

REGION FORWARD COALITION

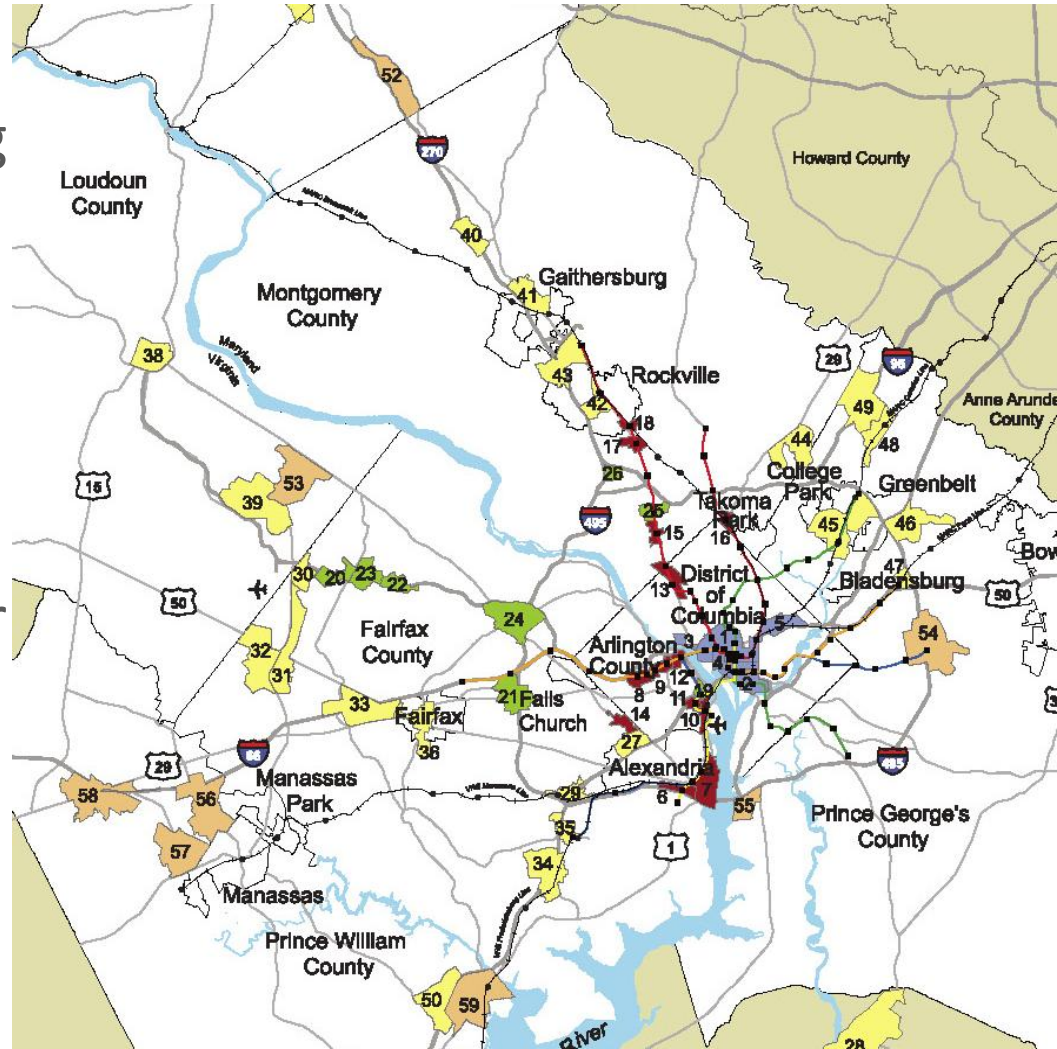
COG Activity Center Update

Climate, Energy, & Environment Policy Committee
May 23rd, 2012

Activity Centers 101

Past – Technical Exercise

- Technical exercise looking at where growth is expected
- Based strictly on COG's Cooperative Forecasting Results
- Scenario/Analysis Tool for Transportation Planning Board



Activity Centers 101

Now – Technical and Policy Tool

- Existing urban centers or priority growth areas
- Spatial component of Region Forward
- Decision tool for local governments, businesses, nonprofits, and other stakeholders to “*think regionally and act locally*”

Why Update the Map?

- Align with local planning
- Align with *Region Forward*
 - Spatial component of the plan
 - Focus growth and investment to centers
 - Provide better connectivity within and between centers
- Living Process – 3rd Update in 11 Years

Key Questions

- How can we use the updated Activity Centers in new ways to implement *Region Forward* targets? What are possible applications for:
 - Environment
 - Energy
 - Transportation
 - Affordable Housing
 - Economic Development
 - Public Health
- How can *you* use the updated Activity Centers in *your* work?

Step One (Policy):

Identify Activity Centers

Progress to-date:

- Developed draft guidelines (attribute menu)
- Gathered input from Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee
- Analyzed local plans and results for each jurisdiction, and met one-on-one to present results and get feedback
- Developed draft Activity Centers map

Step Two (Technical):

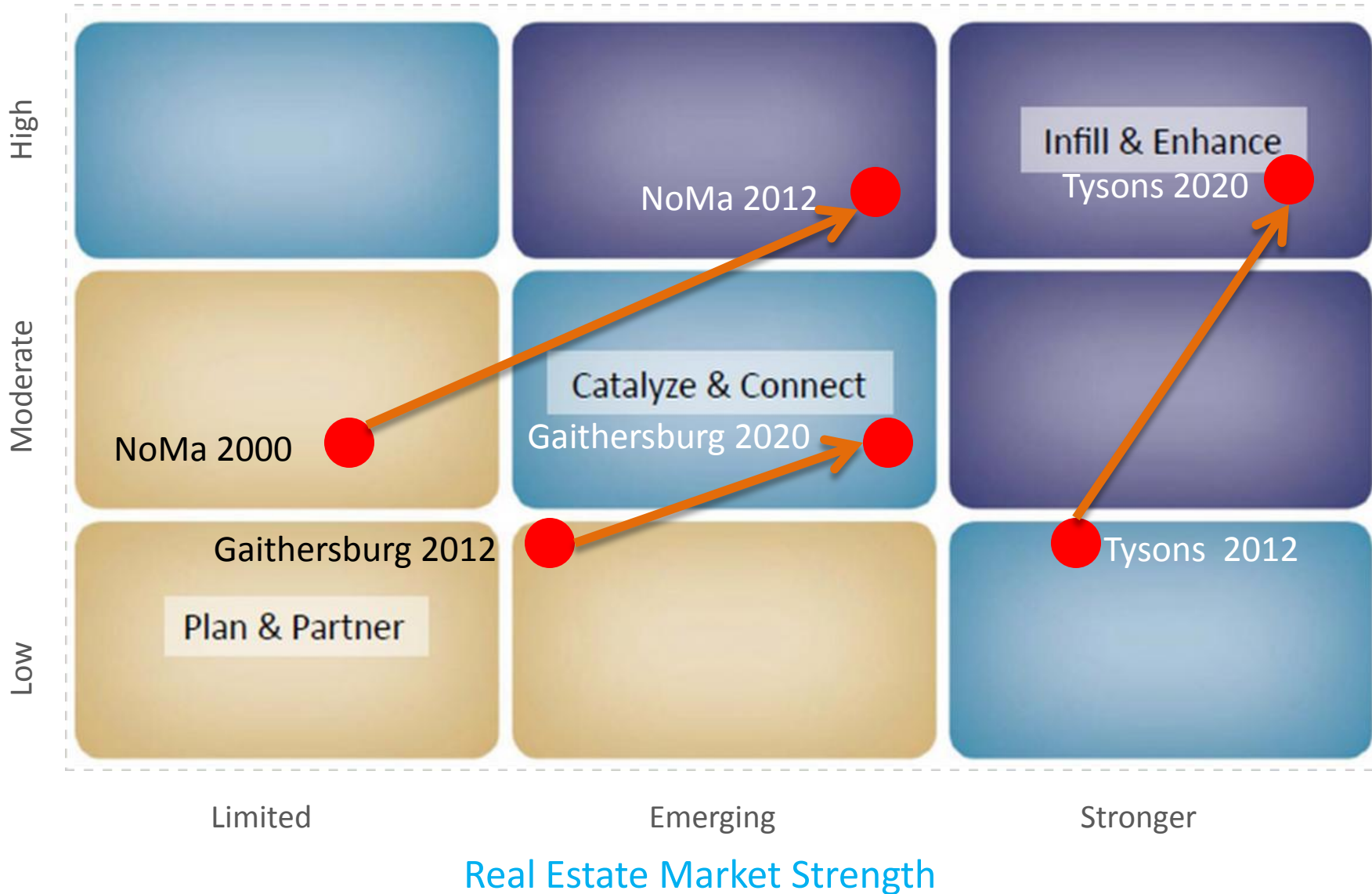
Develop Technical Boundaries

- TAZ Boundaries: Transportation studies, forecasts of population, jobs, and household growth
- Census Boundaries: Demographic, income, housing, and market analysis studies

Step Three (Implementation): Create Activity

Center Investment Typologies

Physical Characteristics: State of Place Index

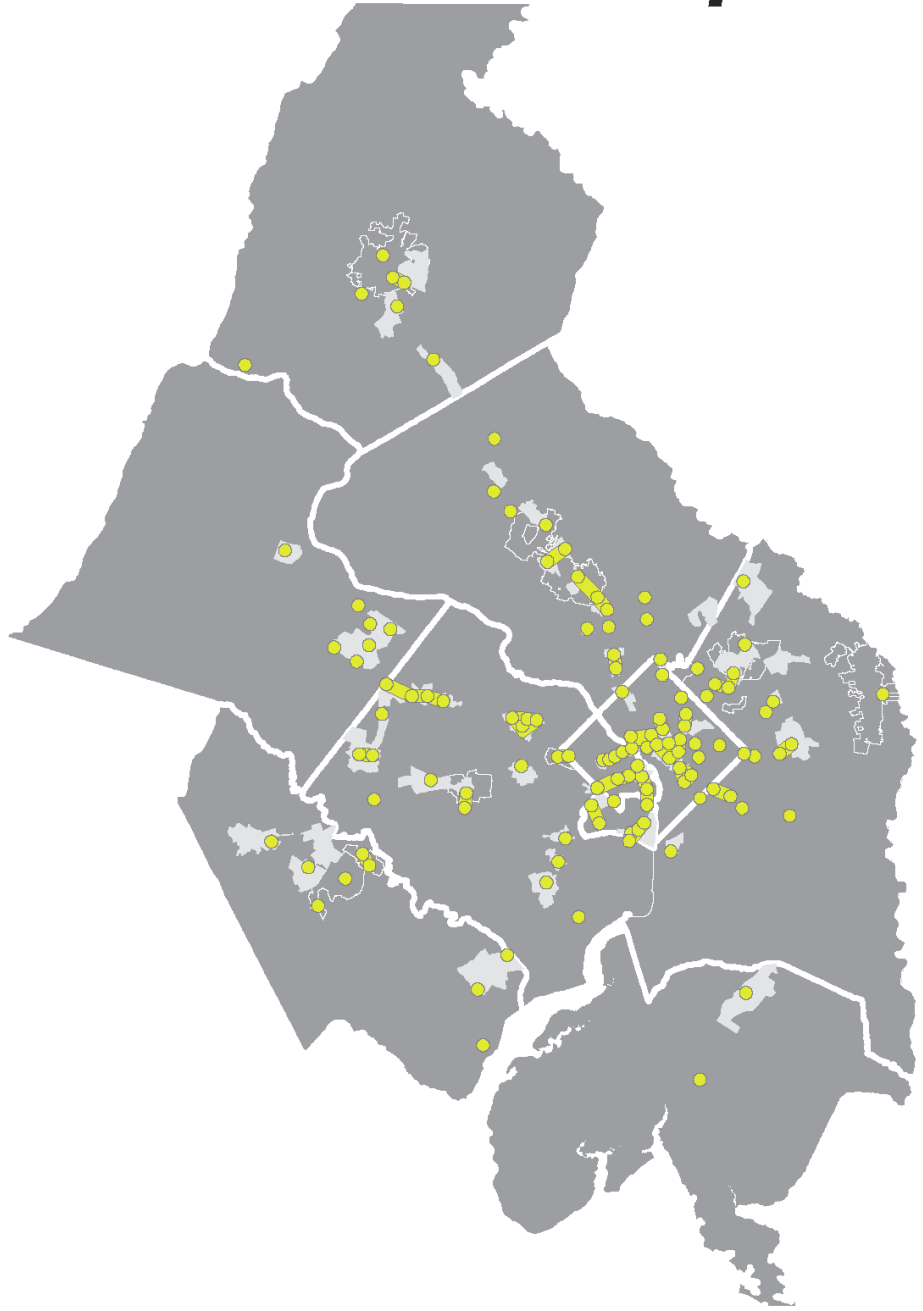




Schedule

- June: PDTAC approval of Activity Center Policy Map with **illustrative policy boundaries**
- May – July: COG staff works with PDTAC or Cooperative Forecasting Committee to develop **technical boundaries**
- July: Region Forward Coalition Approval
- July: Introduce Activity Centers to COG Board at retreat
- July – September: Outreach to city councils and county boards
- Sept/Oct: COG Board approval of Activity Centers
- Sept/Oct: Launch **typology work**

Activity Center Identification

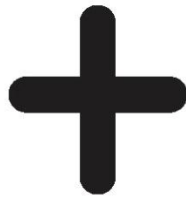
Current & Proposed Activity Centers



-  Proposed Activity Center
-  Current Activity Center

Menu of Options to Identify Centers

**Core
Attributes**



**Any 2
Additional
Attributes**

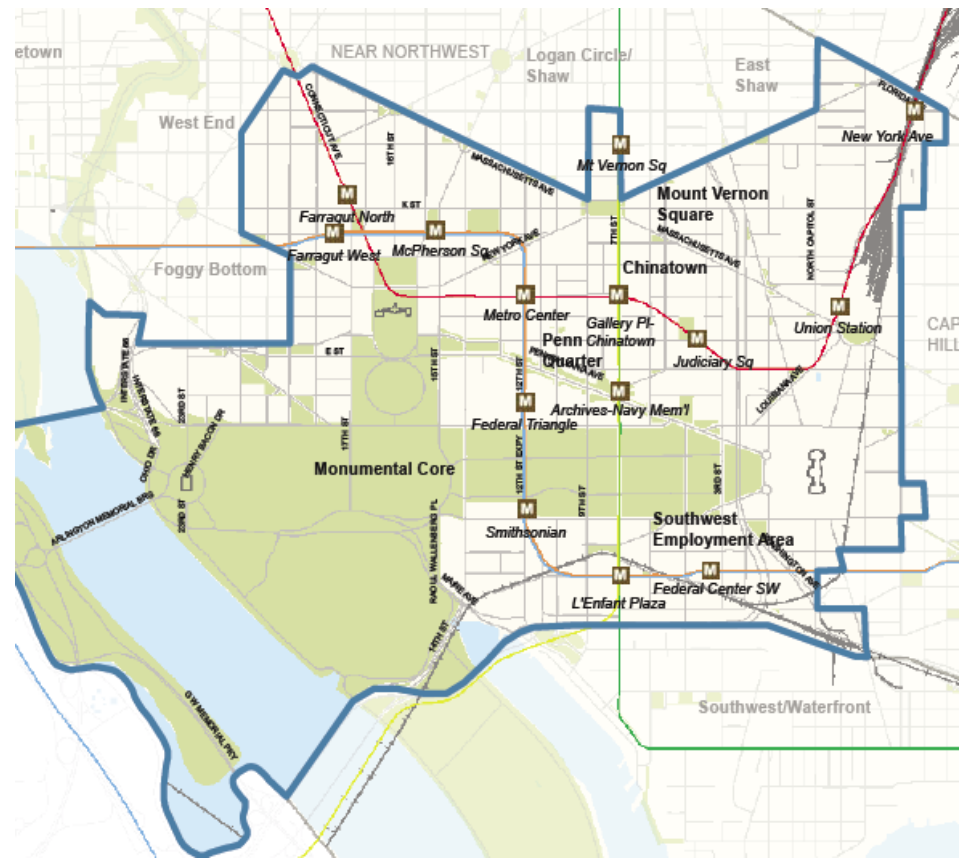
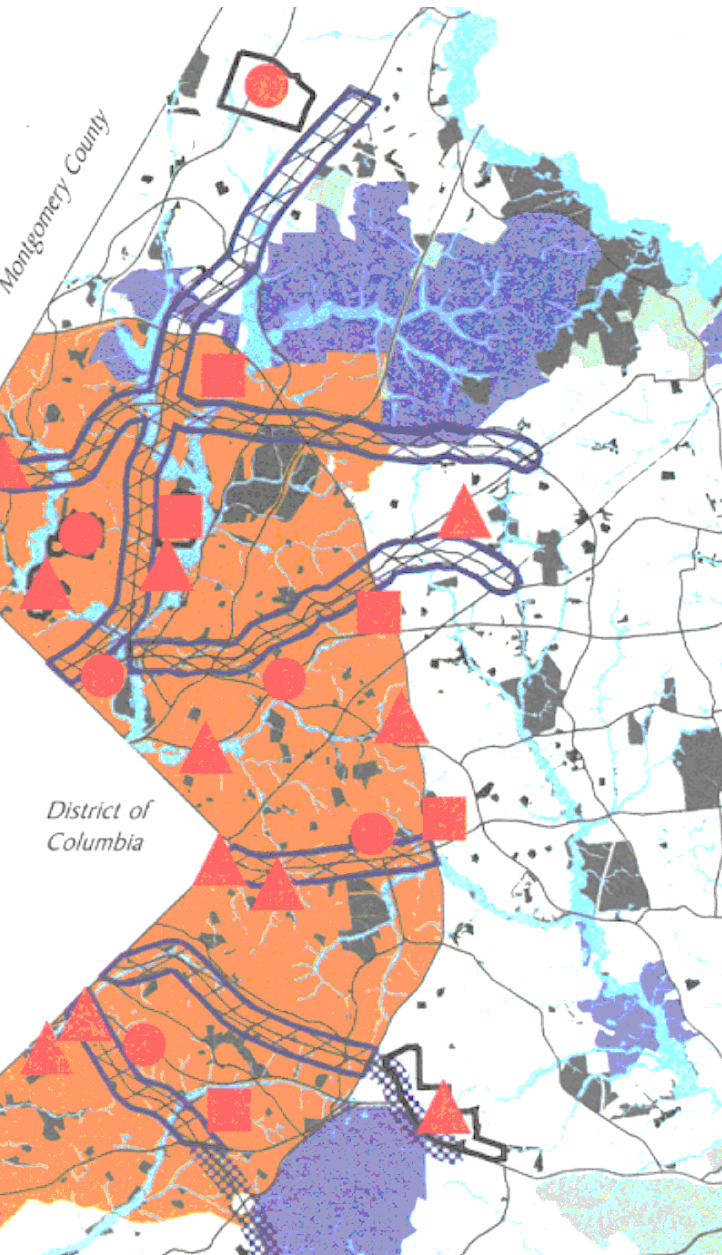


Core Attributes *(required)*

- **Policy:** In 2012, the center or priority growth area should be designated in a jurisdiction's adopted comprehensive/general plan or other locally-adopted land use plan.
- **Density:** By 2040, have a persons per acre density (employment + population) that falls within the top one-half of densities within the jurisdiction.

CORE: Policy

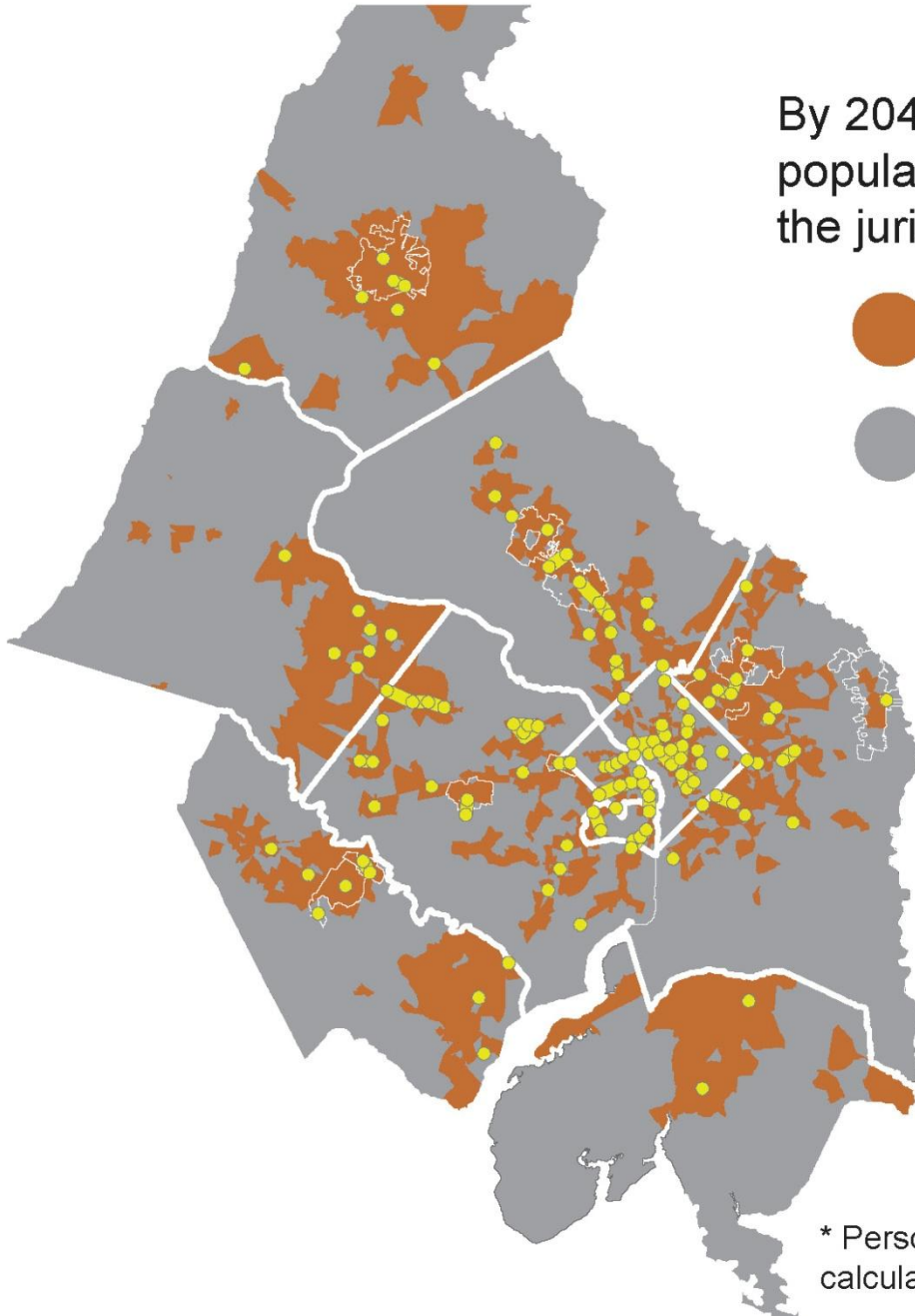
In 2012, the center or priority growth area should be designated in a jurisdiction's adopted comprehensive/general plan or other locally-adopted land use plan.



CORE: *Density*

By 2040, have a persons density (employment + population) within the top one-half of densities in the jurisdiction.

- Top 1/2 of 2040 persons density*
- Bottom 1/2 of 2040 persons density



* Persons Density = (2040 Population + 2040 employment) / acre, calculated for each county separately, Round 8 Cooperative Forecasts

Additional Attributes (any 2 required)

Intersection Density: In 2012, have at least 55 intersections per square mile.

Transit Capacity: In 2012, have

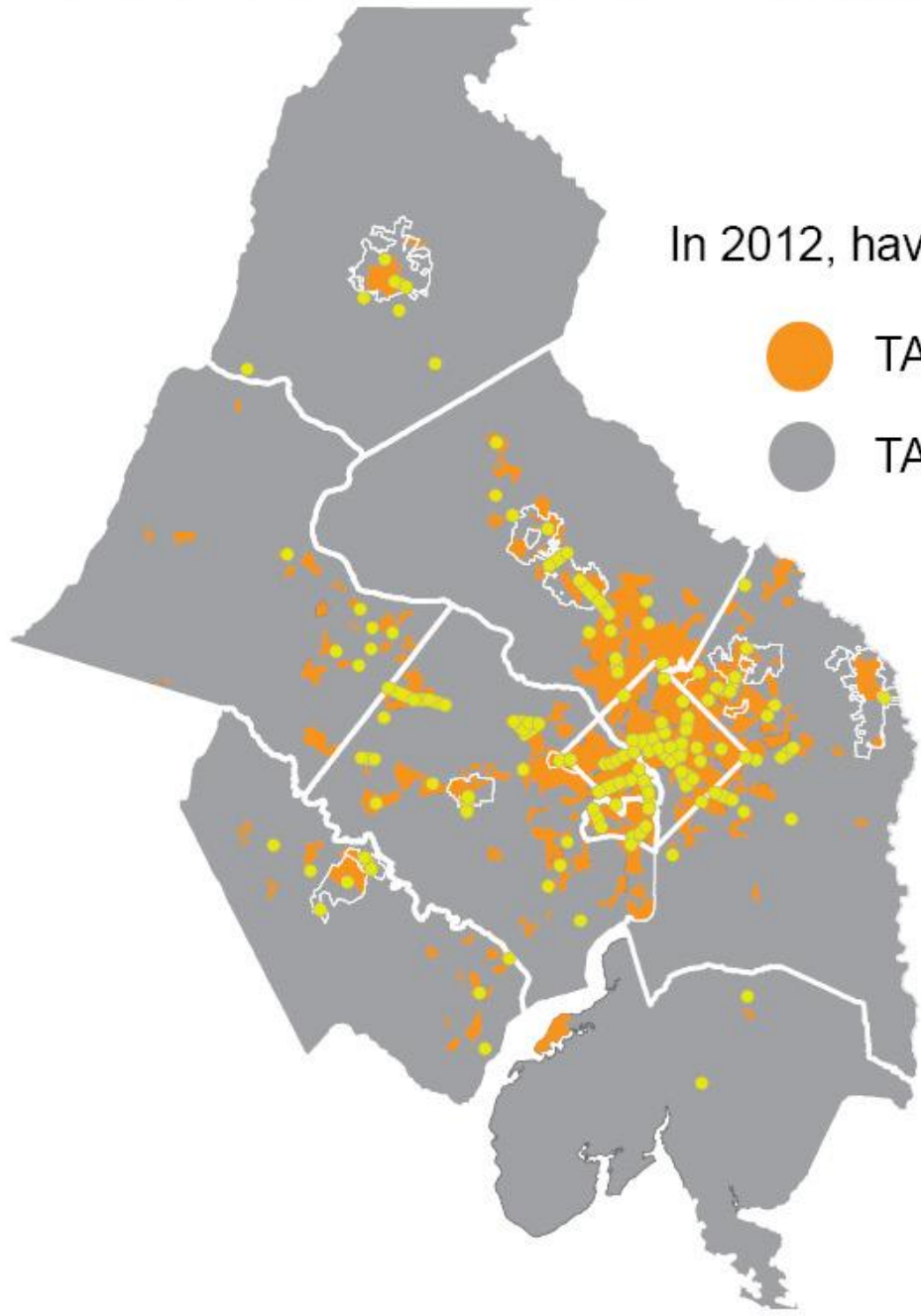
- existing high-capacity/performance transit (e.g. Metrorail, BRT, commuter rail, or light rail) OR
- a planned transit station identified in the Financially Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) OR
- a planned transit station with dedicated local funding

(Region Forward Target)

Land Use Mix: In 2012, have a locally-adopted land use plan/ ordinance that encourages mixed-use development (e.g. through a mixed-use designation, form-based codes, or overlay zoning).

Housing & Transportation Affordability: Combined housing and transportation costs do not exceed 45% of regional median income, as measured by the H + T Index. *(Region Forward Target)*

ADDITIONAL: *Intersection Density*



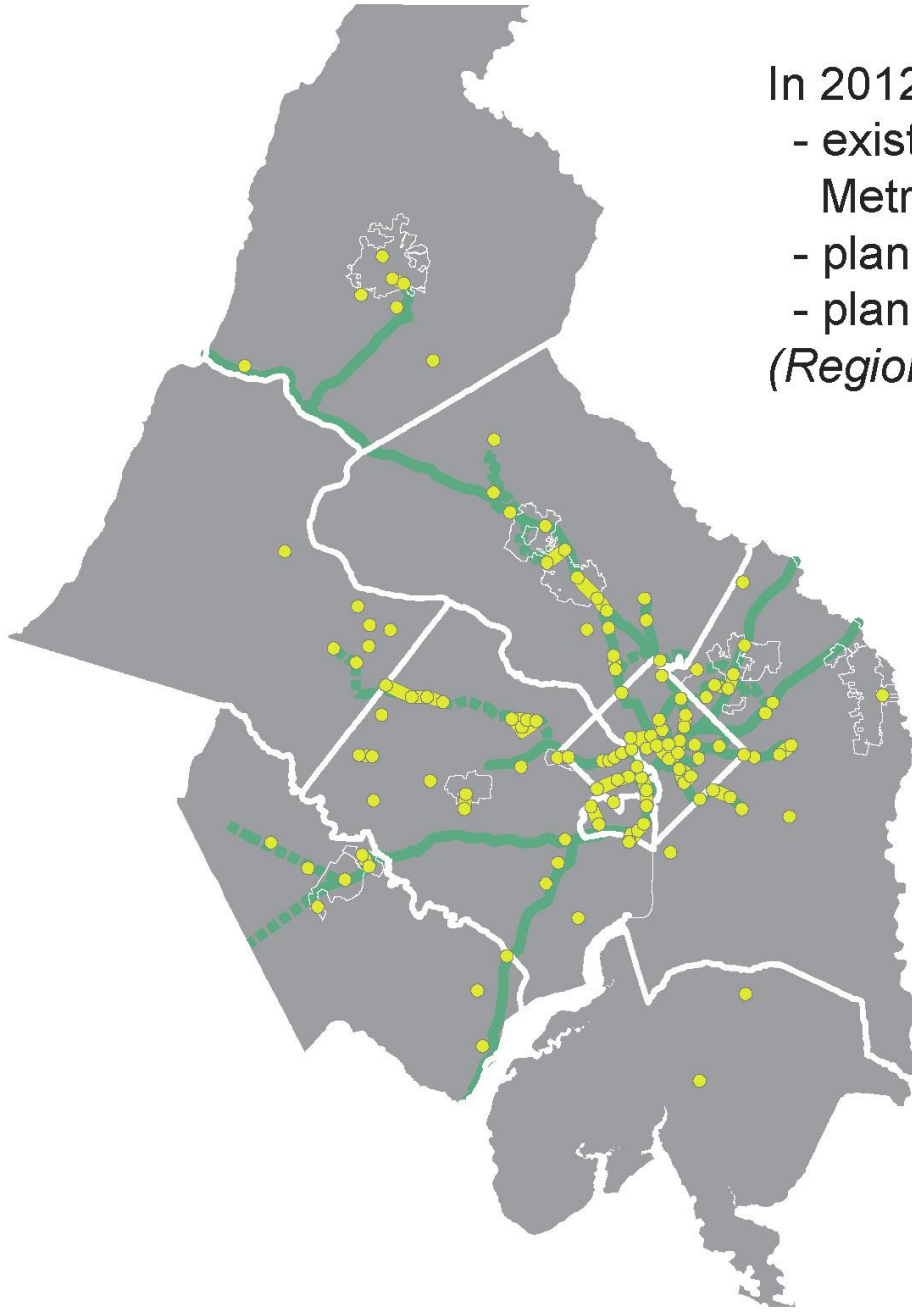
In 2012, have at least 55 intersections per square mile.

- TAZs with > 55 intersections per square mile
- TAZs with < 55 intersections per square mile

ADDITIONAL: *Transit Capacity*

In 2012, have:

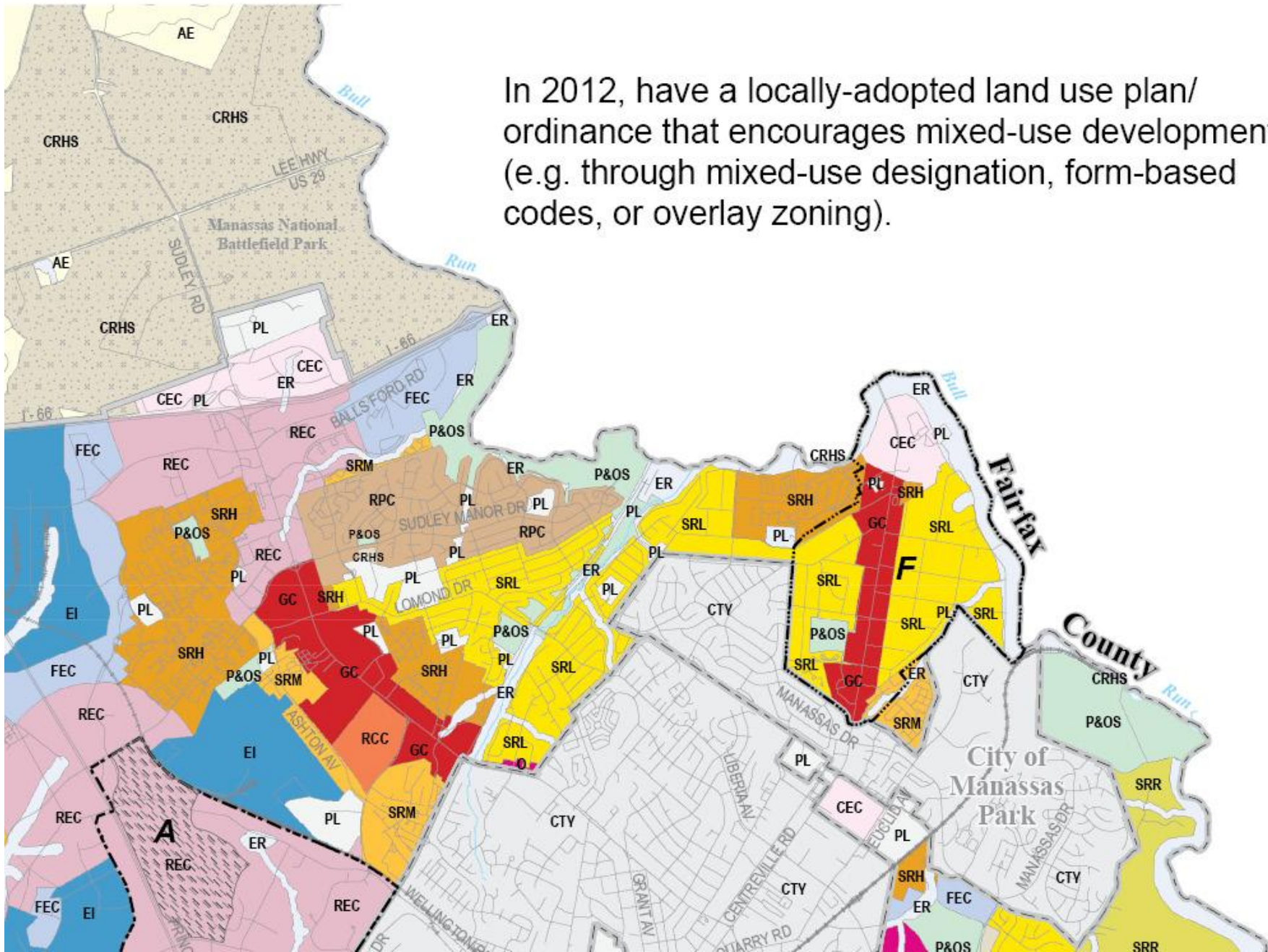
- existing high-capacity/performance transit (e.g. Metrorail, BRT, commuter rail, or light rail) *OR*
- planned transit identified in the CLRP *OR*
- planned transit with dedicated local funding
(*Region Forward Target*)



- High-capacity/performance transit network
- - - **Planned** high-capacity/performance transit network

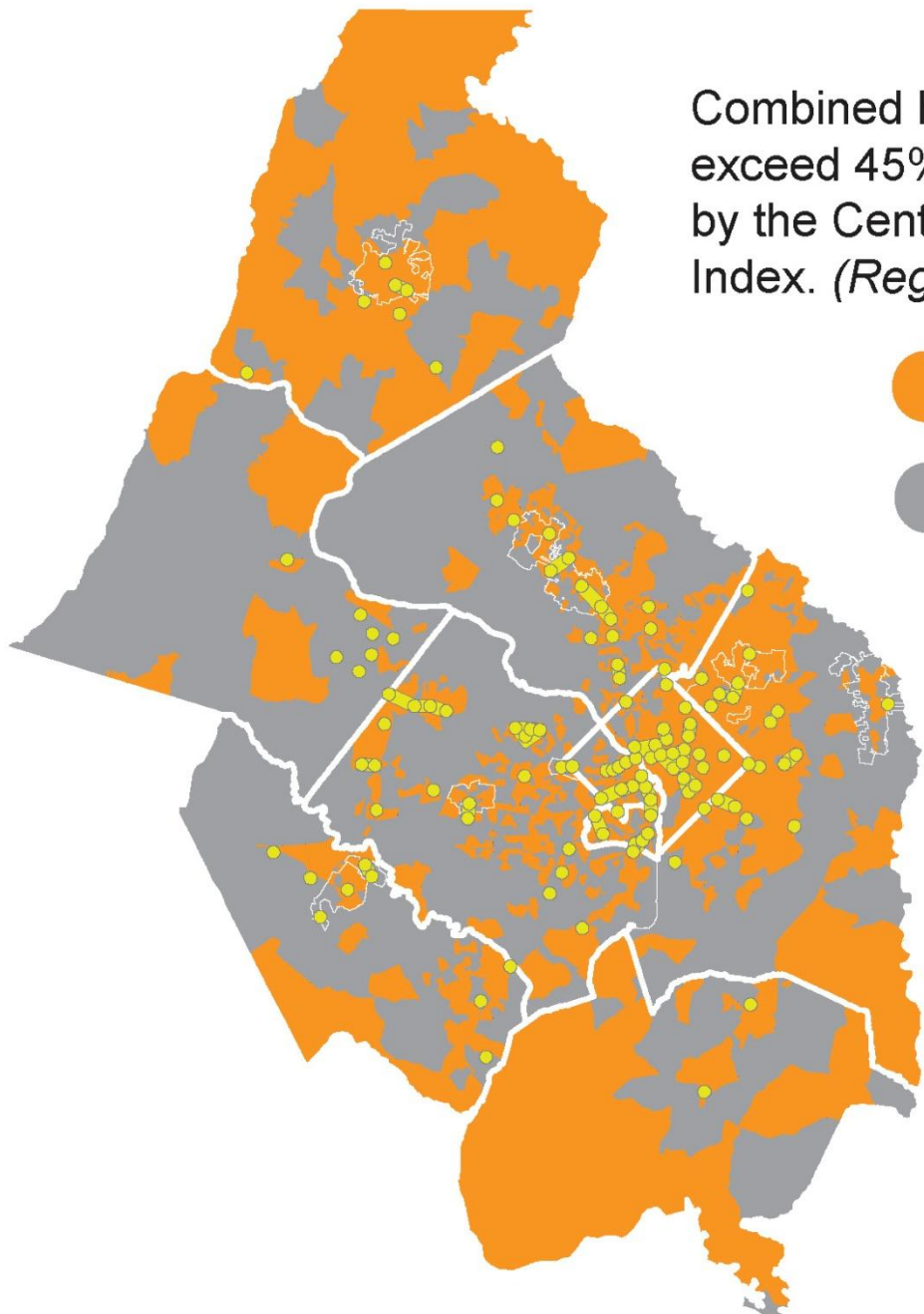
ADDITIONAL: *Land Use Mix*

In 2012, have a locally-adopted land use plan/ ordinance that encourages mixed-use development (e.g. through mixed-use designation, form-based codes, or overlay zoning).



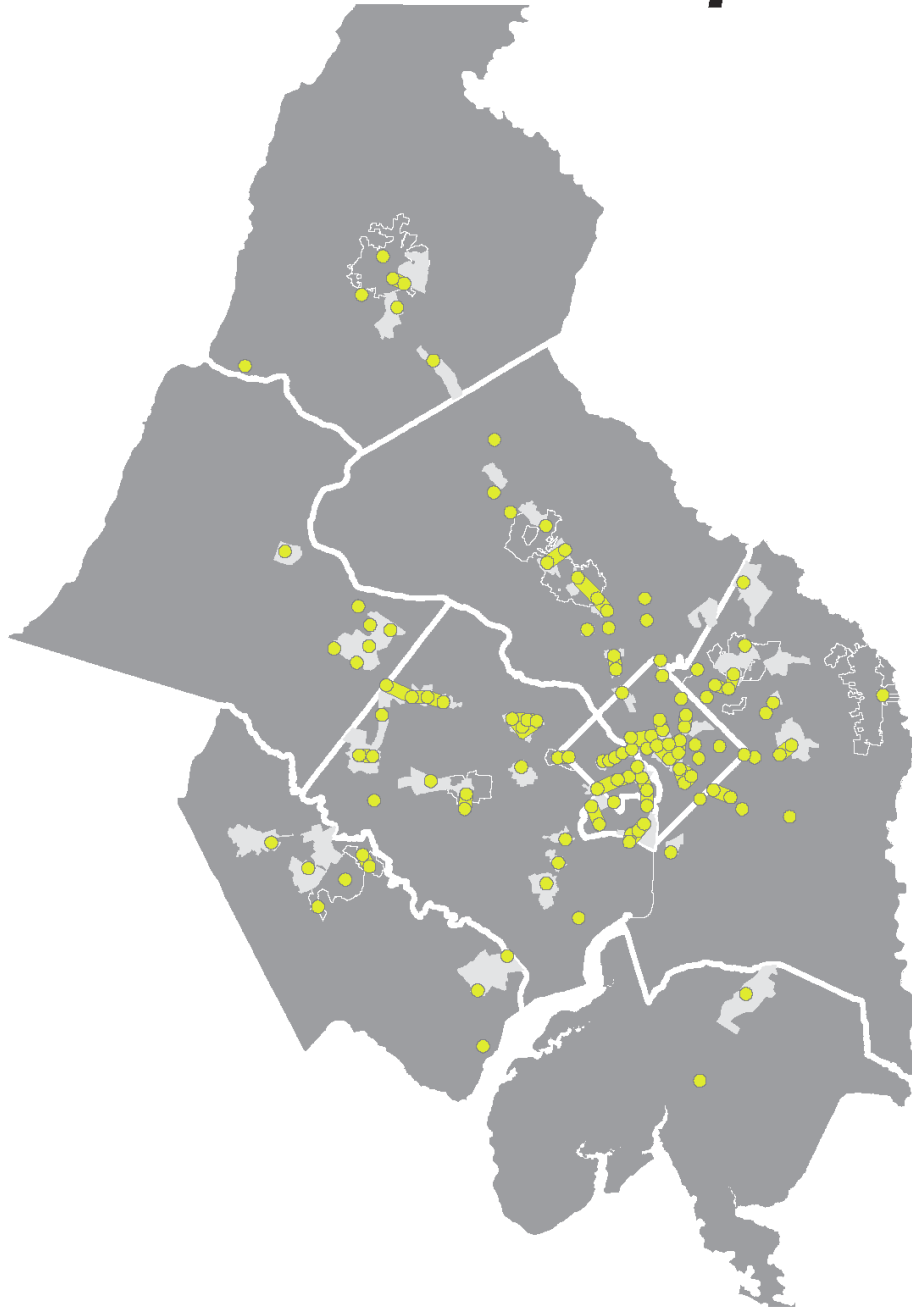
ADDITIONAL: *H + T Affordability*

Combined housing and transportation costs do not exceed 45% of regional median income, as measured by the Center for Neighborhood Technology's H + T Index. (*Region Forward Target*)



- H + T costs < 45% AMI, 2009 CNT data
- H + T costs > 45% AMI, 2009 CNT data

Current & Proposed Activity Centers



- Proposed Activity Center
- Current Activity Center

Outcomes & Applications

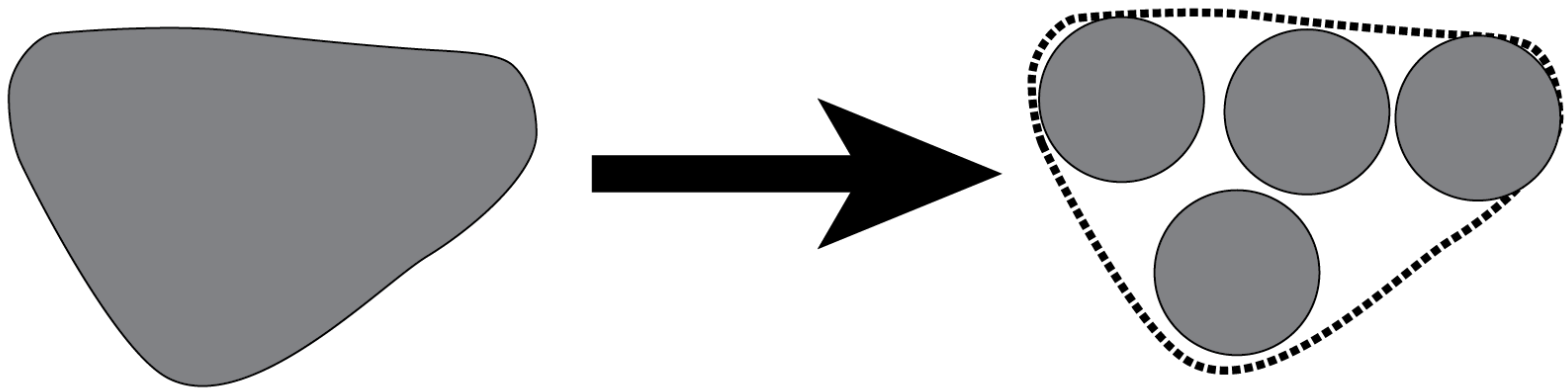
Key Outcomes

- **Aligned with *Region Forward* Elements**
 - Incorporates RF priorities in selection attributes *and* resulting centers
- **Aligned with Local Planning**
 - Picks up places local governments have designated as significant

Key Outcomes

➤ More, but Smaller Centers

- Current Centers: 59
- New Centers: 123 – occupy less land area than current centers



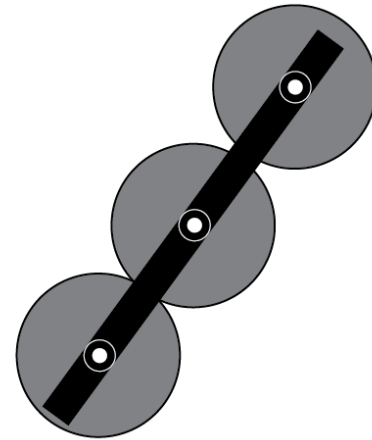
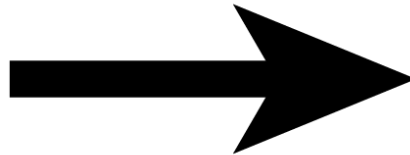
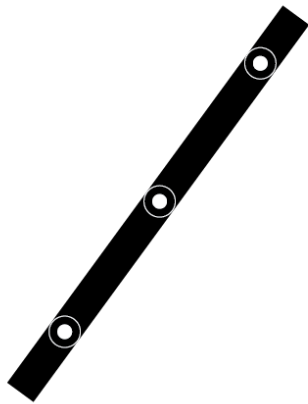
- Recognizes potential for wide range of places to contribute to regional goals
- Understand the building blocks of larger regional places
- Better scale for implementing Complete Communities

Key Outcomes

➤ Better Leverages Existing and Planned Infrastructure

Current Centers:

- Many transit stations were not in centers
- 40% of centers served by transit by 2040



New Centers:

- 70% of centers served by transit by 2040

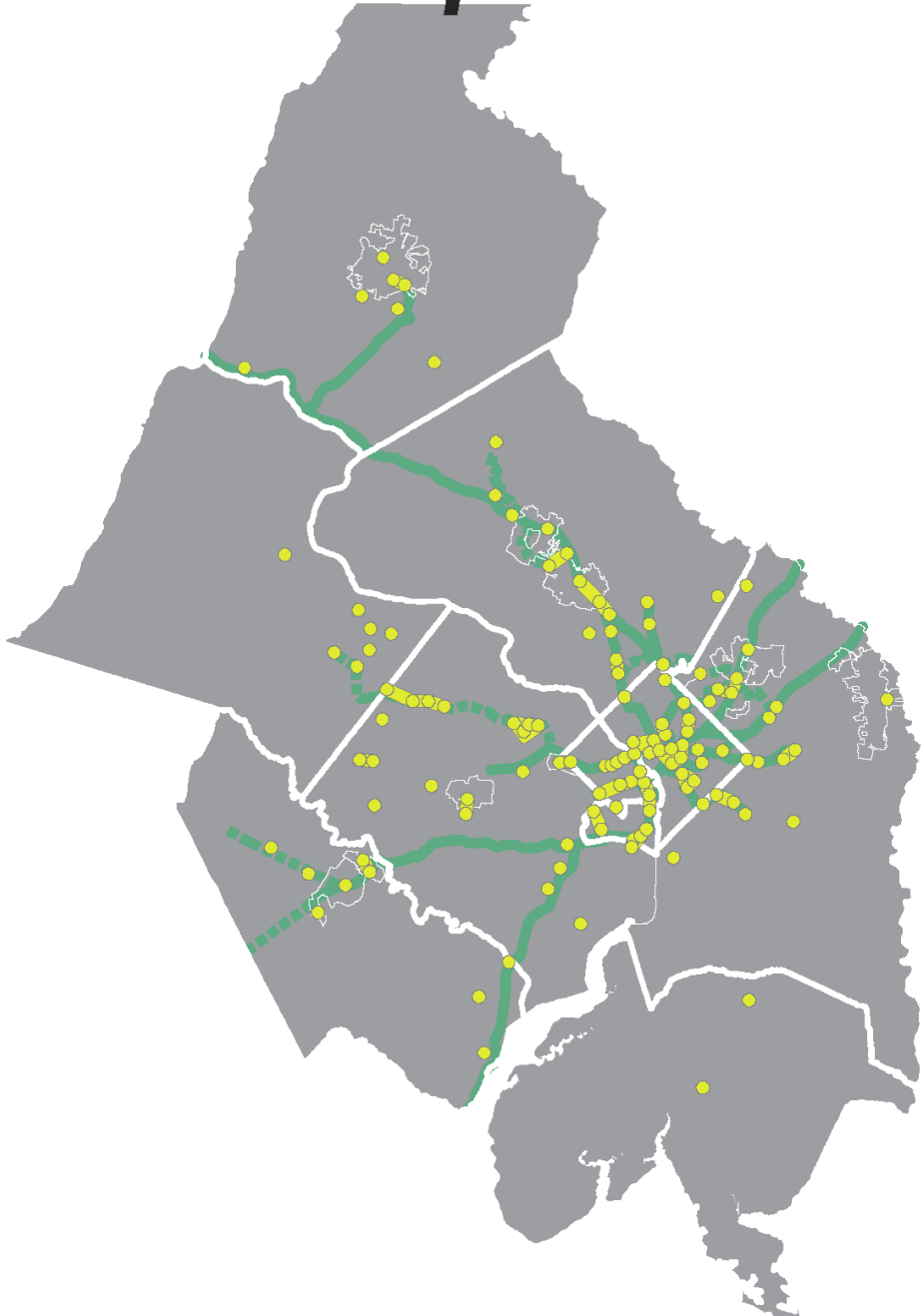
Proposed Activity Centers

High-Capacity/Performance Transit Network

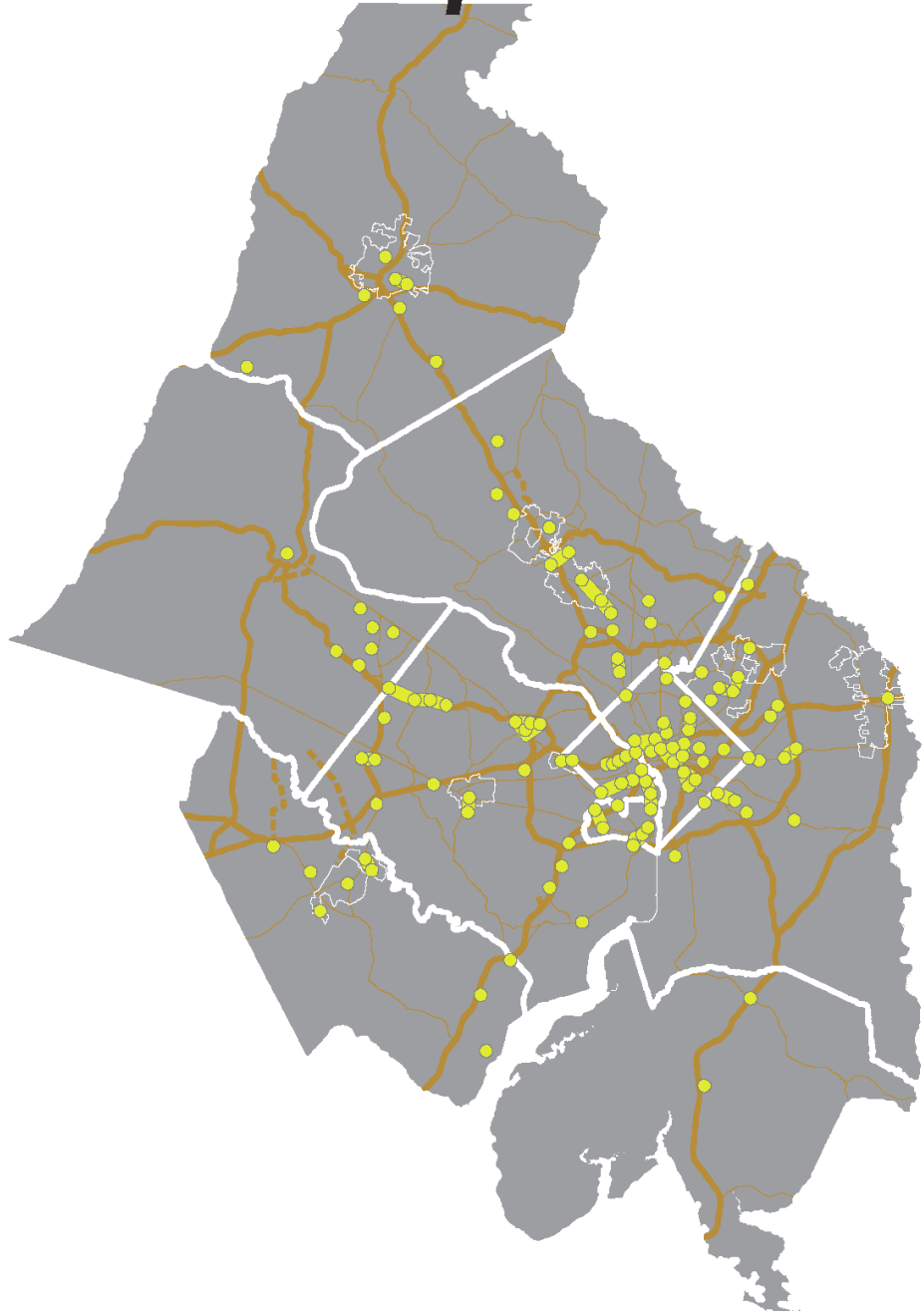
 Proposed Activity Center

 Transit Network





 Planned Transit Network



Proposed Activity Centers



Highway Network

-  Proposed Activity Center
-  Major Highway
-  Planned Highway
-  Secondary Highway

Key Activity Center Applications

Now:

- Technical: growth forecasts, transportation planning, air quality conformity
- Monitoring progress on *Region Forward* Targets

Key Activity Center Applications

Future: Enhanced tool for implementing *Region Forward*

- Open space preservation
- Sustainable transport – walk/bike
- Urban forestry
- Green building and Energy Star
- Electronic charging stations
- Green infrastructure
- Green/Complete Streets
- Other?

Key Questions

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 - Environment
 - Climate & Energy
 - Transportation
 - Public Health
 - Economic Development
- How can *you* use the updated Activity Centers in *your* work?

Other Questions?

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