

I-495 American Legion Bridge Transit and TDM Study Update

Public Meeting

January 12, 2021

Jennifer B. DeBruhl, Chief of Public Transportation
Ciara Williams, NOVA Transit Planning Manager
Department of Rail and Public Transportation

Welcome Attendees

- Please place your devices on mute to avoid any background noise or other audio interference.
- When it is your turn to speak, please unmute yourselves and make sure no other devices have their audio turned up, again to avoid audio interference.
 - We may also mute your lines if background noise is detected.
- Should you have any technical difficulties within GoToWebinar, please log off and try logging back into the meeting.
 - If issues persist, please call tech support at [804-592-7985](tel:804-592-7985)

Public Engagement

- **Watch Live and Provide Comments after Presentations**

Other Ways to Comment: Now – February 1, 2021

- By using the online form: <https://cutt.ly/pjcMGRE>
- By leaving a voicemail message here: **703-253-3324**
- By sending a letter to the address below:

Ms. Ciara Williams
DRPT
1725 Duke Street, Suite 675
Alexandria, VA 22314

Visit: <http://www.drpt.virginia.gov/transit/major-initiatives/i-495american-legion-bridge-transit-and-tdm-study/> for more information

Virtual Meeting

g. 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any public body, including any state, local, regional, or regulatory body, or a governing board as defined in § [54.1-2345](#) of the Code of Virginia, *or any joint meeting of such entities*, may meet by electronic communication means without a quorum of the public body or any member of the governing board physically assembled at one location when the Governor has declared a state of emergency in accordance with § [44-146.17](#), provided that (i) the nature of the declared emergency makes it impracticable or unsafe for the public body or governing board to assemble in a single location; (ii) the purpose of meeting is to discuss or transact the business statutorily required or necessary to continue operations of the public body or common interest community association as defined in § [54.1-2345](#) of the Code of Virginia and the discharge of its lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities; (iii) a public body shall make available a recording or transcript of the meeting on its website in accordance with the timeframes established in §§ [2.2-3707](#) and [2.2-3707.1](#) of the Code of Virginia; and (iv) the governing board shall distribute minutes of a meeting held pursuant to this subdivision to common interest community association members by the same method used to provide notice of the meeting.]

Introductions

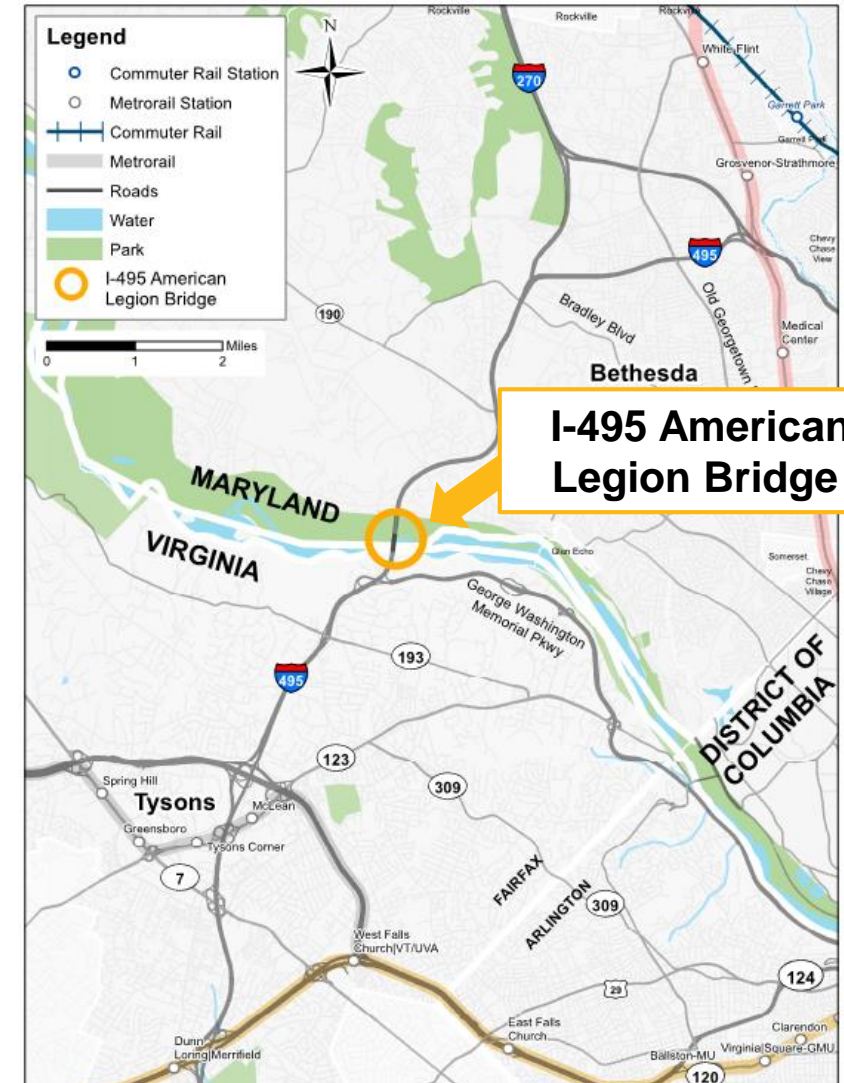
- Jennifer DeBruhl, DRPT Chief of Public Transportation
- Ciara Williams, DRPT NOVA Transit Planning Manager
- Rob Cary, VDOT Deputy Director
- Zach Chissell, MDOT MTA
- Dusty Holcombe, MDOT P3 Program

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Study Context and Focus

- **Fall 2019:** Governors Northam and Hogan announce Capital Beltway Accord to Rebuild American Legion Bridge and Connect Interstate Highway System
- **Complements** Virginia's I-495 NEXT and Maryland's Managed Lanes Study
- Funded and managed jointly by DRPT and MDOT-MTA, and is separate from improvement projects in the corridor.
- **This study's focus:** develop and prioritize transit options and travel demand management for bistate travel across the bridge



Study Team



Stakeholder Team



Engagement Process

- Four Stakeholder Meetings
- Public Comment Period for Draft Recommendations: Open through February 1st
- Public Meetings
 - DRPT/VDOT I-495 NEXT Public Meeting. November 18, 2020
 - I-495 ALB Transit and TDM Study Public Meeting. January 12, 2021
- Surveys
 - Survey 1: Purpose was to gain an understanding of commute choices in addition to driving alone. *Closed August 28, 2020*
 - Survey 2: Getting feedback on potential recommendations. *Closed December 18, 2020*
- Keeping track of [the Study](#) is easy by connecting to DRPT's Major Initiatives Webpage
- The study webpage includes a [stakeholder comment link](#) (See: <https://bit.ly/33Zw3YD>)

Input Related to Multimodal Travel

Themes

- Support for analyzing multimodal solutions
- Importance of air quality and emissions goals
- Provide affordable and equitable choices
- Request for dedicated funding to expand transit
- Consider the effect of COVID-19 and potential increase in teleworking
- Developing transit options for near-term investment

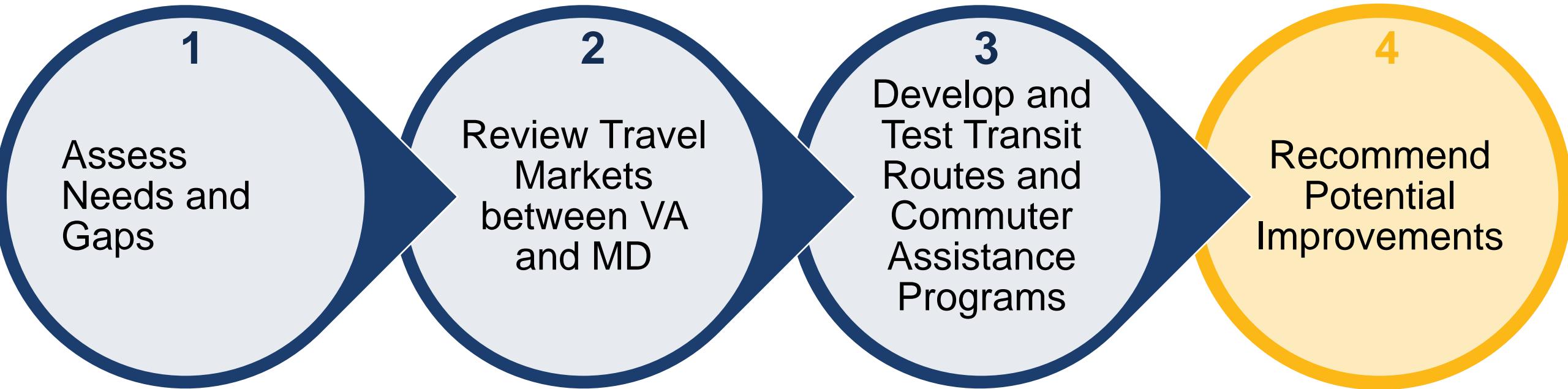
Sources of Input

- Public comment on ongoing I-495 Virginia and Maryland projects
- Transit/TDM Public Survey #1
- Stakeholder coordination meetings
- Transit/TDM Public Survey #2
- Public Meetings



Survey #2 Update

- **48%** of respondents are served by a potential bus route
- **Bethesda to Tysons** is the most desired route
- Technology that shows **real-time bus arrival info** is the **#1 factor** in encouraging transit use
- **63%** of respondents expect to telework more in the future



1
Assess
Needs and
Gaps

2
Review Travel
Markets
between VA
and MD

3
Develop and
Test Transit
Routes and
Commuter
Assistance
Programs

4
Recommend
Potential
Improvements

- Why is transit needed?
- What transit is there today?
- What transit is planned in the future?

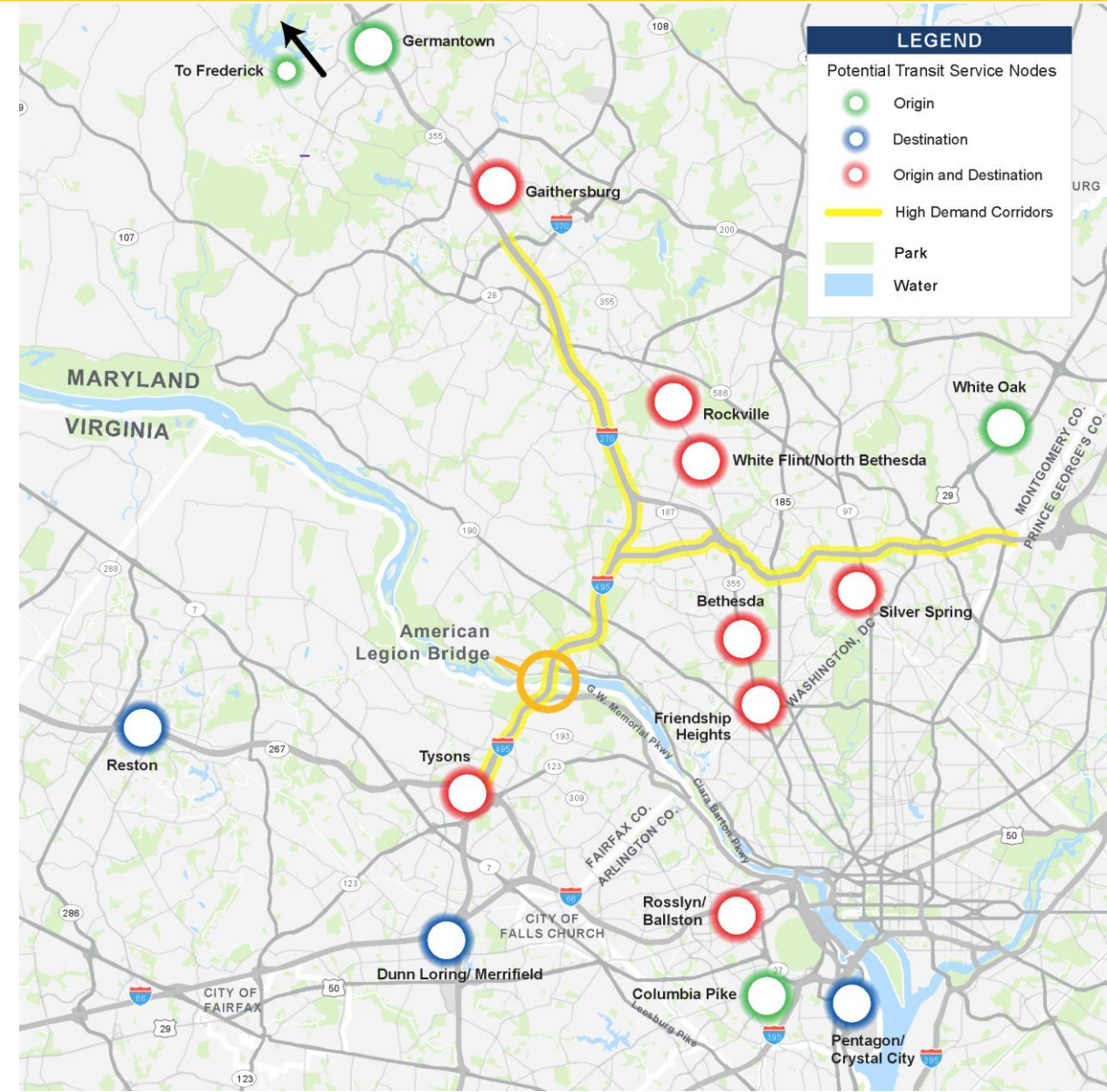
- Where are trips over the bridge coming from and going to?
- Which of those markets could be served by transit?

- Where and how often should the route stop?
- Where can transit use managed lanes?
- How can technology improve the transit experience?
- How will people get to and from the transit service?

- What is the overall forecasted affect on reducing congestion?
- How many people and jobs will be connected by new transit?
- How much will it cost to implement?

Travel Demand

- High demand
 - MD 355 Corridor and Silver Spring in MD to Tysons, Dunn Loring, and VA 7 corridor
- Moderate demand
 - Fairfax and Arlington in VA to Bethesda and Friendship Heights in MD
- Corridor segments with highest number of trips:
 - I-270/I-270 spur from I-495 to I-370 (MD)
 - I-495 from the Bridge to Dulles Corridor (VA)
 - I-495 from the I-270 spur junction to Prince George’s County line (MD)
 - I-495 from the Bridge to the I-270 spur junction (MD)



Prioritization Methodology

- Potential routes scored relative to each other based on three categories



Productivity – Maximizing ridership for the lowest cost



Equity – Serving areas with high concentrations of low-income and minority individuals



Connectivity – Providing access to the most jobs and people

Routes Retained:

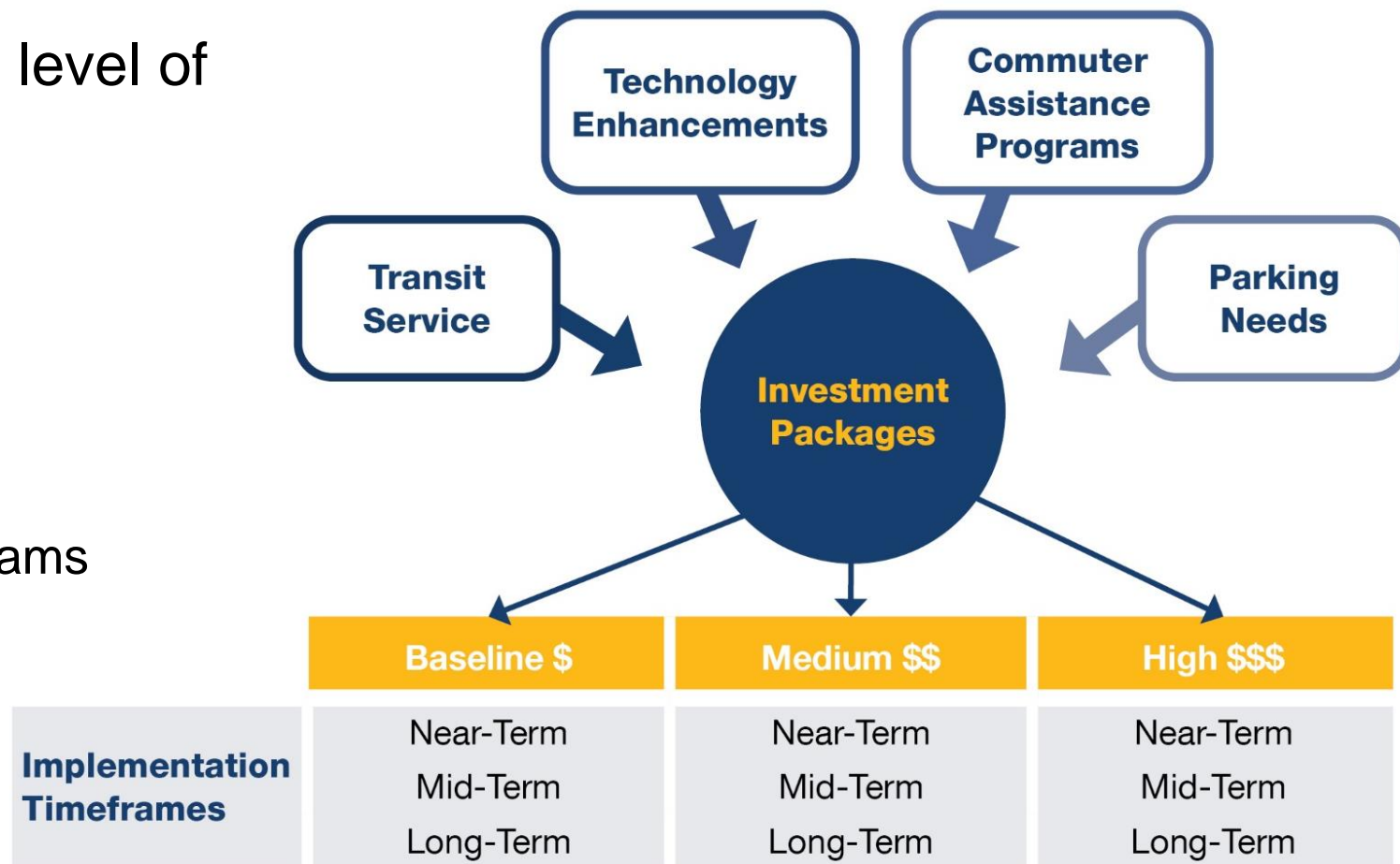
- Bethesda – Tysons
- Germantown – Tysons
- Silver Spring – Tysons
- Gaithersburg – Tysons
- Frederick – Tysons
- Bethesda – Dulles/Reston
- Bethesda – Dunn Loring
- Frederick – Arlington

SCORING KEY

HIGH ● ● ●
MEDIUM ● ●
LOW ●

Implementation Framework

- Each package built around level of transit service and vary by:
 - Markets served
 - Frequency
 - Span (time of day)
- Transit supported by:
 - Technology enhancements
 - Commuter assistance programs
 - Parking needs



Investment Packages

Baseline

- Foundational peak-period service
- Connects three markets identified in previous planning efforts

Medium





- Robust network of primarily peak-period service
- Connects five key markets in Maryland with Tysons and Arlington

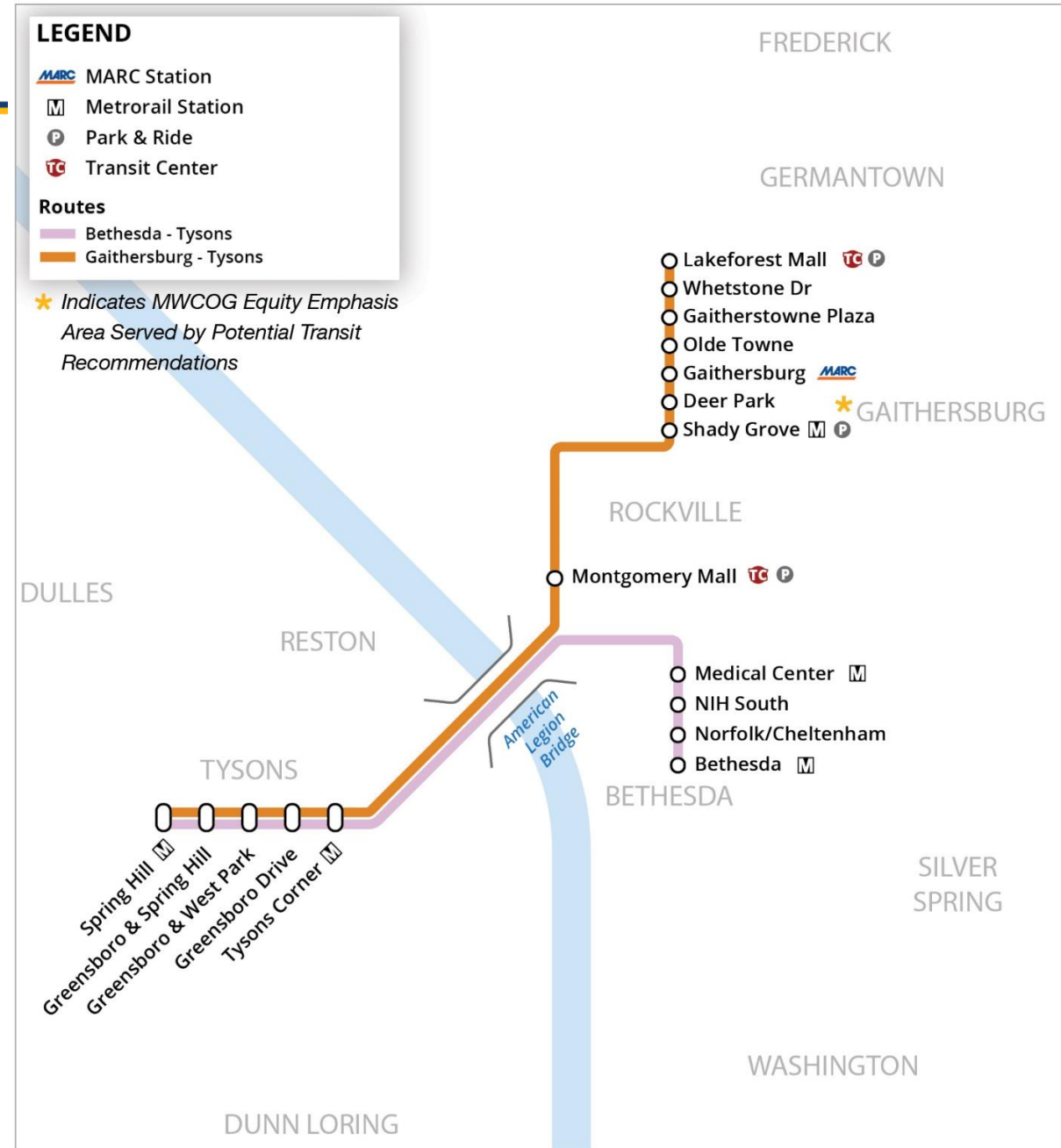
High

- Comprehensive all-day bus service
- Maximizes potential ridership
- Serves additional destinations

Baseline Package

– Transit Service





	Markets	Bethesda, Tysons, Gaithersburg
	Trips (peak hour)	6 trips per hour
	Total Forecasted Daily Riders over ALB	1,000 riders
	Off-Peak/ Mid-Day Service	None

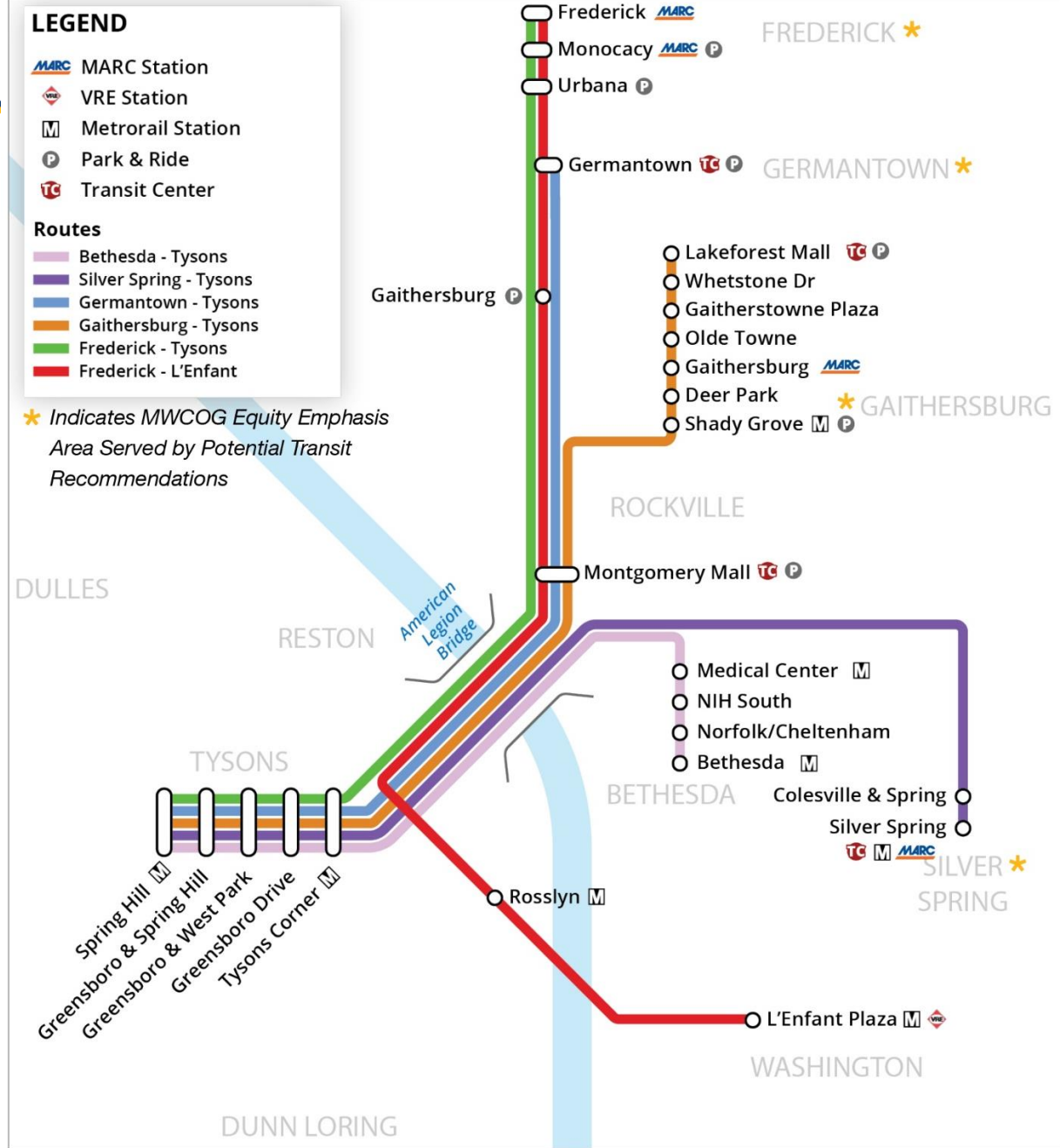


* Maintenance facility or expansion may be needed to advance potential recommendations regardless of operator.
* The Bethesda - Tysons Transit Route could be advanced as part of the Near-Term timeframe

Medium Package

– Transit Service

 Markets	Bethesda, Tysons, Gaithersburg, Silver Spring, Germantown, Frederick, L'Enfant, Arlington
 Trips (peak hour)	16 trips per hour
 Total Forecasted Daily Riders over ALB	3,700 riders
 Off-Peak/ Mid-Day Service	Limited (Bethesda – Tysons only)

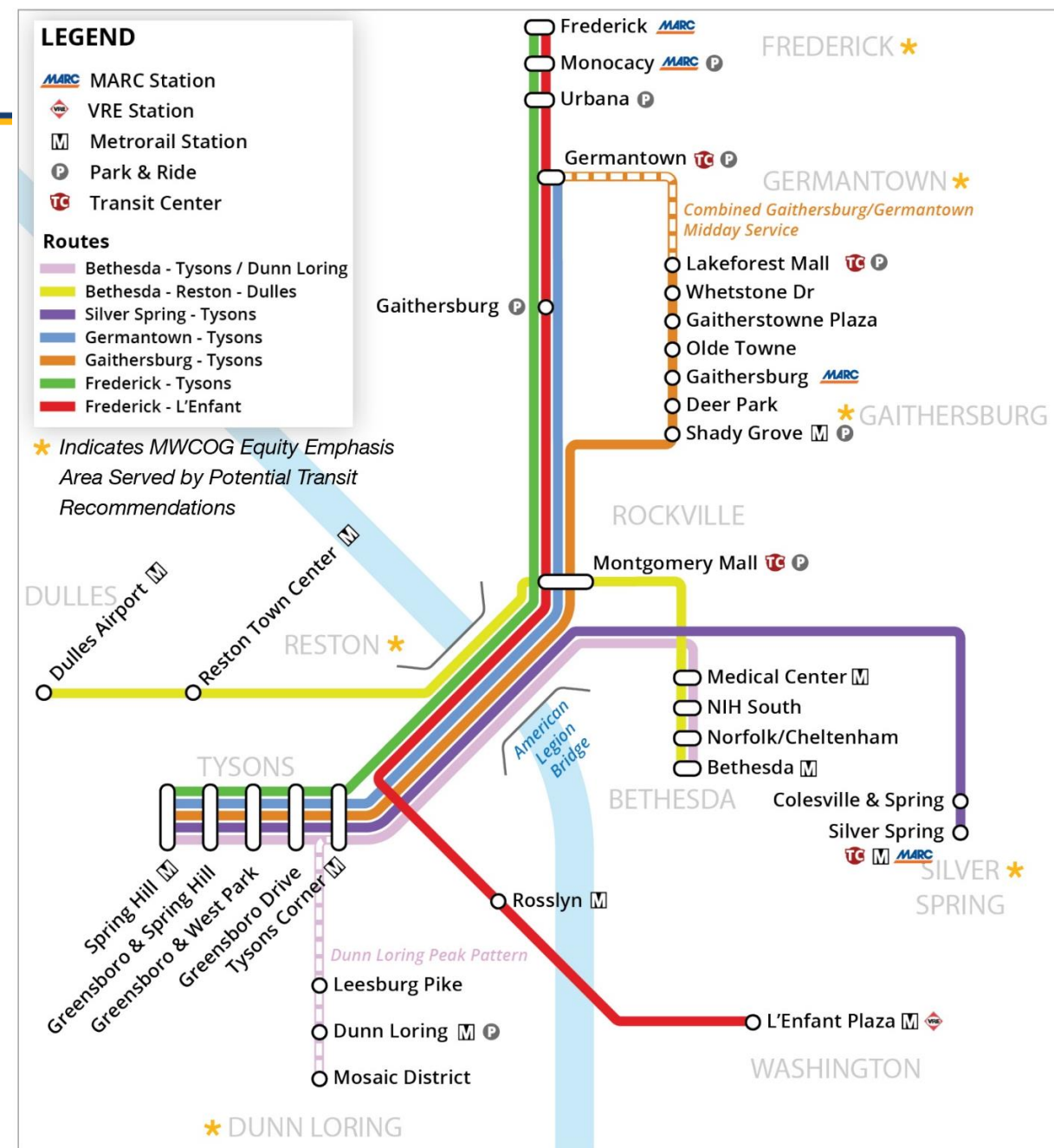


* Maintenance facility or expansion may be needed to advance potential recommendations regardless of operator.
* The Bethesda - Tysons Transit Route could be advanced as part of the Near-Term timeframe

High Package

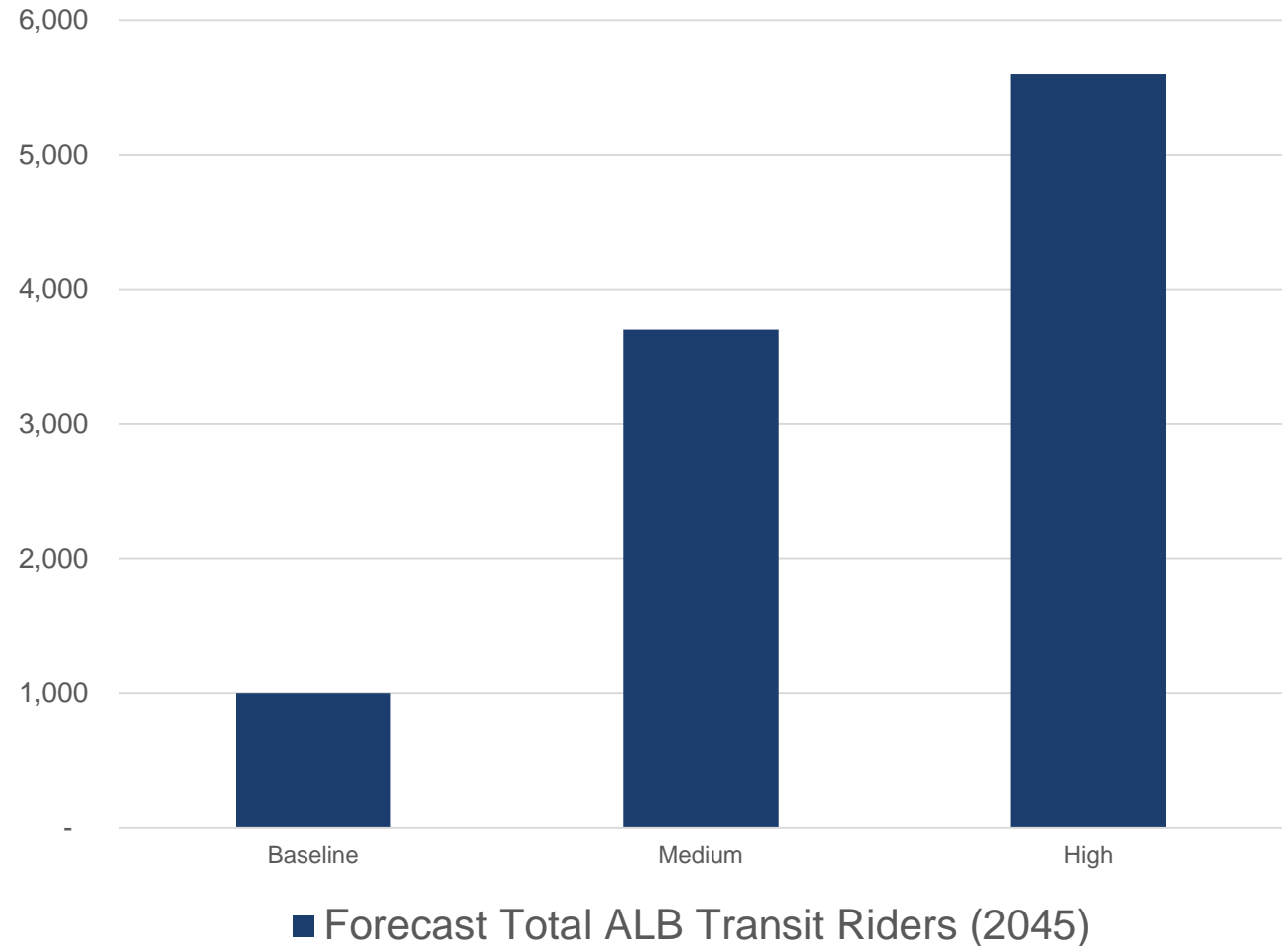
– Transit Service

 <p>Markets</p>	<p>Bethesda, Tysons, Gaithersburg, Silver Spring, Germantown, Frederick, L'Enfant, Dunn Loring, Reston, Dulles, Arlington</p>
 <p>Trips (peak hour)</p>	<p>30 trips per hour</p>
 <p>Total Forecasted Daily Riders over ALB</p>	<p>5,600 riders</p>
 <p>Off-Peak/ Mid-Day Service</p>	<p>Yes</p>



Moving More People With Fewer Vehicles

- There is no existing transit service over the Bridge
- High Package Benefits:
 - Over **180** bus trips per day
 - Forecast increase of **5,600** daily transit riders

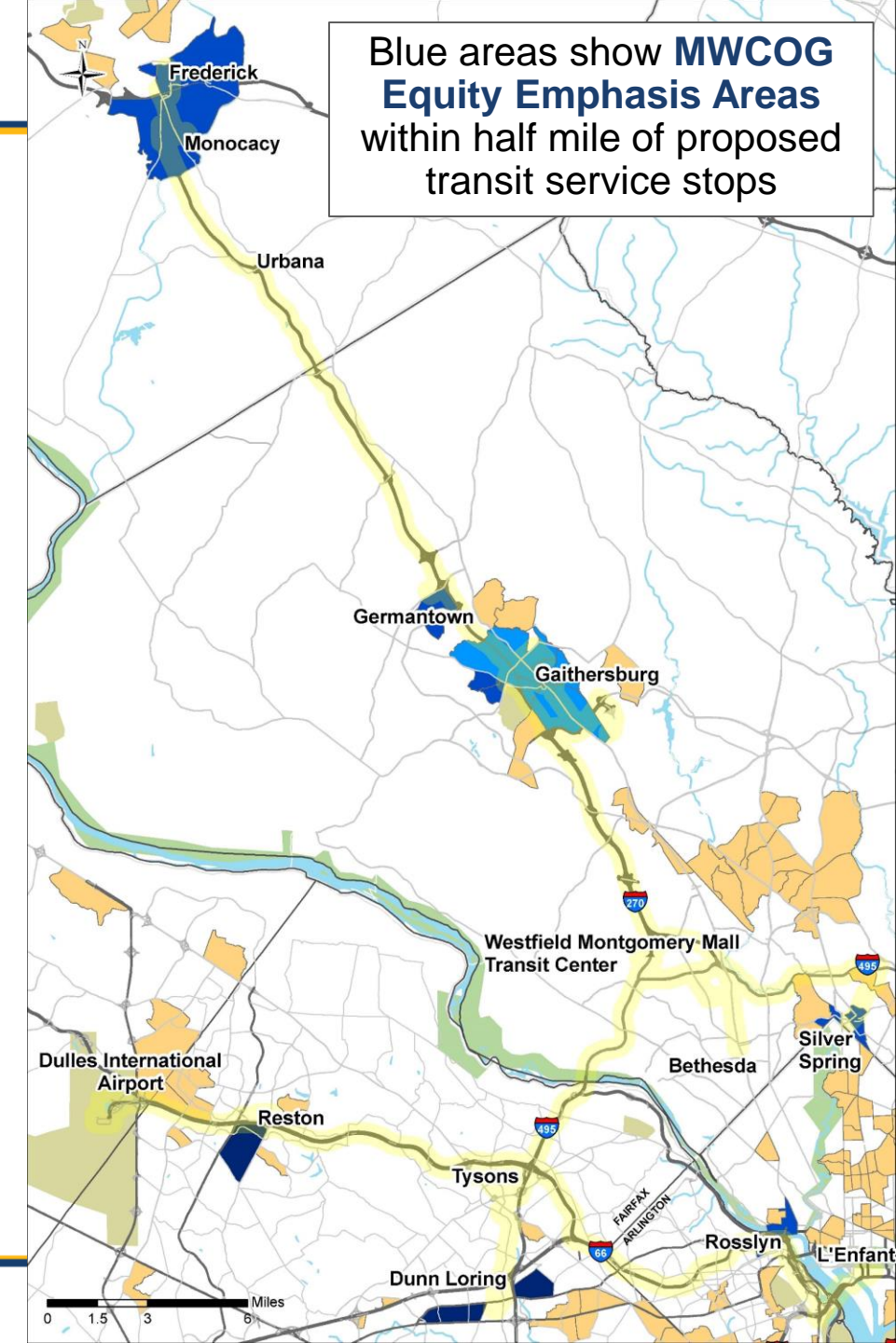


Equity

- 66% of bus trips during peak period in High Investment Package service origins within ½ mile of Equity Emphasis Areas

- MWCOG Equity Emphasis Areas
- Baseline Package Service
- Medium Package Service
- High Package Service

Blue areas show **MWCOG Equity Emphasis Areas** within half mile of proposed transit service stops



Equity Emphasis Areas according to
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (2012-2016 ACS)

Transit Connections – Existing and Planned



Tysons ●●○
 Reston ○
 Dulles ○
 Dunn Loring ○
 Bethesda ●●○
 Silver Spring ●○
 Shady Grove ●●○
 Rosslyn ●○
 L'Enfant Plaza ●○



Silver Spring ●○
 Gaithersburg ●●○
 Monocacy ●○
 Frederick ●○



Silver Spring ●○
 Bethesda ●●○

**County
BRT**

Tysons ●●○
Bethesda ●●○
Silver Spring ●○
Westfield
*Montgomery Mall
Transit Center ●●○*
Gaithersburg ●●○
Germantown ●○

**Local
Bus**

All stops ●●○

Notes:

*Italicized stops are serviced by
planned transit connections*

- Denotes stops on routes included in the baseline package
- Denotes stops on routes included in the medium package
- Denotes stops on routes included in the high package

Technology and Commuter Assistance Program Options

**Commuter Parking
Information System**

**Vanpool Formation and
Expansion Program**

**Real-Time Toll and
Transit Information**

Carpool Promotion Programs

Real-Time Arrival Information

**Corridor-Specific Mobility
Options Marketing Campaign**

**Real-Time Passenger
Load Information**

Targeted Residential Outreach

Transit Signal Priority

Targeted Employer Outreach

Next Steps

- Recommendations available for review and comment through February 1st
- Public Meeting on January 12 to answer questions and receive input
- Following public comment period – finalize and publish final recommendations

Public Questions/Comments

We will begin by reading the questions/comments in the chat box
and then we will accept live comment

Live Public Questions/Comments

If you would like to provide comment:

- Please raise your hand in the participant panel
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- You will have 3 minutes to share your comments
- Share comment offline: <https://cutt.ly/pjcMGRE> or leave a voicemail 703-253-3324

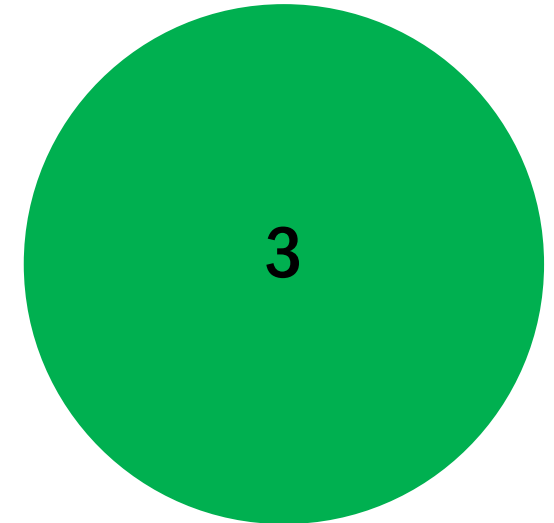


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Live Public Questions/Comments

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Post Event Public Engagement

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