Slide 1: Ride On Reimagined: Montgomery County’s Comprehensive Bus Network Study

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Access for All Advisory Committee

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Slide 2: What is Ride On Reimagined?

* In-depth look at Montgomery County’s entire existing and planned transit system
* Recommend systemwide (Ride On and Metrobus) changes addressing current and future needs of the community
* Tool to address County priorities to improve racial equity and prevent climate change

Slide 3: Lesson Learned: It Really Does Take This Long

* Part I: Assessment
* March 2022 – December 2022
* The slide includes a graphic that shows the network redesign schedule.
	+ Goals and Outcomes from March 2022 – July 2022
	+ Existing Conditions Analysis from March 2022 – November 2022
	+ Service Standard, Policies, and Guidelines from May 2022 – December 2022
	+ Bus Network Assessment from February 2022 – December 2022
	+ Stakeholder and Public Engagement from February 2022 – December 2022

Slide 4: Project Schedule

* Part II: Service Design and Concepts
* December 2022 – January 2024
* Service Concepts and Recommendations from December 2022 – September 2023
* Service and Implementation Plan from October 2023 – January 2024
* Stakeholder and Public Engagement from December 2022 – January 2024
* We are currently in March 2023.

Slide 5: Lessons Learned: Remember Your Goals

* Safety and Vision Zero
	+ 1-1: Enhance Pedestrian and Rider Safety
	+ 1-2: Improve Bus Operations Safety
* Environment and Climate Resiliency
	+ 2-1: Shift Mode Share from Auto to Bus
	+ 2-2: Position Transit as the First Choice in Montgomery County
	+ 2-3: Plan Network to Meet Environmental Goals
	+ 2-4: Promote an Ongoing Evaluation of the Network
* Economic Development and Equitable Access
	+ 3-1: Increase Access and Connections for All Users
	+ 3-2: Implement Targeted Equity Actions
	+ 3-4: Improve Passenger Experience

Slide 6: Lessons Learned: Focus Groups Help Read into Data

* Two rounds of sessions covering five areas
* Participants include riders and non-riders
* First round of sessions, “Connect the Dots” exercise, completed Jan. 19
* The slide includes an image of the five areas of the county represented in the focus groups

Slide 7: Focus Groups: What We Heard

* Additional/improved connections between Downcounty and Upcounty
* Better connections between Transit Hubs and through service
* More seasonal connections to recreational and cultural facilities
* Better connections to neighborhood destinations like retail centers and schools
* Better connections to regional facilities like hospitals and BWI
* The slide includes two maps of the current bus network with average boarding and alighting data.

Slide 8: Focus Groups: What We Heard (Cont’d)

* Additional express service supplemented by last mile/local connections to Flex service
* Implement special service around events
* Expand Flash service in the northwest portion of the County
* Transfers need to be designed to be better synched between routes
* Expand span of service to accommodate shift workers (i.e., hospital staff, retail workers, etc.)
* The slide includes three maps of the current bus network with average boarding and alighting data.

Slide 9: Building Up to a Network Concept

* Ridership and transit propensity
* High ridership corridors
* County’s BRT (& LRT) corridors
* Customer survey requested locations
* Focus group suggestions
* This slide includes a map of the bus network in Montgomery County.

Slide 10: Existing Ridership & Transit Propensity

* This slide includes a map of existing ridership and transit propensity data.
* Blue squares and yellow diamonds indicate average weekday ridership by stop
* Darker blue shading indicates likely need for transit with limited or no current service.

Slide 11: + Higher Ridership Corridors

* This slide includes a map of high ridership corridors transposed on the existing ridership and transit propensity data.
* Lines indicate potential links between higher ridership stops and areas of likelihood of use

Slide 12: + BRT Corridors and Purple Line

* This slide includes a map of planned Flash (BRT) routes and the Purple Line on the existing ridership, transit propensity, and higher ridership corridors data.
* Planned Flash routes and the Purple Line form the base of a revised network

Slide 13: + Customer Survey Requested Points

* This slide includes a map of customer survey requested points, along with the planned BRT routes, the Purple Line, transit propensity, and higher ridership corridor data.
* Customers identified over 300 locations where they would like new/additional service.

Slide 14: + Focus Group Suggestions

* This slide includes a map of focus group suggestions along with the customer survey requested points, planned BRT corridors and the Purple Line, higher ridership corridors, and existing ridership and transit propensity data.
* Focus group participants suggested new/revised routes, including new cross-county express service and Flex on-demand zones, and other route changes.

Slide 15: Lessons Learned: Focus Group Participants Can Help with Resource Allocation

* “Assign the Buses” exercise to prioritize service levels
* This slide includes an image screenshot of the Assign the Buses exercise where focus group participants could assign a desired headway to different routes and understand how many buses are needed versus the existing number of buses available.

Slide 16: Lessons Learned: Coordinate (Metro’s Better Bus Network Redesign)

* Two workshops held in Rockville: 1/28 and 2/13 + one including Prince George’s on 2/22
* Ongoing bi-weekly calls
* Emerging network concepts are similar for primary corridors
* WMATA will launch its public outreach on its regional concept of April 17
* This slide includes a logo of the Metro Better Bus Network Redesign project schedule

Slide 17: Next Steps

* Develop draft network concept
* Second round of focus group meetings: service characteristics and resource allocations
* The slide includes a logo of the Ride On Reimagined network redesign

Slide 18: Thank you!

* Contact Ride On Reimagined
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