

I-495 American Legion Bridge Transit and TDM Study

Stakeholder Meeting #1

July 16, 2020

Meeting Agenda

- Introductions
- Study Context
- Study Expectations
- Baseline Conditions, Needs and Gap Assessment
- Breakout Session: Mapping Exercise
- Meeting Wrap Up



Team Introductions

Study Team

- **DRPT**

- Jennifer Debruhl
- Grant Sparks
- Todd Horsley
- Ciara Williams (Study Manager)

- **MDOT/MTA**

- Zachary Chissell (Agency Contact)
- Elizabeth Kreider (Study Manager)
- James Ritchey

- **Consultant Team**

- Melissa DuMond (Study Manager)
- Paul Elman
- Erin Murphy
- Lucas Muller
- Grace Daigle
- Amanda Bahrij
- Andrew Wainwright
- David Miller

Introductions

Brief ~15 second introduction

Introduce yourself, your agency

Icebreaker: What has been your silver lining during COVID?

Study Stakeholders

- **Arlington County, VA**
 - Jim Larsen
 - Kirk Dand
 - Pierre Holloman
- **Bethesda Transportation Solutions**
 - Kristen Blackmon
- **City of Alexandria, VA**
 - Chris Ziemann
 - Jennifer Slesinger
- **City of Falls Church, VA**
 - Kerri Oddenino
- **City of Fairfax, VA**
 - Wendy Sanford
- **Dulles Area Transportation Association**
 - Doug Pickford
- **Fairfax County, VA**
 - Anna Nissinen
 - Elizabeth Mann
 - Malcolm Watson
 - Martha Coello
 - Michael Felschow
 - Stuart Boggs
 - Walter Daniel
 - Yuqing Xiong
- **Frederick County, MD**
 - Carrie Anderson-Watters
 - Mark Mishler
 - Roman Steichen
 - Ron Burns
- **Loudoun County, VA**
 - Bob Brown
 - Joe Kroboth
 - Penny Newquist

Study Stakeholders

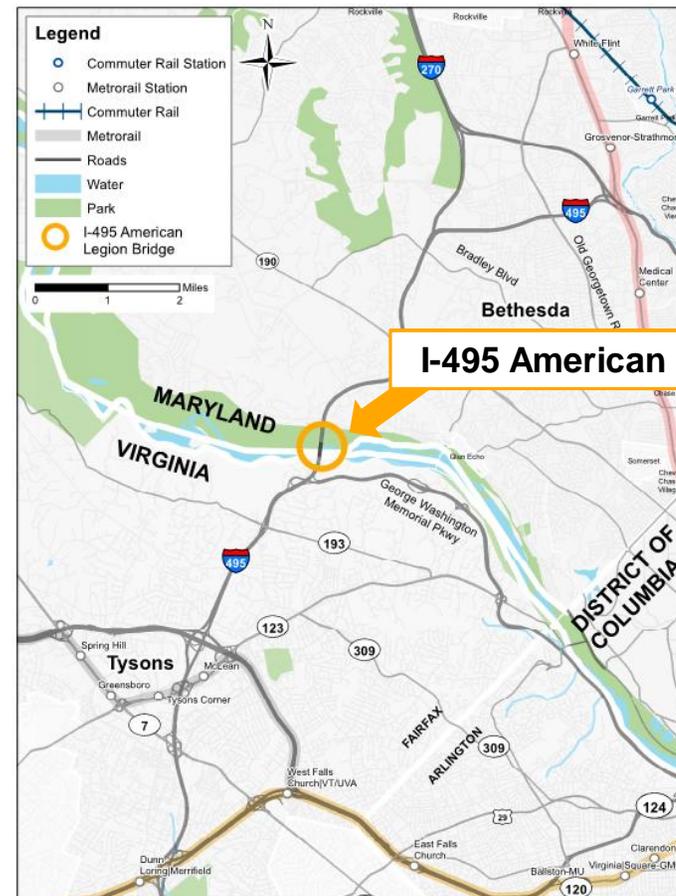
- **MDOT**
 - Heather Murphy
 - Kate Sylvester
- **Montgomery County, MD**
 - Chris Conklin
 - Dan Hibbert
 - Gary Erenrich
 - Philip Mclaughlin
 - Sandra Brecher
- **MWCOG**
 - Eric Randall
 - Nicholas Ramfos
- **NVTA**
 - Keith Jasper
- **NVTC**
 - Allan Fye
 - Ben Owen
 - Dan Goldfarb
 - Dinah Girma
 - Jae Watkins
 - Kate Mattice
- **OmniRide**
 - Chuck Steigerwald
 - Holly Morello
 - Perrin Palistrant
- **Prince William County, VA**
 - Paolo Belita
- **Tysons Partnership**
 - Ronit Dancis
- **Vanpool Alliance**
 - Joe Stainsby
- **VDOT**
 - Abraham Lerner
 - Fatemeh Allahdoust
- **WMATA**
 - Allison Davis
 - Charlie Scott
 - Jonathan Parker

Study Context

Study Purpose

Identify a range of potential current and future multimodal solutions that might be implemented to:

- Reduce congestion
- Improve trip reliability and regional connections
- Enhance existing and planned multimodal mobility and connectivity



I-495 American Legion Bridge

Update on Existing VDOT P3 Projects

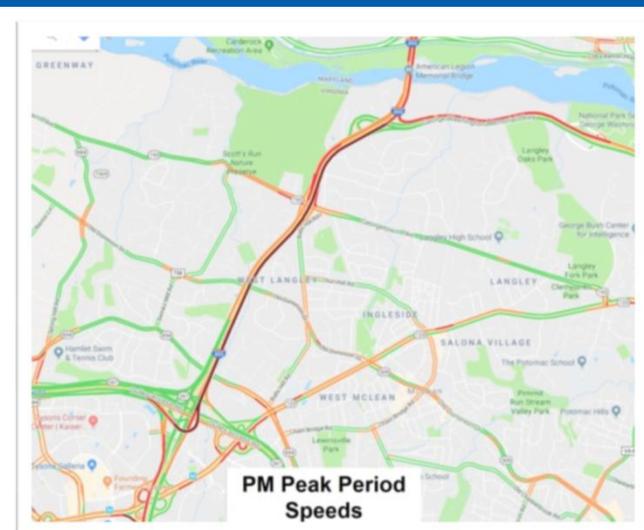
I-495 Express Lanes Northern Extension Project Overview

■ Scope

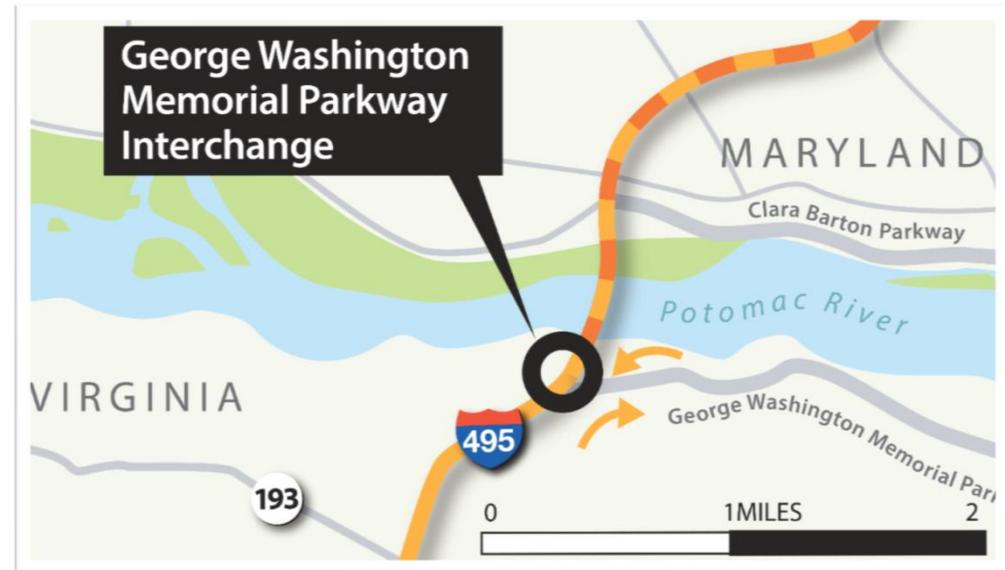
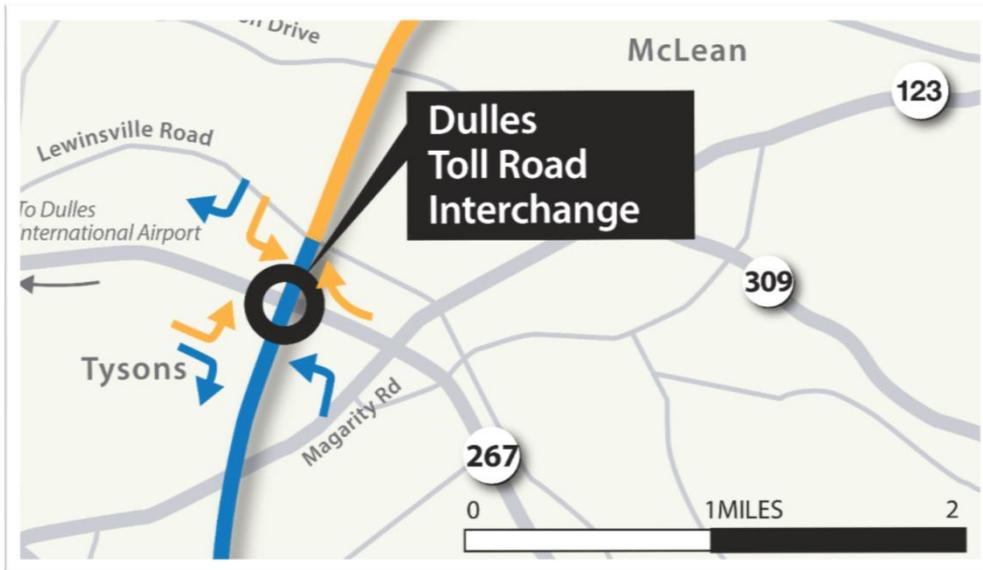
- Extend the 495 Express Lanes by approximately three miles from the I-495 and Dulles Toll Road interchange to the vicinity of the American Legion Bridge
- Replace existing bridges
- Add bike and pedestrian trails
- Replace existing walls and construct new noise walls where needed
- Provide stormwater management facilities

■ Goals and Objectives

- Reduce congestion
- Provide additional travel choices
- Improve travel reliability
- Enhance safety



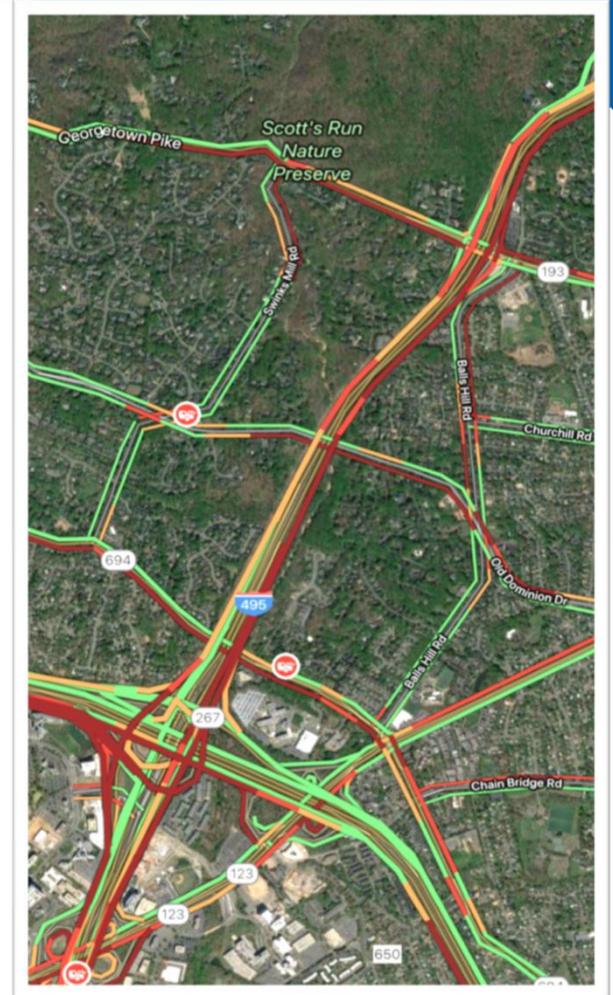
Proposed Express Lanes Access Points



- General Purpose and Express Lanes Access
- Existing I-495 Express Lanes
- Existing Access
- Proposed Extension
- Proposed Access
- Under Study by Maryland

Project Benefits

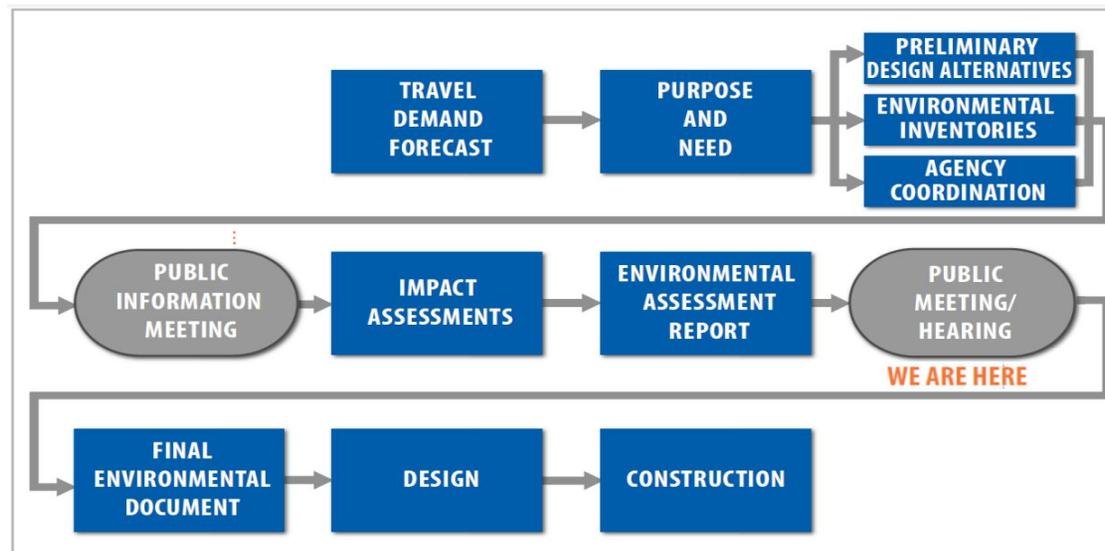
- Adds new capacity
- Provides new travel choices
- Decreases travel times during peak periods
- Reduces cut-through traffic on local roads
- Improves safety in the corridor by:
 - Taking cars off local roads
 - Reducing the weaving needed to access the George Washington Memorial Parkway



Environmental Review Process

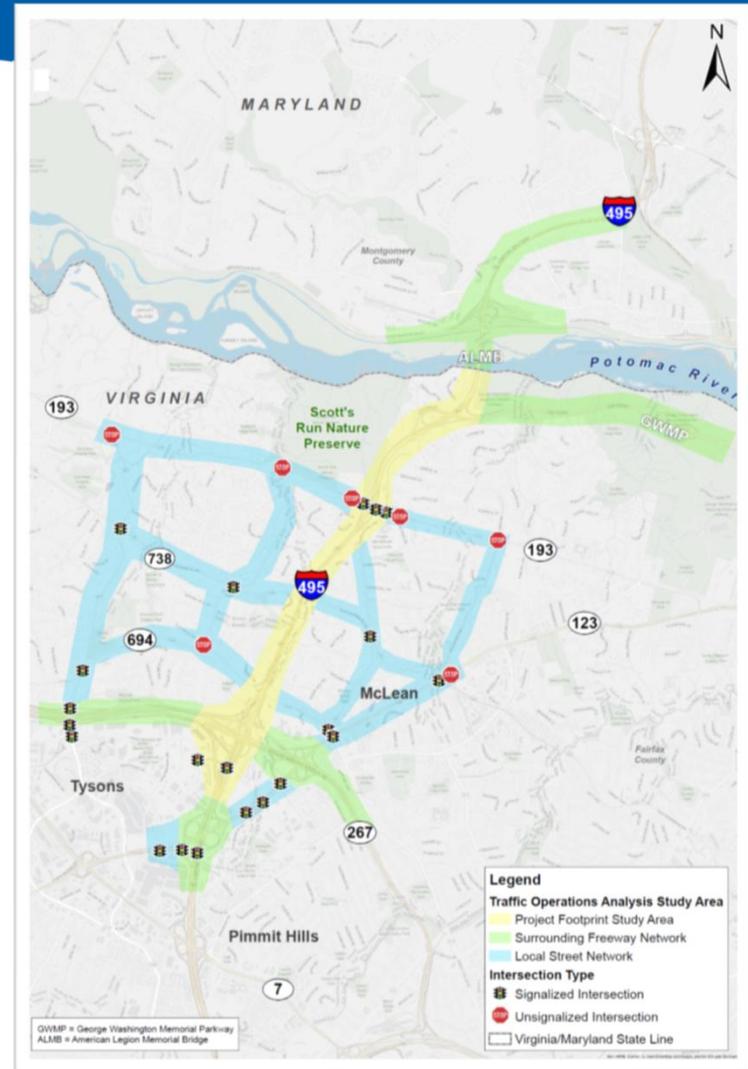
The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires:

- Consideration of potential environmental consequences of transportation improvements;
- Documentation of the environmental analyses; and
- Making the information available to the public for comment



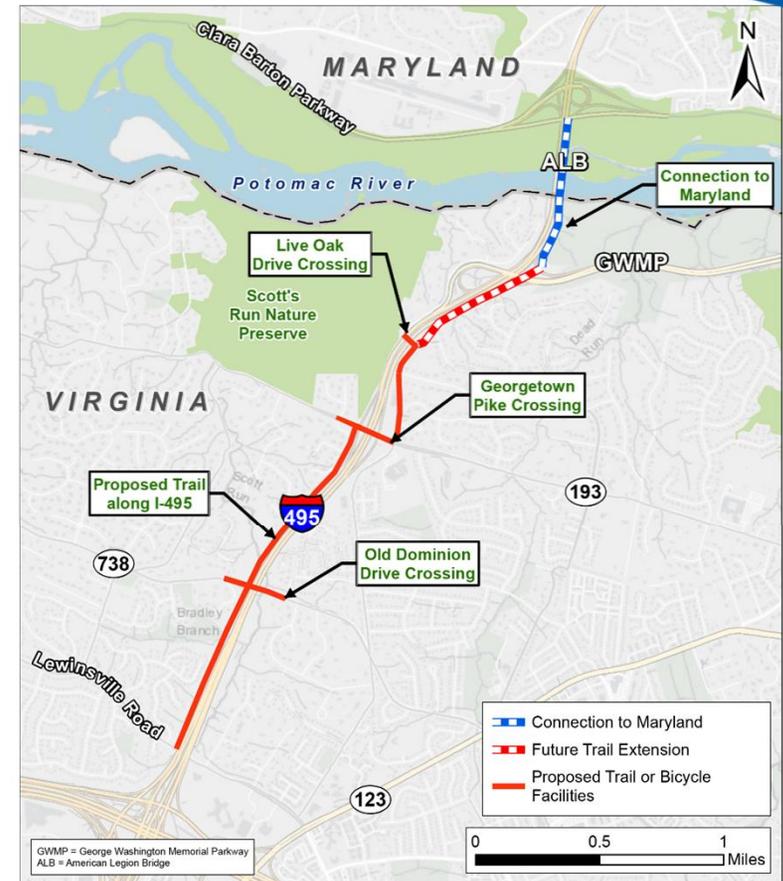
Scope of Traffic Analysis

- **Operational and safety analysis**
 - I-495 and Dulles Toll Road mainlines
 - Arterials within study corridor
- **Traffic and Transportation Technical Report**
- **Interchange Justification Report**
- **Comparison of build alternative (with options) versus no-build alternative**
 - 2025 interim year
 - 2045 design year
- **Traffic analysis shows benefits to:**
 - Person throughput
 - Travel times and traffic delay
 - Secondary streets



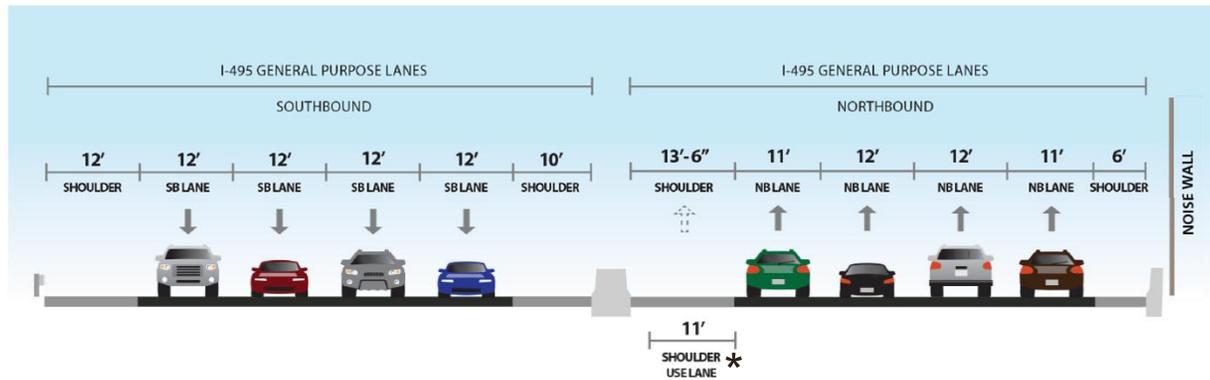
Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility Improvements

- Preliminary design coordinated with Fairfax County to advance county bike plan
- Trails added along I-495 corridor
 - Shared-use path behind the noise wall between Lewinsville Road and Live Oak Drive
 - Connection to future crossing at American Legion Bridge to Maryland
- Facilities improved on bridges
 - Old Dominion Drive (VA 783)
 - Georgetown Pike (VA 193)
 - Live Oak Drive

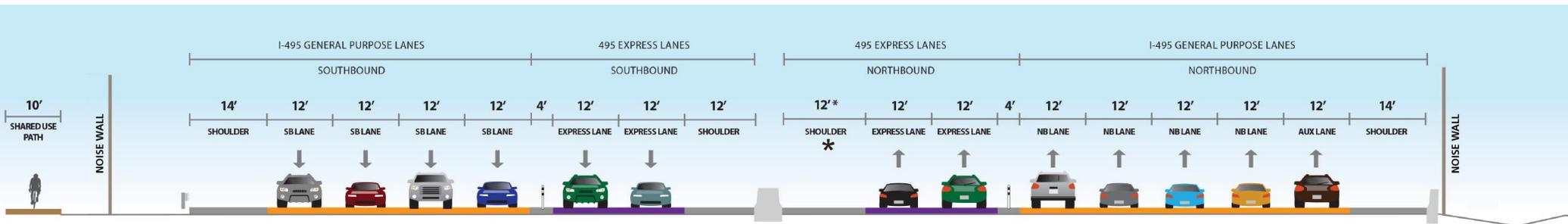


Typical Section: I-495 Between Dulles Toll Road and Georgetown Pike

Existing



Future



**The future roadway design replaces the part-time shoulder-use lane on 495 NB with a permanent shoulder*

Agency Stakeholder Coordination

- Fairfax County Department of Transportation
- Fairfax County Park Authority
- Federal Highway Administration
- Maryland Department of Transportation
- Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
- Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
- National Park Service
- Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
- Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation
- Virginia Department of Historic Resources
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Project Delivery – Partnership with Transurban

- January 2019: Development Framework Agreement with Transurban to extend 495 Express Lanes under current agreement; no Commonwealth funding
- Subject to VDOT approval, Transurban to submit a binding proposal that meets project-delivery technical and financial criteria

VDOT Responsibilities	Transurban Responsibilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Planning and environmental approvals▪ Interchange Justification Report (IJR)▪ Federal, state and local agency coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Preliminary engineering, design, procure design-builder, construct project▪ Finance plan▪ Operate and maintain

Key Milestones

SCHEDULE	2018	2019	2020	2021	2024
Public Outreach	Ongoing				
Public Meeting #1 (June 11, 2018)	June				
Public Meeting #2 (May 20, 2019)		May			
Location & Design Public Hearing			Spring-Summer	← WE ARE HERE	
NEPA Decision / IJR Approval			June		
Final Contract				2021	
Final Design / Construction Start				2021	
Open to Traffic					2024



Update on Existing MDOT MTA P3 Projects



I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes/P3 Program Overview

American Legion Bridge Stakeholder Meeting

July 16, 2020





What is Maryland's P3 Program?

- The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) P3 Program is an historic effort to reduce congestion for millions of travelers in the National Capital Region.
- MDOT SHA is seeking input from the private sector to design, build, finance, operate, and maintain improvements on both I-495 and I-270.
- Improvements will focus to transform these overloaded interstates to allow people to reach their destinations faster and to remove overflow traffic from the local roads.

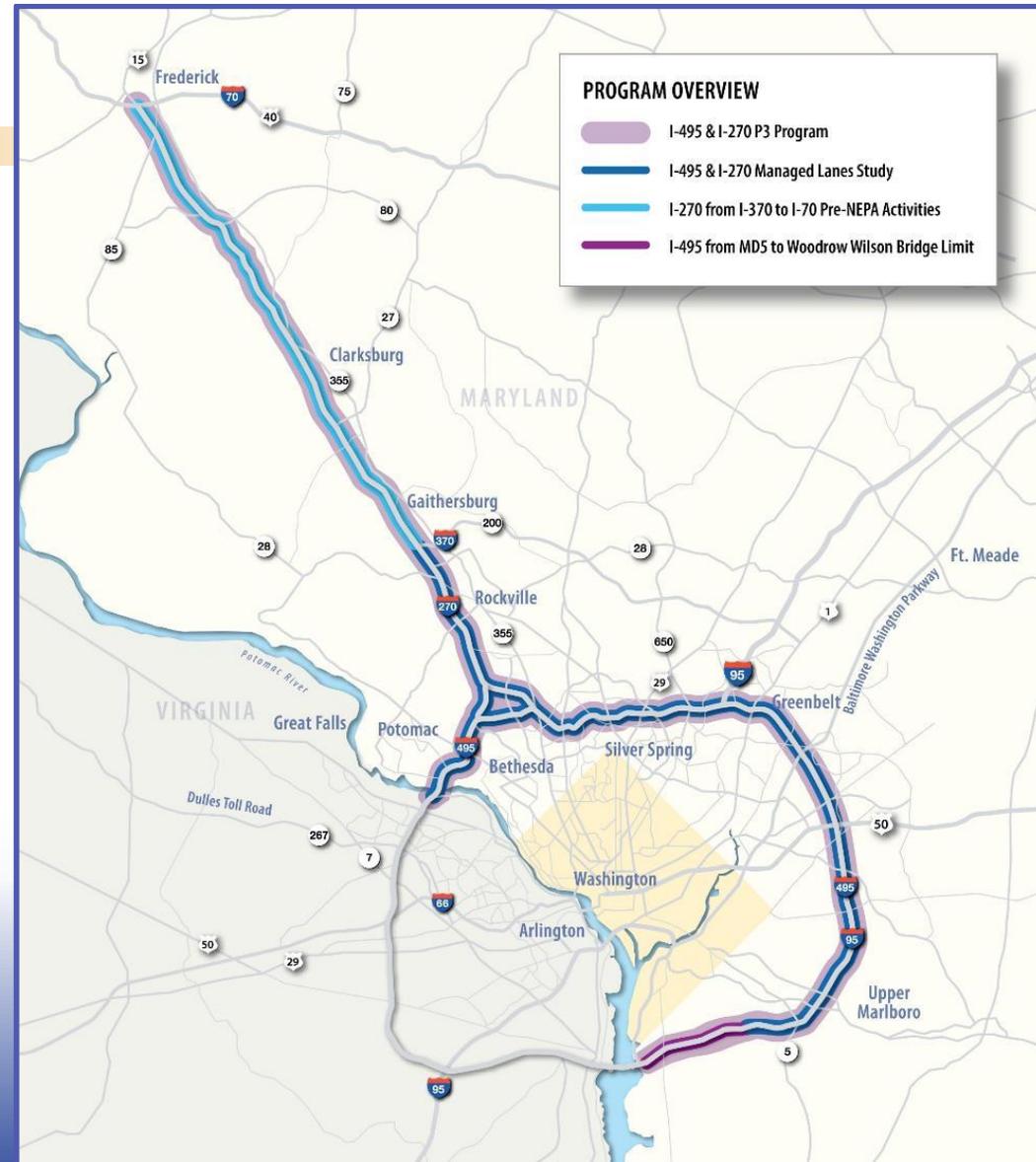




I-495 & I-270 P3 Program Environmental Studies

The I-495 & I-270 P3 Program includes over 70 miles of highway improvements

- I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study (48 miles)
- I-270 from I-370 to I-70 Pre-NEPA Activities (23 miles)
- I-495 from MD 5 to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge (future study)





DEIS Public Comment Period

Milestone	Dates
DEIS release – available on web site	July 10, 2020
DEIS available for public review (select State offices, public libraries & post offices)	Starting July 10, 2020
Virtual public meetings	August 18, 20, 25 and September 3, 2020
In-Person public hearings	September 1 and September 10, 2020
Public comment period	July 10 to October 8, 2020

<https://495-270-p3.com/deis/#availability>





Transit Work Group

- Formed in May 2019 to encourage collaboration to enhance transit services on the proposed managed lanes on I-495 & I-270 and create an interconnected transit/highway system
- Representatives were included from Montgomery, Frederick, Prince George's, Anne Arundel, Charles, and Howard counties, MWCOG, WMATA, FTA, FHWA, and MDOT/MDOT MTA/MDOT SHA
- Topics explored by the Transit Work Group included:
 - Identifying existing and planned express bus services
 - Reviewing managed lanes access points
 - Analyzing casual carpooling, van pooling and other ridesharing methods
 - Evaluating park and ride lot locations near the I-495 and I-270 corridors and their current capacity and usage
 - Examining other potential markets for express bus service which would benefit from implementation of managed lanes
 - Identifying potential new or modified routes





Transit Service Concepts

Ensure that the Managed Lanes:

1. Improve the efficiency of existing routes which use the interstate system through faster and more dependable trip times
 2. Support existing transit services including Metrorail, Metrobus, Commuter Rail, Commuter Bus and local transit services including the Ride On services
 3. Foster transit services to underserved suburb to suburb markets
 4. Advance transit partnerships for intra-regional and inter-state trips
- I-270 – Enhanced Transit Network
 - Permits trips to regional destinations with single transfer
 - Fast transit connection between Montgomery County, Tysons Corner, Arlington/Alexandria
 - I-495 to I-95 – Improved East / West Connections
 - Extend US 29 Flash BRT route pattern to Bethesda
 - Connect White Oak and White Flint
 - Purple Line Virtual BRT
 - Extends high quality transit service from New Carrollton to Largo, Branch Avenue, National Harbor and Alexandria





- This American Legion Bridge Transit Study is separate from the ongoing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) studies for MDOT SHA's MLS but is intended to complement these efforts
- The work of the P3 Transit Work Group as well as the other transit studies in Maryland and Virginia can be a foundation from which to build



Process and Timeline



 Stakeholder Meetings

What feedback can you add to the study?

- Do you have any current/ongoing initiatives to share with the group that directly relate to travel over the bridge?

1-2 mins per organization

- Arlington County, VA
- Bethesda Transportation Solutions
- City of Alexandria, VA
- City of Falls Church, VA
- City of Fairfax, VA
- Dulles Area Transportation Association
- Fairfax County, VA
- Frederick County, MD
- Loudoun County, VA
- MDOT
- Montgomery County, MD
- MWCOG
- NVTA
- NVTC
- OmniRide
- Prince William County, VA
- Vanpool Alliance
- VDOT
- WMATA

BREAK

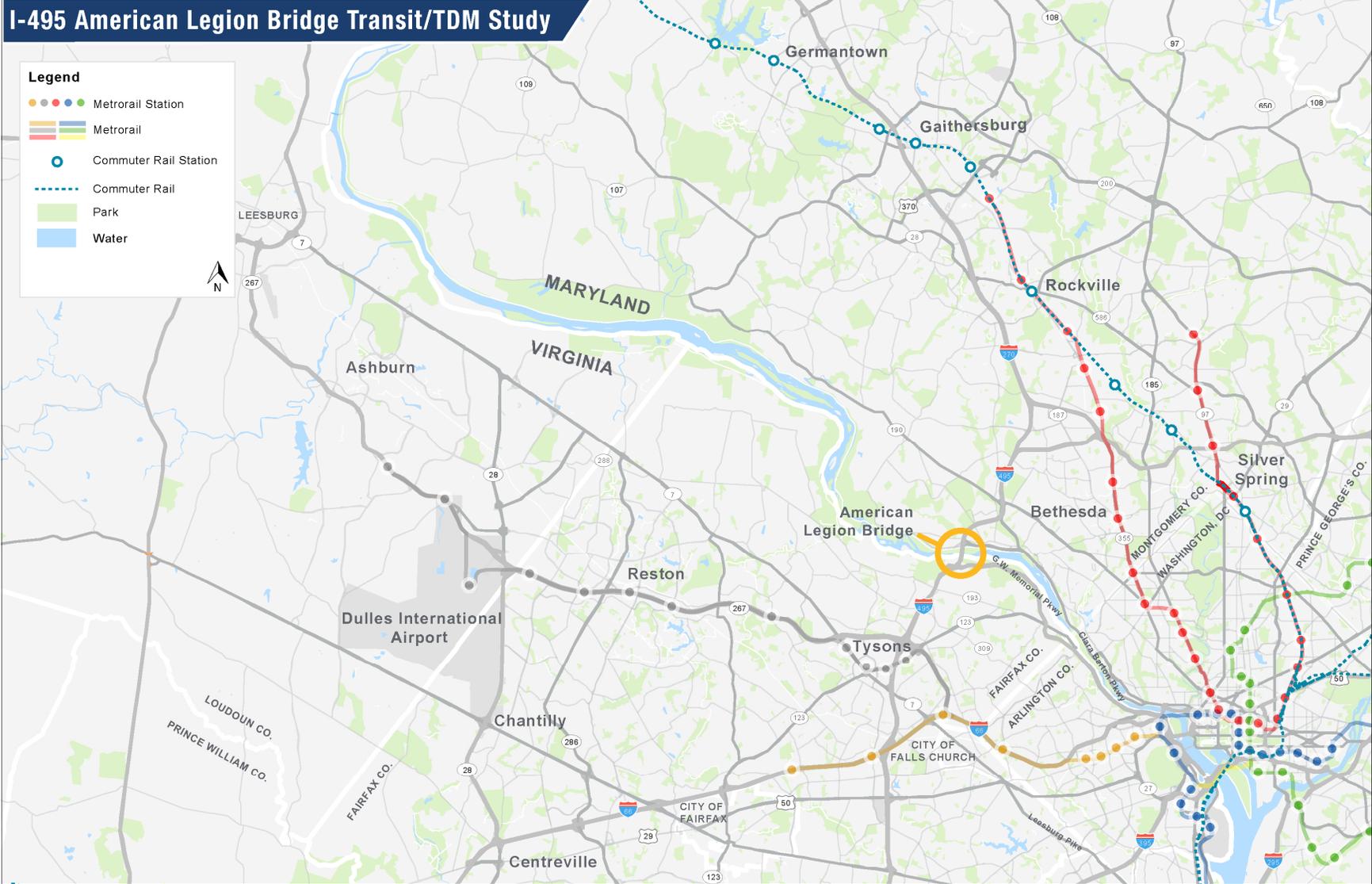
(5 mins)

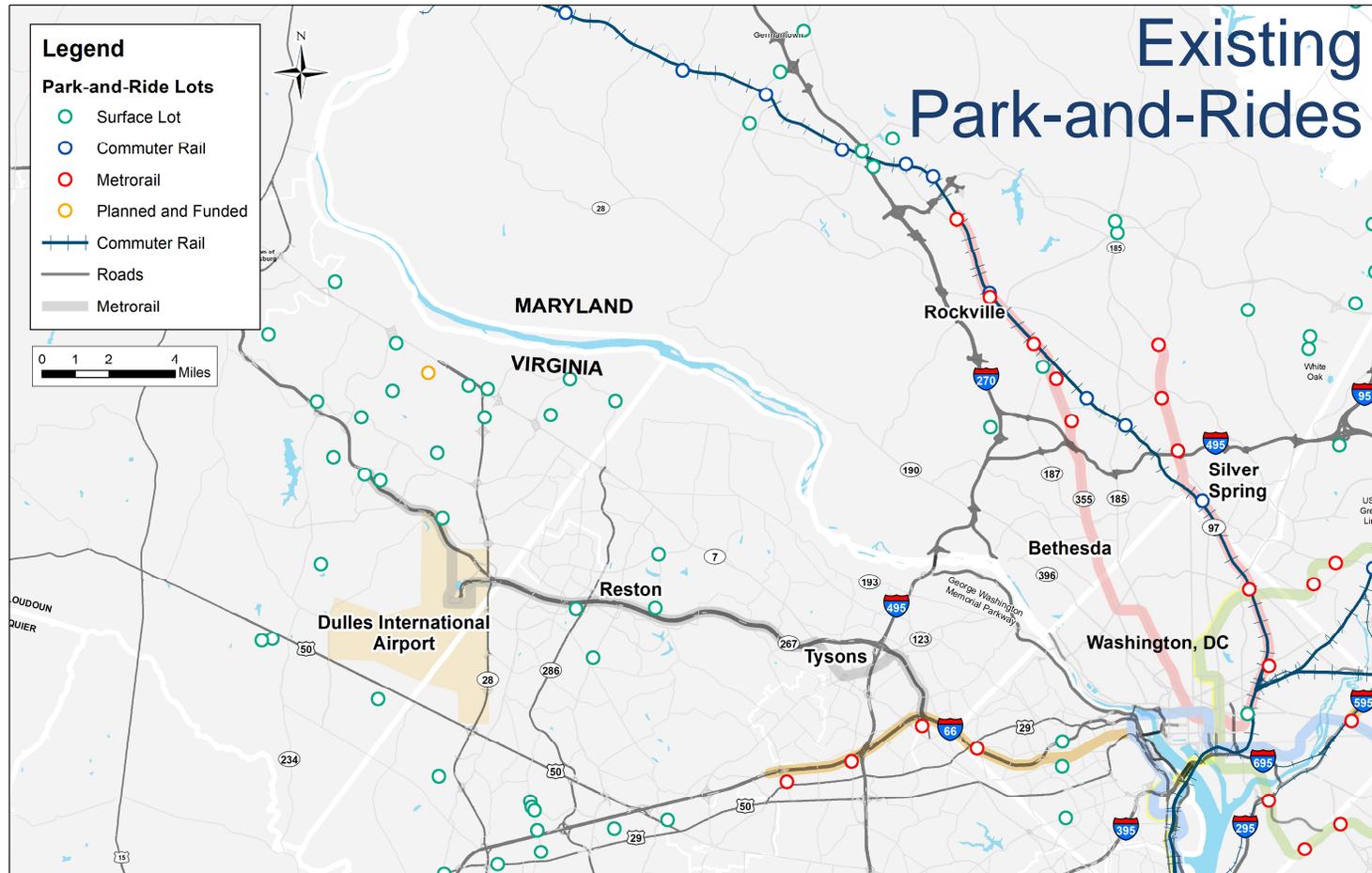
Baseline Conditions and Needs

I-495 American Legion Bridge Transit/TDM Study

Legend

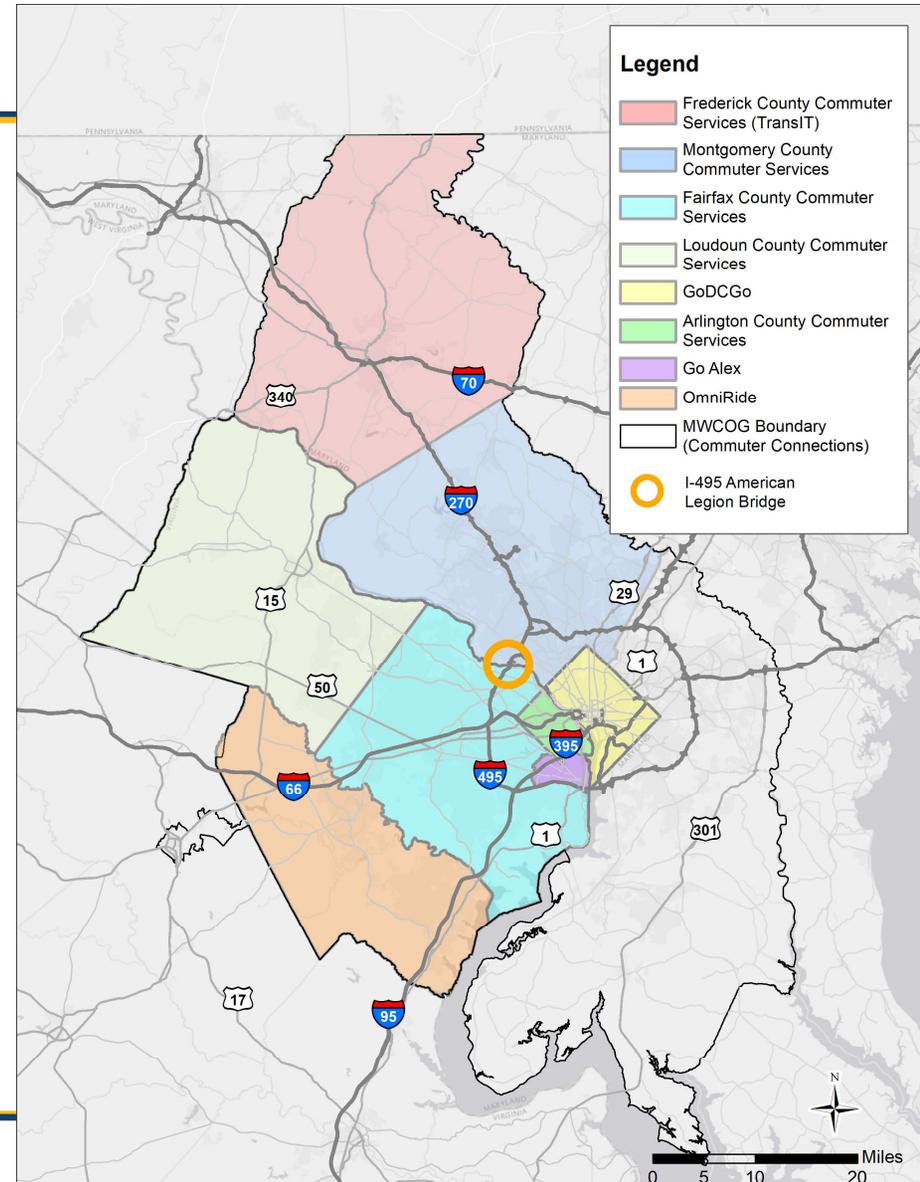
- ● ● ● ● Metrorail Station
- ▬▬▬▬▬▬▬ Metrorail
- Commuter Rail Station
- ⋯ Commuter Rail
- Park
- Water





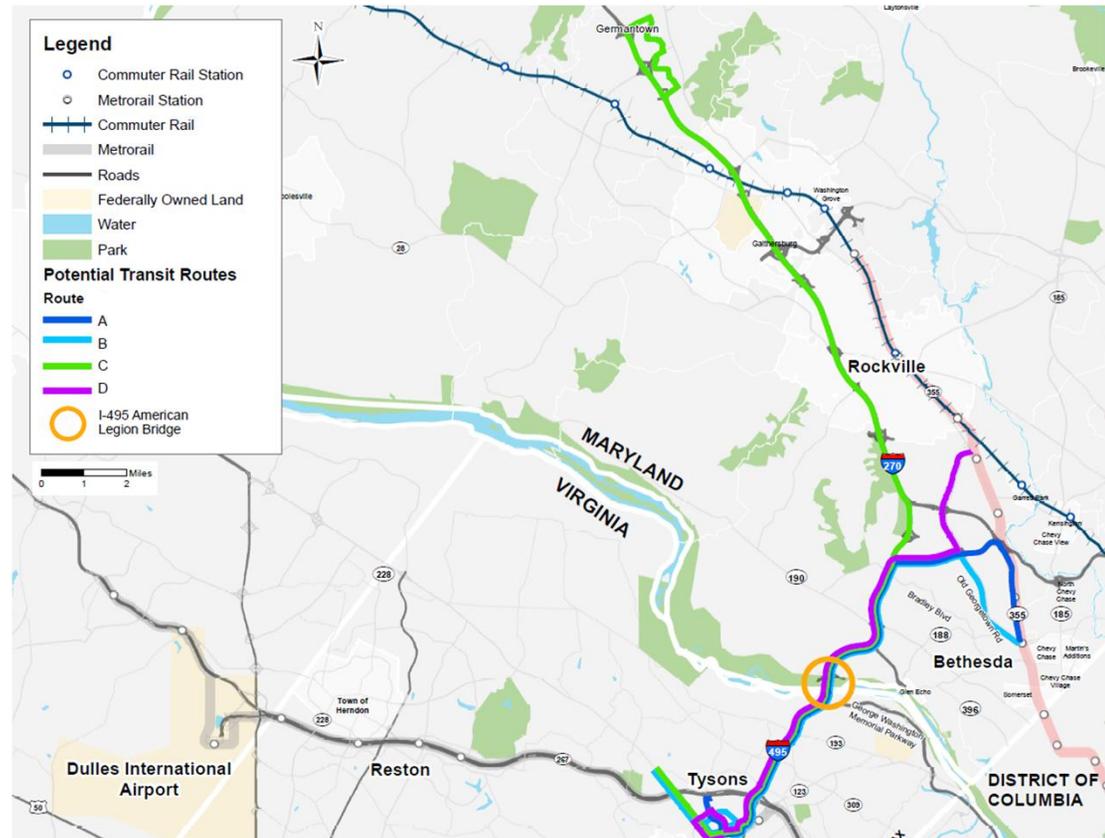
Commuter Assistance Programs & Vanpool

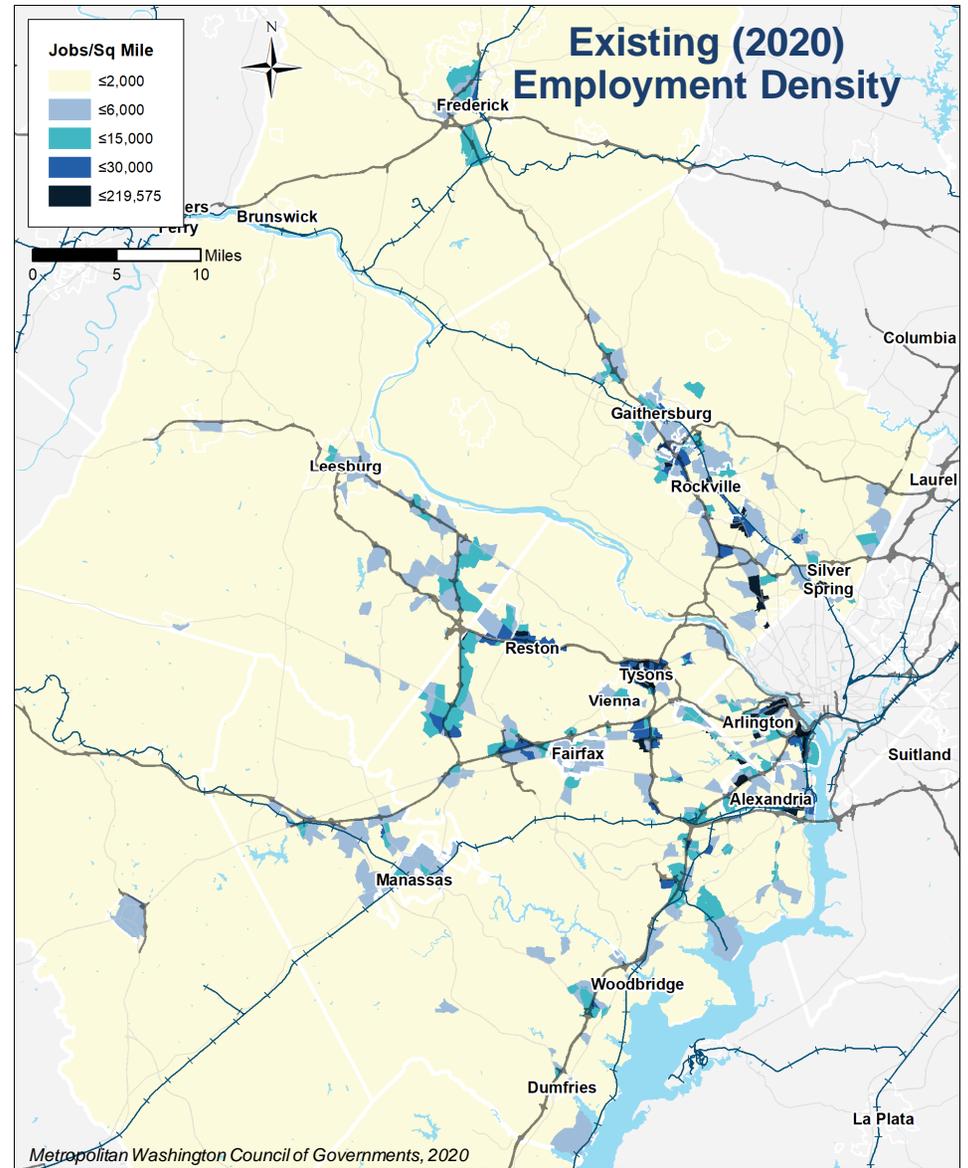
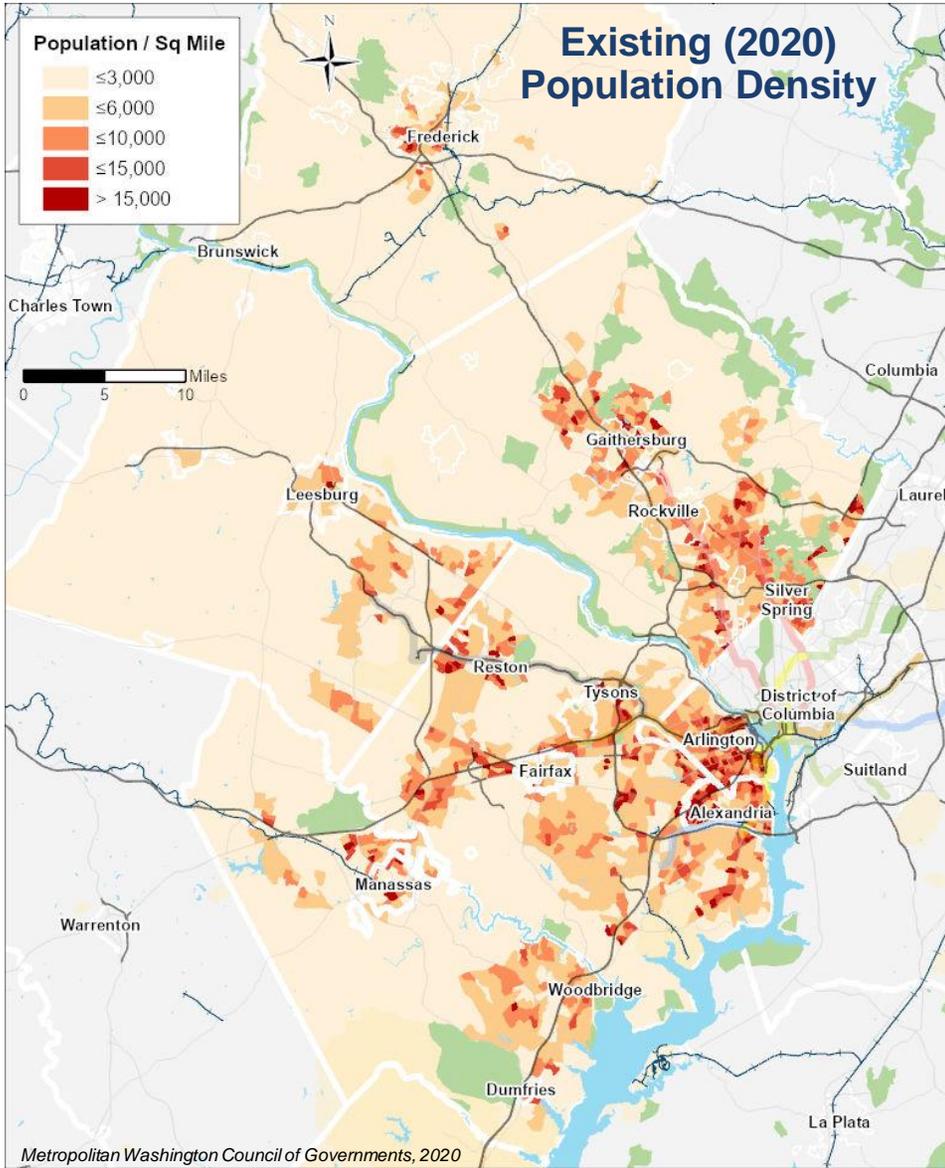
- Regional
 - MWCOCG's Commuter Connections
 - Vanpool Alliance
- Local
 - Jurisdictional programs
 - Transportation Management Associations & Districts
- 124 vanpools registered with Vanpool Alliance that cross the bridge



Potential Transit Services

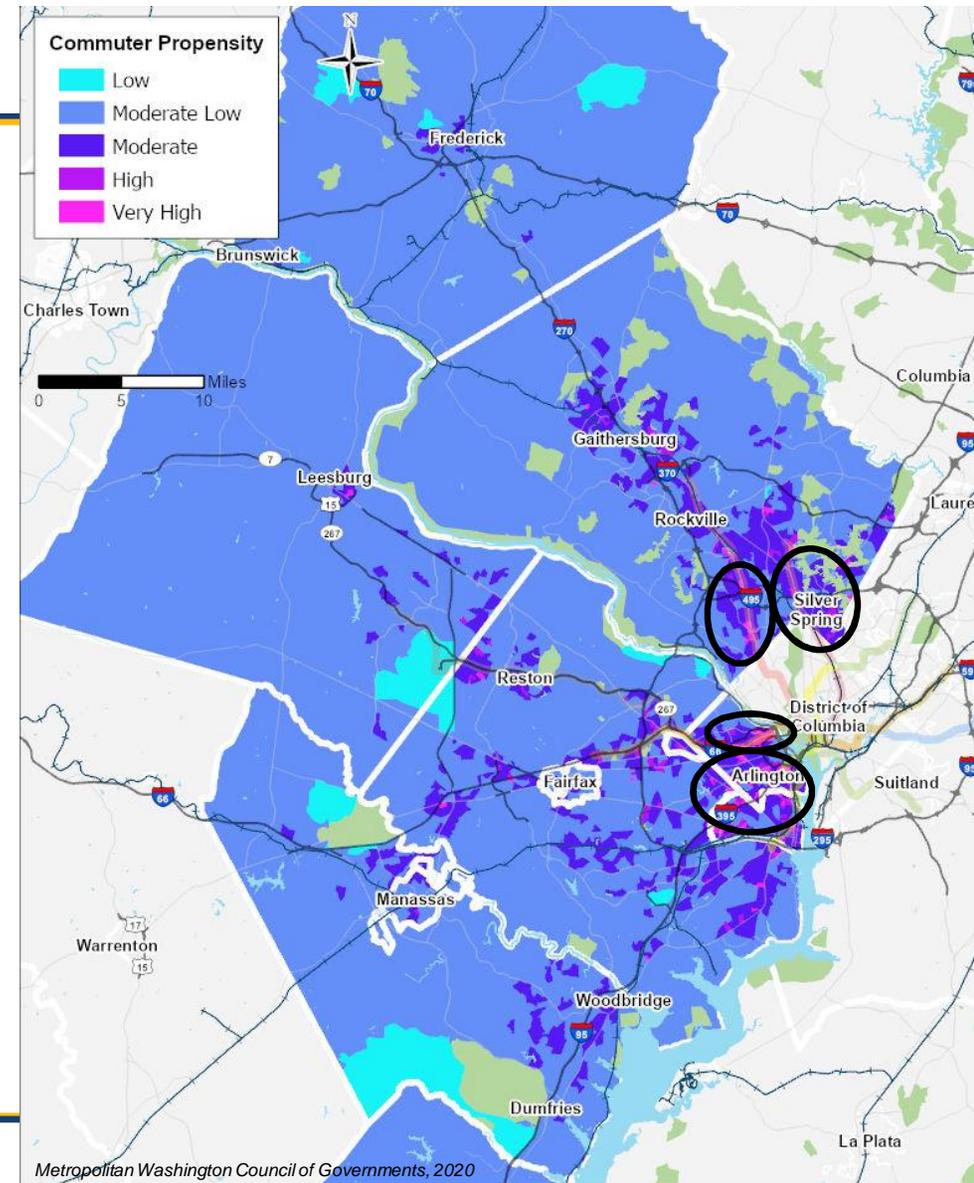
Route	Service Type	Source
A	Metrobus	Fairfax County TDP
B	Express Transit	MD Transit Service Coordination Report
C	Express Transit	MD Transit Service Coordination Report
D	BRT	NVTA Transaction Report





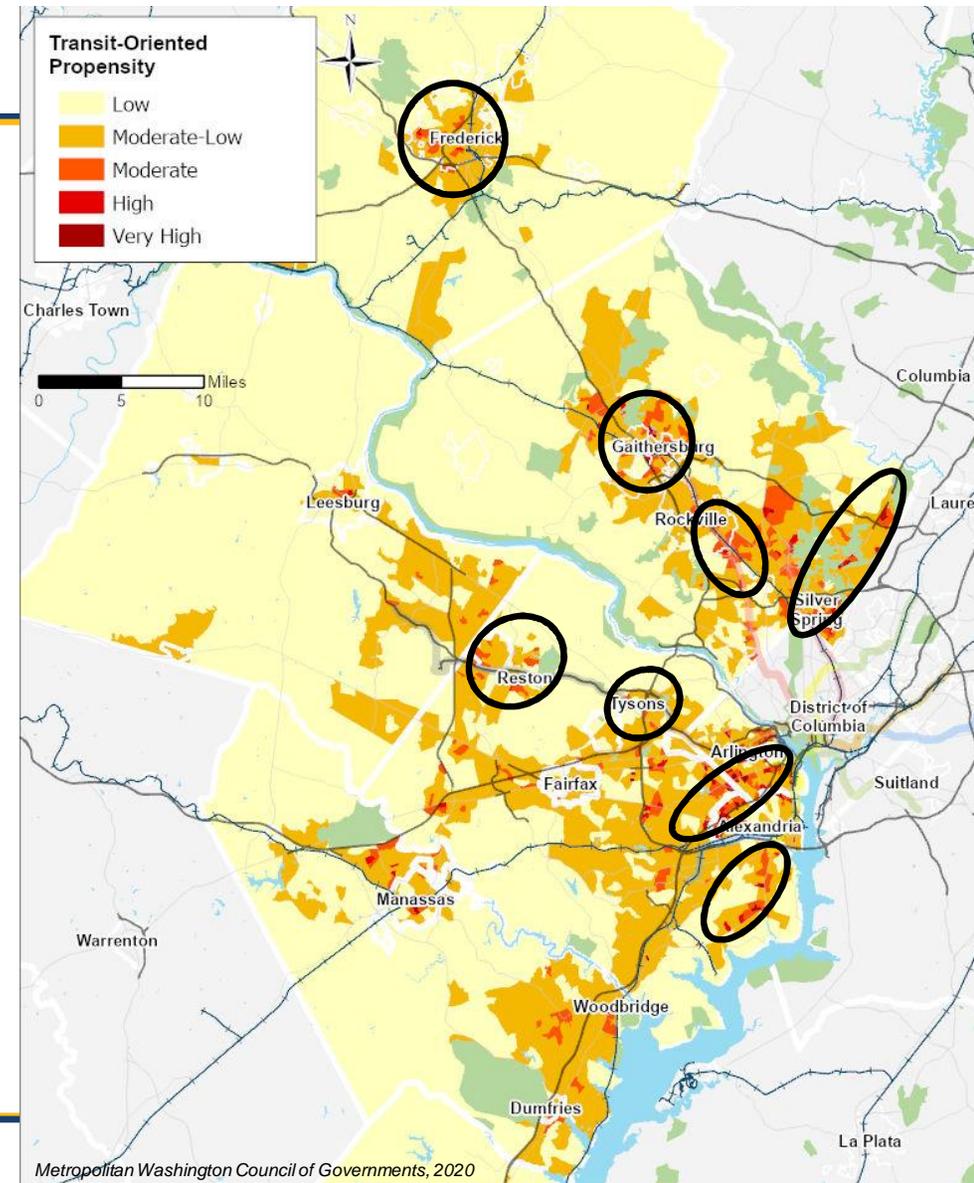
Commuter Propensity

- **Commuter Propensity Index** measures concentration of residents who are employed along with concentration of residents who commute by public transit or other non-SOV modes



Transit-Oriented Propensity

- **Transit-Oriented Propensity Index** measures the socioeconomic characteristics associated with areas with high public transit usage including
 - Higher population densities
 - Youth below driving age
 - Seniors
 - Low-income households
 - Zero- and one-car households
 - Persons with disabilities

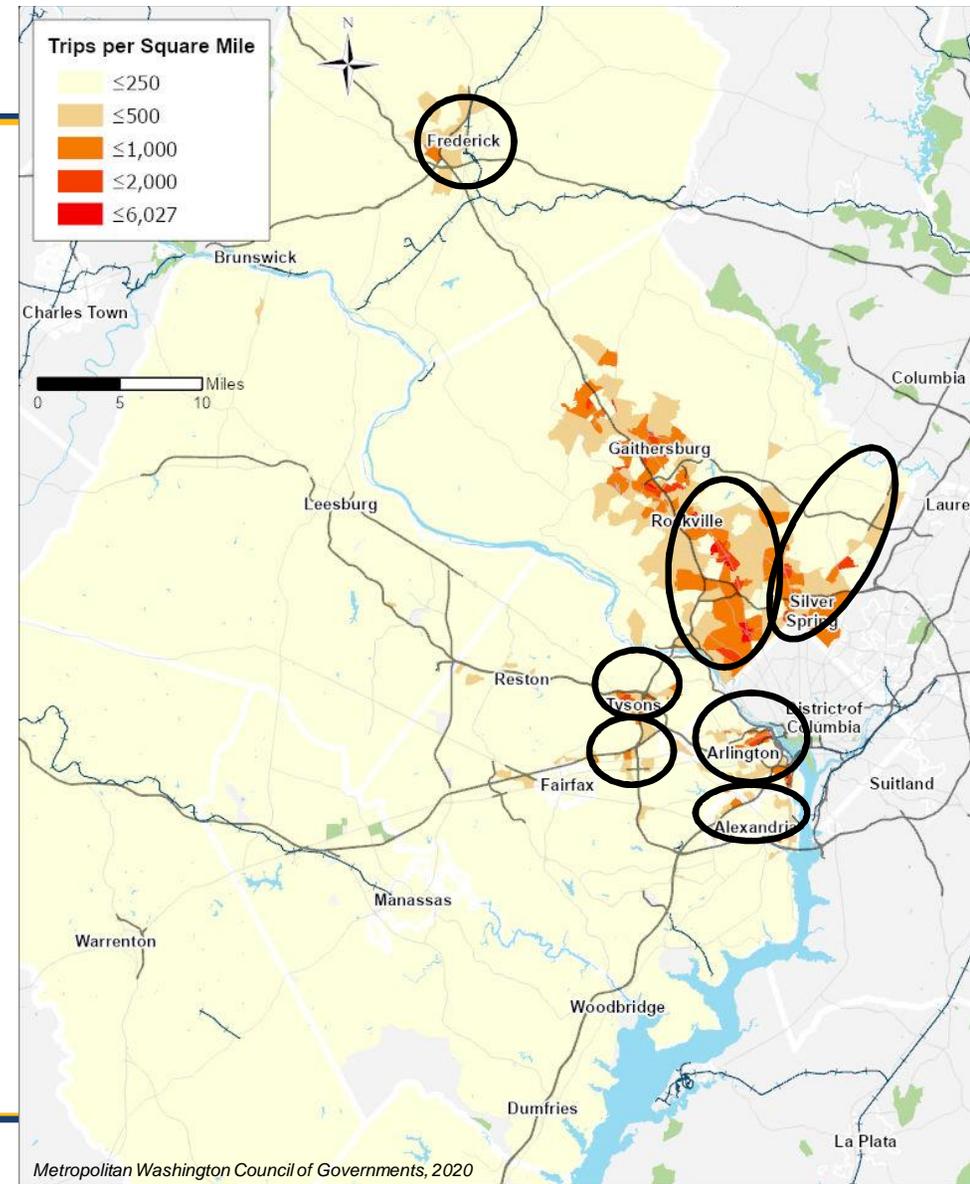


Travel Demand

- Analysis focused on activity centers
- Two frames of analysis:
 1. **Trips produced in traffic analysis zones (TAZs) of one state and attracted to activity centers in another.**
 2. **Corridor segments** with highest concentration of trips to activity centers in another state

Existing Trip Production in TAZs

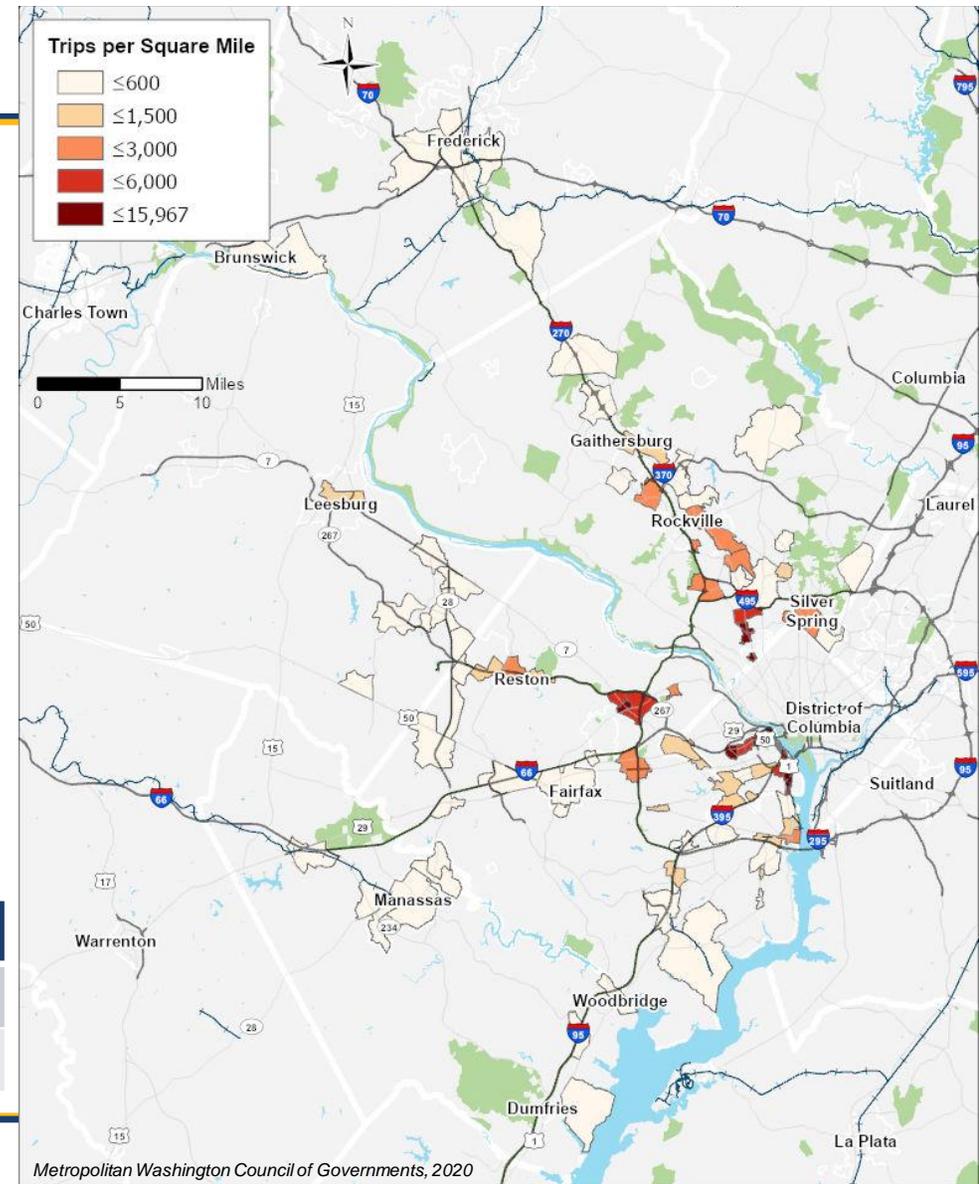
- MD trip production:
 - MD 355 corridor (Metrorail Red Line)
 - US 29 Corridor and Frederick
- VA trip production:
 - Arlington, Alexandria, Tysons, Dunn Loring (Metrorail Blue/Yellow, Silver, Orange Lines)



Existing Trip Attraction in Activity Centers

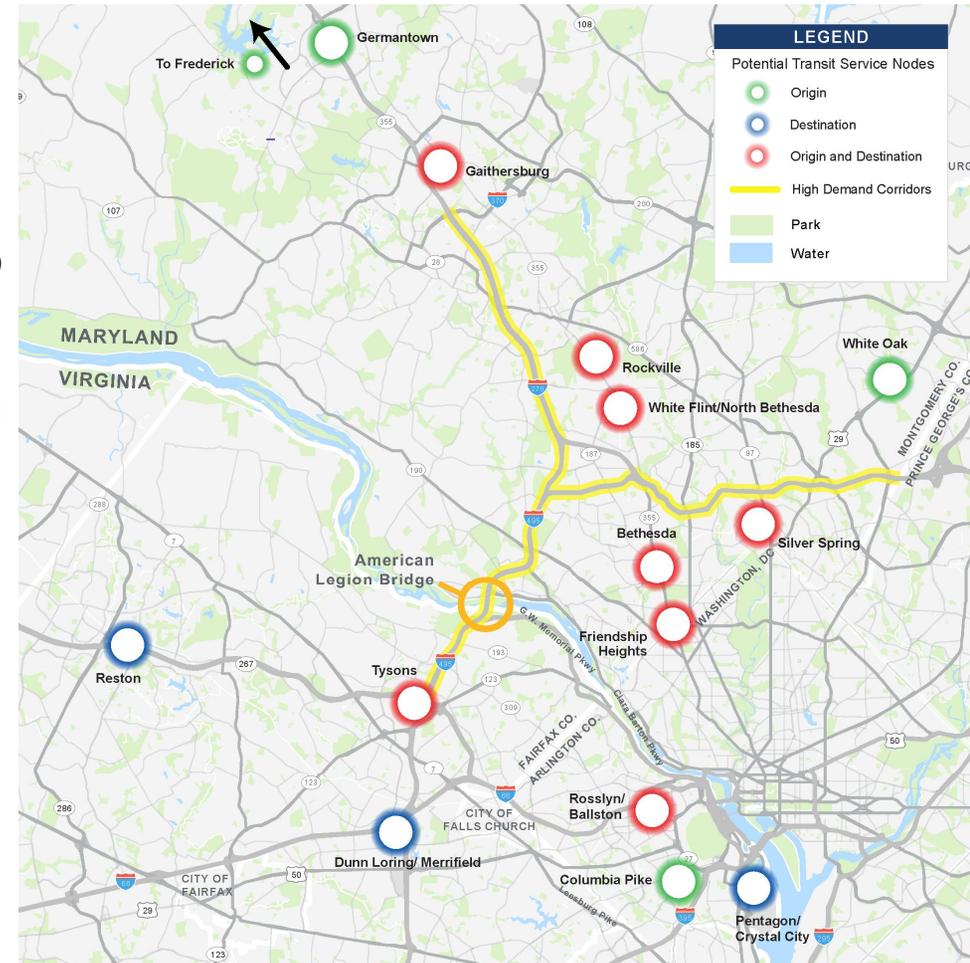
- VA Destinations:
 - High: Tysons, Rosslyn-Ballston Corridor, Crystal City
 - Moderate: Reston, Dunn Loring/Merrifield, Alexandria
- MD Destinations:
 - High: Bethesda and Friendship Heights
 - Moderate: White Flint, Rockville, Silver Spring

Production State	Attraction State	Total Trips	Share of Trips
Virginia	Maryland	15,969	36%
Maryland	Virginia	28,560	64%



Corridor Assessment

- 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 (Maryland)
 - I-495 from the Bridge to Dulles Corridor (Virginia)
 - I-495 from the I-270 spur junction to Prince George's County line
 - I-495 from the Bridge to the I-270 spur junction (Maryland)



Summary

- Primary potential transit nodes for ALB service:
 - Metrorail Red Line Corridors in Montgomery County
 - Tysons, Reston, Merrifield in Fairfax County
- Abundance of local and commuter transit service to Arlington, Bethesda, Silver Spring, Washington, DC
- **No transit service or targeted commuter assistance initiatives linking Virginia and Maryland over the bridge**

Breakout Sessions

3 Groups – Transit & TDM Strategies

Breakout Group Focus

- Transit Group A

- Melissa DuMond
- Paul Elman
- Amanda Bahrij
- Beth Kreider
- Todd Horsley

- Carrie Anderson-Watters
- Paolo Belita
- Sandra Brecher
- Bob Brown
- Chris Conklin
- Kirk Dand
- Allison Davis
- Gary Erenrich
- Michael Felschow
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- Anna Nissinen
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- Transit Group B

- Erin Murphy
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Breakout Agenda

- Brainstorming
- Mapping Exercise
- Report Out and Summary

Breakout Session Brainstorming Activity

- Transit Group
 - In addition to the four potential routes, what other markets should be served by transit?
 - Tradeoff between providing point to point direct service vs. interim stops
 - What challenges does starting or ending a commuter service in a dense environment create? How can those challenges be addressed?
- TDM Group
 - How can cross-state commuter assistance be enhanced?
 - What strategies could be leveraged to promote behavior change for travel across the bridge?
 - What challenges does starting or ending a carpool/vanpool in a dense environment create? How can those challenges be addressed?
- General (Both Groups)
 - What types of needs (such as parking, last-mile connections) associated with commuter service are needed?
 - What are ways to promote equity in our recommendations?
 - Are there opportunities for expanded parking facility locations in your jurisdiction?
 - How can technology be leveraged in improving travel?
 - What have you heard from your constituents or decision-makers about needs for travel

Takeaways

Meeting Wrap Up

Next Stakeholder Meeting

- Fill out survey – closes August 16th
 - <https://form.jotform.com/201964138156154>
 - Save the Date – August 28th
- Evaluation of Options

Let us know!

Is there anyone we missed who should be part of this stakeholder group?