

ITEM 10 – Information

October 21, 2020

Transit-Oriented Communities: High-Capacity Transit Station Area Interactive Map

Background:

As part of TPB’s focus on transit-oriented communities, TPB staff developed an interactive map that identifies high-capacity transit station areas, classifies them according to various geographic filters, and summarizes selected planning data. This planning tool can support local planning agencies’ efforts to identify opportunities for projects, programs, and policies that support the development of transit-oriented communities in the region. Staff will demonstrate the interactive map.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board
FROM: Timothy Canan, Transportation Planning Data and Research Program Director
SUBJECT: Transit-Oriented Communities: High-Capacity Transit Station Areas
DATE: October 15, 2020

At the January 15, 2020 TPB meeting, Chair Russell identified work activities to support and advance transit oriented communities (TOCs) in the region as one of the focus areas for this year. At this meeting, staff briefed TPB members on potential activities that could further support member jurisdictions' efforts to enhance housing and transportation connectivity in areas served by transit. These activities are part of an effort to identify opportunities to help the region reach its housing targets, support the development of TOCs, and advance the region's long-range transportation plan, *Visualize 2045*. The regional housing targets adopted by COG align with and advance TPB's aspirational initiative, "Bring Jobs and Housing Closer Together," which seeks to optimize the region's complex land use and transportation system in a manner that will favorably address traffic congestion and support increased accessibility as well as housing availability and affordability throughout the region.

The proposed TPB activities focused on analyzing land use and transportation interactions in areas served by High-Capacity Transit (HCT), which is defined as Metrorail; commuter rail (MARC and VRE); light rail (e.g., Purple line); and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)/Streetcars. Staff proposed conducting several analyses grouped into three distinct phases, or milestones:

1. Identify and Classify High Capacity Transit (HCT) Station Areas
2. Summarize Population, Households, and Employment in HCT Station Areas
3. Examine Transportation Connectivity in HCT Station Areas – Alternative Modes

Additionally, staff proposed developing a GIS-based interactive tool that contains the above analyses and making the tool available in a user-friendly interactive manner to staffs and members of the public. As stated during the January COG Board briefing:

"The purpose of this tool will be to build understanding of HCT Station Areas and their geographic distribution and presence throughout the region. Such a tool can help focus the discussion and efforts to examine potential projects, programs, and policies that promote the development of successful TOCs within each jurisdiction. The tool can also overlay two other types of geographically-focused areas the region uses to inform its planning and programming actions: Regional Activity Centers and Equity Emphasis Areas—census tracts with higher concentrations of low-income and minority residents. Specifically, the HCT Station Area tool can identify which HCT Station Areas are contained within a Regional Activity Center and/or in an Equity Emphasis Area. This knowledge can help inform both housing and transportation investment discussions and decisions."

Staff completed the basic TOC tool identifying the locations of all HCT Station Areas anticipated in the region by 2030, including the type of transit service offered, and listing them under the various geographic groupings of the region. A briefing of the TOC tool was planned for the TPB in March 2020 but was deferred as the disruptions of COVID-19 prompted changes in the March TPB agenda. Since then, staff has continued to build additional functionality into this TOC tool as work on tasks two and three (above) is completed. As of this date staff has completed tasks one, two, and the first of three parts of task three.

The three parts of task three are (1) walkshed analysis (identifying areas within a 10 minute of a transit station), (2) micro-mobility shed (identifying areas around a transit station reachable via bicycle/e-scooters), and (3) micro-transit shed (areas around a high capacity transit station best suited for micro transit service). The work delineating “walksheds” around transit station areas is intended to identify and help prioritize station areas where investments could improve accessibility to transit.

Staff will present the *High Capacity Transit in the National Capital Region Web Map* to the TPB at its October 21, 2020 meeting; demonstrate how it can be used to identify the stations areas within each of these classifications throughout the region; and view the Cooperative Forecast summaries and walksheds in each of the station areas. The map is accessible at the following location: <https://www.mwcog.org/maps/map-listing/hct-map-tool/>. This web map is hosted on the COG website and accessible by COG and TPB members, Technical Committee and Subcommittee members, state and local planning agency staffs, and members of the public. The interactive tool is scalable, enabling expansion and enhancements over time in response to input received from stakeholders and in accordance with the system’s technical capabilities.

TRANSIT-ORIENTED COMMUNITIES

HIGH-CAPACITY TRANSIT STATION AREA INTERACTIVE MAP

Timothy Canan, AICP
TPB Planning Data and Research Program Director

Transportation Planning Board
October 21, 2020

Transit-Oriented Communities

- COG Board Chairman, Derrick Davis, identified Transit-Oriented Communities (TOCs) as a focus of the Board of Directors during 2020
- TPB Chair, Kelly Russell, identified transportation elements of TOCs as a focus of the TPB work activities during 2020
- COG and TPB staff identified a series of TOC-supportive work activities and products that can be undertaken by COG and TPB staff to help member jurisdictions' efforts to enhance housing and transportation connectivity in areas served by transit
 - Help reach regional housing targets
 - Support development of TOCs
 - Advance Aspirational Initiatives of *Visualize 2045*



Optimize and Balance Land Use initiative

- More housing in the region
 - Identify ways to develop more housing in the region to provide workers to meet forecast regional job growth
- Optimize and coordinate transit investments and land use
 - Identify ways to increase jobs and housing around underutilized transit stations and Activity Centers with high-capacity transit
- Balance future growth in jobs and housing regionwide
 - Achieve a better-balanced distribution of future growth in jobs and housing between the eastern and western portions of the region



Activity Centers and High-Capacity Transit

Activity Centers – locations that will accommodate the majority of the region’s future growth in the coming decades. They include existing urban centers, priority growth areas, traditional towns, and transit hubs.

- First Activity Centers Map approved in 2002
- Updates in 2007 and 2012

High-Capacity Transit – defined in *Visualize 2045* as Metrorail, Commuter Rail, Light Rail, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), and Streetcar.

Why?

- By 2045, the number of jobs are forecasts to increase faster than the number households
 - This will result in more commute trips originating from outside the region; increasing demand on congested roadways and make achieving region's livability, sustainability, accessibility and prosperity goals
- The Regional Housing Targets advance the *Visualize 2045* Aspirational Initiative, “Bring Jobs and Housing Closer Together”
 - Seek to address these challenges by optimizing the region's complex land use and transportation system to favorably address traffic congestion and support increased accessibility



Regional Housing Targets

- Adopted by the COG Board of Directors in September 2019:
 - **Amount** – At least 320,000 new housing units needed between 2020 and 2030 to accommodate employment forecasts (75,000 more than in current forecasts)
 - **Location** – 75% should be in Activity Centers or near High-Capacity Transit
 - **Affordability** – 75% should be affordable to low- and middle-income households
- Developed in conjunction with COG'S Housing Strategy Group, the Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee (PDTAC), and the Housing Directors Advisory Committee (HDAC)



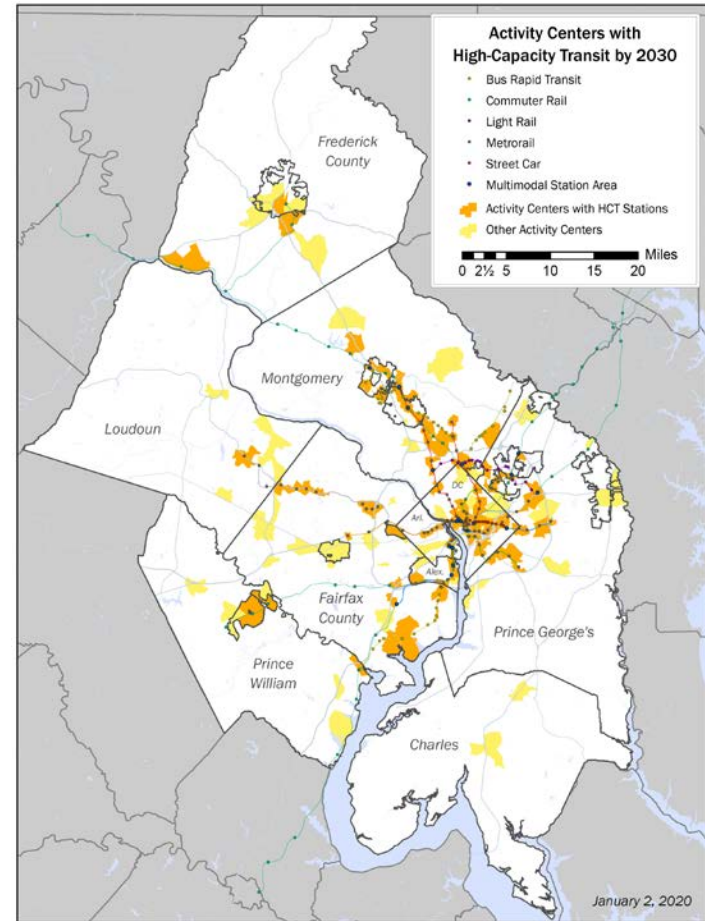
TOC Activities

1. **Identify and Classify High Capacity Transit (HCT) Station Areas**
2. **Summarize Population, Households, and Employment in HCT Station Areas**
3. Examine Transportation Connectivity in HCT Station Areas – Alternative Modes
 - a. **Walkshed analysis**
 - b. “Micromobility” shed analysis
 - c. “Micro-transit” shed analysis



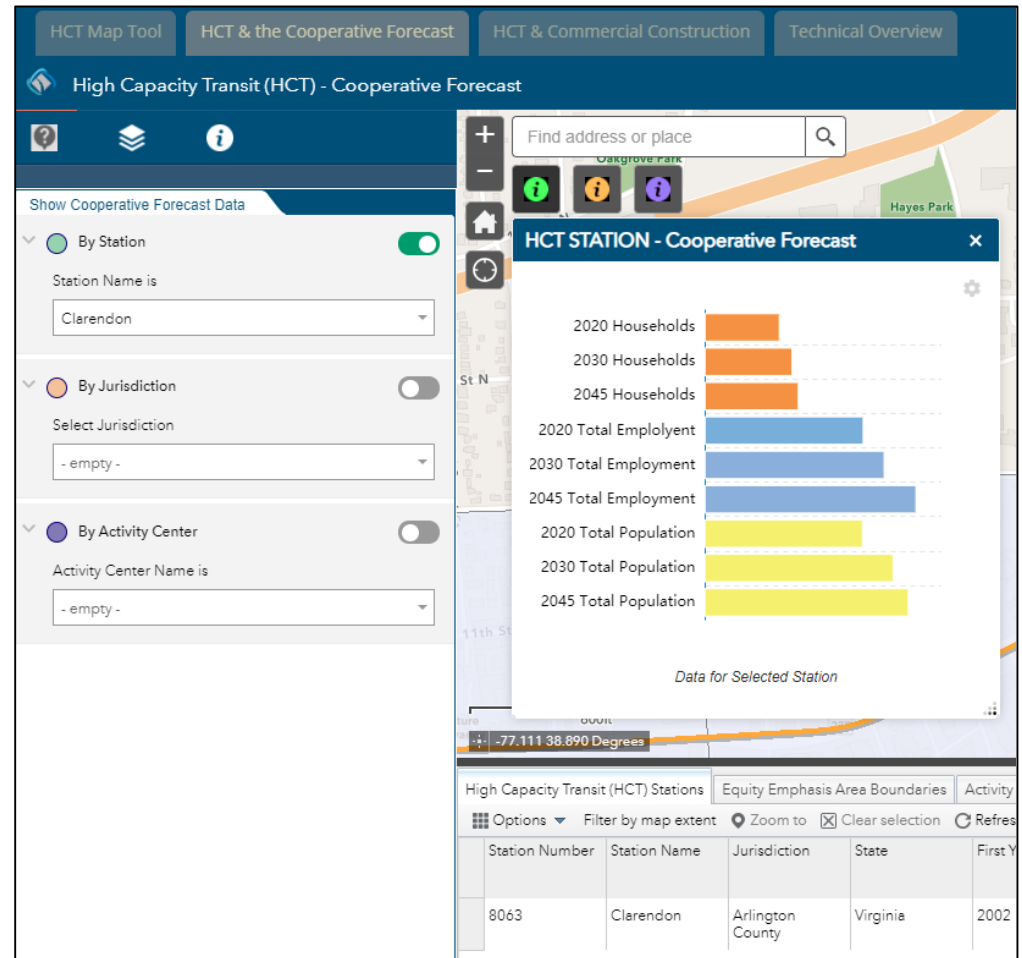
1. Identify and Classify High Capacity Transit (HCT) Station Areas

- GIS-based interactive web map that identifies the **HCT Station Areas anticipated in the region by 2030**
- Build understanding of HCT Station Areas and their locations in the region
- Focus discussion and efforts to examine projects, programs, and policies that promote development of successful TOCs
- Expandable to include additional TOC activities



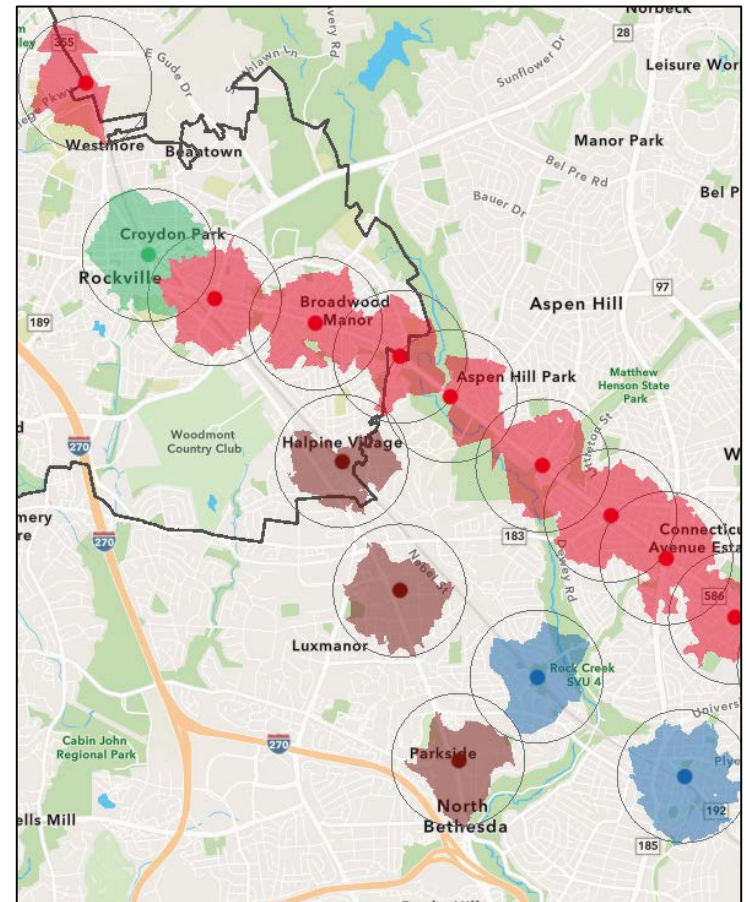
2. Summarize Population, Households, and Employment in HCT Station Areas

- Round 9.1a Cooperative Forecast summaries are available for each HCT Station Area
- Includes Population, Households, and Employment
- Available for 2020, 2030, and 2045



3a. Alternative Modes – Walkshed Analysis

- Walksheds are the distance a person is willing to walk to reach transit
- Generally accepted to be $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, or a 10-minute walk
- “Theoretical” walkshed is a circle with a $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile radius from the transit station
- Physical barriers and constraints, however, result a smaller area
- The Transit Access Focus Areas (TAFA) developed in the Transit Within Reach project identified $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile walksheds using available network information



Who can use it?

- Elected officials and policy makers
- Local land use and transportation planners
- State DOT and regional transit planners
- Interested members of the public



How do I access the web map?

<https://www.mwcog.org/maps/map-listing/hct-map-tool/>

The screenshot shows the 'High Capacity Transit (HCT) Map Tool' interface. The top navigation bar includes tabs for 'HCT Map Tool', 'HCT & the Cooperative Forecast', 'HCT & Commercial Construction', and 'Technical Overview'. The main map area displays a geographic view of the region around Washington D.C., with various colored dots representing transit stations. A search bar at the top left allows for finding addresses or places. On the left side, there are several filter options for identifying stations based on activity centers, equity emphasis areas (EEA), and core jurisdiction. Below the map, there is a table listing specific HCT stations.

ID	Station Number	Station Name	First Year	Mode Type (Detailed)	Jurisdiction	State	In an Activity Center
1	8040	Anacostia	2002	Metro	District of Columbia	District of Columbia	1
2	8036	Archives-Navy Memorial-Penn Quarter	2002	Metro	District of Columbia	District of Columbia	1
3	10811	Benning & 42nd NE	2023	Street Car / Bus Rapid	District of Columbia	District of Columbia	1



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