TRANSIT INFORMATION QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY

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Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee
July 27, 2021

Purpose

- TPB Staff conducted the Transit Information Questionnaire Survey between the dates of March 16th and April 2nd 2021.

- Staff surveyed 17 transit providers in the NCR.

- To collect information on a number of topical areas including:

  - Transit Development Plan (TDP) or Transit Strategic Plan (TSP) Status,

  - Equity Analyses,

  - Connected and Automated Vehicles Planning,

  - Transit Travel Surveys,

  - Ridership and Fare Data Analysis.

Transit Info Questionnaire Overview

Transit Development Plan (TDP) or Transit Strategic Plan (TSP) Status

Most respondents are working on their next update for FY22/23.

New items include:

- Planning around E-Bus procurement / implementation

- Service Improvements and Redesigns

- Microtransit

TDP / TSP Update Year		
FY22	**FY23**	**FY24**
City of Alexandria (TDP)	City of Alexandria (TSP)	Charles County
Loudoun County	City of Fairfax	
Prince George's County	DDOT	
VRE (Annual Update Letter)	Fairfax County (TSP)	
	Montgomery County	

Equity

Four service providers are incorporating transit equity via service provision updates or network redesigns

Transit Equity Planning	
Agency	**Update**
City of Alexandria	New DASH Network – pop w/I ¼ mi of 15 min service
DDOT	MOVE DC Plan incorporates transit service equity
Fairfax County	Analysis of transit propensity (minority, low-income, zero-car, & more) are considered for all changes in service
Loudoun County	Study of unmet transportation needs for senior and disabled populations underway

AV Planning

Seven transit service providers are planning / assessing AV tech to some extent.

AV Planning Consideration Categories		
Pilots Under Consideration	**Studies**	**Transit Signal Priority**
Fairfax County	City of Alexandria	City of Fairfax
Loudoun County	Charles County	Fairfax County
		Montgomery County

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Transit Travel Surveys

- 5 service providers conducted an agency-wide survey in 2019.

- Most Agencies have yet to decide when their next survey will be conducted.

- The majority of respondents plan to collect O-D data in the next survey.

- There is collective interest in an inter-agency travel survey.

Last Agency-Wide Survey	
Agency	**Year**
VRE	2019 (Master Agreement Survey)
DDOT	2019
Fairfax County	2019
City of Fairfax	2019
Frederick County	2019
PRTC	2019
Prince George's County	2018
Charles County	2017 (FY)
City of Fairfax	2016
Montgomery County	2015
Loudoun County	2014
City of Alexandria	2013

Transit Travel Surveys	
Agency	**Alt. O-D Data Source**
City of Alexandria	Streetlight
DDOT	SmarTrip Data
Loudoun County	Farebox data from commuter bus service

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Ridership / Fare Data

- Eleven service providers in the region paused fare collection during 2020.

- Six have resumed fare collection

- Five remain fare free

  - Plans to resume fare collection are for Summer / Fall 2021

  - CUE and Omni Ride Local Service are still determining when to resume service.

Transit Fare Collection				
Resumed	Date	**Suspended**	Planned	**Always Collected**
WMATA - Metrobus	1.3.2021	DDOT - Circulator	Early Summer	Charles County
Arlington County - ART	1.3.2021	Frederick County - TransIT	7.1.2021	Metrorail
Fairfax County - Connector	1.4.2021	Montgomery County - Ride On	9.1.2021	Omni Ride Commuter
Prince George's County - TheBus	1.4.2021	City of Fairfax - CUE	TBD	VRE
City of Alexandria - DASH	3.15.2021	PRTC - Omni Ride (local)	TBD	
Loudoun County	5.3.2021			

Ridership / Fare Data

- Ridership continued to decline across all services in Jan / Feb

- Range of ridership change varied most with service providers who resumed fare collection.

- Median ridership change was lowest for services that resumed fare collection during the first few months.

- Service providers who always collected fares experienced the highest increases in ridership during March.

Change in Transit Ridership – Monthly Total Trips (UPT)
(Dec 2020 – Mar 2021)

Resumed Fare Collection

Agency	Month Prior	Fares Resumed	One Month After	Two Months After
Metrobus	4,101,962	-35%	-40%	-1%
Fairfax Connector	415,487	-27%	-31%	-10%
Prince George's County, TheBus	80,884	-18%	-13%	-5%
Arlington County, ART	104,466	-1%	-10%	18%
Total Trips / Median % Change	4,702,799	-23%	-22%	-3%

Fare Free

Provider	Dec - 20	Jan - 21	Feb - 21	Mar -21
Loudoun Transit	24,969	-7%	-13%	22%
City of Alexandria, DASH	124,552	-5%	-9%	14%
City of Fairfax, CUE	25,475	-1%	-4%	13%
Total Trips / Median % Change	174,996	-5%	-9%	14%

Always Collected

Provider	Dec - 20	Jan - 21	Feb - 21	Mar -21
PRTC, OmniRide	51,409	-18%	-12%	30%
VRE	22,190	-9%	-3%	43%
Metrorail	1,940,000	-6%	-7%	31%
Total Trips / Median % Change	2,013,599	-9%	-7%	31%

Data Sources: Unlinked Passenger Trip counts from NVTC / WMATA Ridership Portal / JCC Metrobus Monthly Ridership (APC)
* % change measures monthly UPT vs Dec 2020 as baseline

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Appendix – Ridership Bus Only

Resumed Fare Collection - Bus Service Only

Agency	Month Prior	Fares Resumed	One Month After	Two Months After
Metrobus	4,101,962	-35%	-40%	-1%
Fairfax Connector	415,487	-27%	-31%	-10%
Prince George's County, TheBus	80,884	-18%	-13%	-5%
Arlington County, ART	104,466	-1%	-10%	18%
Total Trips / Median % Change	**4,702,799**	**-23%**	**-22%**	**-3%**

Fare Free / Always Collected - Bus Service Only

Provider	Dec - 20	Jan - 21	Feb - 21	Mar -21
PRTC, OmniRide	51,409	-18%	-12%	30%
Loudoun Transit	24,969	-7%	-13%	22%
City of Alexandria, DASH	124,552	-5%	-9%	14%
City of Fairfax, CUE	25,475	-1%	-4%	13%
Total Trips / Median % Change	**226,405**	**-6%**	**-11%**	**18%**

Appendix – TDP / TSP Status

TRANSIT INFO Qs		City of Alexandria	City of Fairfax	County Commissioners of Charles County, MD	DDOT - Progressive Transportation Services Administration	Fairfax County, VA	Frederick County, Maryland	Loudoun County	Montgomery County, Maryland	Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission	Prince George's County, Maryland	Virginia Railway Express
AGENCY	**Short Name**	DASH	CUE	Van Go	DC Circulator	Connector	Transit	Local Bus, Loudoun County Transit	RideOn	Omni Ride Local / Commuter	The Bus	VRE
TDP/TSP STATUS	**Last Completed**	2021	2016	2019	2020	2016	2015	2018	2008	2020	2018	2019
	links	FY22-27 DASH Trans	https://www.fairfax	www.go-vango.com	https://www.dccircula	www.fairfaxcounty.	https://www.frederi	https://www.loudou	N/A	not avilable online	https://www.prince	https://www.vre.org
	Next Completion	2022	FY2023	Jan-24	Spring 2023	Jun-23	Summer 2021	FY2022	2023/24	N/A	Early 2022	annual update (lette
	Comments	Finalizing FY22 TDP. State TSP is due FY23. New DASH network launches Sep-2023, will include increases in frequentall-day bus service. Introduced 6 new BEB with 8 more arriving summer 2021	Anticipate coordination with WMATA to evaluate CUE along with Metrobus in WMATA's Bus Network Redesign study (anticipated in 2022). CUE's next TDP should follow and build on that work.	Work expected to start Jul-2023. Focus will be on service improvements	New bus route in Ward 7. Additional 14 BEB expected for spring 2023 implementation	TDP work began Jul-2020. Unfunded service identfication will continue in next TSP. 2023 TSP will include Title VI analysis of recommended service plan	TDP work began Fall 2020. Will plan on-demand service for rural areas if funded	TDP Work to start early FY2022. Planning to pilot electric / CNG buses in FY2022. Considering on-demman micro-transit for lower performing mid-day transit service	TDP Work to start Fall 2021. New electric buses, equity analysis to be performed throughout project.	Zero emissions bus study, expanded services, possible introduction of microtransit and new mobile fare technology.	Implemented Saturday service in November 2020, increased frequencies on major bus lines operating in transit dependent LEP communities. June 2020 4 BEB will be in operation	Next TDP will focus on implementation of service expansion enabled by Commonwealth's Transforming Rail in VA Initiative

Appendix - Equity

TRANSIT INFO Qs		City of Alexandria	City of Fairfax	County Commissioners of Charles County, MD	DDOT - Progressive Transportation Services Administration	Fairfax County, VA	Frederick County, Maryland	Loudoun County	Montgomery County, Maryland	Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission	Prince George's County, Maryland	Virginia Railway Express
AGENCY	Short Name	DASH	CUE	Van Go	DC Circulator	Connector	TransIt	Local Bus, Loudoun County Transit	RideOn	Omni Ride Local / Commuter	The Bus	VRE
EQUITY	New / Innovative Work	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
	Comments	Equity focus in Alexandria Transit Vision Plan & New DASH Network. Equitable transit access has been considered in the new network (% population within 1/4 mile of 15min service frequency)			MOVE DC Plan incorporates transity service equity analysis	evaluation of transit propensity (minority, low-income, zero-car, other pop dem) for existing / planned service and route optimization projects since 2018. Evaluation of transit propensity has been a part of service analysis for all proposed service changes.	Maps of disadvantaged populations overlaid with service routes.	study of unmet transportation needs for senior and disabled populations, will be presented to board May 25.	minority routes are derived from on-board surveys of riders	In 2015 PRTC management expanded the definition of "major service change" to include a system-wide service change amounting to ten percent (10%) or more of the system-wide revenue hours of service in addition to the route-specific changes that are already part of that definition.		

Appendix - AV Planning

AGENCY	TRANSIT INFO Qs	City of Alexandria	City of Fairfax	County Commissioners of Charles County, MD	DDOT - Progressive Transportation Services Administration	Fairfax County, VA	Frederick County, Maryland	Loudoun County	Montgomery County, Maryland	Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission	Prince George's County, Maryland	Virginia Railway Express
	Short Name	DASH	CUE	Van Go	DC Circulator	Connector	Transit	Local Bus, Loudoun County Transit	RideOn	Omni Ride Local / Commuter	The Bus	VRE
AV PLANNING	current planning / assessments	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
	comments	Expanding TSP program. ~20% of fleet is equipped with Mobile eye pedestrian detection equipment. Considering potential future transitions to AV technology for garage maneuvers/re-positioning in garage facility expansion	The City of Fairfax is currently in the process of upgrading their traffic signal system and is considering future capabilities to support transit signal priority.	feasibility assessment - autonomous shuttle at College of Southern Maryland Campus linking to fixed route service. Contractor uses Drive Cam / Mobile Eye for driver monitoring and collision avoidance	N/A	AV demonstration project to serve Dunn Loring Metro Station and Mosaic District. Richmond Highway and Rt. 7 BRT projects to include TSP systems, ensuring consistent transit vehicle travel times in corridor	N/A	considering AV shuttle for courthouse shuttle route. AV buses are unfunded, county staff will meet with Leesburg Town Staff to determine feasibility	TSP along limited stop corridors (FLASH and Ride On extRA) Received grant to study/implement bus overcrowding for internal./ customer consumption	N/A		

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Appendix - Transit Travel Surveys

	TRANSIT INFO Qs	City of Alexandria	City of Fairfax	County Commissioners of Charles County, MD	DDOT - Progressive Transportation Services Administration	Fairfax County, VA	Frederick County, Maryland	Loudoun County	Montgomery County, Maryland	Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission	Prince George's County, Maryland	Virginia Railway Express
AGENCY	**Short Name**	DASH	CUE	Van Go	DC Circulator	Connector	Transit	Local Bus, Loudoun County Transit	RideOn	Omni Ride Local / Commuter	The Bus	VRE
TRANSIT TRAVEL SURVEYS	**last agency-wide survey**	2013	2016	FY2017; FTA requirement to establish average trip length	2019	2019	2019	2014	2015	2019	2018	2019, Master Agreement Survey
	O-D data collection	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	I think so		N	Y	Y
	Other ways agency collects O-D data/	Streetlight (for 2018-19 ATV Plan)		Triennially; FTA Requirement	SmartTrip Data			Farebox Data from commuter bus service		Typicaly do once every few years. Paused due to the pandemic and lower ridership		
	Link		https://www.fairfaxva.gov/home/ showp		can send over if requested	can provide data offline on request					https://www.prince	Spring customer opinion survey (spring 2019) asks O-D data and is available online.
	Next scheduled survey	TBD	TBD	FY2023	TBD	2024	Summer 2021 (TDP)	TBD	2021/22	TBD	TBD	TBD
	O-D data collection in next survey	Y		Y	TBD	Y	Y	Y		Possibly	TBD	
	interest in inter-agency transit travel survey	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	possibly

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Appendix – Ridership / Fare Data

AGENCY		City of Alexandria	City of Fairfax	County Commissioners of Charles County, MD	DDOT - Progressive Transportation Services Administration	Fairfax County, VA	Frederick County, Maryland	Loudoun County	Montgomery County, Maryland	Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission	Prince George's County, Maryland	Virginia Railway Express
TRANSIT INFO Qs	Short Name	DASH	CUE	Van Go	DC Circulator	Connector	TransIt	Local Bus, Loudoun County TransIt	RideOn	Omni Ride Local / Commuter	The Bus	VRE
RIDERSHIP / FARE DATA	Planned date to reinstitute fare collection	3.15.2021	No date confirmed	N/A	Late Spring / Early Summer 2021	1.4.2021	7.1.2021	5.3.2021 w/ board approval	6.2021	TBD for local bus. Commuter bus has been charging fares the entire time.	1.4.2021 - $1 fare per trip implemented	
	ridership data (month prior to reinstatement)	will provide in next survey				12/20: 417,493					December 2020 - 80,884	
	ridership data (month following reinstatement)	will provide in next survey				02/21: 285,801					January 2021 - 66,201, February 2021 - 70,224	
	Fare Collection Status	Resumed	Fare Free	Always Collected	Fare Free	Resumed	Fare Free	Fare Free	Fare Free	Local Fare Free; Commuter Bus Always Collected	Resumed	Always Collected
	Notes		CUE is following the progress of the pandemic and also following the regional conversations about low-income fares and/or permanent fare-free service, both of which will inform CUE's decisions about resuming fare collection.	never suspended fare collection	has not specified timeline		https://www.frederickcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/325186/TransIT-Connector-and-Shuttle-Service-Free-for-Next-Two-Weeks?bidId=					never suspended fare collection