### Weight Reduction Opportunities in Automotive Materials





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### **Overview**

- **Drivers for Materials Change** •
- Background 0
- Approach •
- **Lightweight Materials** 0
  - Steels
  - Aluminum
  - Magnesium
  - Polymers & Composites



### **Drivers for Materials Change**

- **Energy Conservation** 0
- Environment •
  - Emissions
    - $\checkmark$  CO<sub>2</sub>
  - Recycling
- Safety
- **Vehicle Electrification**





### Background - Materials & Vehicle Weight Over Time -



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### **Background** - Vehicle Weight Over Time -



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### Background

- Regulatory Requirements -

- US CAFE Standards
  - Current: 27.5 mpg
  - **2016:** 35.0 mpg
- European Standards
  - **2016:**  $< 120 \text{ g CO}_2/\text{km}$
- Future
  - 2025 CAFE: 62.0/56.2/44.0









### Background - Customer Perceived Vehicle Characteristics -

- Typical Vehicle Road-Test/Rating System
- Weight influences many vehicle attributes
- Weight reduction strategy
  - Part of overall vehicle attribute strategy



✓	Acceleration	8.43		
✓	Ride	8.06		
	Interior Comfort	7.84		
✓	Braking	7.78		
✓	Handling	7.58		
	Vehicle Styling	7.49		
	Dependability	7.41		
✓	Fuel Economy	7.29		
	Transmission	7.17		
	Fit and Finish	6.85		
	Rating Scale: 1 = Worse  10 = Best			



## Background - Vehicle Redesign & Downsizing -



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### Approach

- Enablers for Increased Use of Advanced Lightweight Materials-

Material substitution using lightweight materials 0

- Match production volume to specific lightweight  $\bigcirc$ material/process
- **Reduce manufacturing costs** 0

**Reduce material costs**  $\bigcirc$ 



### Approach

- Enablers for Increased Use of Advanced Lightweight Materials-

### "Whole vehicle" optimization using LW material(s)



- Greater the weight saved → less material required
- Take advantage of secondary weight savings



# Approach - Primary + Secondary Weight Saving Example -

System	Reduction	
Primary Weight Reduction (Body)	- 430 lbs.	- 12%
Secondary Weight Reductions	- 120 lbs.	- 3%
Powertrain Re-matching (V6 to I4)	- 140 lbs.	- 4%
Total	- 690 lbs.	- 19%



- Key Focus Areas-

Body Structures (25%) Near Term: AHSS, Aluminum Future Possibilities: Magnesium, Carbon Fiber Composites <u>Glazing (3%)</u> Near Term: Polycarbonate Future Possibilities – Eng' d Polymers

Interior Structures (14%) Near Term: AHSS, AI Future Possibilities: Mg, Biopolymers & Composites



Powertrain (25%) Near Term : Al Future Possibilities – Mg, Ti, & High Temp Eng'd Polymers

<u>Closures (8%)</u> Near Term – AHSS, AI, Polymer Composites Future Possibilities – Mg, Biopolymers & Composites Chassis & Suspension (14%) Near Term – AHSS, Al Future Possibilities – Mg, CF

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#### Advanced High Strength Steels

- Wide Range of:
  - Alloys
  - Properties
  - Availability
  - Cost
- Design flexibility is high





- Advanced/Ultra-High Strength Steels
  - Most mature technology
  - Lowest cost alternative
  - Weight Savings Potential: 7 10%





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## Materials for Weight Reduction - Aluminum -

#### Aluminum

- Castings
  - Mature technology for Powertrains

### Sheet Aluminum

- Closures
- Limited experience with fullvehicle production
- Sheet AI material cost

#### • Weight Savings Potential: 40 – 50%







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#### Sheet Aluminum

- Maturing Technology
  - All-Al vehicles
  - Knowledge exists
  - New automotive-specific alloys & technologies
- Technical Challenges
  - High-volume NA supply base
  - Repair infrastructure
  - Sorted scrap for recycling





- Magnesium -

- Magnesium
  - Weight Savings Potential: 50 – 60%
  - Current Vehicle Usage: <1%</p>
  - Issues
    - Economic
    - Technical
  - Projected 2020 Usage:
    Slight increase





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### Materials for Weight Reduction - Polymers & Composites -

#### Composites

- Weight Savings Potential: 10 – 60%
- Polycarbonate
  - 40% Savings
  - Design Flexibility
- Structural/High Temperature Applications
- Issues
  - Economic
  - Technical





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