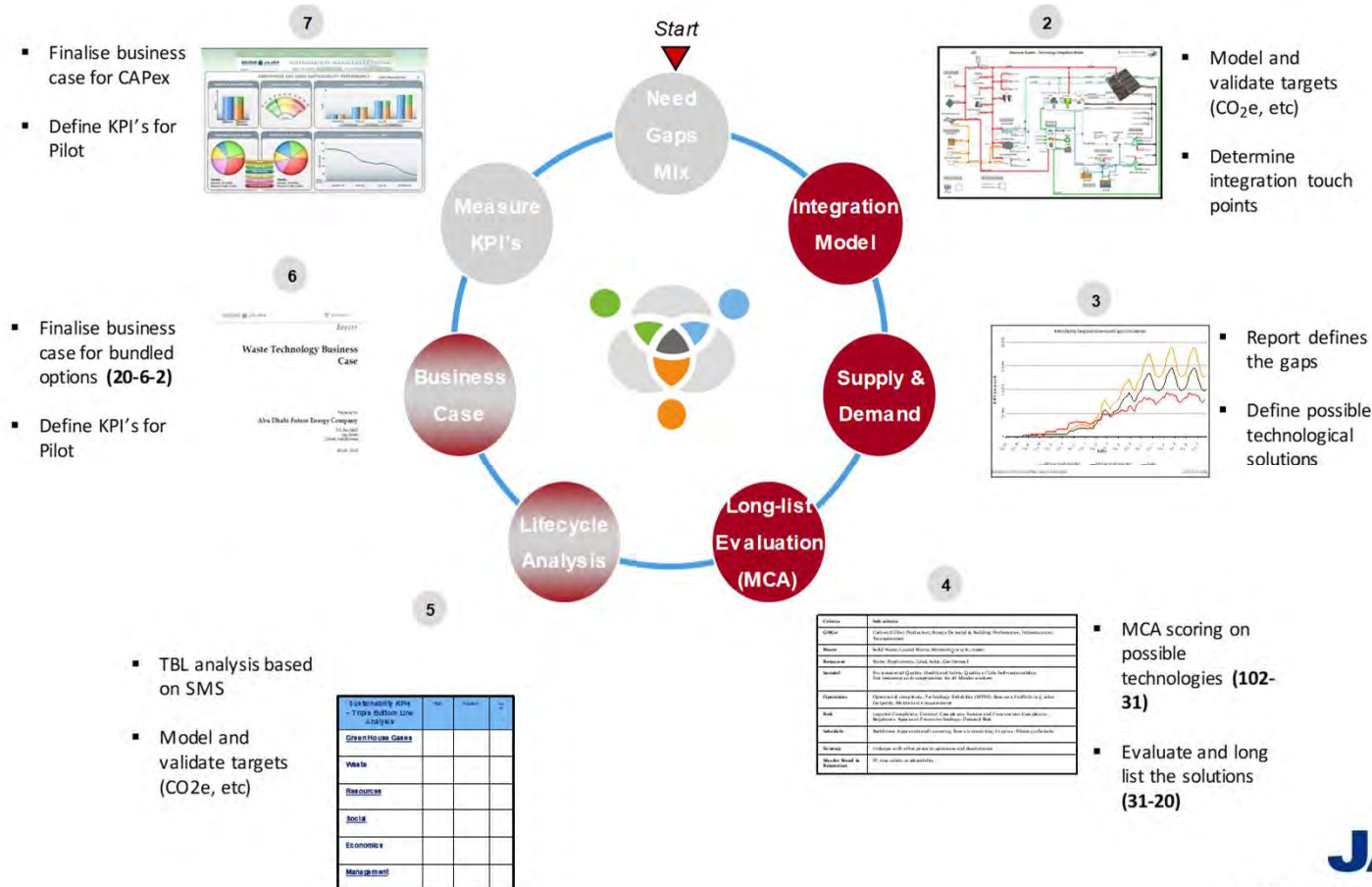






*Masdar City's Integrated Voyage Model Manages Supply & Demands*

# Masdar City's Technology Innovations Roadmap Process



Source: McKinsey, CH2M HILL, ADFEC

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April 19 p11





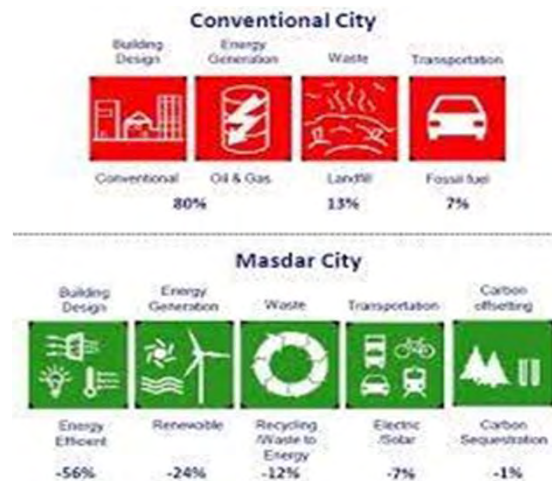
International Solar Panel Demonstration Site



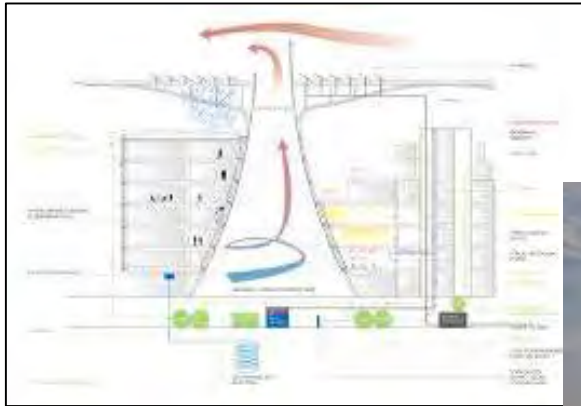
10 MW PV Farm



City Streets Design



Natural Air Cooling Tower



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# Masdar City Roadmaps Since 2007

## City Roadmaps Completed Since 2007:

- On-Site Groundwater Study
- International PV Competition
- Double Effect Thermal Chiller Demonstration
- Brine Management, Treatment, and Revenue Study
- Desalination Groundwater Study (Pending)
- Geothermal Demonstration and Well
- Wind Tunnel Micro-Climate Study
- Waste Management Design and Operations Competition
- Integrated Waste Management Model
- Vacuum Waste Study
- Energy Thermal Piles Demonstration
- Grey Water Pilot
- CPV Competition (Pending)
- Smart Home Appliances Demonstration (Pending)
- Low Carbon Concrete Competition and Prize
- Sustainability Management System Tracking Tool
- Integration Asset Class Model
- Tokyo Solar/Thermal Pilot
- Small Scale Waste to Energy Demonstration (Pending)
- 10 MW Solar PV Farm & Smart ICT Living Laboratory



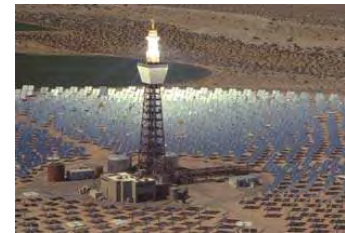
Geothermal Demonstration



Grey Water Demonstration



Linear Fresnel & Double Effect Thermal Chiller Demonstration



Tokyo Solar – Thermal Pilot



10 MW Solar PV Farm



Green Concrete Competition

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May 1, 2019

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# How can we build megaprojects right?

SPUR

Presentation | May 2, 2019

Our research indicates that while poor execution is the most common culprit, market and organizational problems can lead to the most significant delays

	Description	Frequency (% of projects)	Average Overrun	Average Delay
Technical	Evaluate technical definition of all scope elements including definition of feedstock, reservoir, ore body, fluids, etc	46%	40%	51%
Execution	Review schedule, budget, major project phases, resource capacity, KPI's, health, safety, environmental practices, and logistics	73%	37%	53%
Market	Assess financial health, contracting strategy, financing options, pricing, and check stress scenarios	40%	42%	62%
Political	Understand status of permitting and approvals, stakeholder management, local engagement programs and land acquisition	27%	38%	46%
Organiza-tional	Assess owner capabilities, governance, inter-agency coordination, management protocols, labor strategy, and RACI	65%	41%	62%



# Why projects go wrong: 10 most critical areas, based on our experience with over 100 mega-projects

## Critical areas

- Common understanding of situation
- Contractor management
- Connection between plan and actual activities
- Anticipatory planning
- Active risk management
- Credibility of forecasts
- Performance management
- Contract constraints
- Sufficient muscle on Owner's team
- People

## Typical signs of trouble

- No "single version of the truth"
- Using only general measures without much insight
- Measuring mainly non-critical elements
- Little/no adherence to the overall plan, as this leads to each working unit optimizing only for themselves
- Only boilerplate reporting rather than targeted weekly updates that reflect wins and losses in momentum and shifting bottlenecks
- Outdated project risk register and focus only on obvious risks rather than more specific shifting risks
- Required rate differs from current trajectory
- Expected progress doesn't slow considerably as project advances
- No visual management and actions are not logged and tracked daily
- No clear understanding of contracts by Owner's team
- Weak cost control and reimbursement management
- No tight coverage between reps and the contractor leads
- No continuity with pivotal players, especially on contractor side

# Owners systematically underappreciate the risks of megaprojects and often end up eroding value during execution

## Key elements of successful value protection

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### Cost optimization

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- Rigorous selection of design/value tradeoffs
- Analysis of project through Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) lens

### Risk mitigation

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- Honest, critical evaluation of risks in the project across all sources
- Cross-stakeholder engagement to anticipate and mitigate risks (e.g. public meetings to raise and address community issues)

### Financing planning

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- Scrutiny of business case, sources of revenue and associated risks
- Alignment of project development and financing timelines
- Clear articulation of owner's objective function (e.g., citizen benefit, commissioning of asset)

### Schedule protection

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- Thorough pressure-testing of pre-construction and construction timelines to ensure they are both aggressive and achievable
- Deployment of "lean" tools to reduce schedule delays and hit opening target



# MINDSETS: The art of project leadership



## **Lead as a business, not as a project**

An ultra-large project is more akin to building a business than executing a construction project, requiring CEO-level leadership and judgment to address a broad range of organizational issues



## **Take full ownership of outcomes**

The project owner needs to maintain full accountability for delivery. They must remain well informed throughout and be ready to step in to make tough decisions in a timely manner.



## **Make your contractor successful**

Owners and contractors work best as a business partnership with a mindset of “we win together or lose together”. Productive contractor-owner relationships are based on mutual trust and joint problem solving.



## **Trust your processes, but know that leadership is required**

Processes alone will not resolve every challenge on an ultra-large project. Leaders should trust and enforce the appropriate process, but recognize their benefits and limitations.

# PRACTICES – Project setup



## **Define purpose, identity and culture**

Effective project teams have a unique and shared identity, and create a culture of mutual trust and collaboration. Project leaders should articulate purpose, role model behaviors, and nourish the desired culture.



## **Assemble the right team**

Besides shared values, owner and contractor team members need to have the appropriate blend of leadership qualities, cultural and local awareness for the task ahead. This must complement the requisite technical skills and experience.



## **Carefully allocate risk and align incentives**

Successful owners thoughtfully delegate only those risks that the contractor is better positioned to manage. Leaders should establish and maintain relationships, not only contracts, to facilitate ongoing alignment of incentives.



## **Work hard on relationships with stakeholders**

Strong and transparent trust-based relationships with stakeholders enable prevention and rapid resolution of problems. Invest in stakeholder management as a core activity.

# PRACTICES – Project delivery



## **Invest in your team**

Delivering an ultra-large project requires continual investment in the effectiveness of the team. Leaders must think deeply about how to develop and challenge their people throughout.



## **Ensure timely decision making**

Timely decision making depends on the delegation of decisions to the lowest appropriate level. To achieve this, leaders must have confidence and trust in their systems and people. Leaders are then free to resolve and anticipate critical issues.



## **Adopt forward looking performance management**

Effective project leaders use fact-based performance dialogues to strengthen trusting relationships and instill accountability. This allows for early problem resolution and opportunity identification.



## **Drive desired behaviors consistently**

Effective project leaders inspire their teams—especially in challenging times. They define, communicate, and role model expected attitudes and behaviors. Leaders should take the time to connect with team members on a personal level.