

Expansion of the MBTA System



Types of Capital Projects

State of Good
Repair

Capacity
Improvements

Expansion

Why Do Capacity Improvement Projects?

Common Goals

- Address unmet demand with increased capacity
- Reduce travel times for customers
- Provide new services or increased frequency of services
- Improve quality of transit experience, potentially gaining new riders

Why Do Expansion Projects?

Common Goals

- Address unmet demand with increased service
- Promote economic development
- Provide more equal access and opportunity
- Meet environmental goals by reducing automobile congestion and improving air quality

MBTA's History of Expansion

Federal Funding Era (1964-1989)

- Red Line Braintree Extension
- Orange Line Haymarket North
- Red Line Northwest Extension
- Orange Line Southwest Corridor
- Numerous cutbacks in CR service

Big Dig Era (1990-2013)

- Worcester CR
- Newburyport CR
- Old Colony CR
- Providence CR
- Silver Line Waterfront
- Silver Line Washington St
- Greenbush CR
- Wickford Jct CR
- Fairmount Improvements

Current Era (2013-)

- CapeFlyer
- Assembly Station
- Green Line Extension*
- Wachusett Extension
- Silver Line to Chelsea
- *South Coast Rail**
- *Boston Landing*
- *West Station*
- *Urban Rail Service*

* Commonwealth O&M commitment

Origin of Expansion Projects

Major Visioning Processes

- Significant, region-wide processes to examine overall transit needs (e.g. BTPR – 1972; Program for Mass Transportation)

Standard Corridor Studies

- Smaller, focused studies of specific area needs (e.g. Beyond Lechmere, South Boston Access Study)

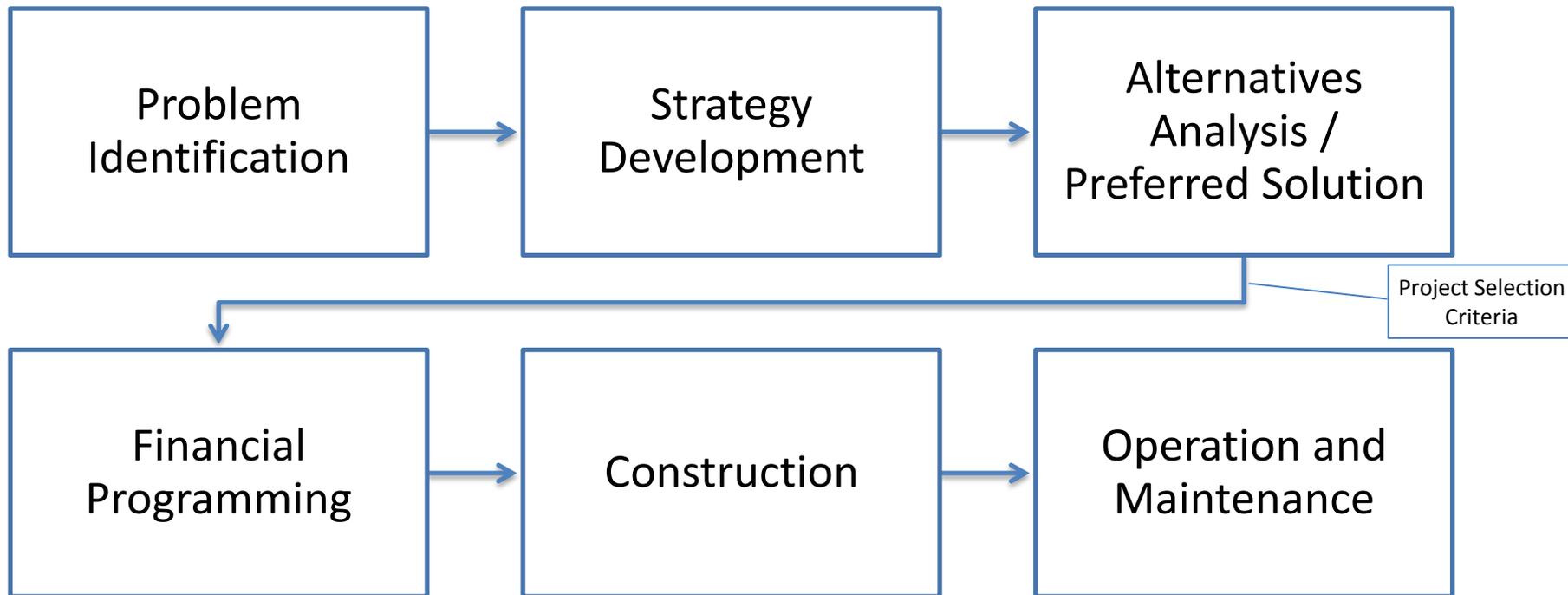
Legal Commitments

- Projects required by legislation or agreement (e.g. Worcester, Newburyport)

Legislative/Advocate Requests

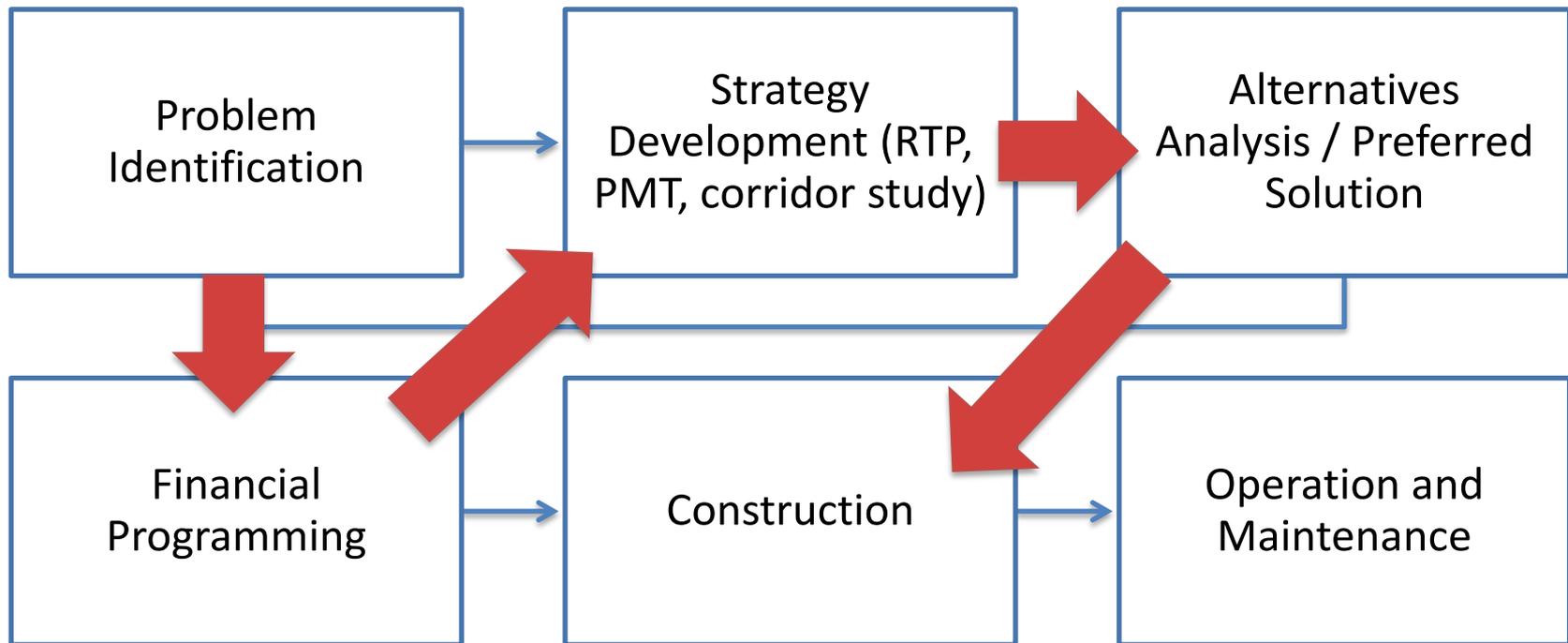
- Projects promoted due to specific requests from elected officials or transit advocates

Optimal Expansion Project Development Process



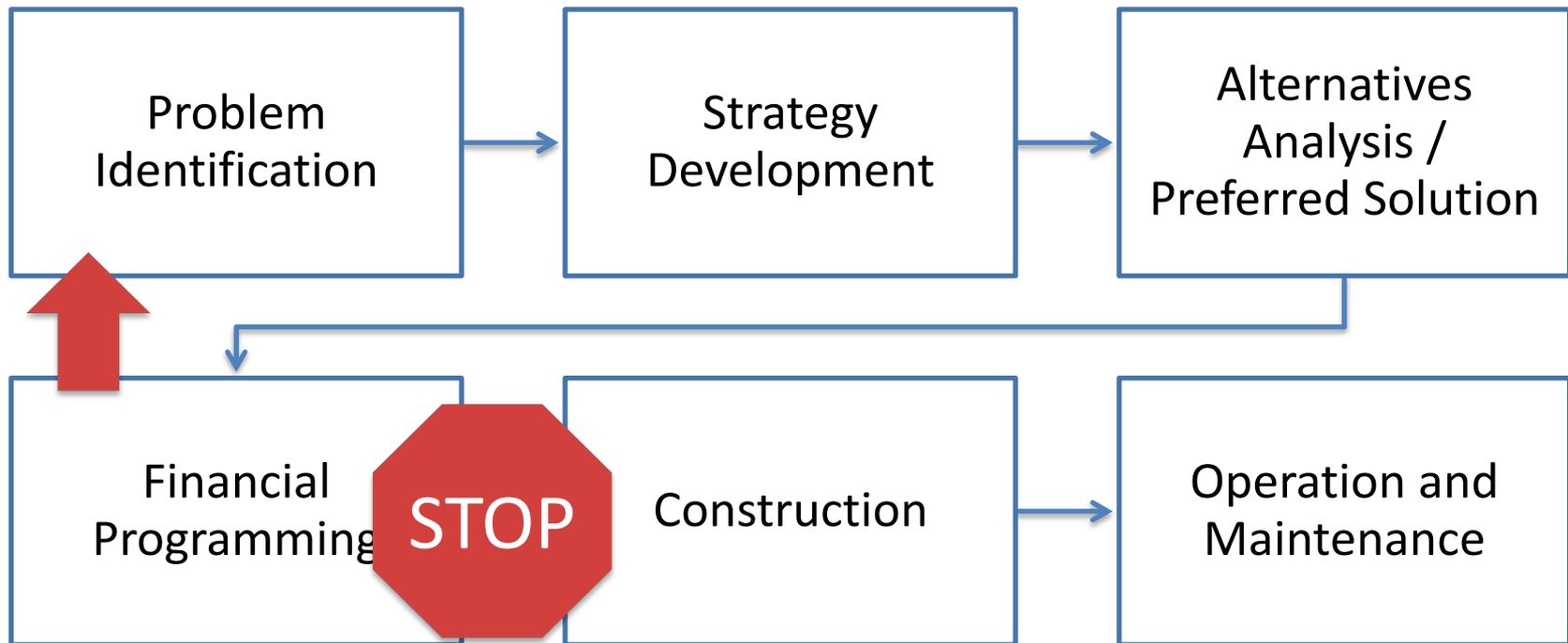
Challenge: Steps Out of Order

Political Decision-making / Legal commitments



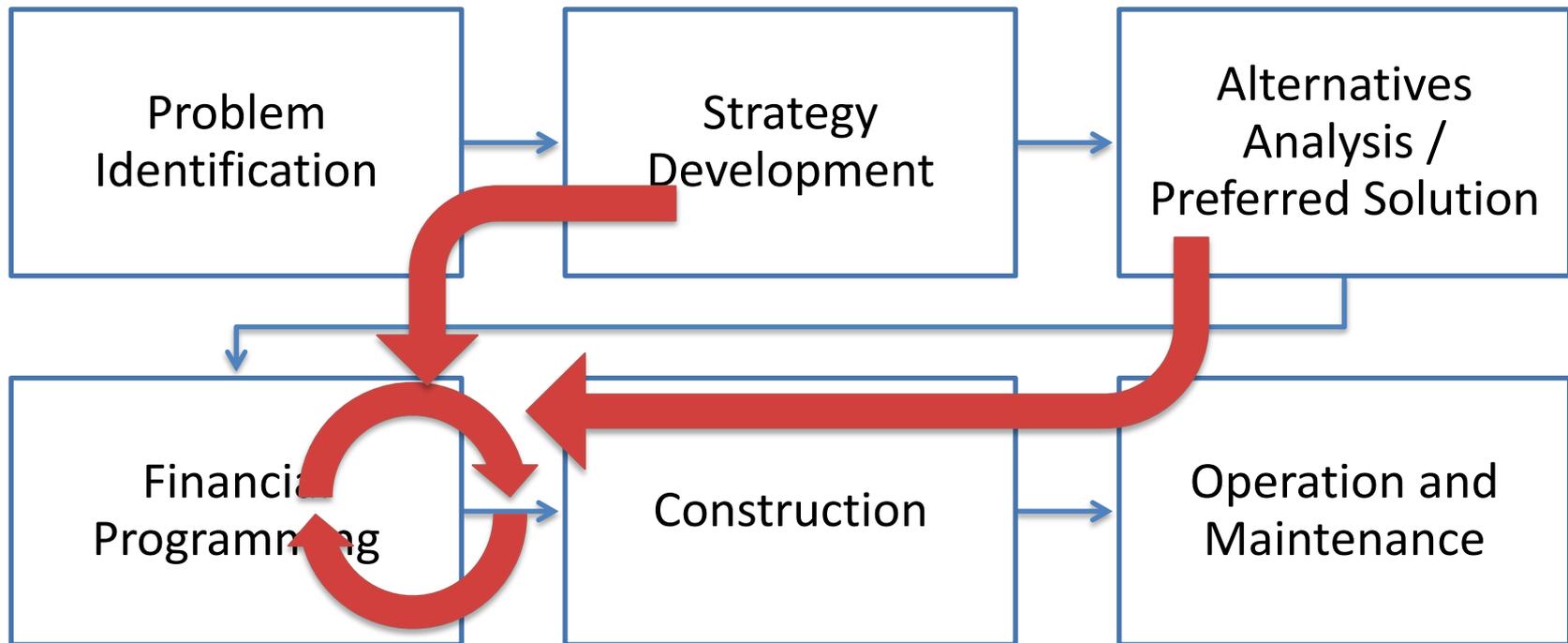
Challenge: Project Stalls

Insufficient funding, skewed prioritization, public opposition, or fundamental flaws – all lead to: cyclic repetition



Challenge: Changing Project Solutions

No re-evaluation of problem, but solutions morph over time



Challenge: Conflicting Internal Processes

