



# 2020 STATE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION REPORT

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TPB Transportation Planner

**TPB Community Advisory Committee**  
**September 16, 2021**



# Presentation Items

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- 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

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- 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**

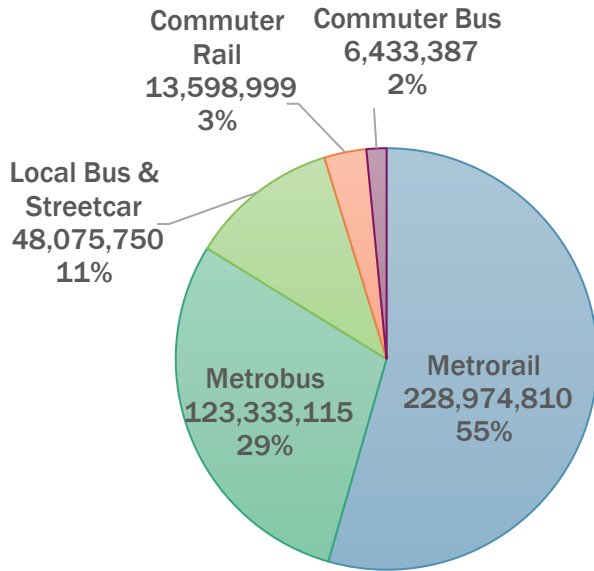
- Major studies planned, in progress or completed and significant operational achievements occurring during CY 2020 by service provider

## **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

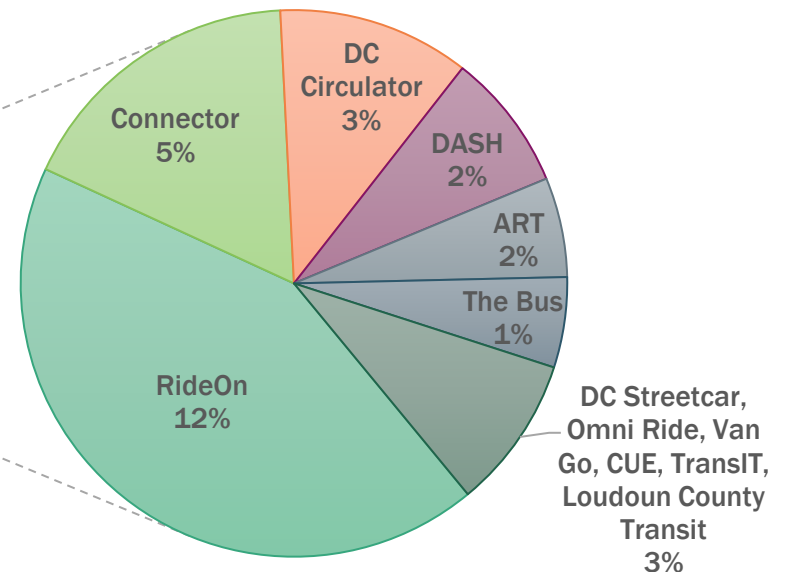
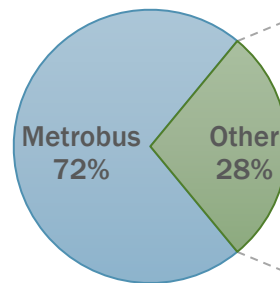


- Over **420 MILLION UNLINKED PASSENGER TRIPS** in 2019\*

\*MARC and MTA Commuter Bus imputed for NCR

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

- 28% of bus trips occurred on local bus



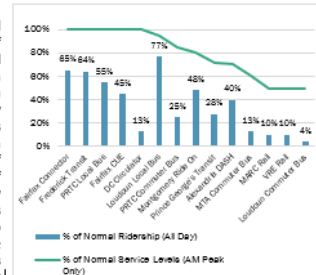
# Review of the 2020 SOPTR

## 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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>55%</b>

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>



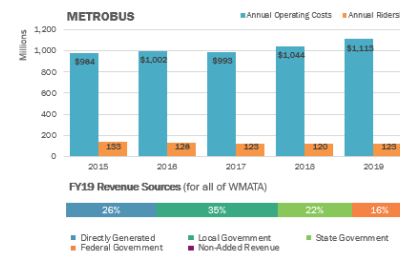
Overview  
Metrobus provides more than 400,000 trips each weekday serving 11,500 bus stops in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. Metrobus is the sixth busiest bus agency in the United States, with a fleet of more than 1,500 buses.

#### 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](http://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](http://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](http://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**  
Wash or your mask or face covering covers your mouth and nose for the entire trip.
- SANITIZE YOUR HANDS**  
Carry hand sanitizer and wash your hands immediately at your destination.
- DON'T TOUCH YOUR FACE**  
Avoid when you are not fighting with your mask or touching your face.
- STAY HOME**  
If you feel sick or are showing symptoms, please do not ride DC Circulator.
- Visit [coronavirusdc.gov](http://coronavirusdc.gov) for the latest information about the health crisis COVID-19 in the District.**

**Circulator** 

## 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

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VanGO	✓					
Ride On	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
The Bus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
PRTC	✓	✓	✓	*✓	**✓	✓
VRE	✓	✓		N/A		✓
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>55%</b>

\* 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

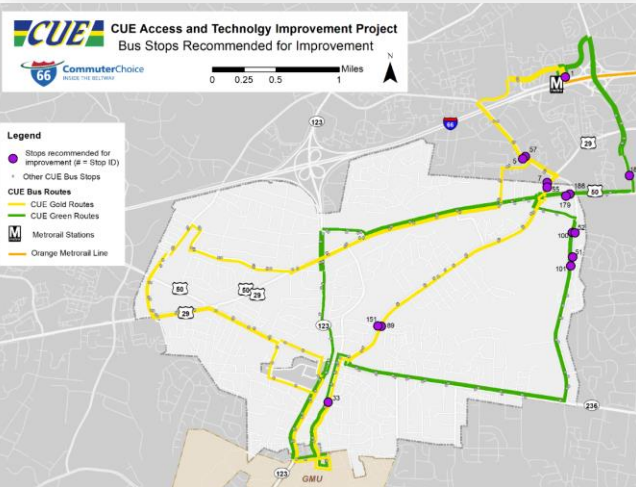
Source: SOPTR Questionnaire and online review of service providers' COVID-19 policies.



# Highlights: Part II – Agency Profile Sheets

Touch less. Do more.

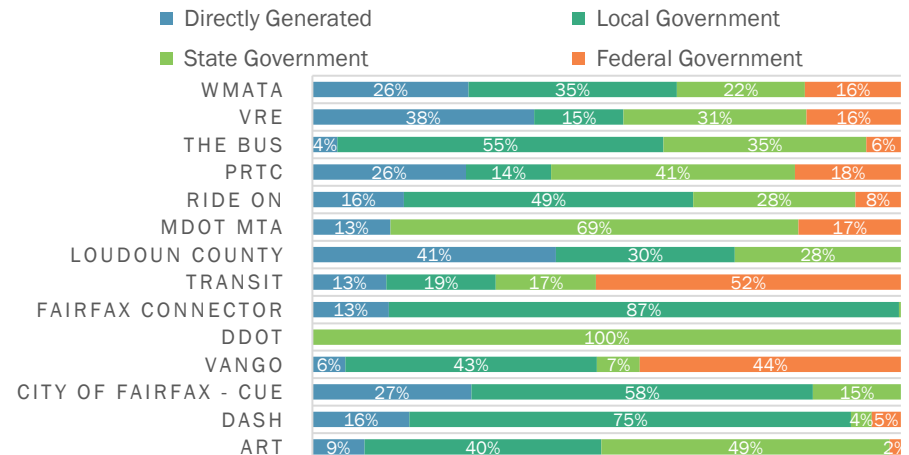
Everything you need to ride, right on your phone. Available for iOS and Android.



## HIGHLIGHTS

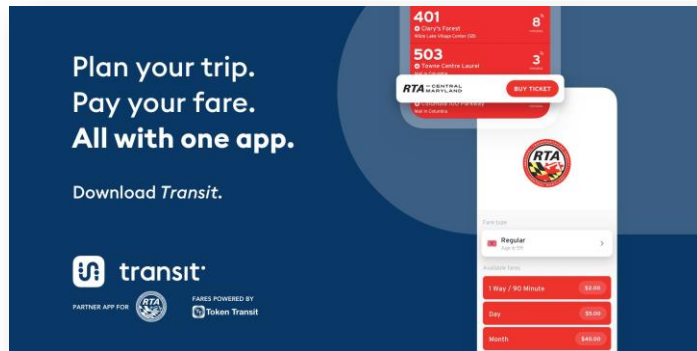
- App / App integration improvements
- New Routes & Service Changes
- Capital Improvements
- Electric Buses

## NCR TRANSIT SERVICE PROVIDERS' FY19 REVENUE SOURCES





# Highlights of Part III – Other Public Transit



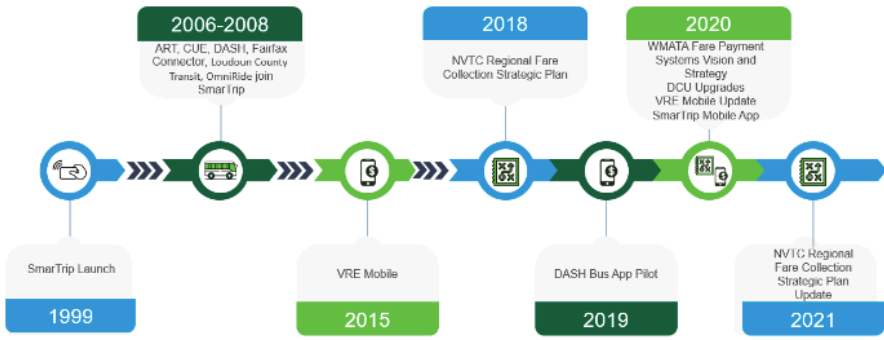
## HIGHLIGHTS

- 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



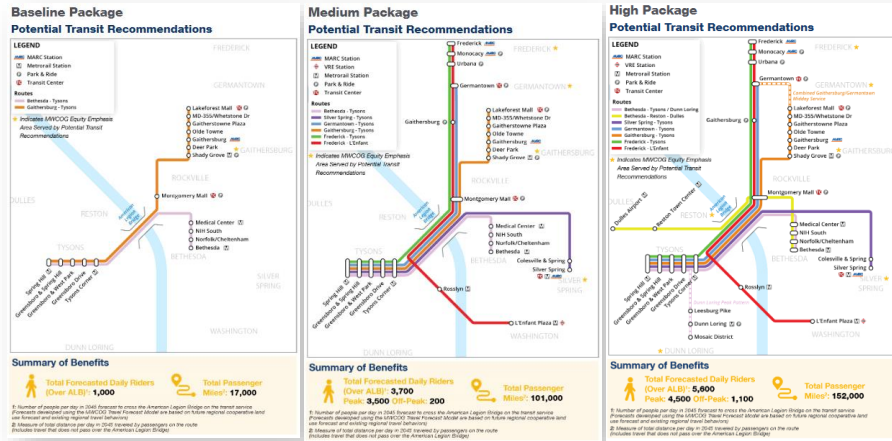
# Highlights of Part IV – Regional Orgs

Figure 1: Fare Collection History

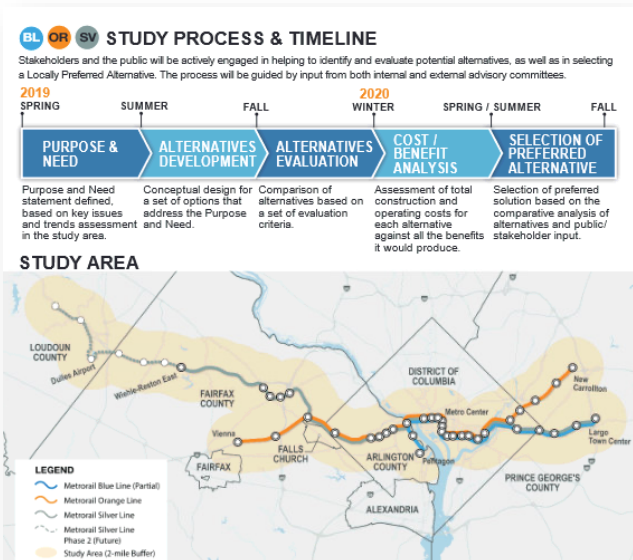


## HIGHLIGHTS

- 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



**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 [BOSSstudy@wmata.com](mailto:BOSSstudy@wmata.com) with general questions about the study.

Visit our project webpage at [wmata.com/BOSSstudy](http://wmata.com/BOSSstudy) 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

DC GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DC 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
- PGC Link

**PRINCE GEORGE'S LINK**

**Your New Way to Ride!**

Prince George's County is introducing a local, affordable, and convenient transportation option in Southern Prince George's County. This is a pilot program providing on-demand, curb-to-curb ridesharing service in a designated zone.

**Reserve. Ride. Repeat.**

- Monday – Saturday, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- To reserve your ride, get the Transloc app
- Scan the QR code, download the app or call 301-324-2877
- Pay through the app
- **ONLY \$2.00 PER RIDE**

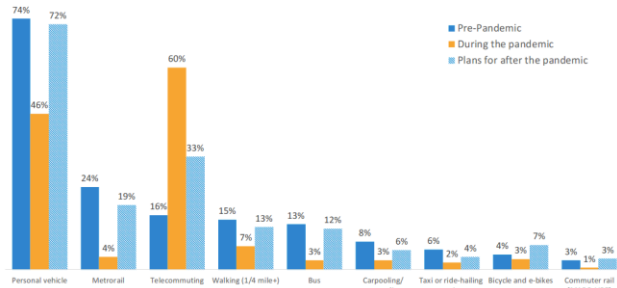
Scan QR Code

Or go to: [mypgc.us/pgclink](http://mypgc.us/pgclink)

# Highlights of Part VI – TPB Activities

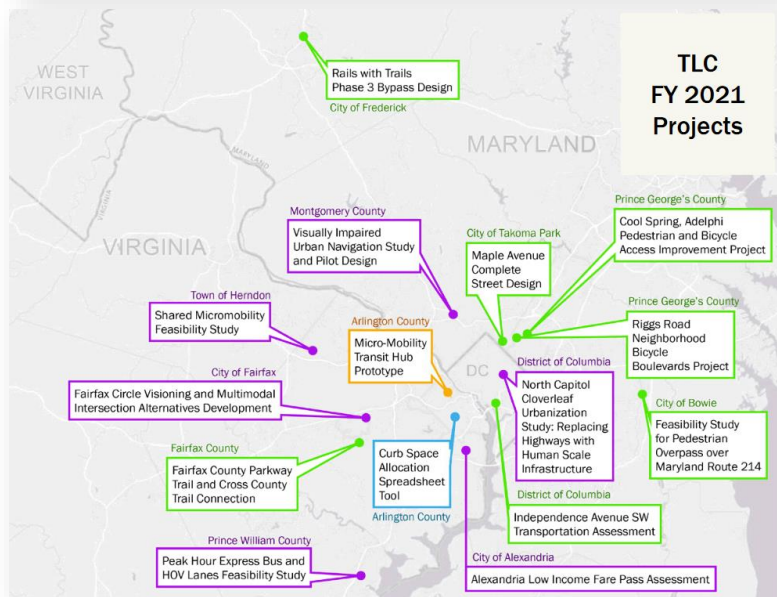
## Mode usage for commuting at least 1/week: Before, during, after COVID

**S1Q17/S1Q18** 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/ use at least once a week.  
**S1Q19** 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



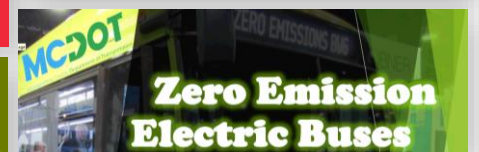
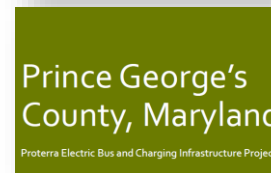
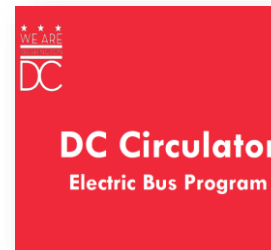
\* 5% of respondents do not know what their plans are for after the pandemic

n = 1,711



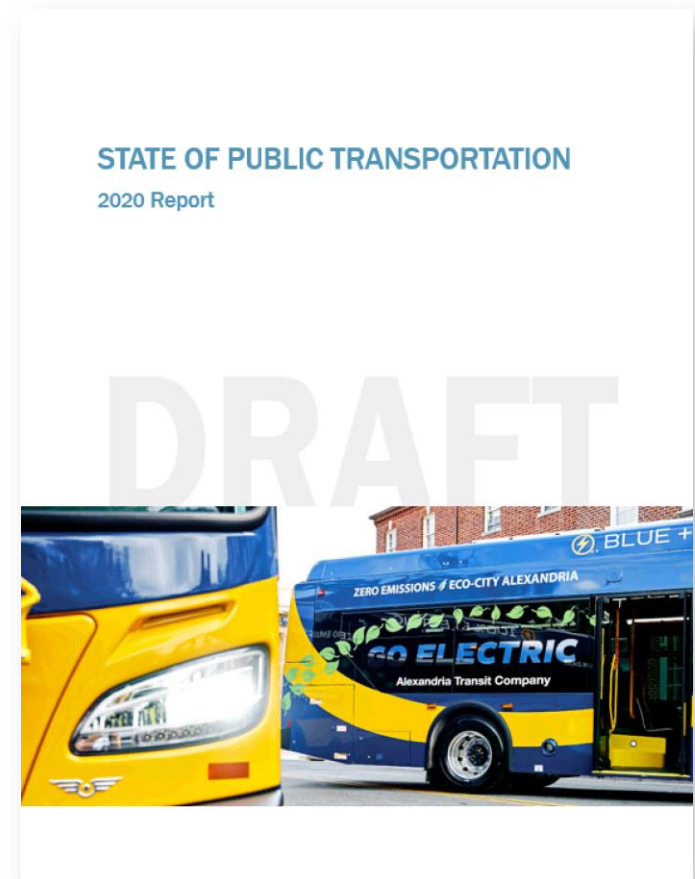
## HIGHLIGHTS

- 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



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National Capital Region  
**Transportation Planning Board**