TPB ACCESS FOR ALL Advisory Committee

Ride On Reimagined: Montgomery County's Comprehensive Bus Network Study

April 24, 2023

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

Ride On Reimagined

A Comprehensive Review of the Montgomery County Bus Network

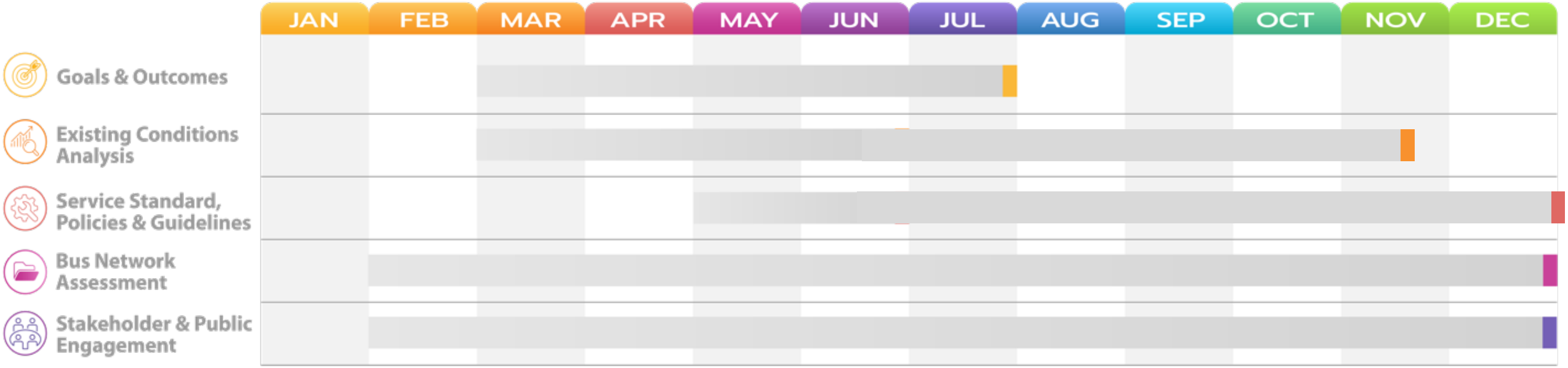
MCDOT Montgomery County Department of Transportation

Ride On Montgomery County Transit

Lesson Learned: It Really Does Take this Long

Part I: Assessment

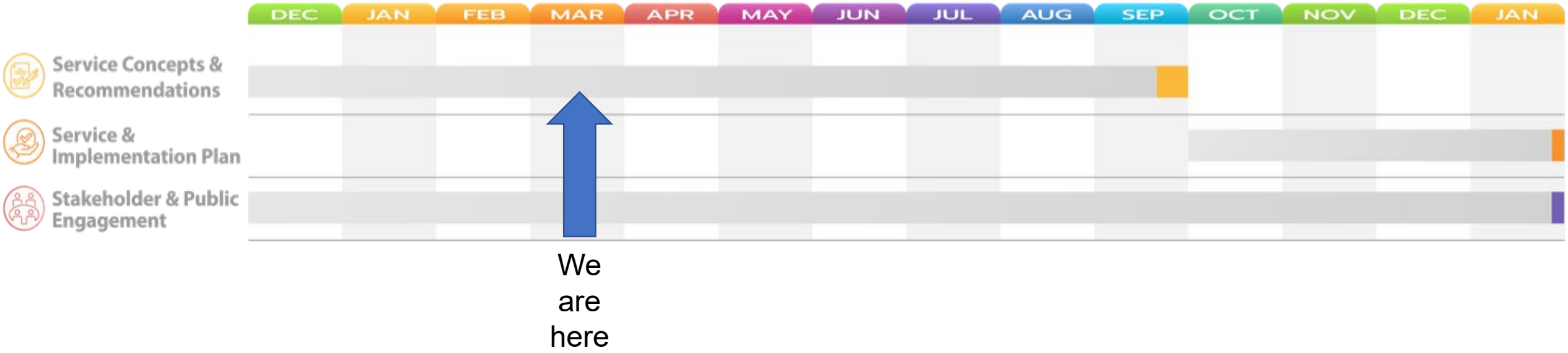
March 2022-December 2022



Project Schedule

Part II: Service Design and Concepts

December 2022-January 2024

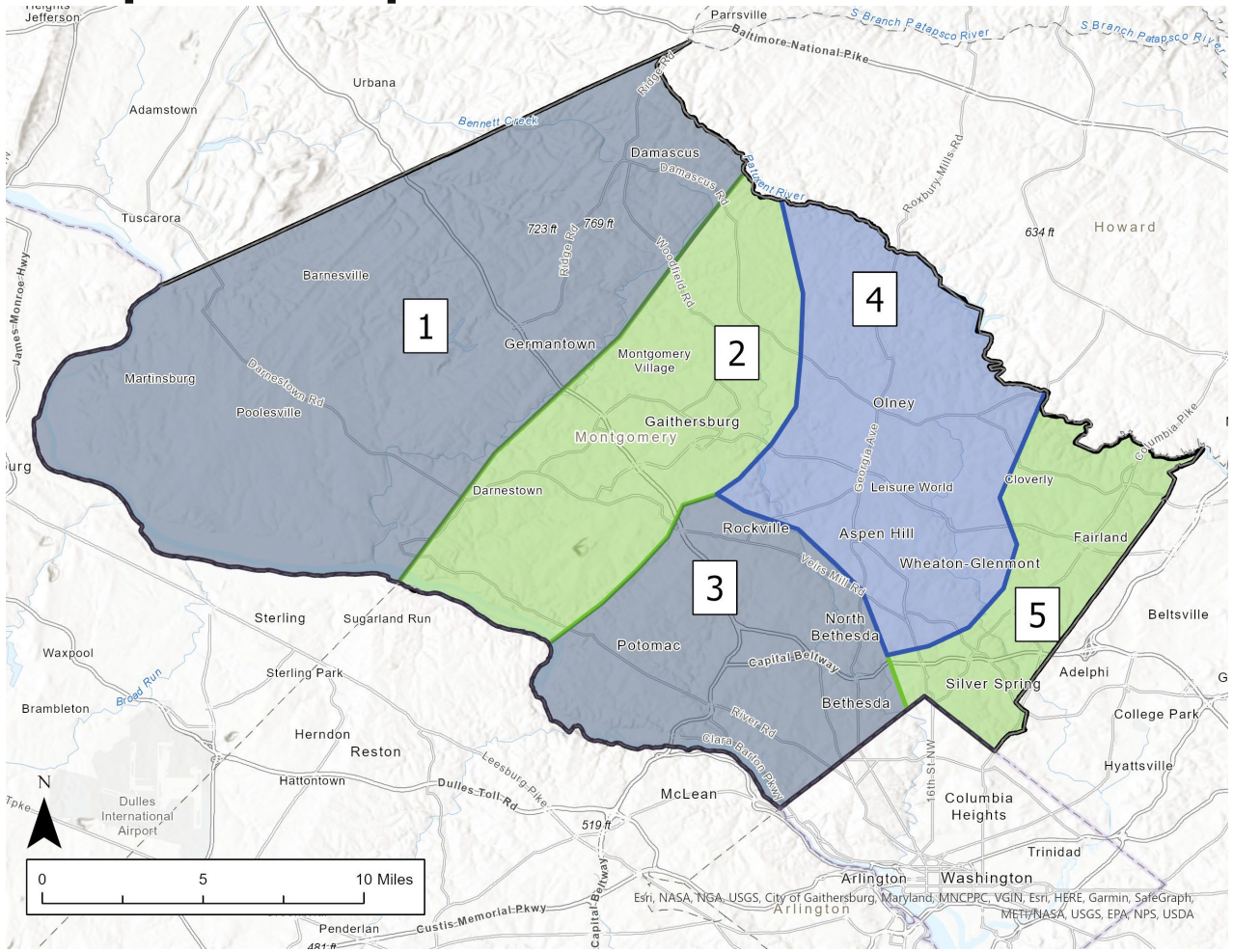


Lesson Learned: Remember Your Goals

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

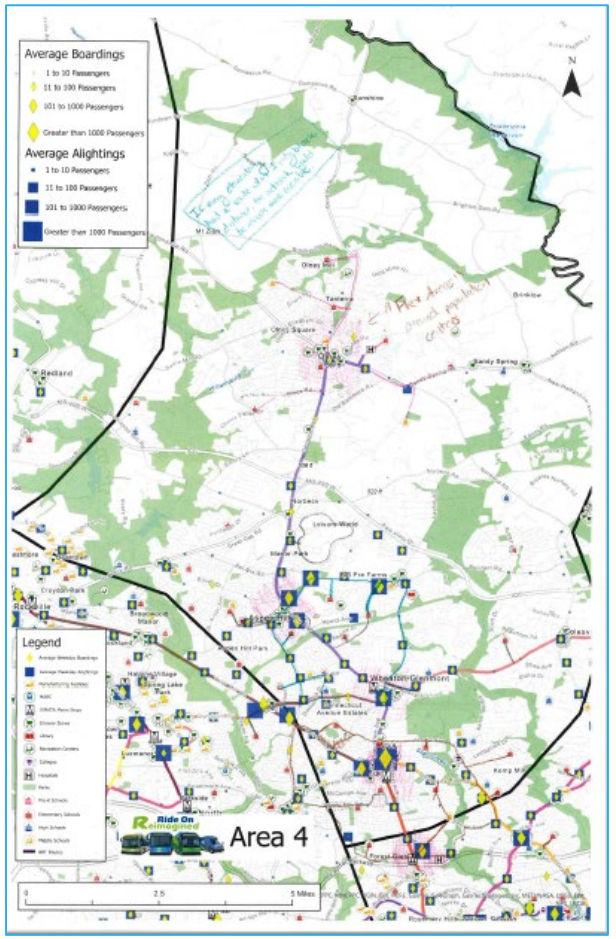
Lesson Learned: Focus Groups Help Read Into Data

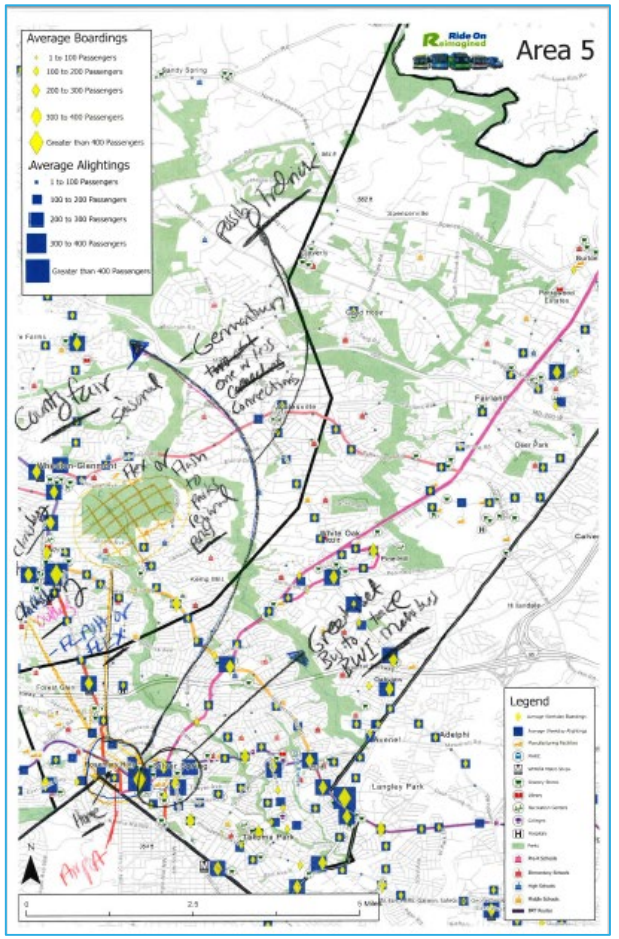
- Two rounds of sessions covering five areas
- Participants include riders and non-riders
- First round of sessions, “Connect the Dots” exercise, completed Jan. 19



Focus Groups: What We Heard

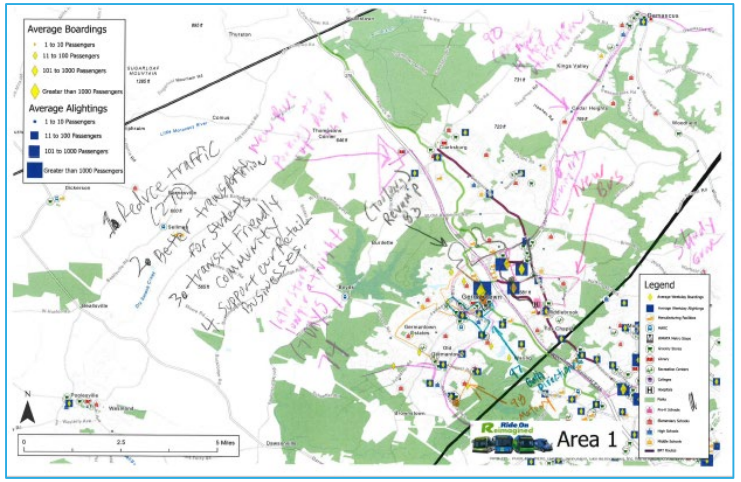
- Additional / improved connections between Downcounty and Upcounty
- Better connections between Transit Hubs and through service
- More seasonal connections to recreational & cultural facilities
- Better connections to neighborhood destinations like retail centers and schools
- Better connections to regional facilities like hospitals and BWI

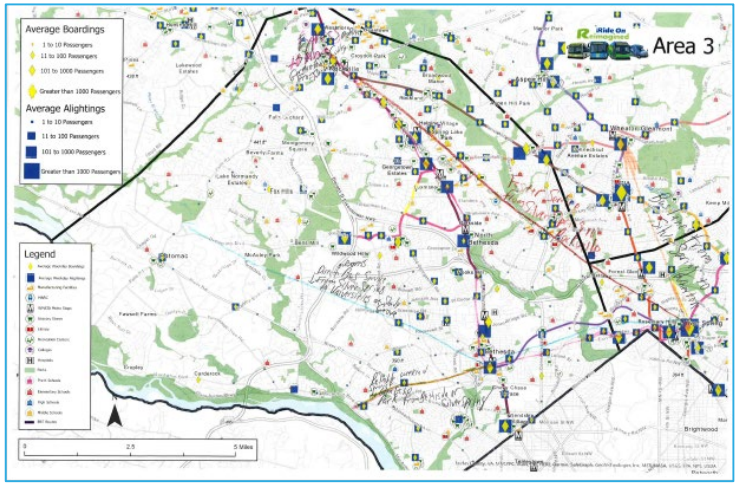


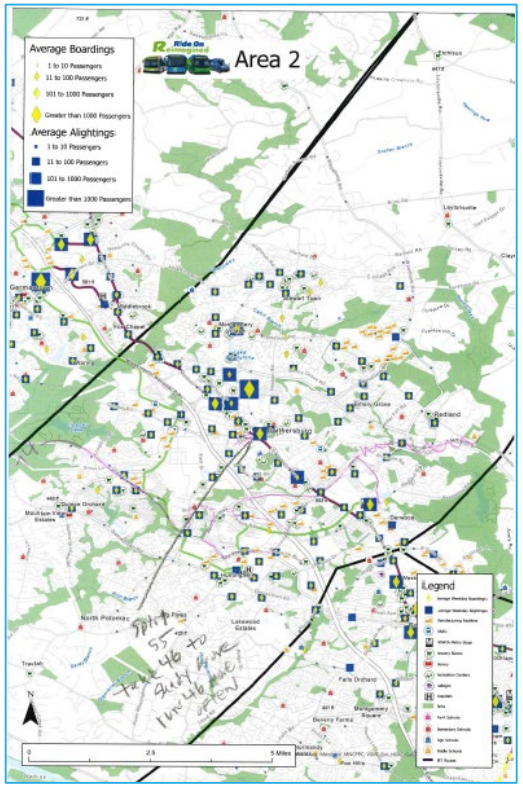


Focus Groups: What We Heard (Cont'd)

- 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 synced between routes
- Expand span of service to accommodate shift workers (i.e., hospital staff, retail workers, etc.)

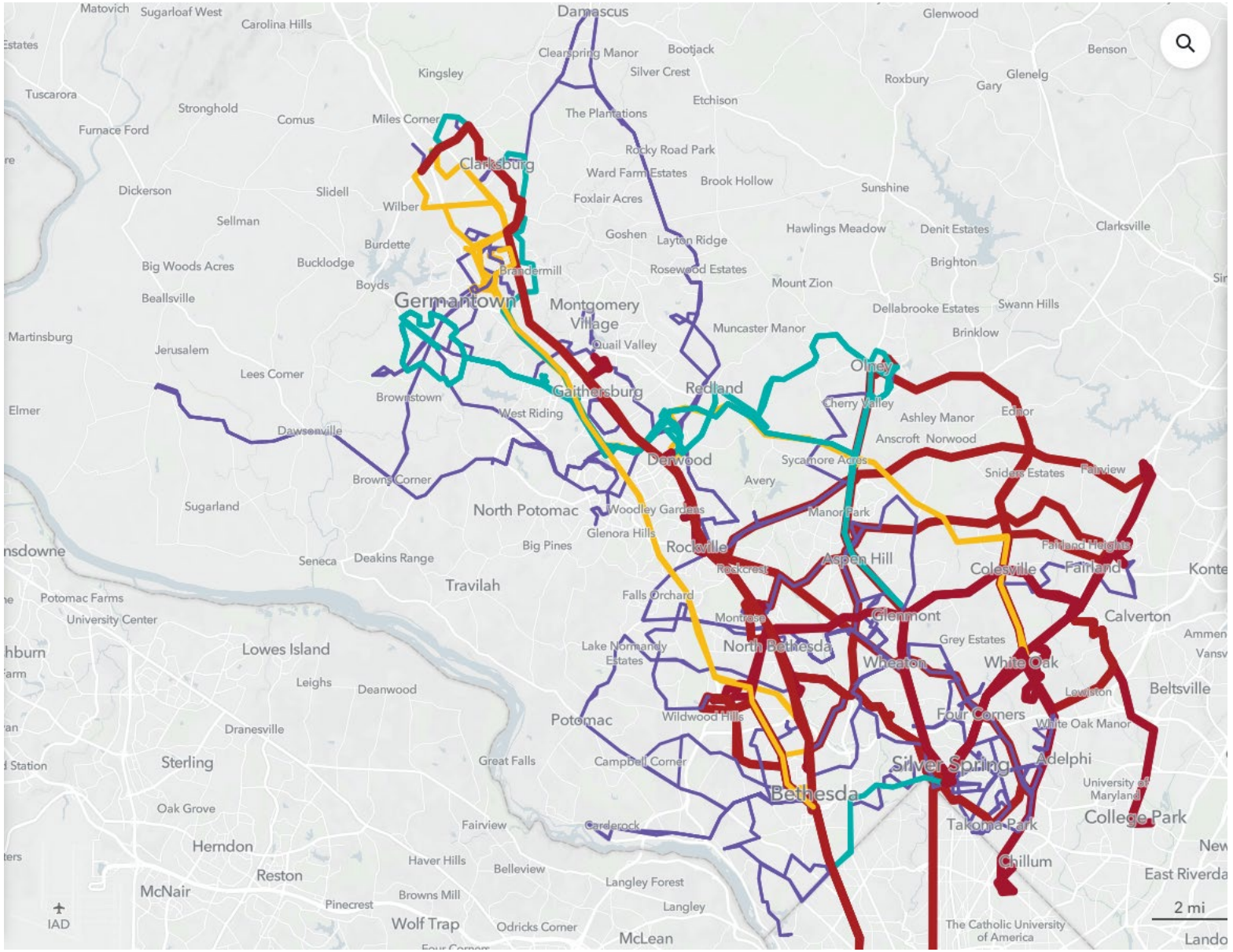






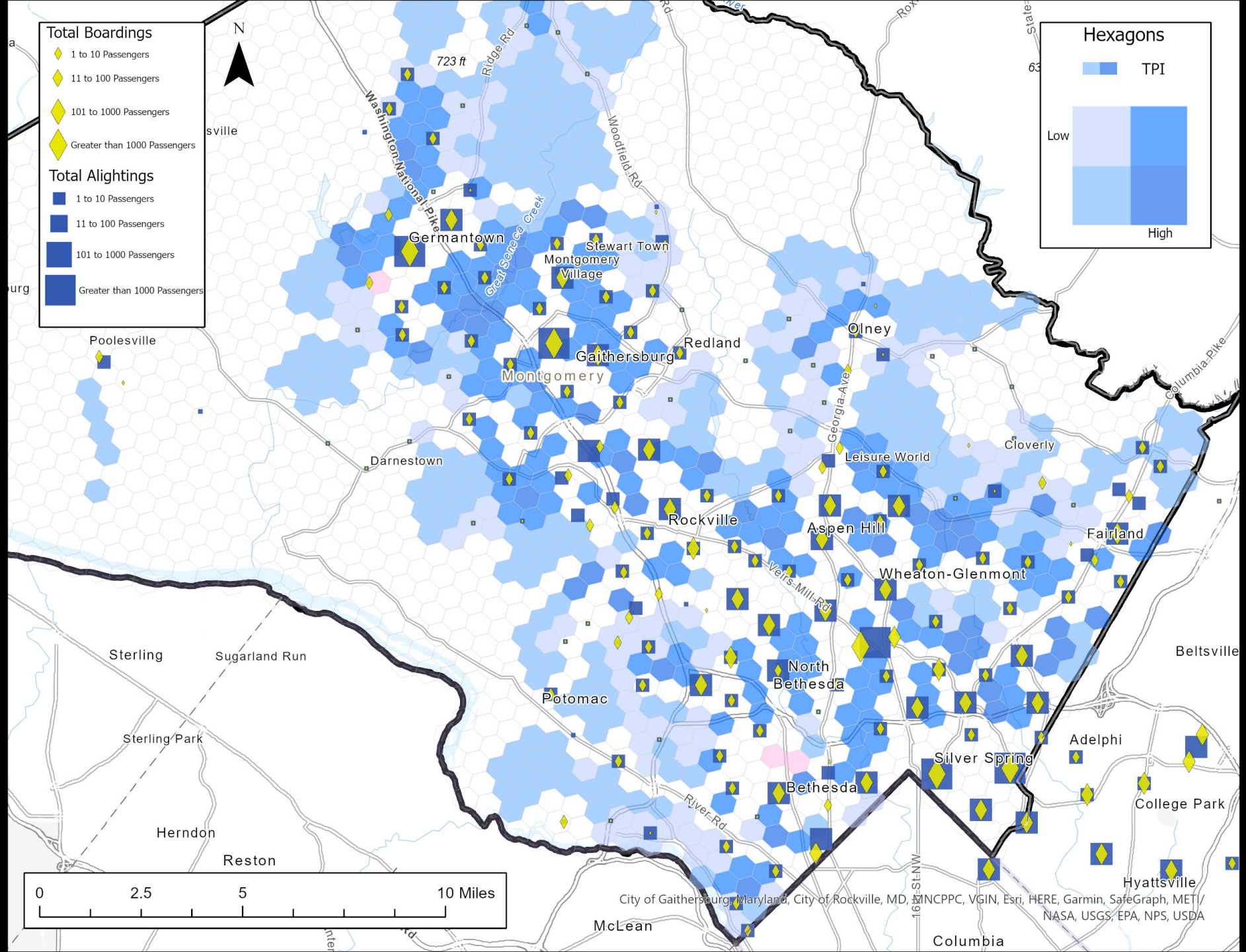
Building Up to a Network Concept

- Ridership and transit propensity
- High ridership corridors
- County's BRT (& LRT) corridors
- Customer survey requested locations
- Focus group suggestions



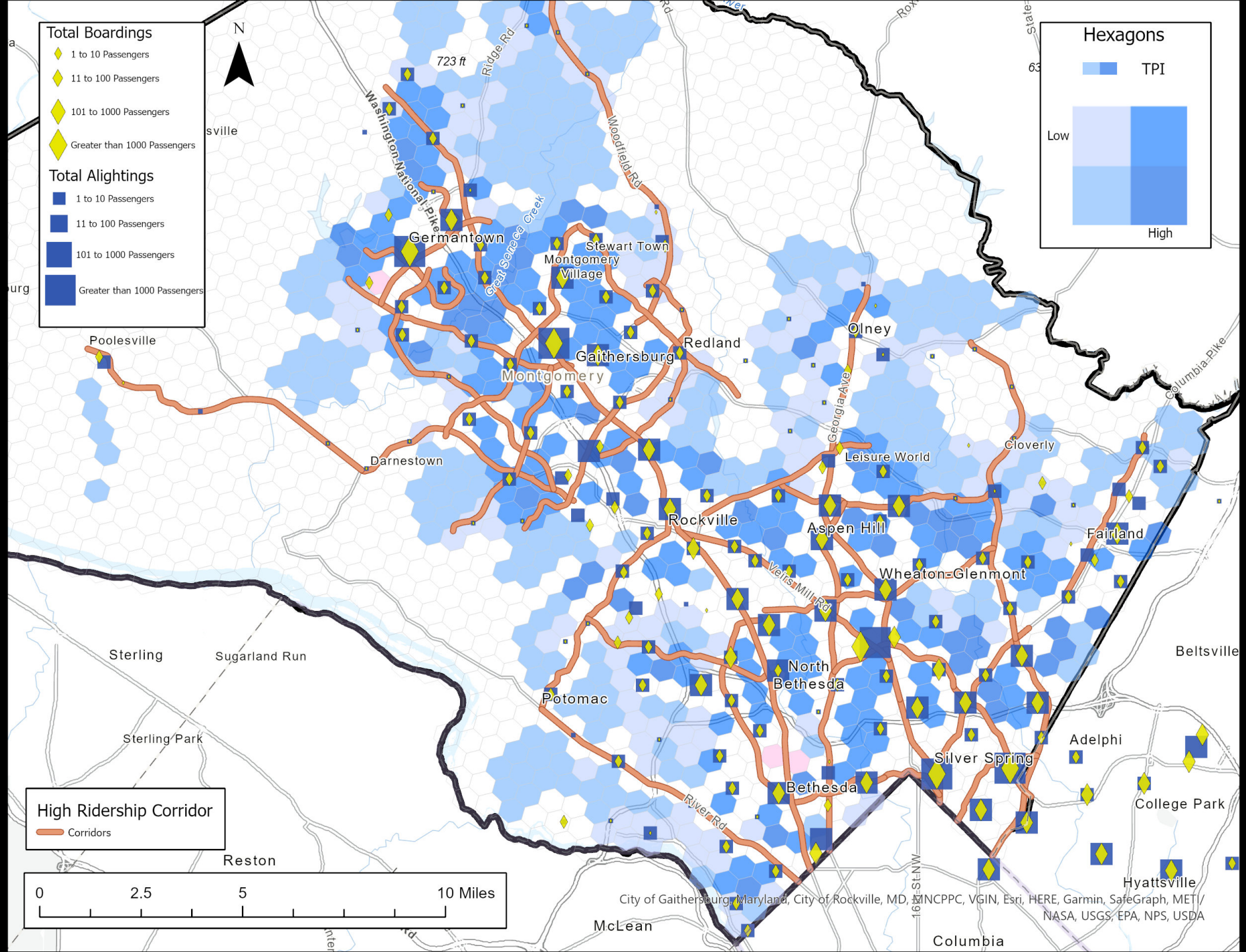
Existing Ridership & Transit Propensity

- 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



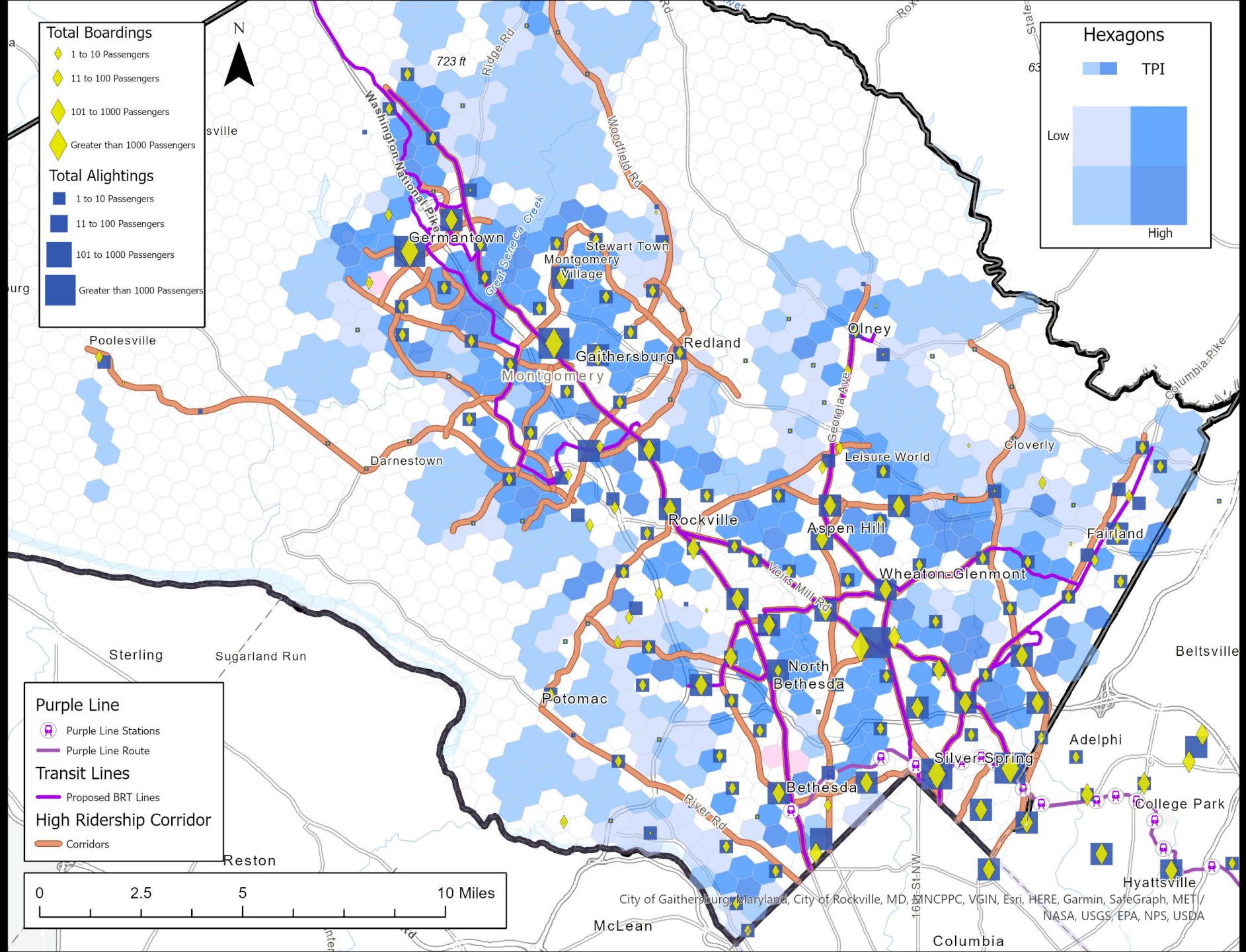
+ Higher Ridership Corridors

- Lines indicate potential links between higher ridership stops and areas of likelihood of use



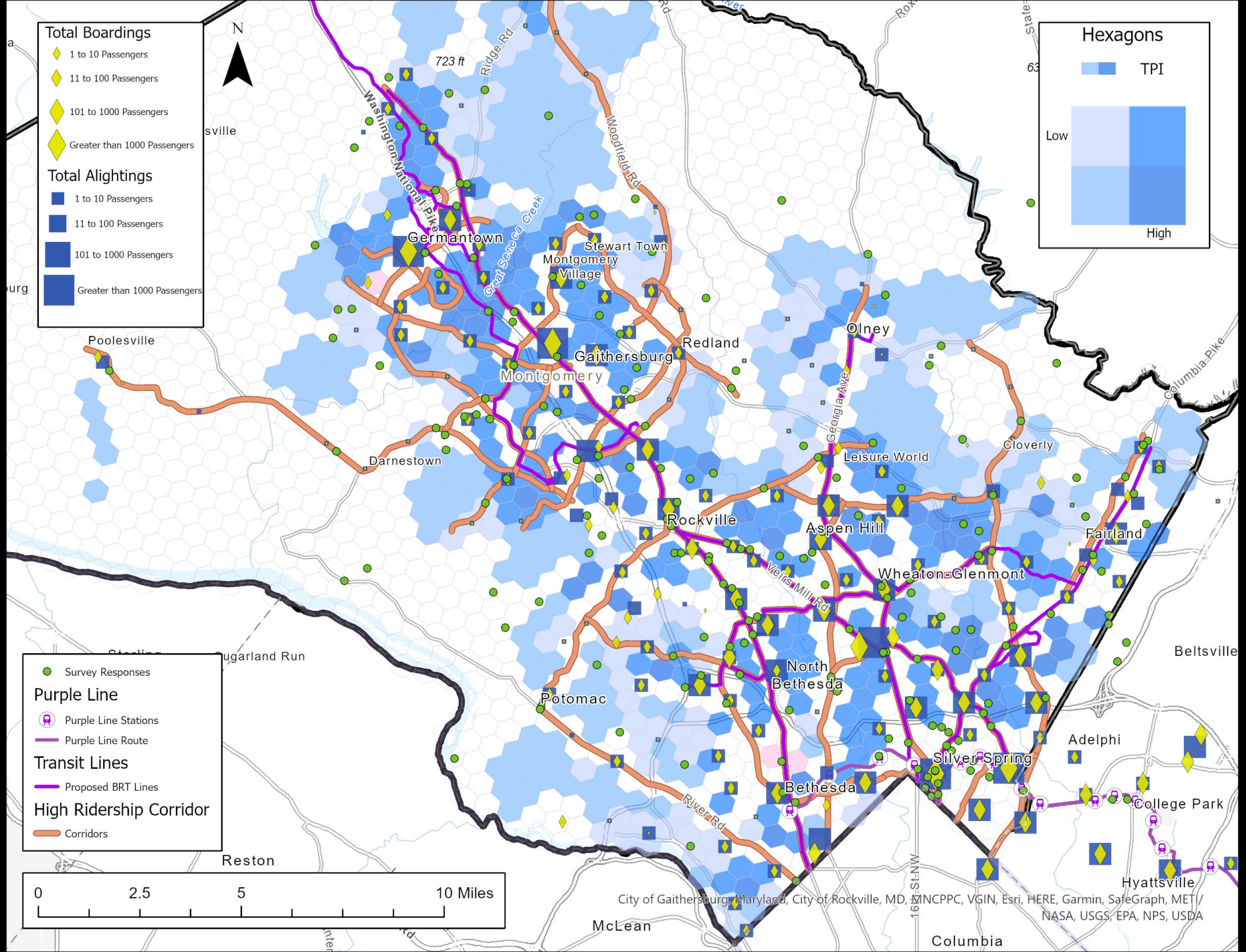
+ BRT Corridors and Purple Line

- Planned Flash routes and the Purple Line form the base of a revised network



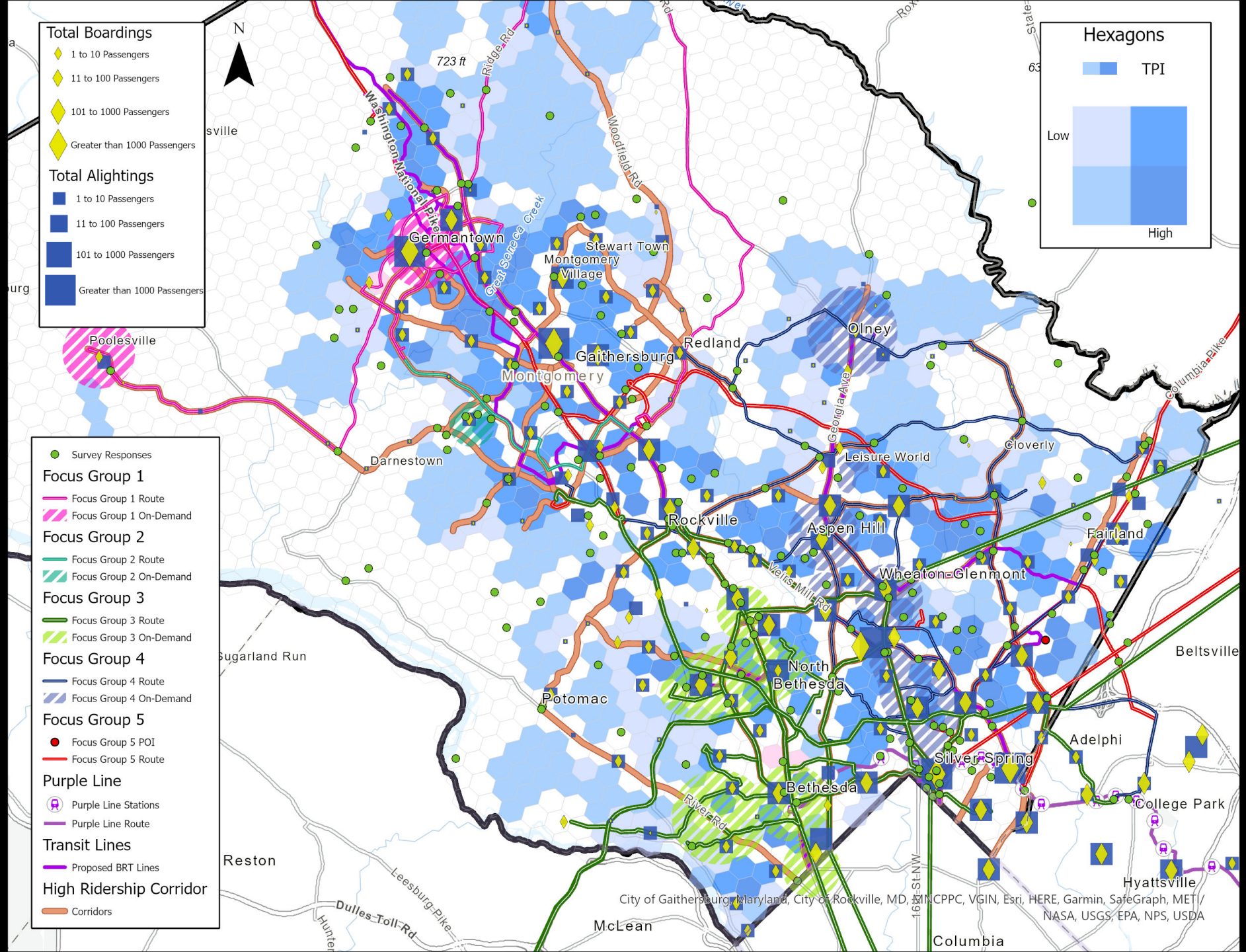
+ Customer Survey Requested Points

- Customers identified over 300 locations where they would like new/additional service



+ Focus Group Suggestions

- Focus group participants suggested new/revised routes, including new cross-county express service and Flex on-demand zones, and other route changes



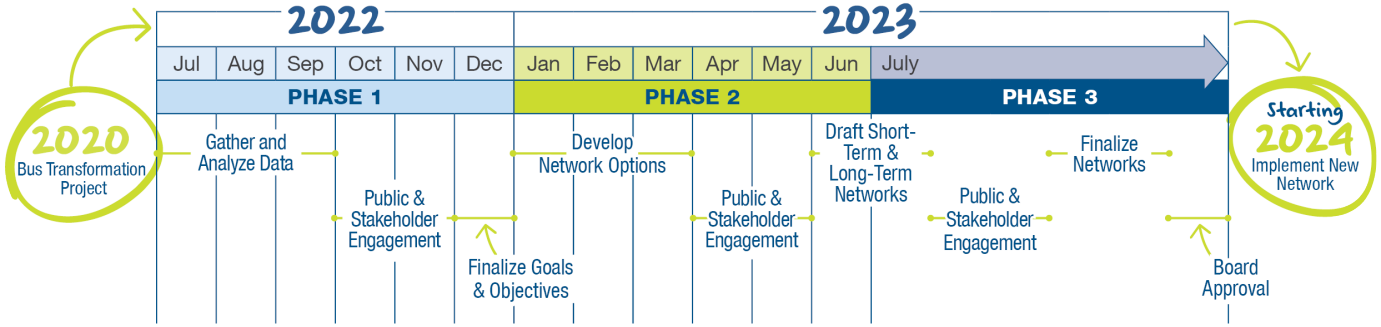
Lesson Learned: Focus Groups Participants Can Help with Resource Allocation

- "Assign the Buses" exercise to prioritize service levels

Buses Required Exercise for Area	4									
Route				Indicate Desired Headway (Minutes) with an "X"						
Number	Description	Service Type	Cycle Time (minutes)	60	30	15	10	New # of Buses Needed	Existing # of Buses	Differen
Total								**134**	**134**	0
095a	Rockville-Burtonsville	Bus	47		X			2		
102a	Silver Spring - Germantown TC Express	Bus	102			X		7		
253a	Shady Grove-Glenmont	Bus	108		X			4		
710a	Flash - Calverton-Silver Spring (aka MD092)	Flash	92				X	10		

Lesson Learned: Coordinate (Metro's Better Bus Network Redesign)

- Two workshops held in Rockville: 1/27 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 on April 17



Next Steps

- Develop draft network concept
- Second round of focus group meetings: service characteristics and resource allocation

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THANK YOU

Contact Ride On Reimagined

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