



# **FTA New Starts Program Lessons Learned**



# Topics

- Overview of New Starts Process, Evaluation and Framework
- Strengths and Weaknesses
- New Starts Process Review
- Next Steps

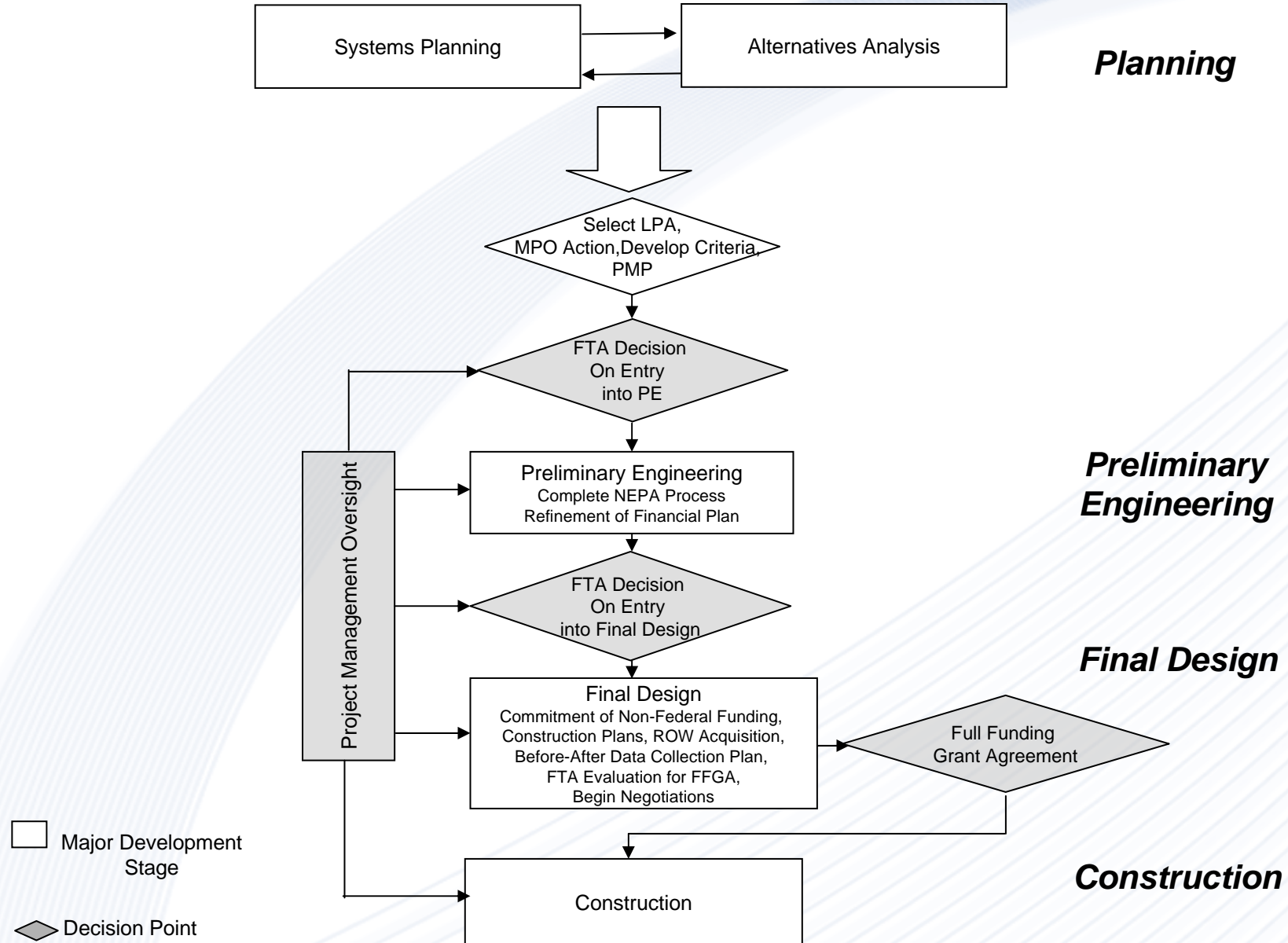


## New Starts Program

- Approximately \$1.5 billion per year for New Fixed Guideway Systems and Extensions
- Approximately 1/6 of FTA's Program
- Discretionary Commitments (Full Funding Grant Agreements)
- Statutory Criteria and Process
  - FTA Policy Statements 1976, 1978, 1980, 1984
  - STURAA Codified Process and Criteria in 1987
  - Criteria Broadened in ISTEA in 1991
  - Regulation Required in TEA-21 in 1997
  - Criteria Further Broadened, Small Starts Created in SAFETEA-LU in 2003
- FTA's Goal: Deliver valuable projects, on time, on budget while delivering the projected benefits

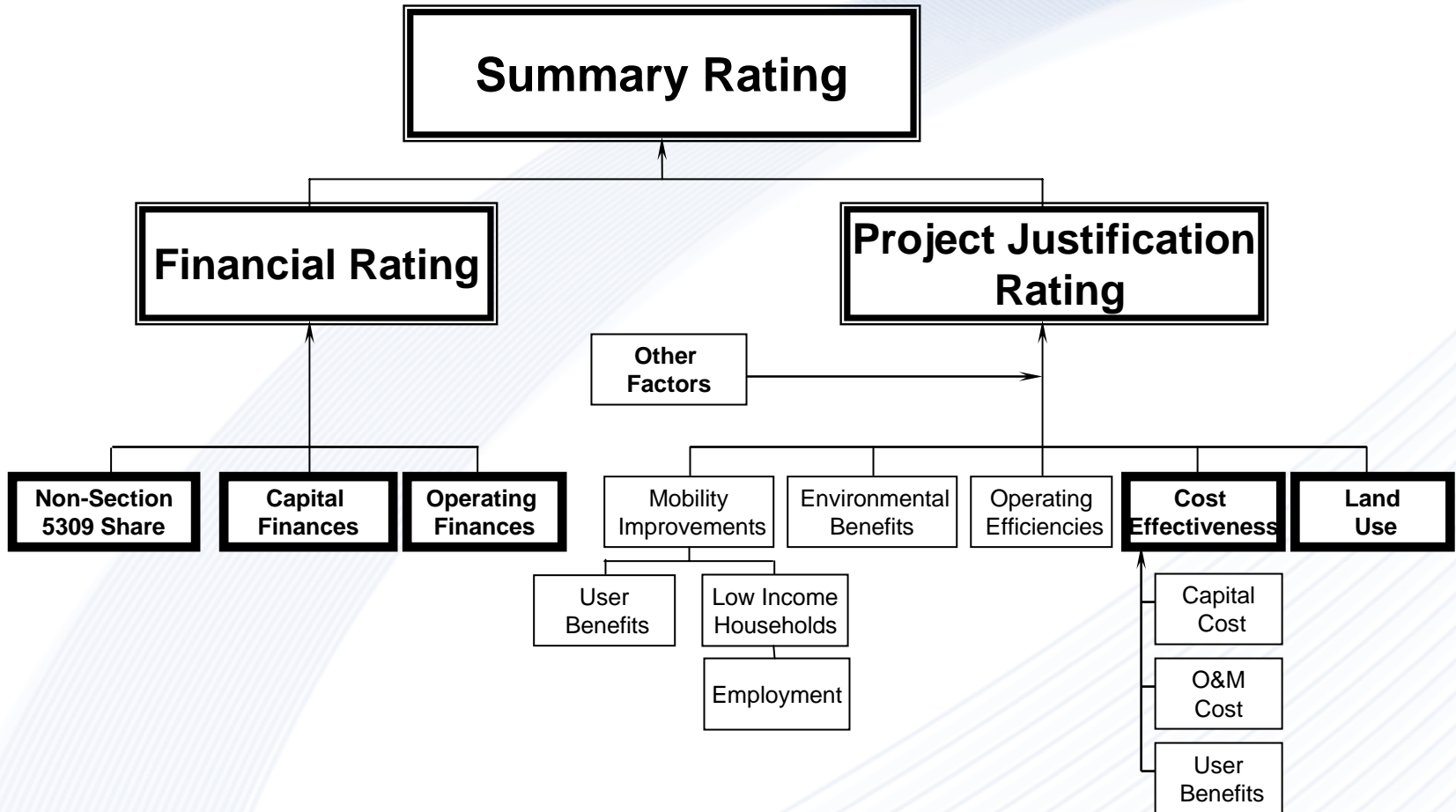


## New Starts Planning and Project Development Process





## The FTA New Starts Evaluation and Rating Framework



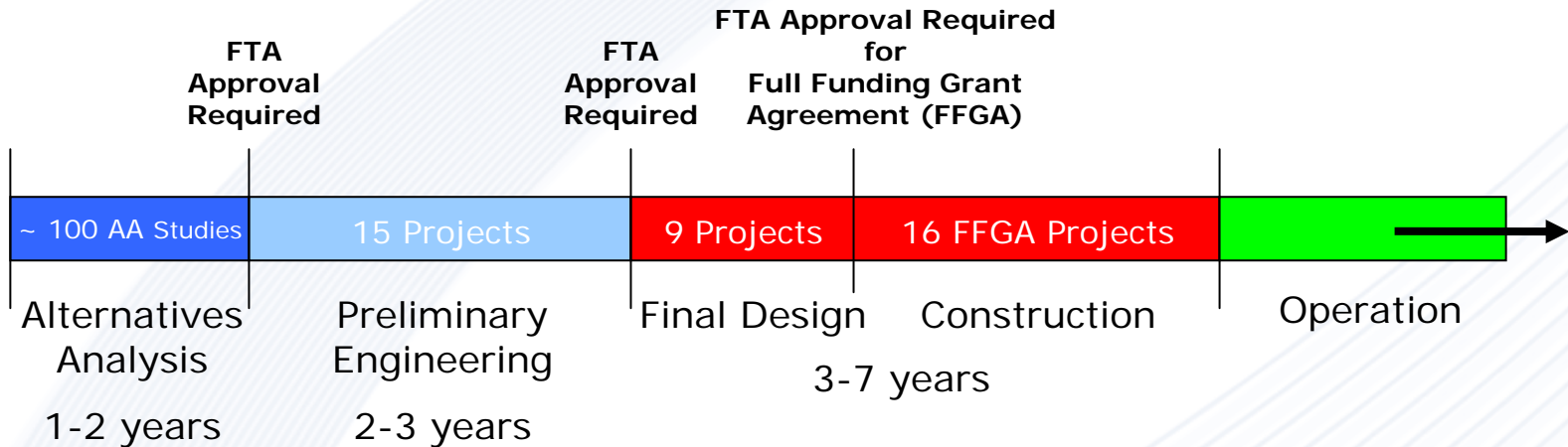
### Minimum Project Development Requirements:





# The New Starts Process

Project Development: Typically 6-12 Years





# Strengths and Weaknesses

- Strengths
  - Merit-Based Selection of Projects Respected by Congress
  - Projects Delivered on-time and on-budget
  - Federal Interests Protected
  - Improved Project Quality
- Weaknesses
  - Time to Complete Process (But not clear how much is due to New Starts requirements)
  - Complex Process—Outcome not always clear
  - Criteria Emphasize Quantifiable Measures—Important non-quantifiable issues may be not receive sufficient attention



## New Starts Process Review

- Initiated June 2006
- Work Completed, Implementation Plan Under Development
- Goals:
  - Manage risk, rather than attempting to eliminate risk, and add value
  - Assure proper allocation of risks and responsibilities
  - Reduce the time and cost of delivering projects and reduce any delay due to Federal reviews
  - Assure the predictability, transparency, and repeatability of results
  - Accommodate possible alternative project delivery methods





# New Starts Process Review

- Recommendations
  - Internal Organizational Structure and Staffing
  - Criteria and Evaluation
  - Process Management
  - Communications
  - Alternative Project Delivery
- Implementation Plan
  - Phased Implementation



## Next Steps

- Final Policy Guidance for FY 2009
  - Streamlined Reporting Requirements
- Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on New Starts and Small Starts
- Final Rule
- Reauthorization