

# **Springfield to Quantico Enhanced Public Transportation Feasibility Study**

**Technical Advisory Committee Meeting #10**

**October 7, 2021**



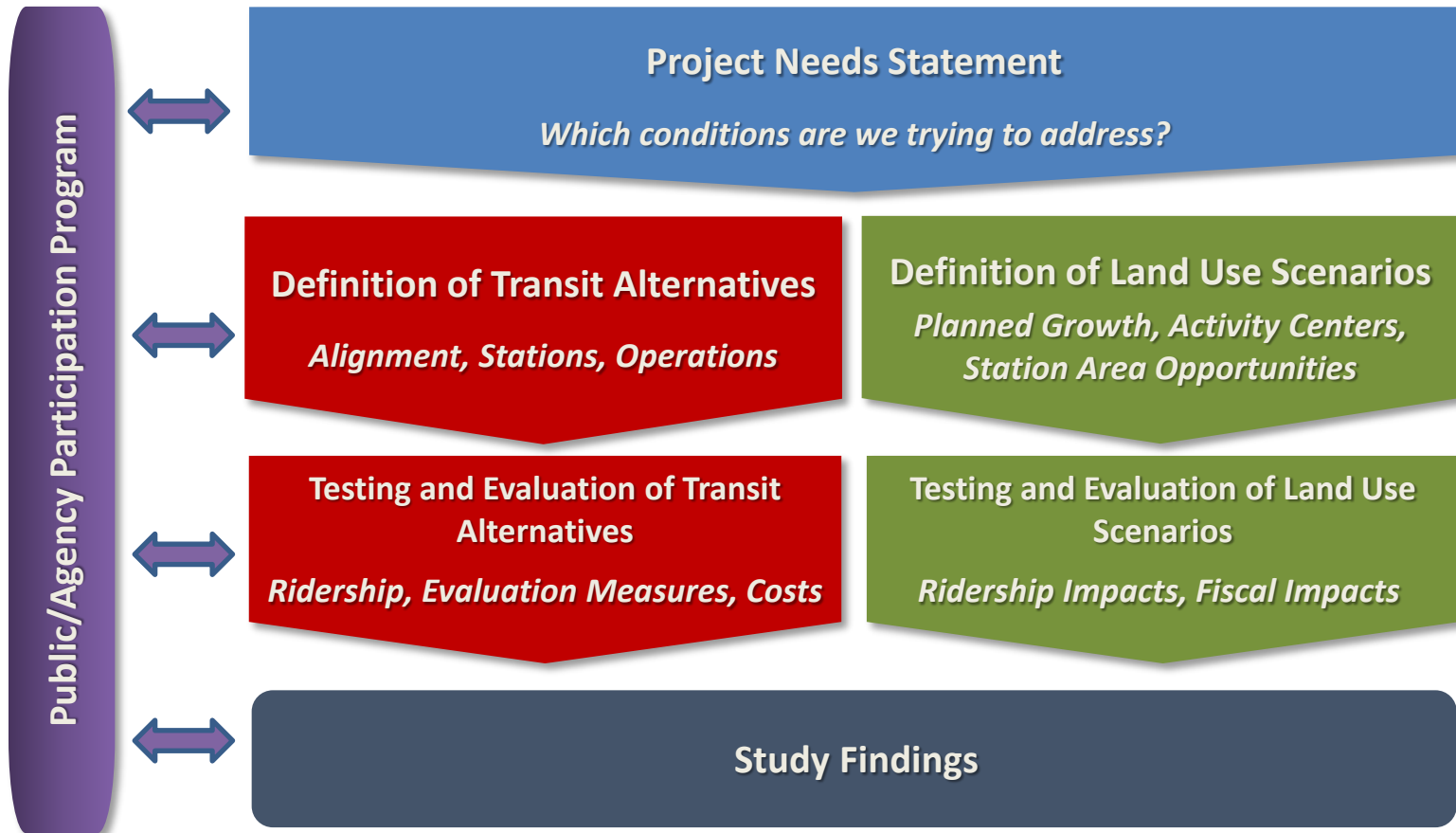
Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

# Meeting Agenda

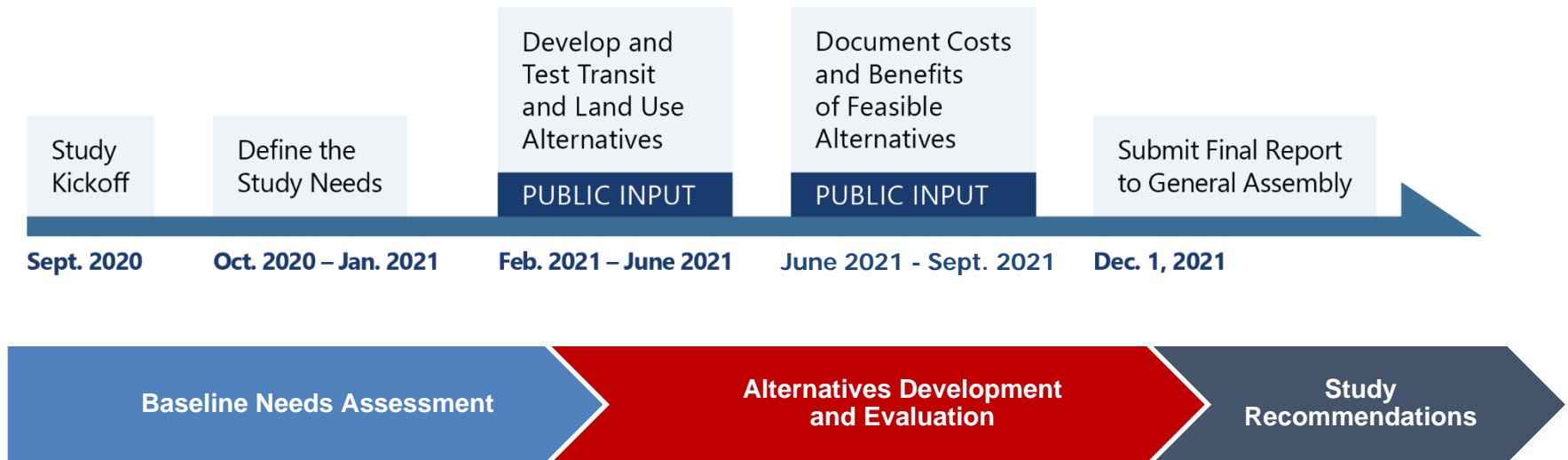
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- Introductions / Welcome
- Public and Stakeholder Outreach Status
- Summary of Evaluation Results
- Other considerations for Metrorail extensions
- Update on Land Use Sensitivity Test
- Next Steps

# Study Technical Approach



# Study Schedule



# Public and Stakeholder Outreach

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# Public and Stakeholder Outreach

- Completed Activities:
  - Technical Advisory Committee
  - Elected officials briefings
  - DRPT website page
  - Project factsheet
  - On-Line survey
  - Pop-up events
  - Public Meeting #1 (May)
  - Public Meeting #2 (July)
  - Public Meeting #3 (Sept)
- Upcoming Activities:
  - Elected officials briefing – October 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Posting and review of draft report



<http://www.drpt.virginia.gov/transit/springfield-to-quantico/>

# September Public Meetings

Two meetings held:

- Tuesday, September 21:
  - 45 Registrants/ 23 participants (not including DRPT/consultants)
- Thursday, September 23:
  - 40 Registrants/ 24 participants (not including DRPT/consultants)
- Closed captioning services were requested and provided.
- Spanish interpretation services were available.
- Pop-ups were held to distribute flyers at F-S Metro station and PRTC Transit Center

## YOU'RE INVITED!



Join us for a public meeting about potential transit enhancements for Fairfax and Prince William counties.

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) is conducting a feasibility study of enhanced public transportation services between the Franconia-Springfield Metro station in Fairfax County and the Quantico Marine Base in Prince William County. Enhanced transit could include options such as new and enhanced express bus services, increased VRE commuter rail service levels, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), or an extension of Metrorail.



DRPT is offering the same meeting on two nights for your convenience.



Register ahead of the meeting by scanning the QR code or visiting:

[www.drpt.virginia.gov/about/public-involvement/](http://www.drpt.virginia.gov/about/public-involvement/)

Tuesday, September 21, 2021, 7 p.m.

Thursday, September 23, 2021, 7 p.m.

For more information and to stay up to date on the study progress and upcoming public involvement opportunities visit our study website:  
[www.drpt.virginia.gov/transit/springfield-to-quantico/](http://www.drpt.virginia.gov/transit/springfield-to-quantico/)

DRPT is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of its services on the basis of race, color or national origin as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. DRPT will also provide reasonable accommodations and interpretive services for persons who require special assistance to participate in this public involvement opportunity as required by the ADA. For accommodations, additional information or to file a complaint, please contact our Title VI Compliance Officer at 804.786.4440, 600 E. Main Street, Suite 2202, Richmond, VA 23219 or visit our website at [www.drpt.virginia.gov](http://www.drpt.virginia.gov).

Foreign language and hearing impaired interpreter services will be provided with seven days advance notice upon request.

### Questions?

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# September Public Meetings

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## *Some Issues/Questions discussed:*

- What are assumptions about design/configuration of BRT option along Route 1 and Metrorail extensions (at-grade/elevated)?
- What actions can counties (especially Prince William County) take now with TOD/land use to make Metro a remote possibility in the future?
- Need for more direct connections to Town of Quantico
- Inclusion of VRE capacity improvements and ridership gains in the Baseline
- How were the alternatives selected?
- Have you looked at the Metrorail Blue Line option without the double back to Fort Belvoir?
- BRT can serve as a precursor to Metro. BRT stations should be in areas with not a lot of development so that it's footprint can accommodate adding Metro later and include adequate parking.



# Summary of Evaluation Results

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# Enhanced Public Transit is Needed Because...

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Existing transit does not **serve all trips well**

Transit services may need enhancements to support **future development**

Transit can improve **equity** by connecting low-income and minority populations to opportunities

Transit connections to key regional **activity centers**, such as Fort Belvoir and Quantico bases, are limited

**Traffic congestion** is severe and continuing to get worse

**Access to Transit Services** is reliant on park & ride or long walks to the bus

# Transit Alternatives Evaluated in the Study

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Metrorail – Blue Line Extension



Metrorail – Yellow Line Extension



Bus Rapid Transit

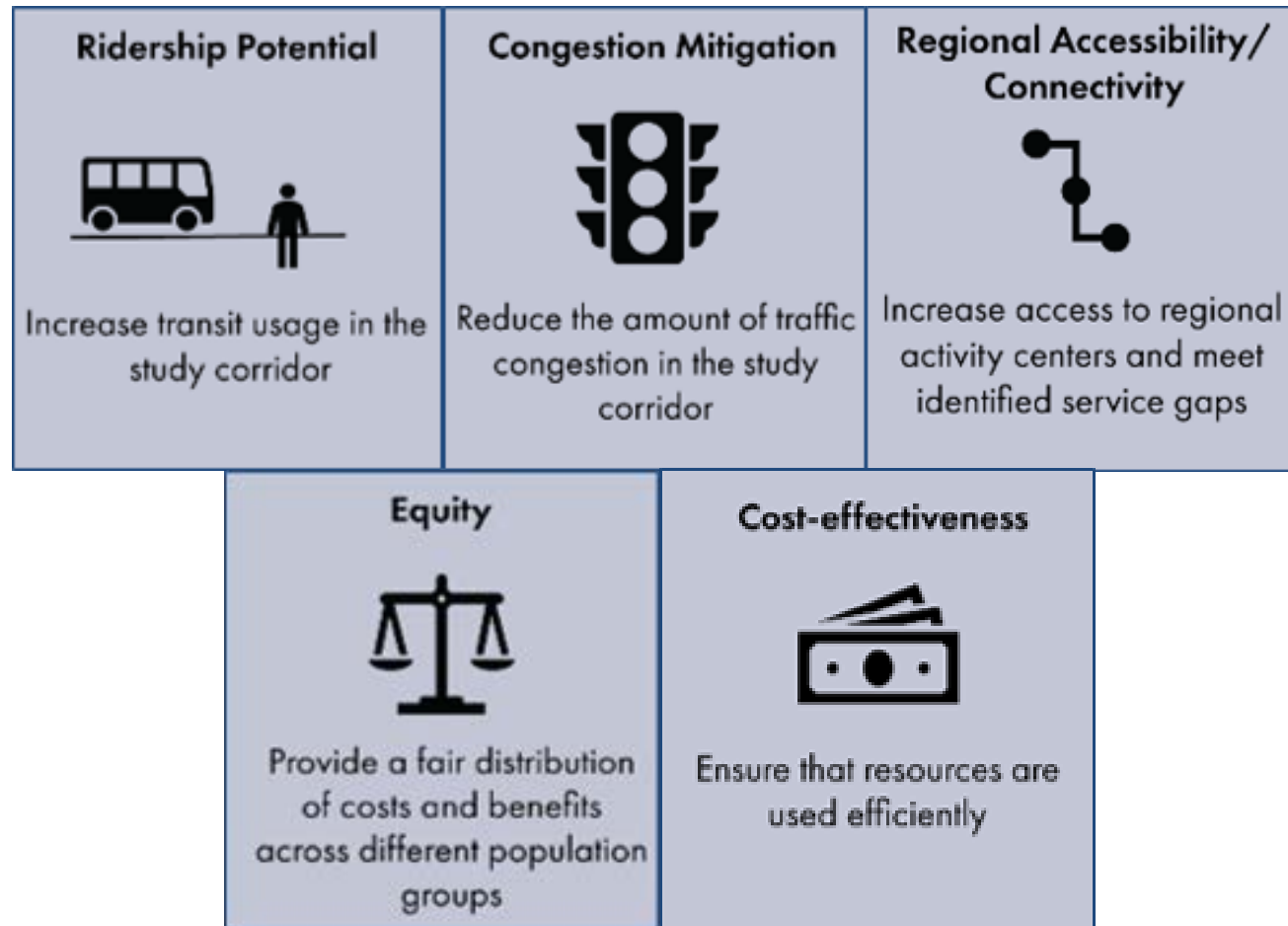


VRE Service Improvements

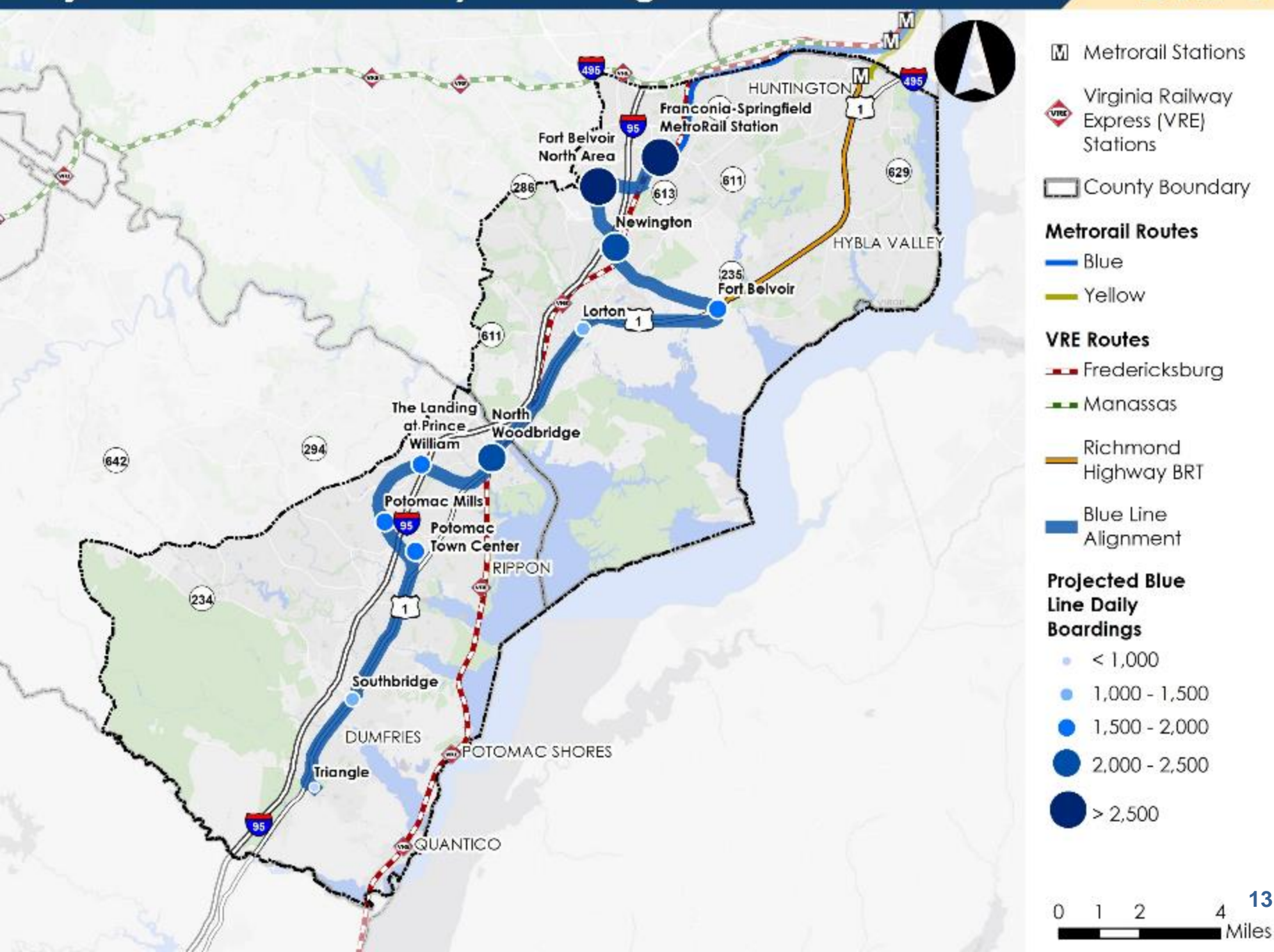


Express Bus Routes

# How are we evaluating feasibility?

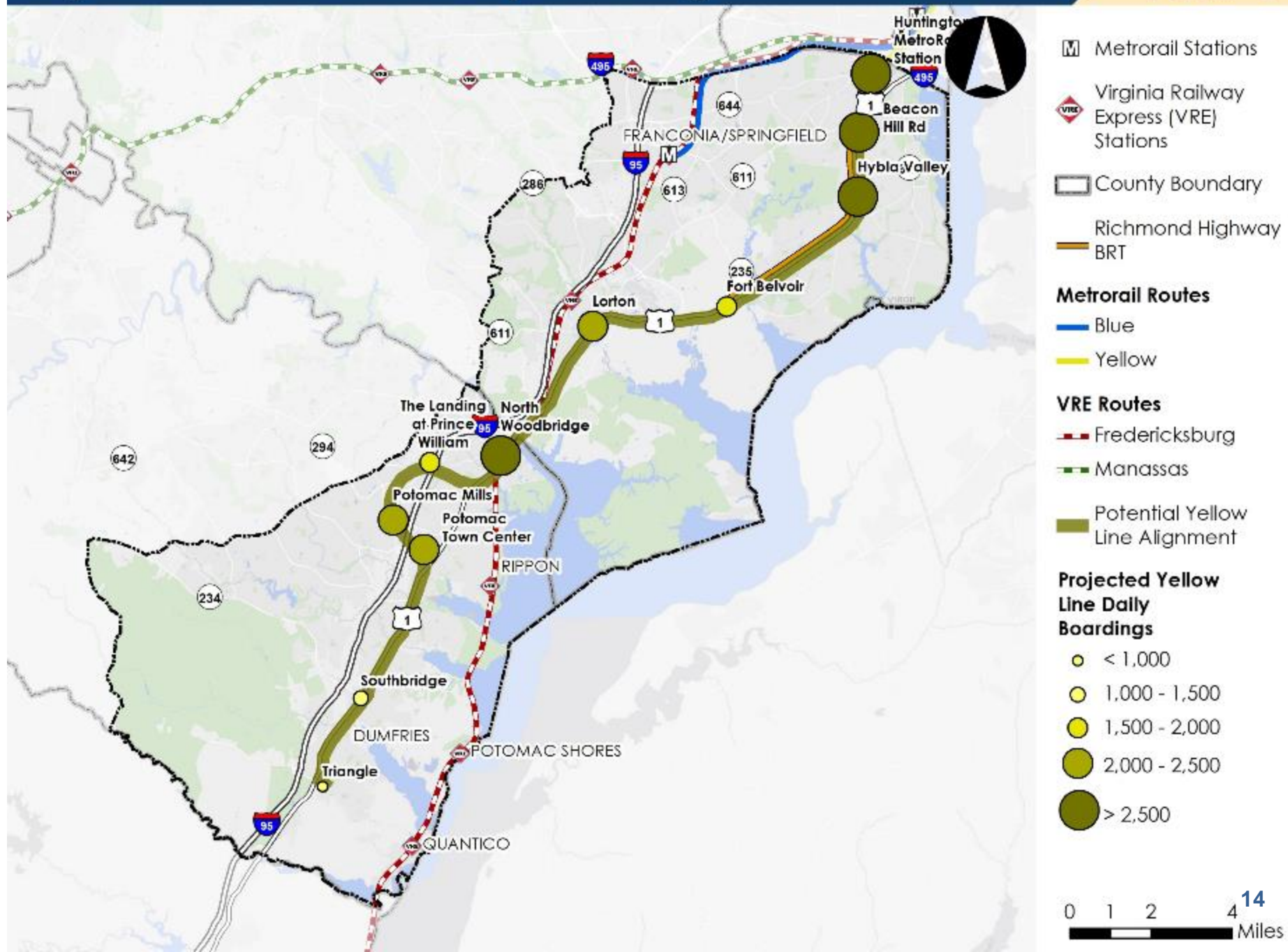


# Projected Blue Line Daily Boardings

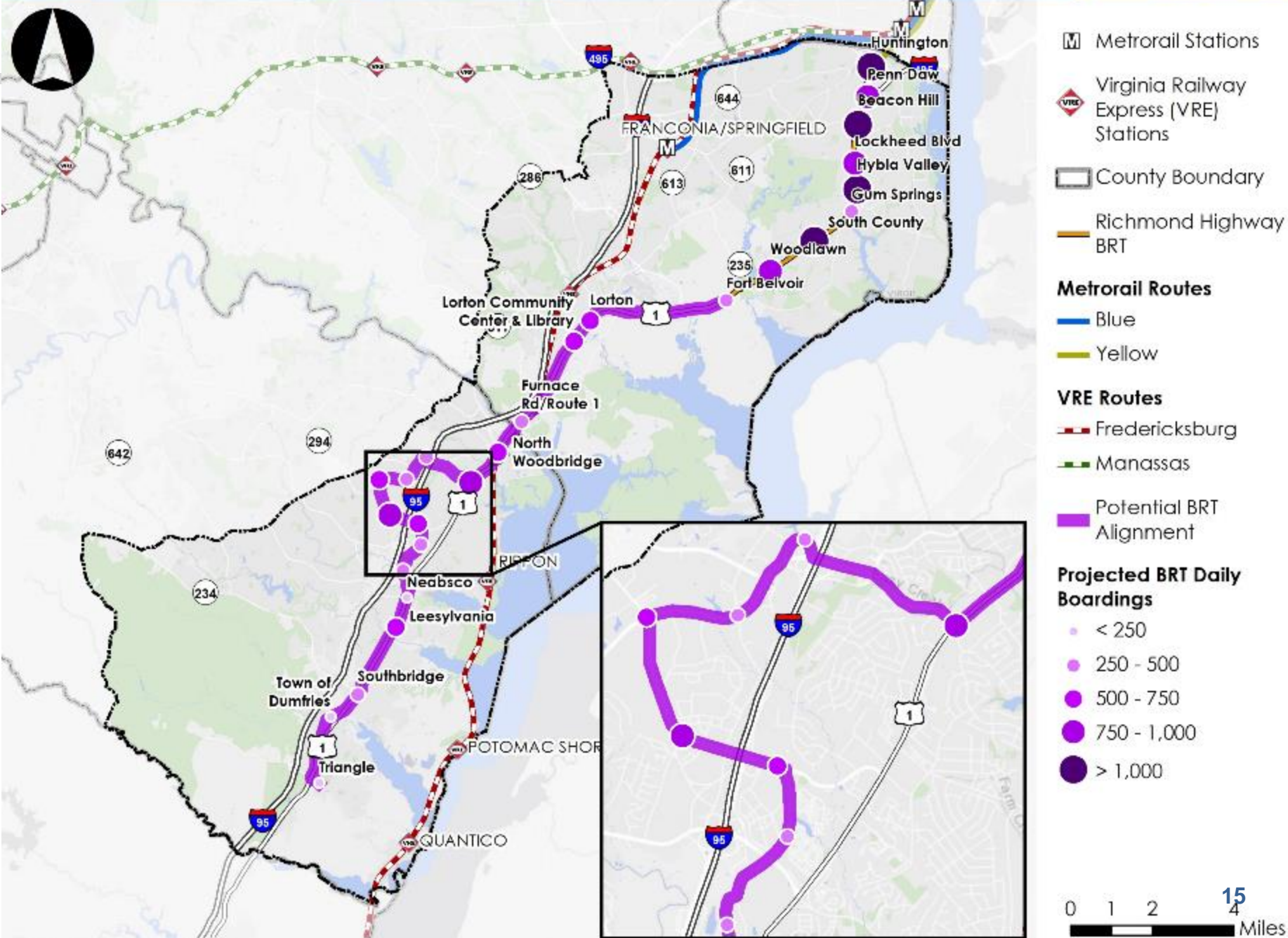




# Projected Yellow Line Daily Boardings



# Projected BRT Daily Boardings



# Summary of Evaluation Results

	Additional Express Bus	BRT Extension	Additional VRE Service*	Metrorail Blue	Metrorail Yellow
Ridership Potential	★★	★★★★	★★	★★★★	★★★★
Congestion Mitigation	★	★★	★	★★★★	★★★★
Regional Accessibility	★★	★★★★	★★	★★★★	★★★★
Equity	★	★★	★★	★★★★	★★★★
Cost-Effectiveness	★★★★	★★	★	★	★

\* Additional Service Above Transforming Rail in Virginia Improvements Included in Baseline

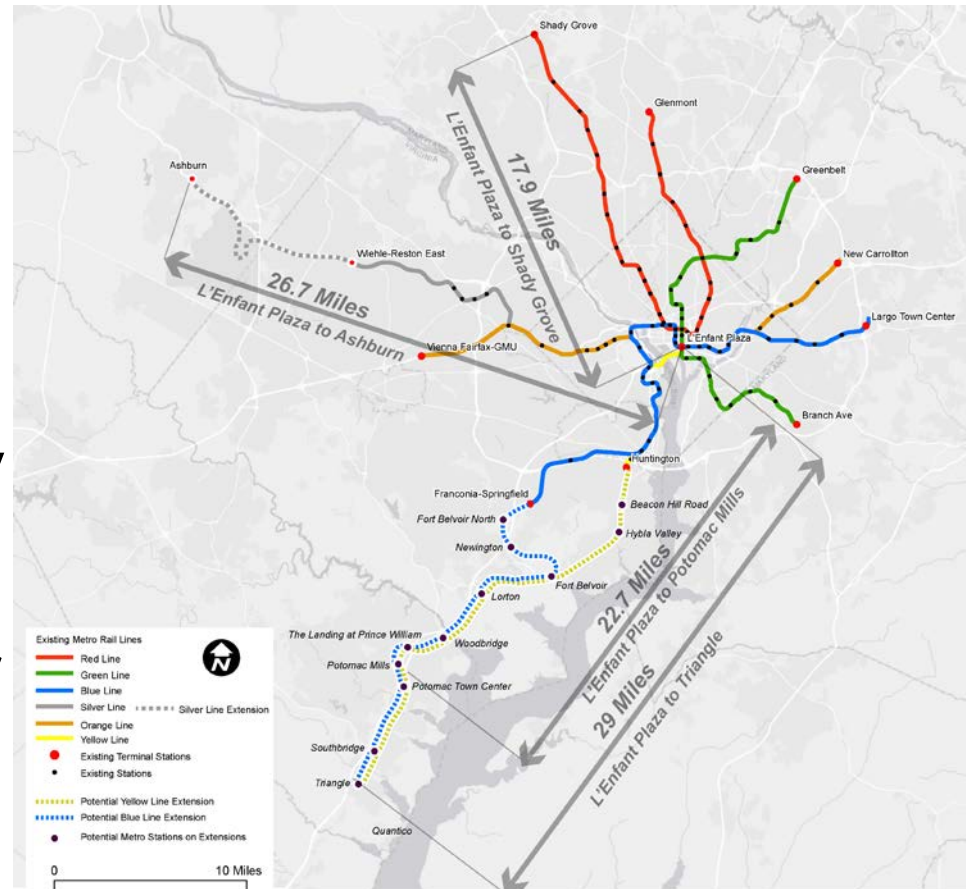


# Other Considerations for Metrorail Extensions

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# Other Considerations for Metrorail Extensions

- Metrorail extension would be a significant addition to the Metro system
- Core capacity needs must be addressed first
- Legal / governance implications of adding Prince William County to the Metro transit system
- Annual capital and operating budget subsidy contributions for Prince William County (and an increase for Fairfax County)



***L'Enfant Plaza to Triangle***  
***Track Length = 46 Miles (Blue)***  
***Track Length = 37 Miles (Yellow)***

# Review of Governance/Legal Impacts of Extension

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*Extending Metrorail Service to Prince William County has unique legal and governance ramifications.*

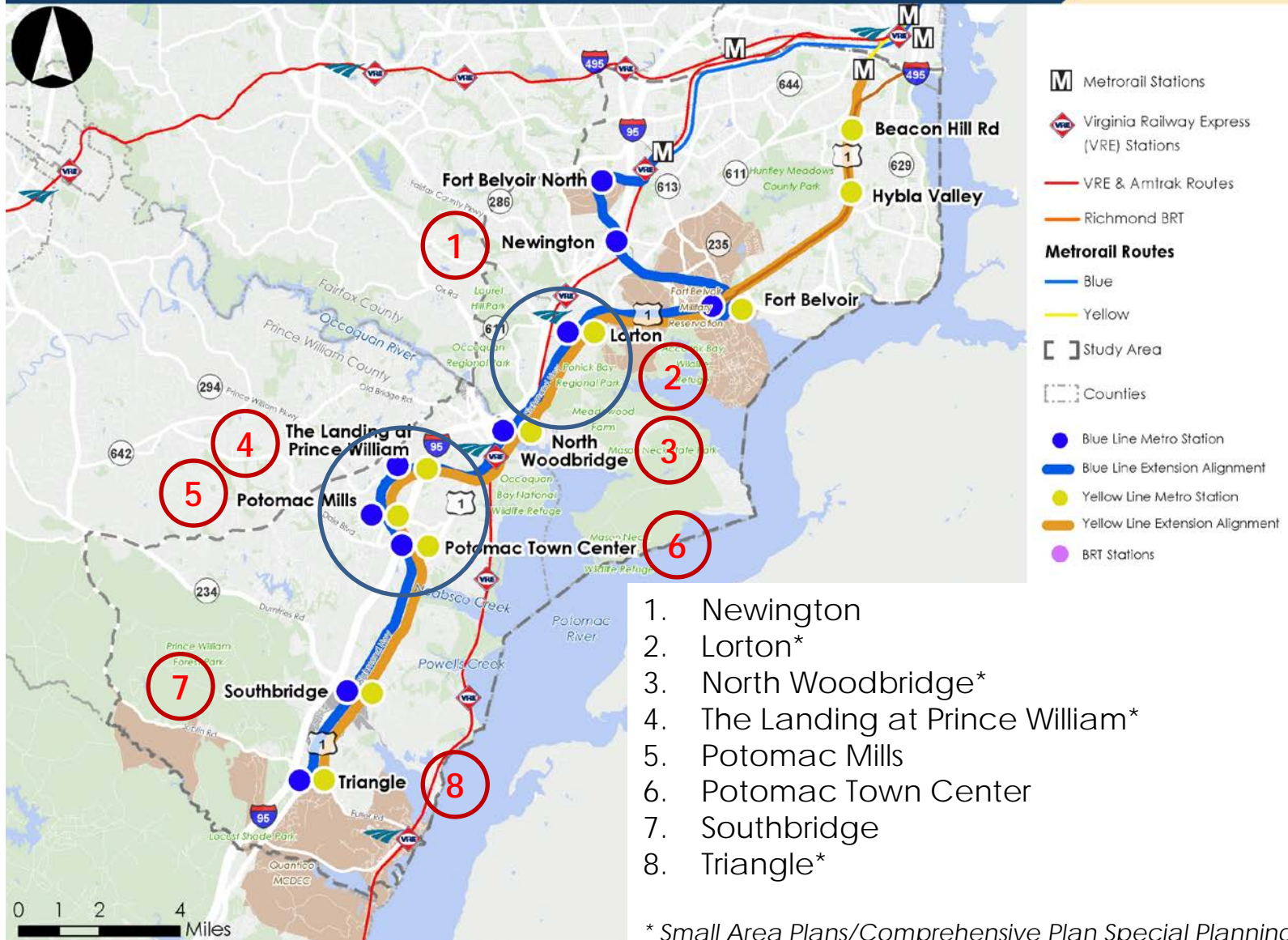
- Extending Metrorail service into PWC does not require amending the WMATA Compact. It does require PWC to become a member of the Northern Virginia Transportation District (District) and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Zone (Zone)
- Enlarging the District to include PWC - NVTC would control process by which the NOVA District is enlarged to include PWC, as well as PWC's obligations as they relate to NVTC members' responsibilities
- Enlarging the Zone to include PWC - NVTC would notify WMATA that the District has been enlarged, delivering the terms of PWC's financial commitment to Metro services as part of this notification, and the WMATA Board would need to approve
- Terms of service to be provided to PWC through WMATA to be negotiated
- PWC's financial commitments would extend beyond construction costs of extension to include share of annual operating and capital subsidy (by formula), annual obligations to Virginia's Metro Capital Fund, and other negotiated financial obligations
- Resolving impact on PRTC as a result of PWC membership in the NOVA District

# Land Use Sensitivity Test

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# Station Areas Considered for Additional Density

## Potential Metro Stations



# Land Use Impacts on Ridership

*Based on feedback from county review, land use test adjusted to remove increased residential development around Newington.*

## Key Sensitivity Results

*Change as compared to Initial Results*

	Residents Added to Station Areas	Jobs Added to Station Areas	Ridership Increase
Blue Line Alternative	116,000 (+69%)	59,000 (70%)	+50%
Yellow Line Alternative	118,000 (+76%)	56,000 (+102%)	+32%
BRT Alternative	134,000 (+80%)	45,000 (+53%)	+29%

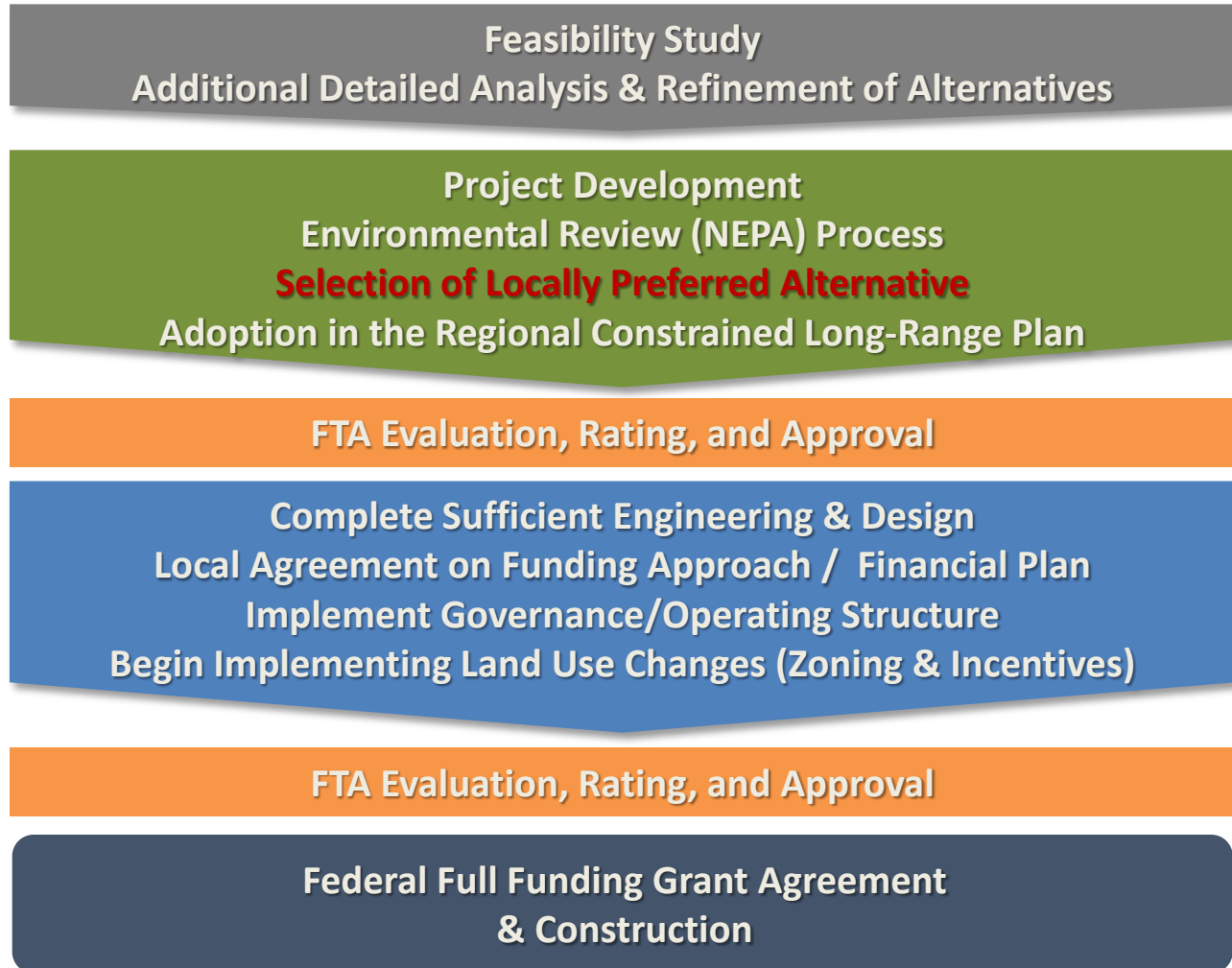
*\* Initial land use test had a Blue Line population increase of +96% and a ridership increase of +66%*

# Discussion & Meeting Wrap-Up

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# Corridor Feasibility Study is the 1<sup>st</sup> Step in Multi-Step Project Development Process\*





# Next Steps

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- Posting and review of study report
  - The draft report will be posted on the website  
<http://drpt.virginia.gov/transit/springfield-to-quantico/>
- Finalization and submittal of report to General Assembly