



Metrobus Late Night Service Study

TPB RPTS
August 30, 2016

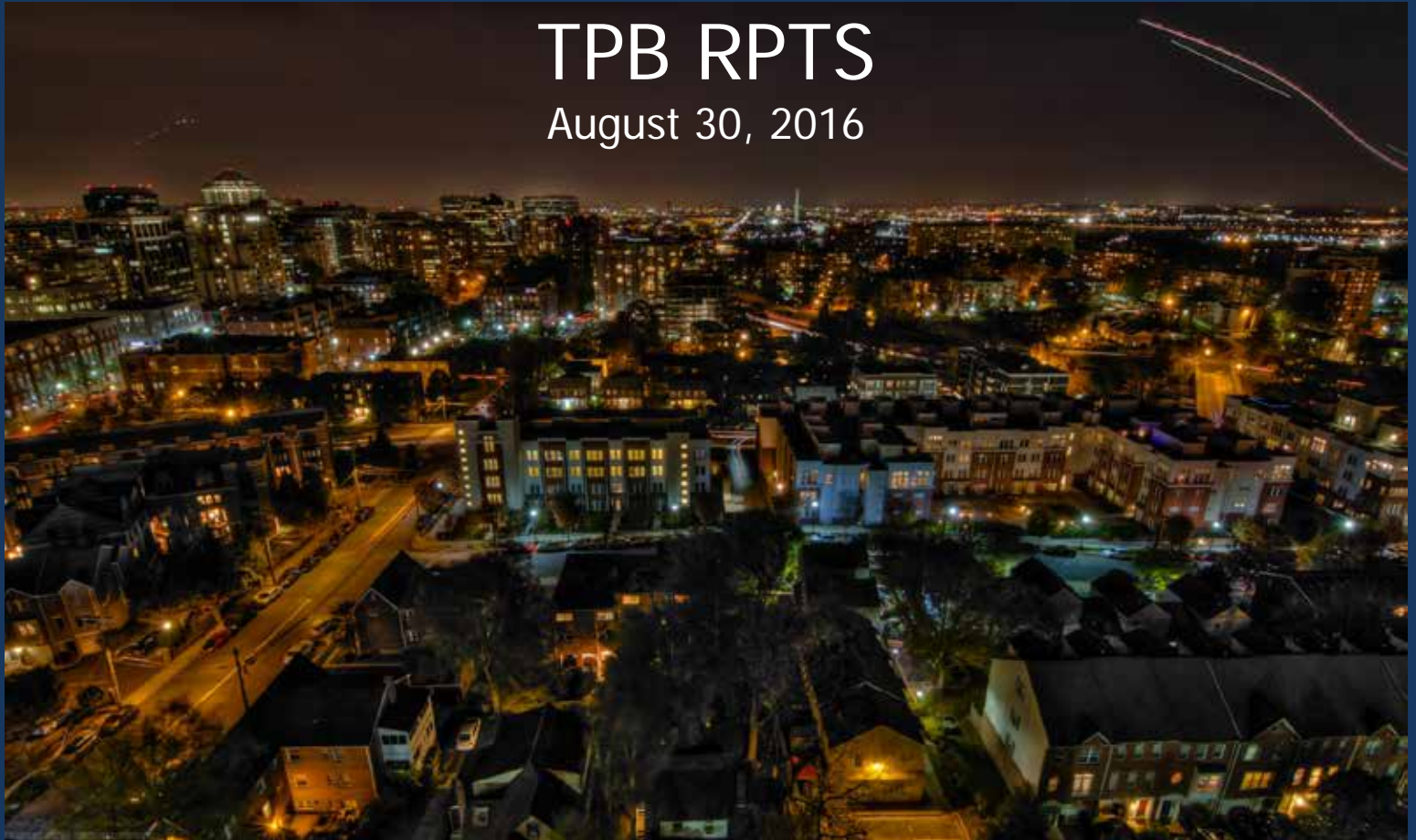


Photo by Jason OX4 on [Flickr](#)

First, An Important Note

Transportation

Metro general manager proposes permanent end to late-night service



Metro's general manager will propose a permanent end to late-night weekend subway service in order to expand the window for track-maintenance projects, but business owners and workers say it could have a big negative impact. (Video: WUSA9 / Photo: Katherine Frey/The Washington Post)

By [Martine Powers](#), [Faiz Siddiqui](#) and [Lori Aratani](#) July 26

Metro General Manager Paul Wiedefeld will propose a permanent end to late-night weekend subway service, alarming District officials and business leaders who say that a curtailed system



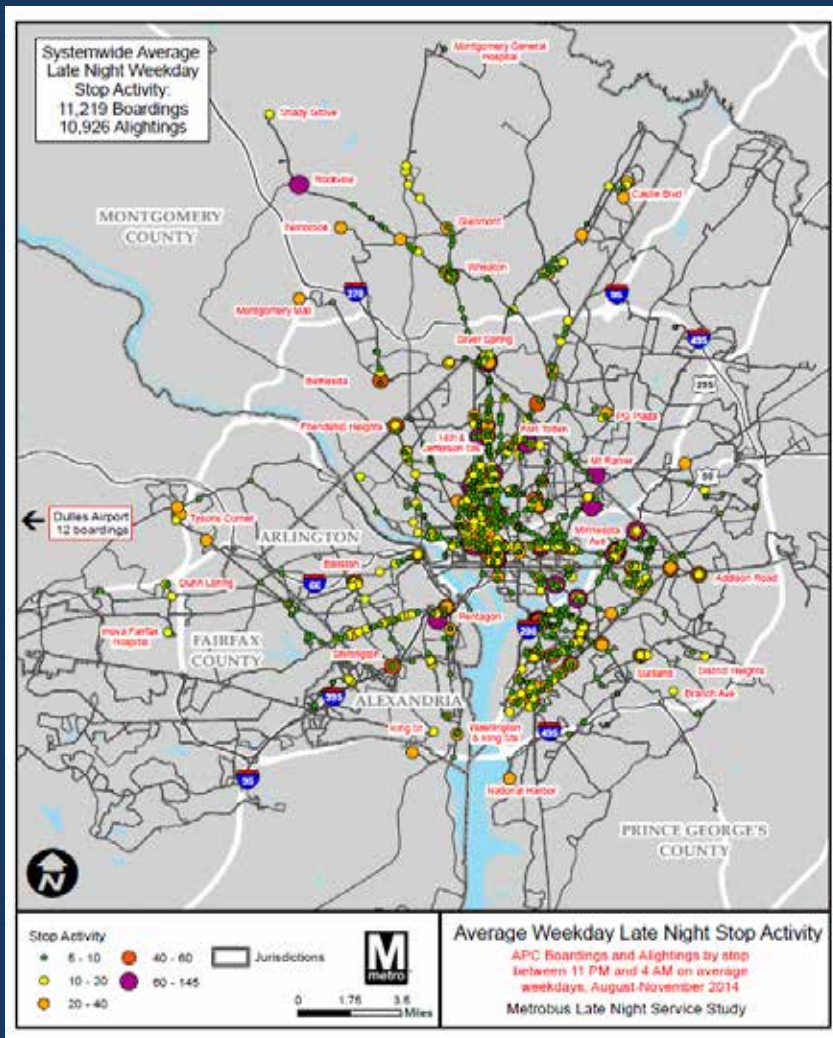
Key Study Questions

- How does our late night service compare to peers?
- Does our late night service meet market demand?
- Are there gaps in the transit network, particularly after Metrorail closes?
- Are connections easy to make?



Photo by ep_jhu on [Flickr](#)

Late Night Metrobus Ridership



- Late Night: 11pm – 4am
- About 11,000 riders per weeknight system wide
- Mid-City DC area generates about 1/4 system ridership
- Highest ridership lines by state:
 - Georgia Ave/70 (DC)
 - Greenbelt-T'brook/C2-4(MD)
 - Columbia Pike/16s (VA)
- Highest ridership stops:
 - Anacostia, Silver Spring, Franklin Square



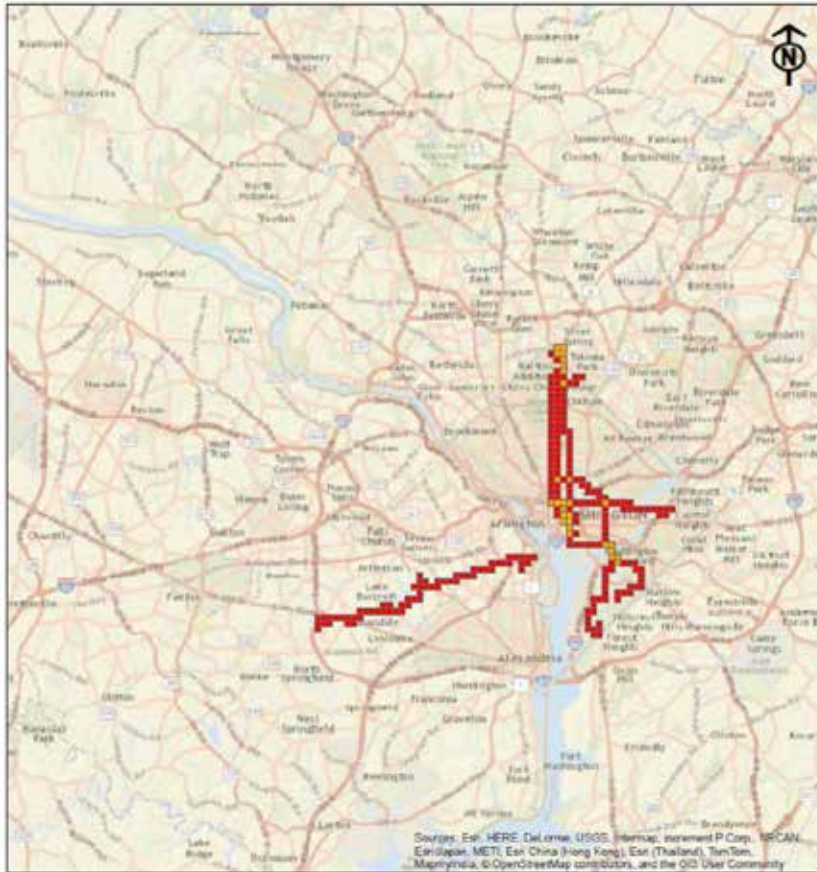
Late Night Metrobus Frequency, Span & Coverage

Weekday Late Night Bus Frequency

03:00 AM - 03:59 AM

Bus service aggregated into 1/4-mile grids.
Bus service reflects December 14 signup.

Buses per hour



Source: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, EsriShape, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), Swire, Magnyria, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the OSM User Community
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- Relatively frequent service and adequate coverage in early late night
- Service dissipates throughout the late night as demand drops
- Gaps in the network are exposed

Trends in Late Night Service

GOVERNOR PATRICK ANNOUNCES MBTA LATE NIGHT SERVICE START DATE

MBTA Late Night Service Pilot Program Will Begin Night of March 28th

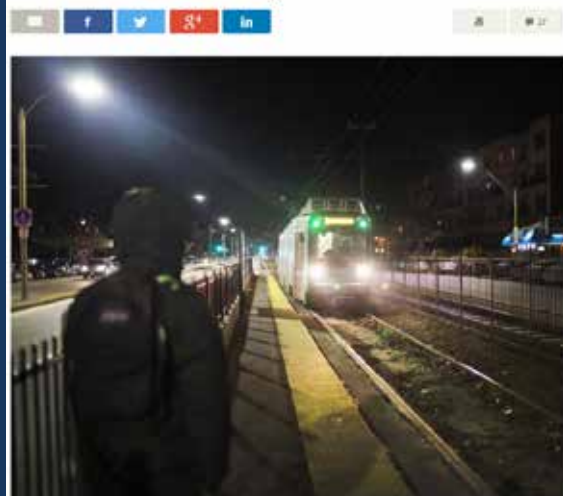
Start Date: 3/13/2014



“Let’s Take A Hard Look At Late Night Transit Options” Says Supe, Forms Working Group

BART MUNI SCOTT WIENER by [San Jose News](#) | April 22, 2014 6:46 pm | in [City Hall](#) | [1 Comments](#)

MBTA ends its late-night service



SEPTA extends 24-hour weekend subway/el service

Updated: AUGUST 6, 2014 — 1:08 AM EDT



BART to discontinue late-night buses to East Contra Costa

By City News

Published November 22, 2013 7:47 pm



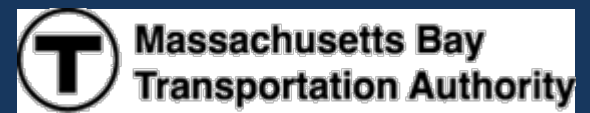
Related Coverage

BART's new route regular service, group reduced at Treasure Station.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY (CCC) — BART's board of directors voted Thursday to keep extra late night buses going across the Bay Bridge for another year, but one of the routes will likely be raised next month.



Peer Review



- Increasing attention on late night service but often 1st in budget cuts
- 24 hour transit networks in Chicago, Philadelphia, SF Bay Area
- Mostly bus service (track work), but Chicago & Philly run limited late night subway service
- Mostly policy headways
- Special late night signage/maps
- Timed transfers at key locations
- SF study: late night auto crash rate is 7x that of day time



Bus destination sign

During day/evening appears as:

4 Cottage Grove

Night Owl Service appears as:

N4 Cottage Grove





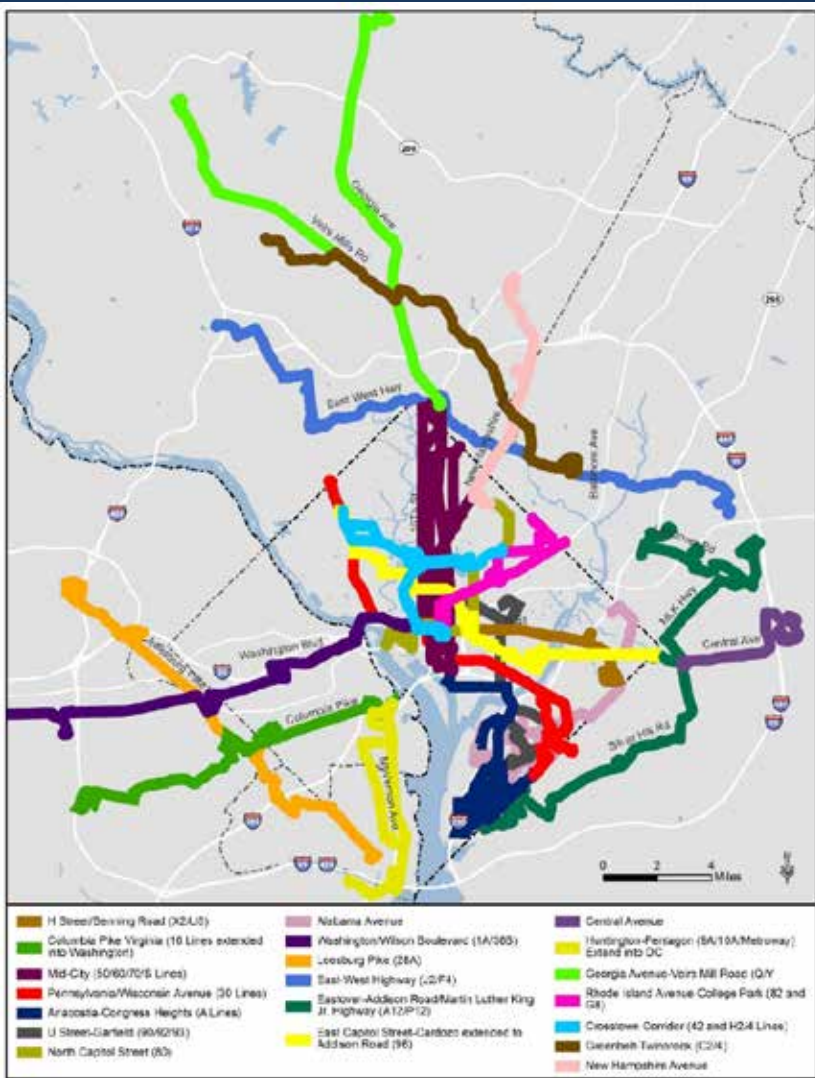
Rider Survey Results

- Method: in person, tablets, online
- 1325 responses
- 72% DC residents, 16 % MD, 11% VA
- Mostly trips to work or home
- Half are regular riders (1-5 trips per week)
- Most requested improvement:
 - More frequent service
 - Greater span of service (24 hours)



“Principal” Late Night Corridors

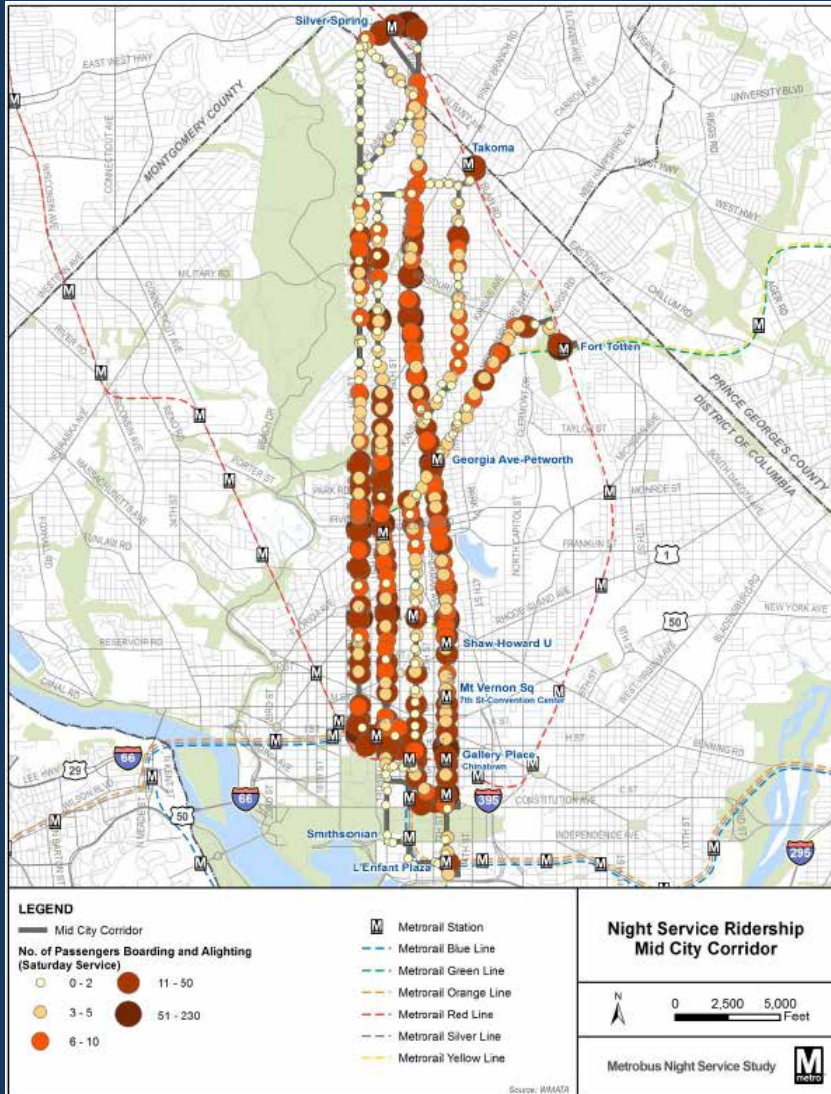
- “Principal” = Major arterial Metrobus corridors selected for more detailed analysis
- Example corridors:
 - ✓ H St/Benning Rd (X2/U8)
 - ✓ GA Ave-Viers Mill Rd (Q/Y Lines)
 - ✓ Wilson/Washington Blvd (38B, 1A)





Productivity Analysis

- Performance evaluation using key metrics and targets
- Example: "Mid-City Corridor" exceeds many targets, experiences some crowding



Late Night Trips: Corridor Productivity Analysis 11pm-4am, Fall 2015

Route	Vehicle Load Factor			Boarding Passengers/ Mile			Boarding Passengers/ Hour			Boarding Passengers/ Vehicle Trips		
	M-F	Sat	Sun	M-F	Sat	Sun	M-F	Sat	Sun	M-F	Sat	Sun
3. Mid-City Corridor												
70	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕
S2	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕
S4	⊕	⊖	⊖	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕
S2	⊕	⊖	⊖	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕
S4	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕
62	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕
64	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕

Legend

Vehicle Load Factor		Boarding Passengers/Mile		Boarding Passengers/Hour		Boarding Passengers/Vehicle Trips	
⊖	Exceeds Max.	⊖	Well Above Min.	⊖	Well Above Min.	⊖	Well Above Min.
⊕	High	⊕	Above Min.	⊕	Above Min.	⊕	Above Min.
⊕	Medium-High	⊕	Meets Min.	⊕	Meets Min.	⊕	Meets Min.
⊕	Medium	⊕	Below Min.	⊕	Below Min.	⊕	Below Min.



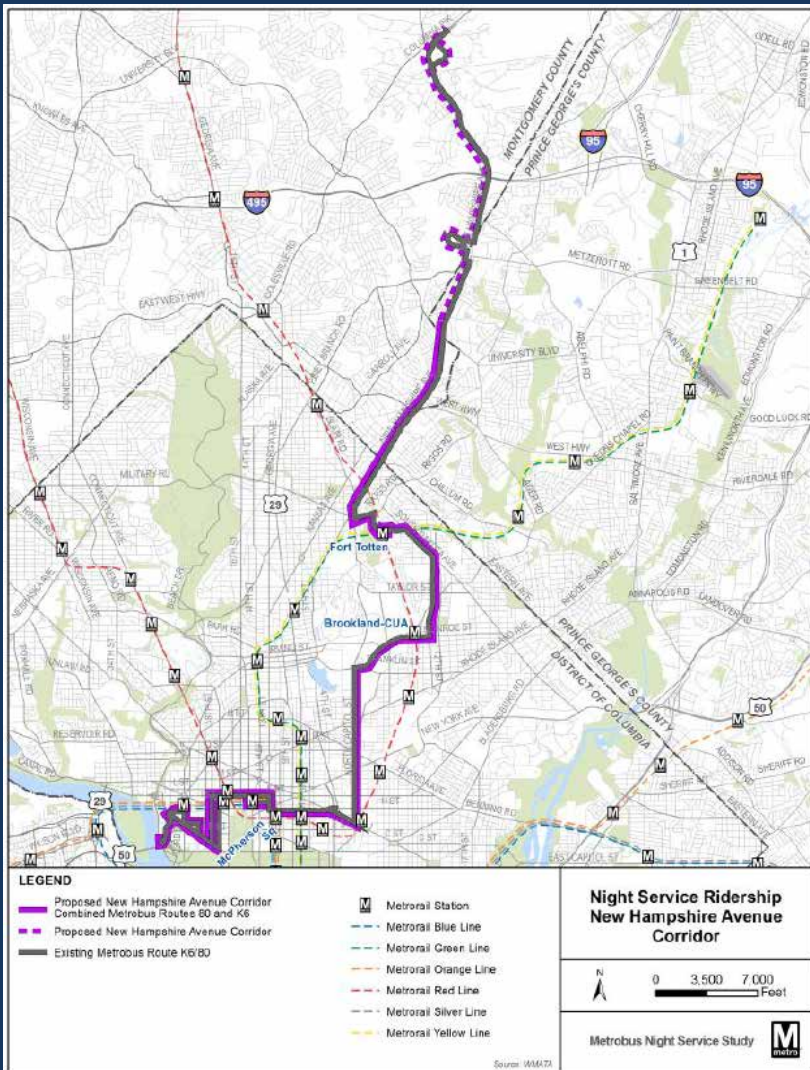
Sample Recommendations (DC)

H Street/Benning corridor:

- Due to high transfers at Minnesota Ave, interline X2 and U8 after midnight (one seat ride downtown)
- Add trips for 24 hour service



Sample Recommendations (DC/MD)



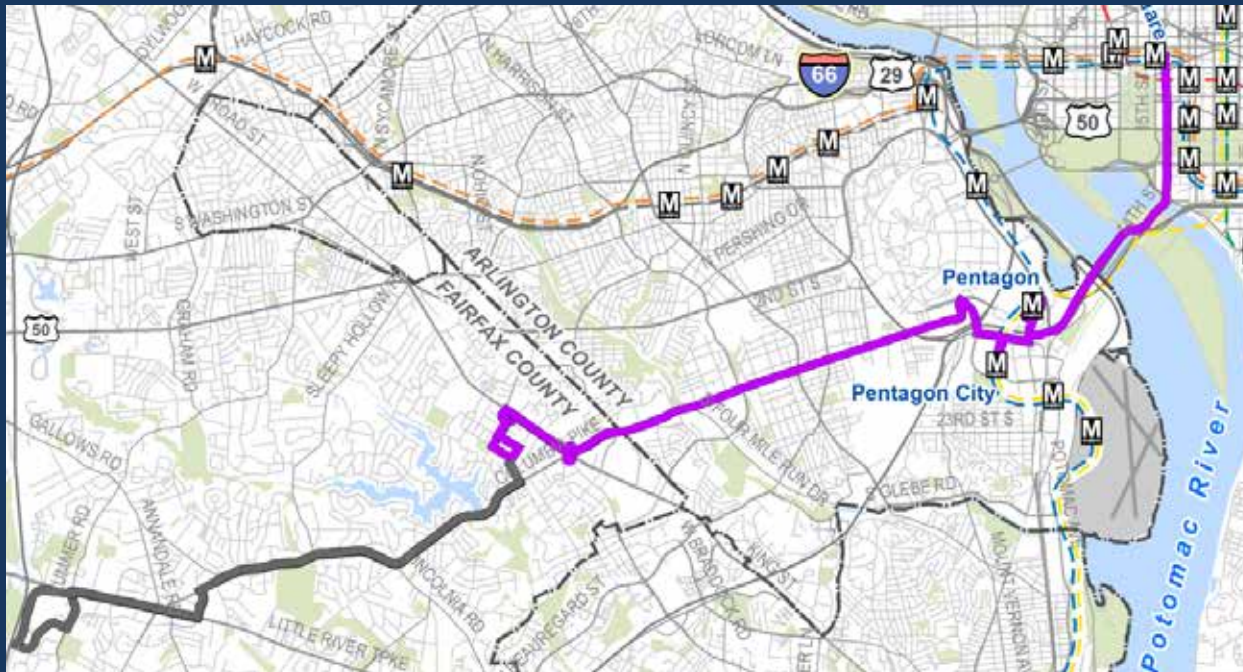
North Capitol Street/New Hampshire corridor

- Interline 80 and K6 after midnight at Ft. Totten
- Add trips to reduce heavy 12-1am loads
- Extend to White Oak (future)

Sample Recommendations (VA)

Columbia Pike corridor:

- Extend to Downtown DC after midnight
 - Add trips for 24 hour service



Recommendation Summary

- Extend span in major corridors for 24 hour service
- Align late night service period with rail closing (12am)
- Timed transfers downtown
- Interline/extend key routes at 12am (Columbia Pike, 38B, Bethesda, etc.)
- Add trips to reduce crowding
- Develop night service map and signage
- Total cost: about \$1.5M/year

