



2020 STATE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Antonio (Tony) Castañeda
TPB Transportation Planner

TPB Technical Committee
September 10, 2021



Presentation Items

- Purpose of the 2020 State of Public Transportation (SOPT) report
- Sections
- 2019 National Transit Database (NTD) Data
- Highlights from 2020



Purpose of the 2020 SOPT report

- The purpose of the report is to provide a snapshot of public transportation activities in the region
- The focus is on the accomplishments in the region during the calendar year 2020
- The report includes 2019 transit ridership and financial data taken from the 2019 National Transit Database
- Accomplishments, plans, and studies come from TPB RPTS meetings & input from organizational representatives



Sections of the report

Part I: COVID-19's Impact on Public Transportation

- Overview of health, safety impacts and responses from service providers and ridership levels through end of 2020

Part II: Fixed Route Transit Services

- Profile sheets provide overview of ridership, operational expenses, revenue sources, recent accomplishments and system characteristics

Part III: Other Public Transit Services

- Overview of additional transit services such as paratransit and commuter services and their recent accomplishments

Part IV: Regional Public Transportation Organizations

- Information on organizations that operate, provide research or project development for public transportation

Part V: Public Transportation Accomplishments

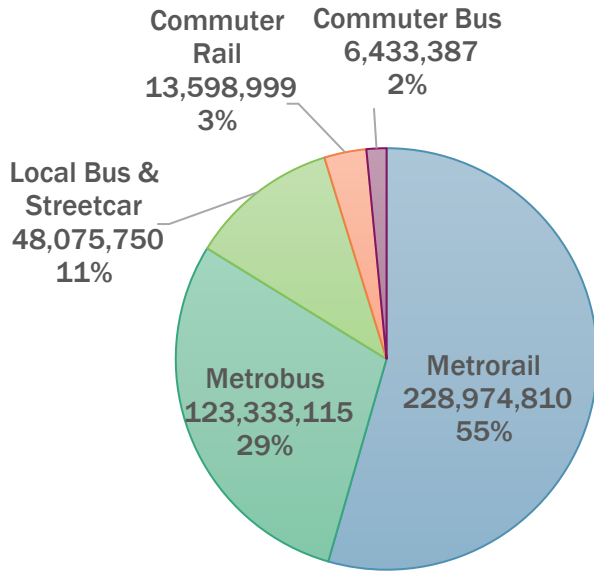
- Major studies planned, in progress or completed and significant operational achievements occurring during CY 2020 by service provider

Part VI: Transportation Planning Board

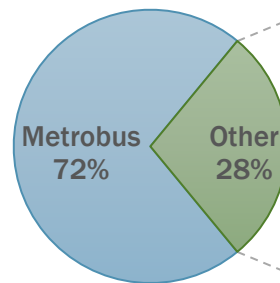
- Overview of how the TPB assists with regional public transportation including RPTS, PBPP and Visualize 2045



2019 NTD Data NCR Overview



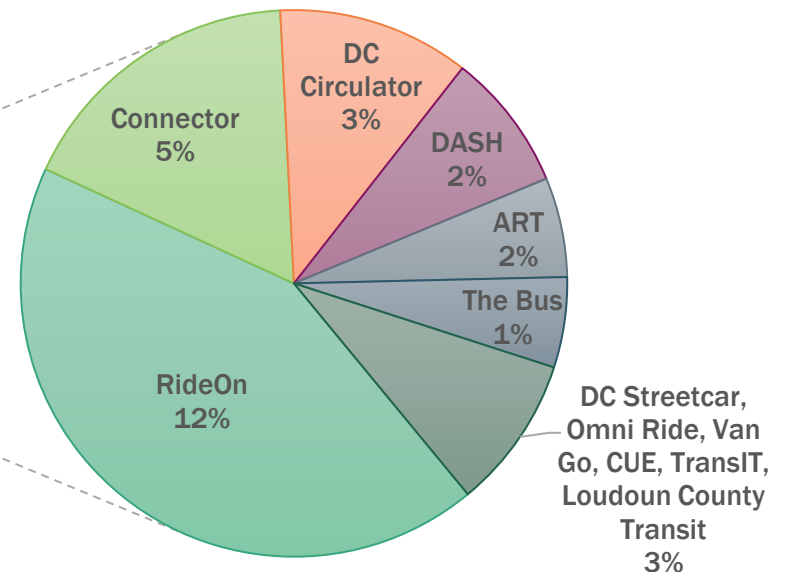
- 28% of bus trips occurred on local bus



- Over **420 MILLION UNLINKED PASSENGER TRIPS** in 2019*

*MARC and MTA Commuter Bus imputed for NCR

- **OVER 40%** of trips in the region occurred by **BUS**



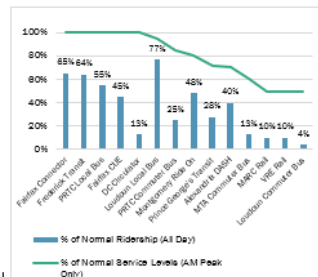
Review of the 2020 SOPTR

PART I – COVID-19 & IMPACTS ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Overview

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and throughout 2020 local transit services in the National Capital Region were faced with new pressures operationally, financially and politically to adapt to a new normal of decreasing ridership, loss of peak travel demand and related fare revenue losses as a result of stay-at-home orders and work from home policies implemented across many employers. Simultaneously, service providers quickly adapted to the new public health protocols mandated across levels of government, to protect the health and safety of riders and operators. Through these new pressures, many of our local service providers quickly shifted priorities and service levels to balance short- and long-term needs while finding innovative ways to ensure the region's transportation networks remain operational for our transit dependent workers unable to telework. A few measures taken by local service providers across 2020 included suspension of fare collection and allowed or mandated rear-door boarding, implementation of social distancing requirements on vehicles, installation of physical barriers between riders and operators, and increased cleaning frequencies of fleets to reduce or prevent the spread of the virus. More detailed policies and strategies can be found below for each service provider in the region.

Figure 3 - Percentages of Normal Transit Ridership and Service Levels Reported by Selected Transit Providers As of December 1, 2020



Source: SOPTR Questionnaire and online review of service providers' COVID-19 policies.

Figure 4 - Overview of COVID-19 responses by Service Provider in the NCR

AGENCY	SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS	REDUCED SERVICE	SUSPENDED FARE COLLECTION	OPERATOR BARRIERS	REAR DOOR BOARDING	INCREASED PASSENGER COMMUNICATIONS
WMATA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
DASH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
DDOT	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CUE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Connector	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Frederick County	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
VanGO	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ride On	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
The Bus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PRTC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
VRE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Total	100%	82%	82%	N/A	70%	64%

Source: SOPTR Questionnaire and online review of service providers' COVID-19 policies.

PART VI: TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD ACTIVITIES

PART V - PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS MAJOR STUDIES COMPLETED AND LIST OF STUDIES IN PROGRESS

PART IV - REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATIONS

PART III - OTHER PUBLIC TRANSIT SERVICES - OVERVIEW

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF

PART II - FIXED ROUTE PUBLIC TRANSIT SERVICES PROFILE SHEETS

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY (WMATA) METROBUS
<https://www.wmata.com>



Overview

Metrobus provides more than 400,000 trips each weekday serving 11,500 bus stops in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. Metrobus is the sixth busiest bus agency in the United States, with a fleet of more than 1,500 buses.

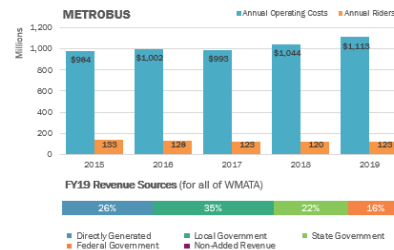
Recent Accomplishments

- Newly updated Metrobus Service Guidelines create a clear and formalized approach to service and budget decisions, assist in the provision of more equitable service, incorporate customer experiences, and align Metrobus with peers locally and nationally. The service guidelines were the first recommendation from the Bus Transformation Project.
- Worked closely with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) on a number of bus priority projects, including the expansion of bus priority lanes (red painted lanes), testing of Transit Signal Prioritization (TSP) software with the District, and advanced TSP implementation programs. The agency also identified additional bus Queue Jump locations for the District and agreed to coordinate a deployment schedule.

System Characteristics

Vehicle Fleet: 1558 Buses, 319 Routes, 14 Maintenance Facilities
Service Type: Fixed Route

Provider Data



Highlights: Part I – COVID-19 & Transit

We **R here to get you there.**

New systems for safer rides.
Frequent Cleaning • Face Coverings Required • Social Distancing

MCDOT Learn more at rideonbus.com **Ride On**

We **R focused on your safety.**

New systems for safer rides includes social distancing with limited bus capacity.



MCDOT Learn more at rideonbus.com **Ride On**

We **R focused on your safety.**

New systems for safer rides includes frequent cleaning of buses.



MCDOT Learn more at rideonbus.com **Ride On**

ALL DASH PASSENGERS ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A FACE COVERING

Mask Up. Stay Safe. Stop the Spread.



ALEXANDRIA TRANSIT COMPANY
DASH

Your Ride, Our Priority
How DC Circulator helps you stay safe while riding.



- KEEP YOUR DISTANCE**
Stay at least six feet from other riders and the driver when possible.
- WEAR A MASK**
Wear face your mask off face covering covers your mouth and nose for the entire ride.
- WASH YOUR HANDS**
Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- DON'T TOUCH YOUR FACE**
Avoid touching your face, especially your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- STAY HOME**
If you feel sick or are showing symptoms, please do not take DC Circulator.
- USE CONTACTLESS PAY**
Use contactless pay for the least interaction and the healthiest option is to use the DC Circulator.

circulator **DC METRO**

HIGHLIGHTS

- Mar – Aug 2020, Metro implemented A/B Scheduling
- Mar 2020, Ride On implemented Essential Service Plan
- Ride On expanded Call-n-Ride service to allow taxis to deliver essential goods

AGENCY	SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS	REDUCED SERVICE	SUSPENDED FARE COLLECTION	OPERATOR BARRIERS	REAR DOOR BOARDING	INCREASED PASSENGER COMMUNICATIONS
WMATA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
DASH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
DDOT	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CUE	✓				✓	✓
Connector	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Frederick County	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
VanGO	✓					
Ride On	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
The Bus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
PRTC	✓	✓	✓	*✓	***	✓
VRE	✓			N/A		✓
Total	100%	82%	82%	80%	73%	55%

* PRTC has operator barriers on all local buses and is currently testing barriers on commuter buses.

**PRTC's three buses with rear doors allowed rear-door boarding

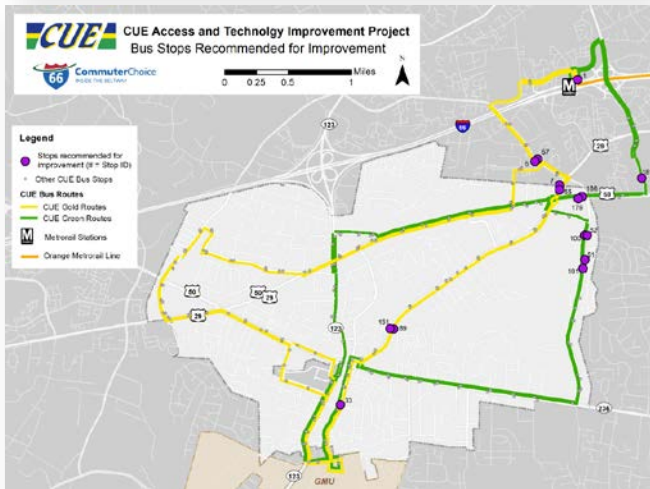
Source: SOPTR Questionnaire and online review of service providers' COVID-19 policies.



Highlights: Part II – Agency Profile Sheets

Touch less. Do more.

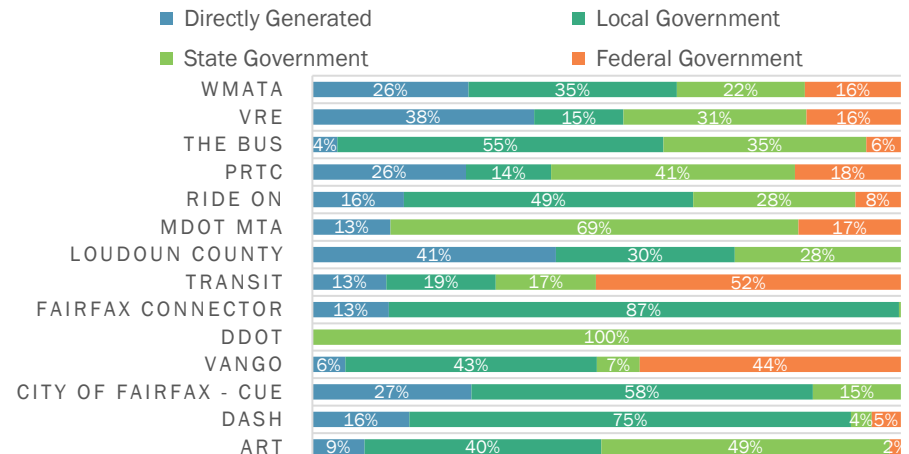
Everything you need to ride, right on your phone. Available for iOS and Android.



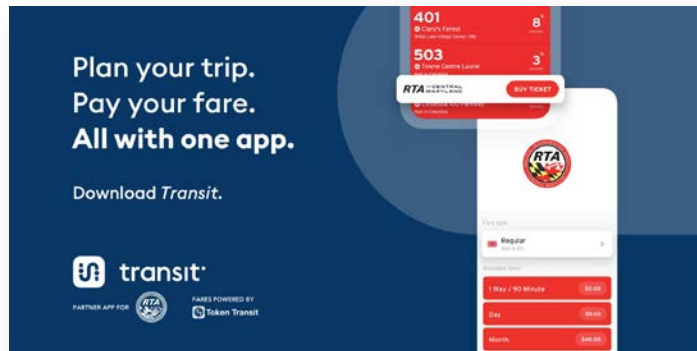
HIGHLIGHTS

- App / App integration improvements
- New Routes & Service Changes
- Capital Improvements
- Electric Buses

NCR TRANSIT SERVICE PROVIDERS' FY19 REVENUE SOURCES



Highlights of Part III – Other Public Transit



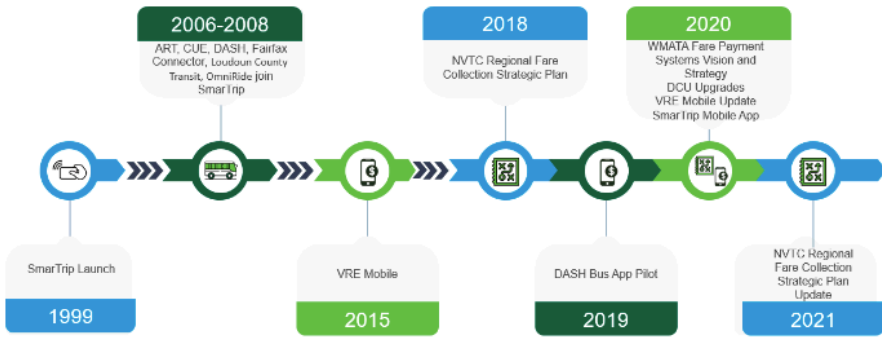
HIGHLIGHTS

- Specialized Transit for Arlington Residents (STAR) ‘Stuff the Bus’ Event
- First batch of MARC overhauled railcars entered revenue service in 2020
- RTA Central Maryland introduced free transfers and fare capping across its system



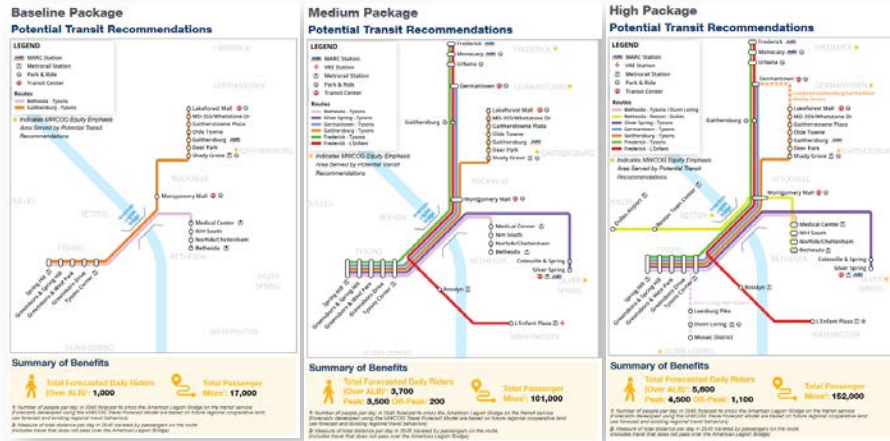
Highlights of Part IV – Regional Orgs

Figure 1: Fare Collection History



HIGHLIGHTS

- NVTC 2020 Updates to Northern Virginia Regional Fare Collection Strategic Plan
- NVTA FY20-25 Six-Year Program & CMAQ/RSTP Allocations
- I-495 American Legion Bridge Transit / TDM Study (DRPT / MDOT MTA)



Highlights of Part V – Major Accomplishments

BL OR SV STUDY PROCESS & TIMELINE

Stakeholders and the public will be actively engaged in helping to identify and evaluate potential alternatives, as well as in selecting a Locally Preferred Alternative. The process will be guided by input from both internal and external advisory committees.

2019
 SPRING: PURPOSE & NEED
 SUMMER: ALTERNATIVES DEVELOPMENT
 FALL: ALTERNATIVES EVALUATION
2020
 WINTER: COST / BENEFIT ANALYSIS
 SPRING / SUMMER: SELECTION OF PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

STUDY AREA

LEGEND

- Metro Blue Line (Partial)
- Metro Orange Line
- Metro Silver Line
- Metro Silver Line Phase 2 (Future)
- Study Area (2-mile Buffer)

WHAT IS AN ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS?

An Alternatives Analysis is a process for evaluating the costs, benefits, and impacts of transportation improvements along a transit corridor. This process accomplishes the following:

- A thorough evaluation of Metro's needs and opportunities;
- A range of options for addressing those needs;
- A high level of stakeholder and public engagement;
- The selection of a locally-preferred alternative (LPA); and
- The necessary documentation to apply for federal transportation funds.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

E-mail the Office of Planning at BOStudy@wmata.com with general questions about the study.

Visit our project webpage at wmata.com/BOStudy for ongoing updates, feedback opportunities, and to sign up to receive updates on the project.

County of Fairfax, Virginia

Franconia – Springfield Bus Service Plan

Michael Felschow / Hejun Kang
 Fairfax County Department of Transportation

Virtual Public Meetings
 September 28, 2020

Bus Priority Program Toolbox

MARCH 2021

1.1 GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 D. MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

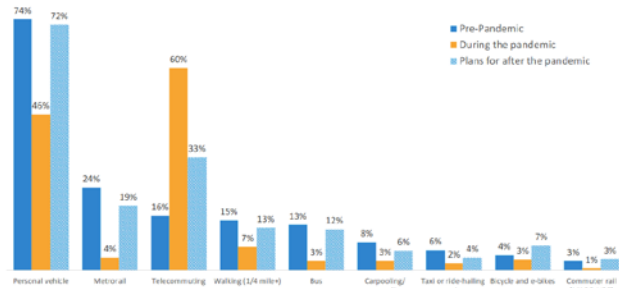
HIGHLIGHTS OF STUDIES

- Blue/Orange/Silver Line Corridor Reliability and Capacity Study
- Franconia/Herndon-Reston areas Route Optimization Studies
- DDOT Bus Priority Toolbox

Highlights of Part VI – TPB Activities

Mode usage for commuting at least 1/week: Before, during, after COVID

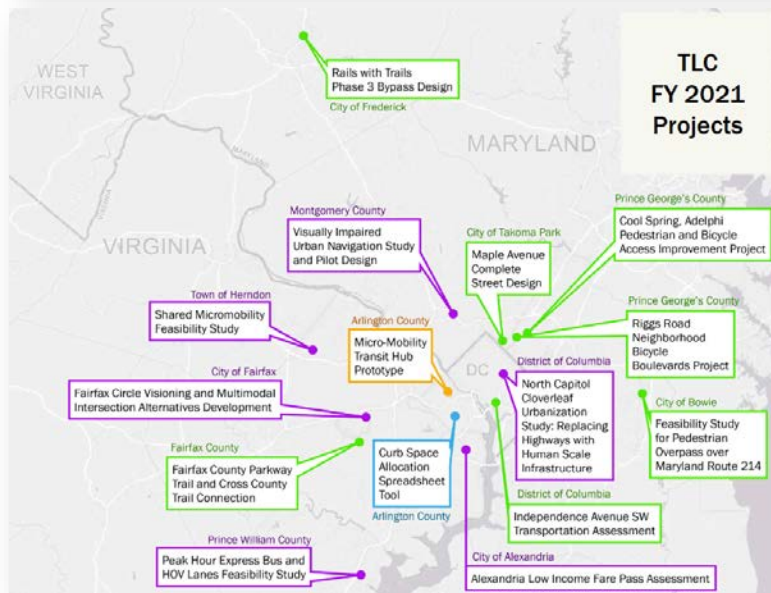
SIQ17/SIQ18. Before/During the COVID-19 pandemic, how did you commute/are you commuting to work or school? Select all modes of transportation that you use/used at least once a week. SIQ19. How do you expect to commute to work or school one year after the COVID-19 pandemic is over? Select all modes of transportation that you expect to use at least once a week.



* 5% of respondents do not know what their plans are for after the pandemic

n = 1,711

11



TLC FY 2021 Projects

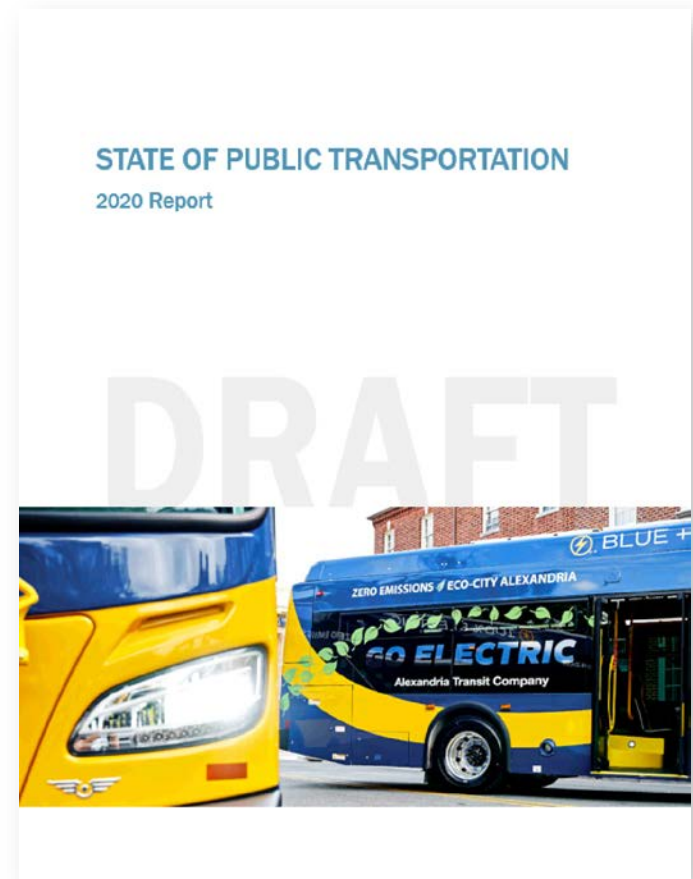
HIGHLIGHTS

- Visualize2045 - Voice of the Region Survey began
- RPTS BEB 2020 Roundtable Discussion
- MWCOG TLC Grants
- MWCOG TAFE Study



Next Steps

- Comments on draft report welcome through Sep. 24
- Final report will be discussed at Sep. 28 RPTS meeting
- Report finalized on Oct. 1 & published on MWCOG website



Antonio Castañeda

Transportation Planner II
acastaneda@mwkog.org

mwkog.org/TPB

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002



National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board