

REGION FORWARD COALITION

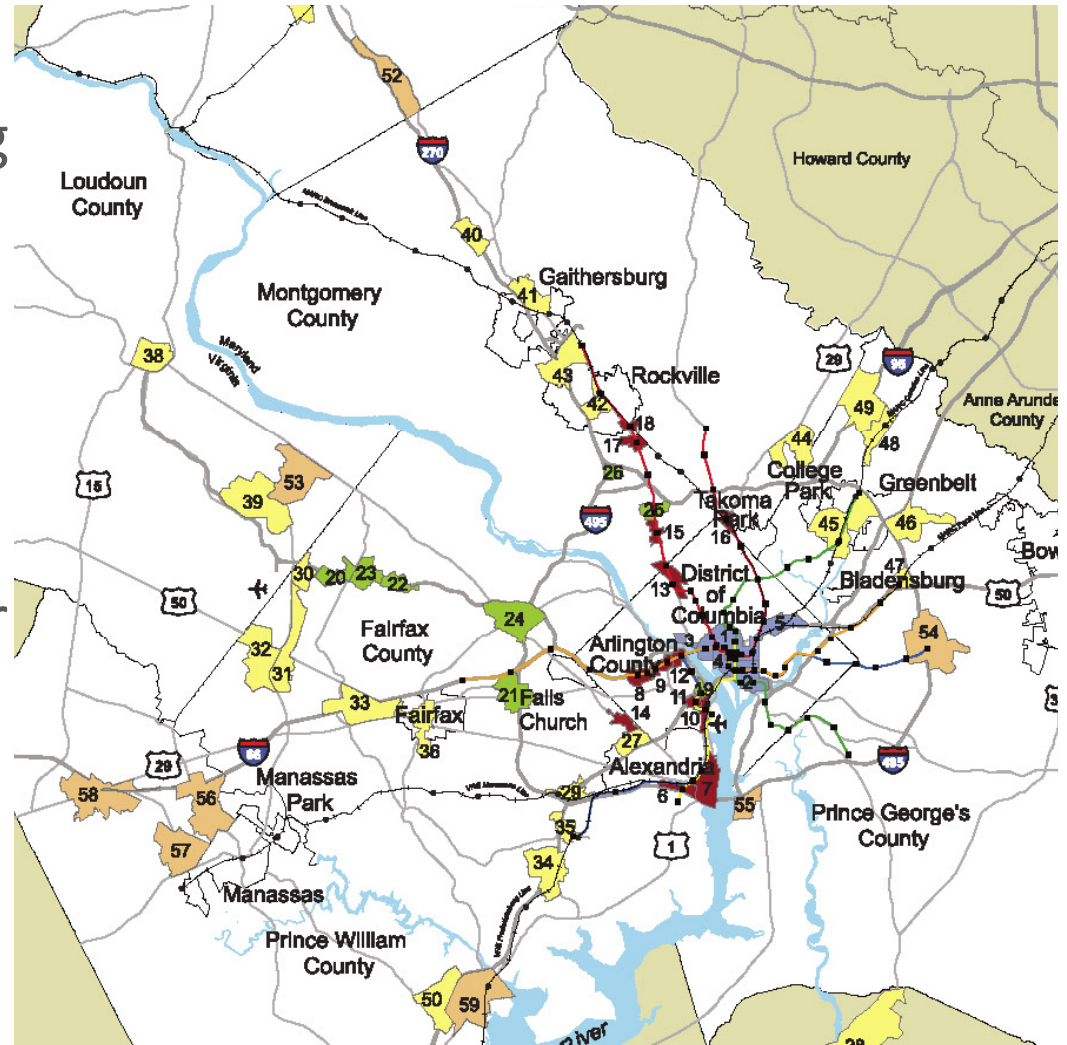
# Activity Center Update

Region Forward Coalition  
April 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:
  - Affordable Housing
  - Economic Development
  - Transportation
  - Public Health
- How can *you* use the updated Activity Centers in *your* work?

# Activity Center Update Process

## Step One:

# 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

### Next:

- Establish analysis geographies (TAZs, Census tracts, etc.)

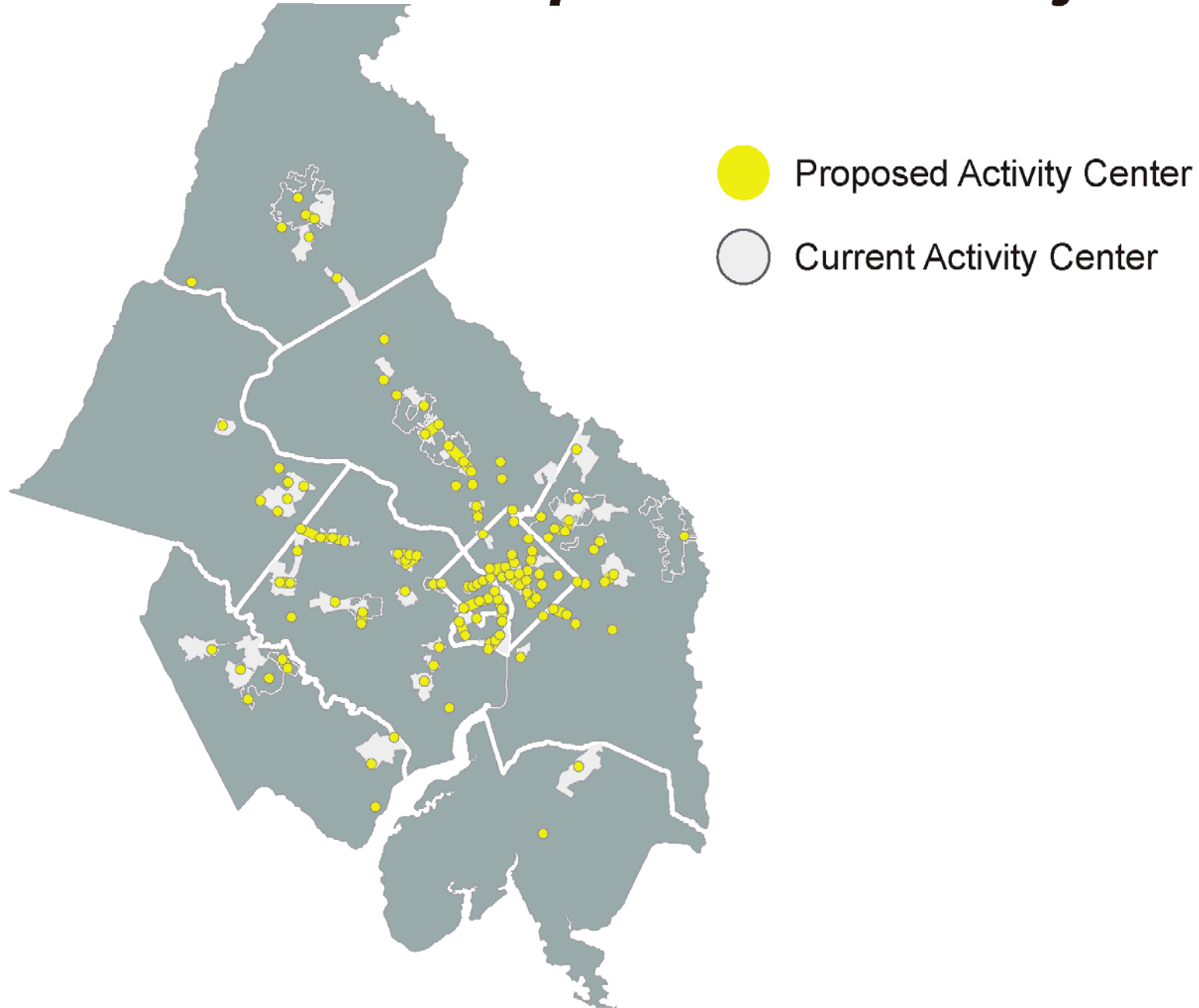




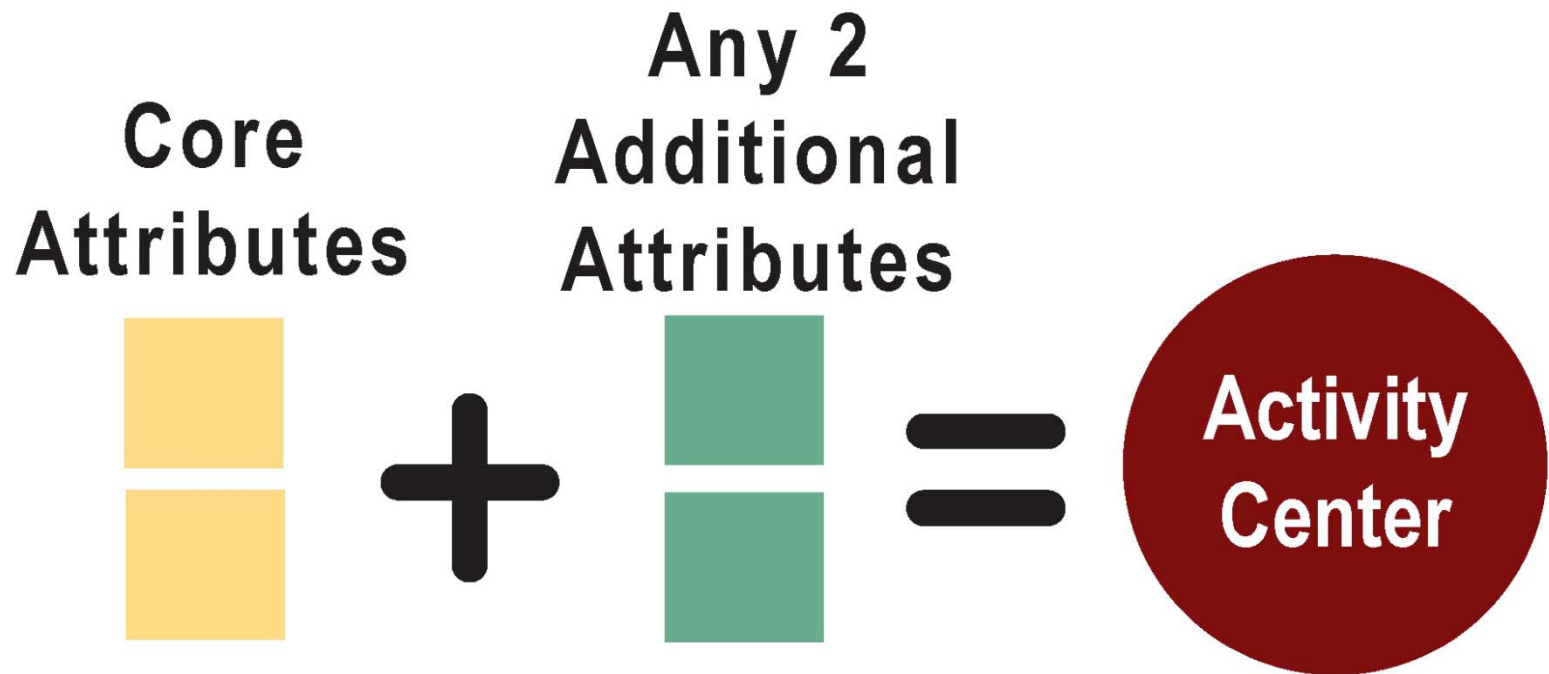
# Schedule

- June: PDTAC approval of Activity Centers
- June – July: COG staff works with PDTAC to develop analysis geographies
- July: Region Forward Coalition Approval
- July: Introduce Activity Centers to COG Board at retreat
- Late Summer: Launch typology work
- Fall: COG Board approval of Activity Centers

# *Current & Proposed Activity Centers*



# Menu of Options to Identify Centers

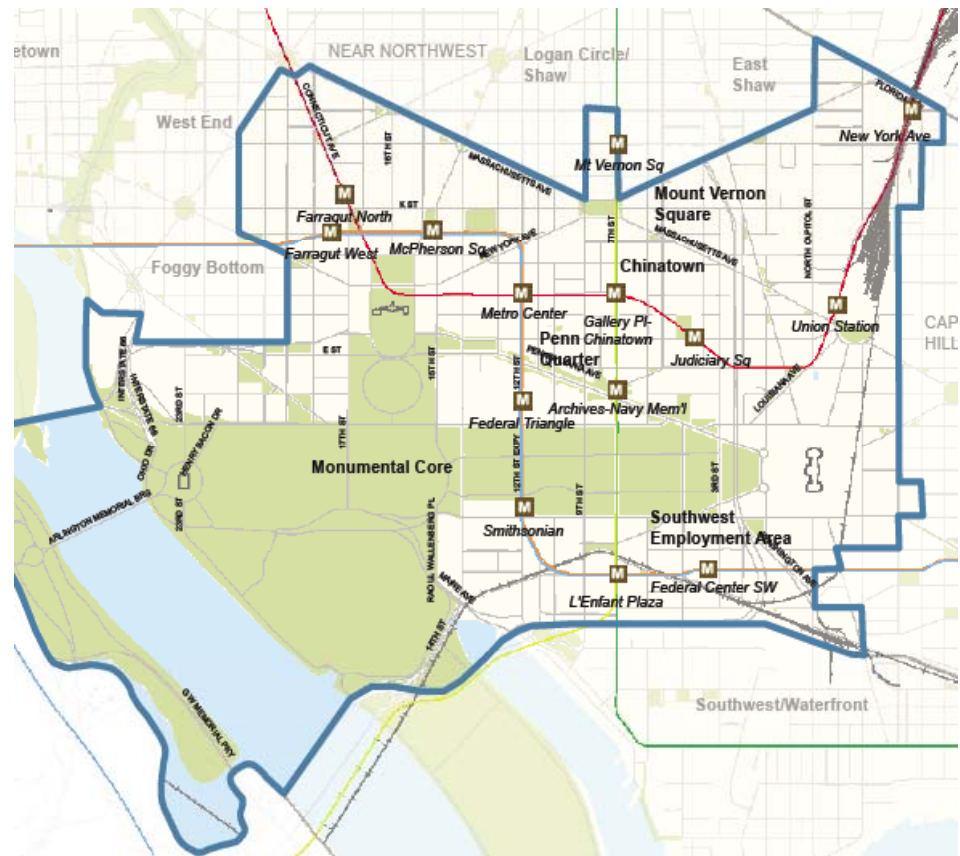
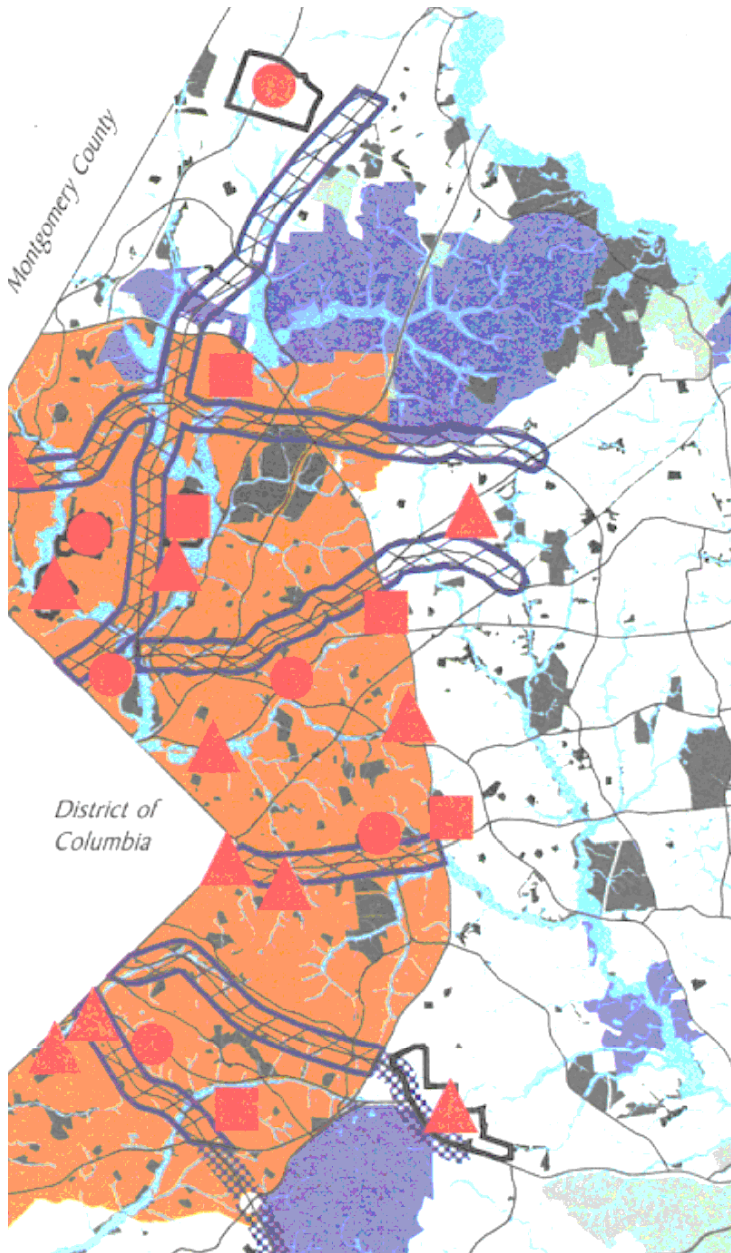


# ***Core Attributes*** *(required)*

- **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*

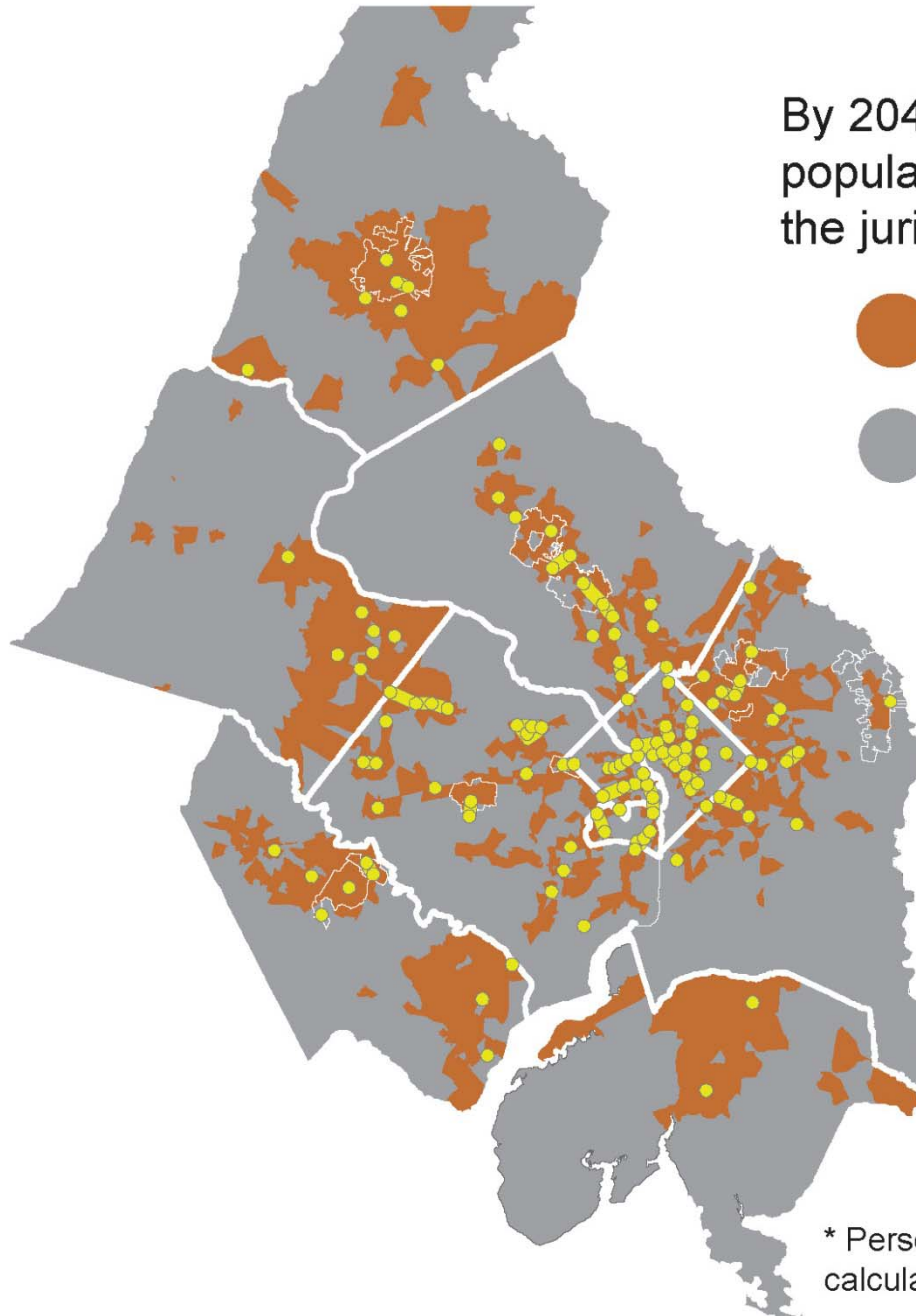
In 2012, the center or priority growth area should be designated in a jurisdiction's adopted comprehensive/general plan or other locally-adopted land use plan.



# 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

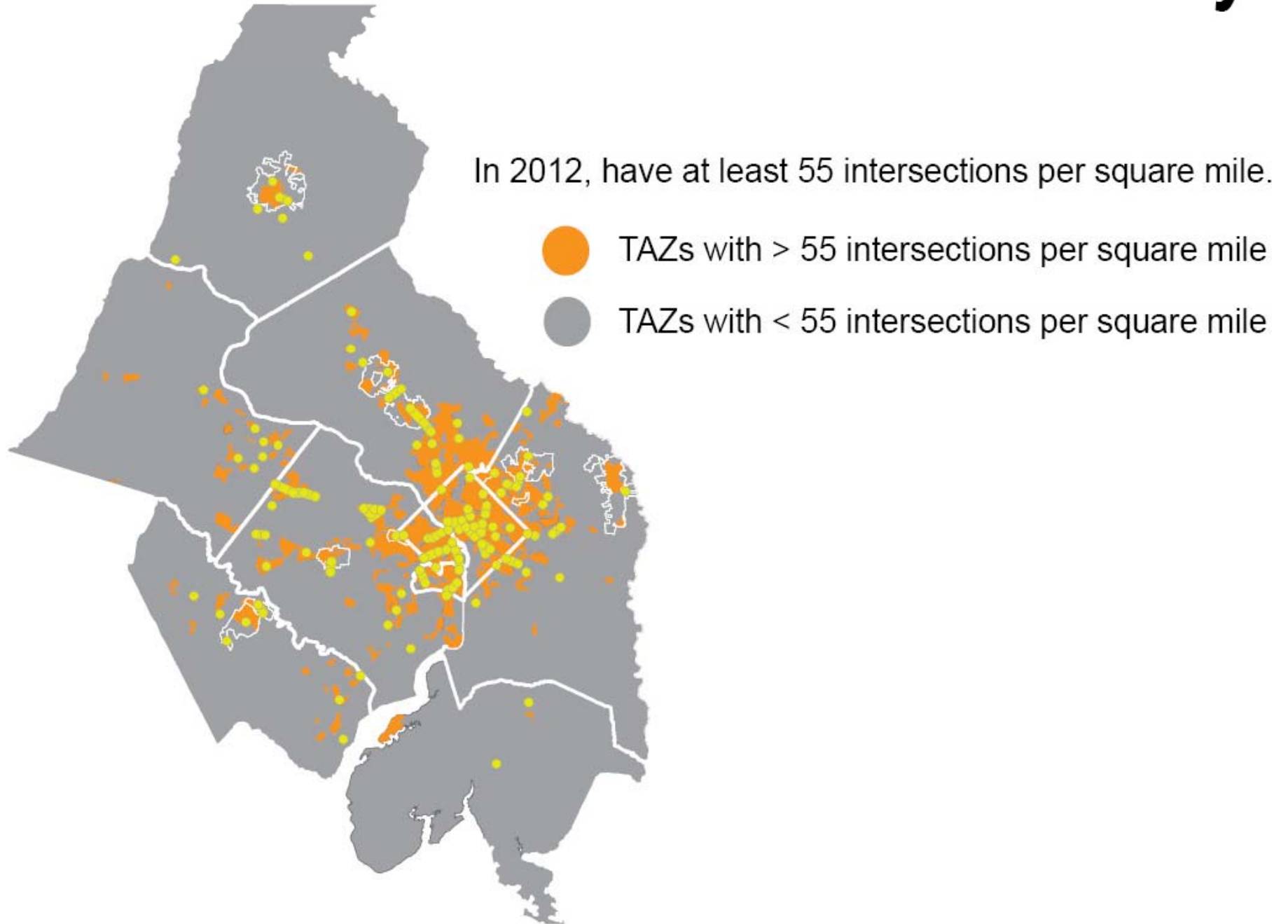


\* Persons Density = (2040 Population + 2040 employment) / acre, calculated for each county separately, Round 8 Cooperative Forecasts

# ***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*

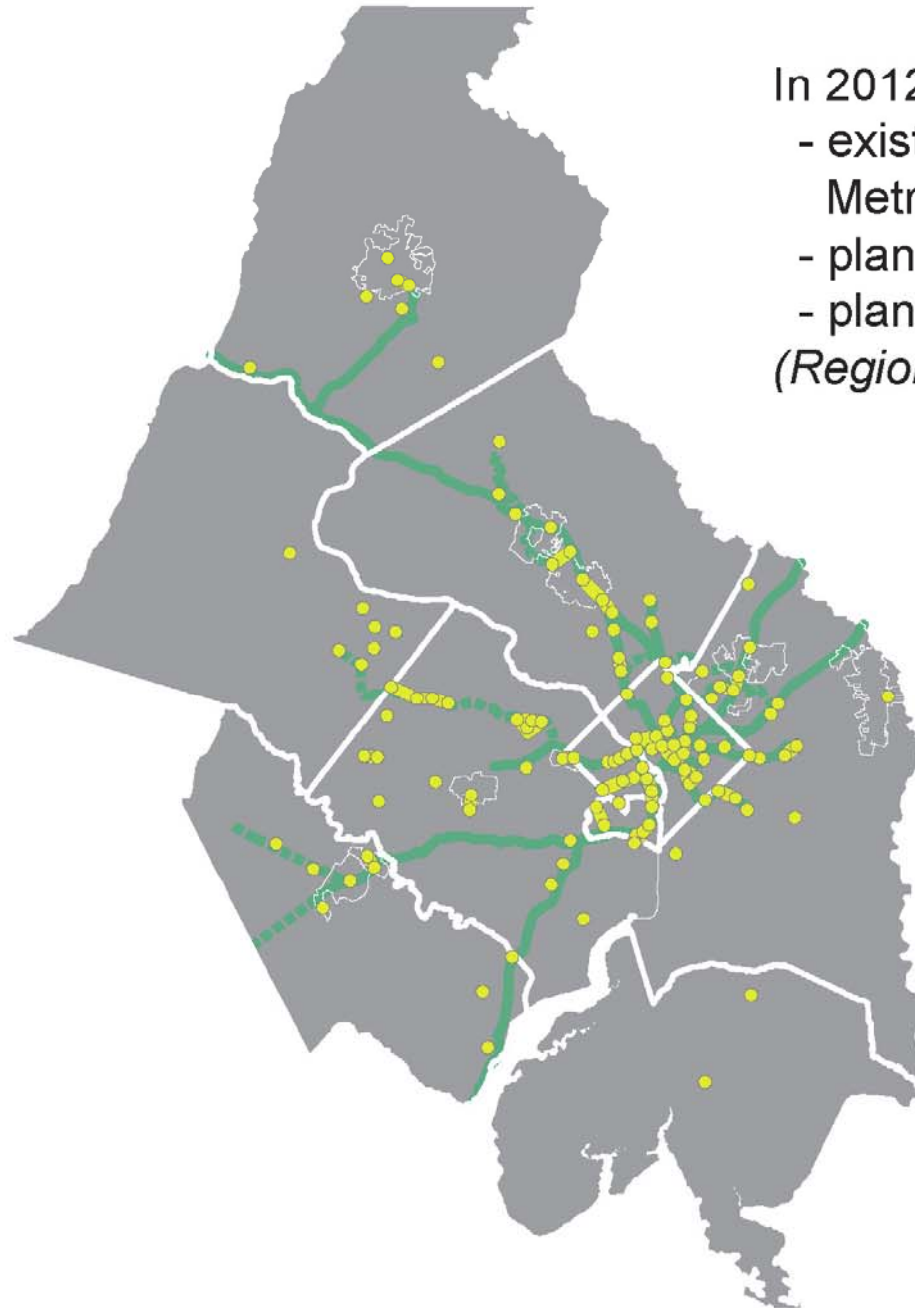






# ADDITIONAL: *Transit Capacity*

In 2012, have:

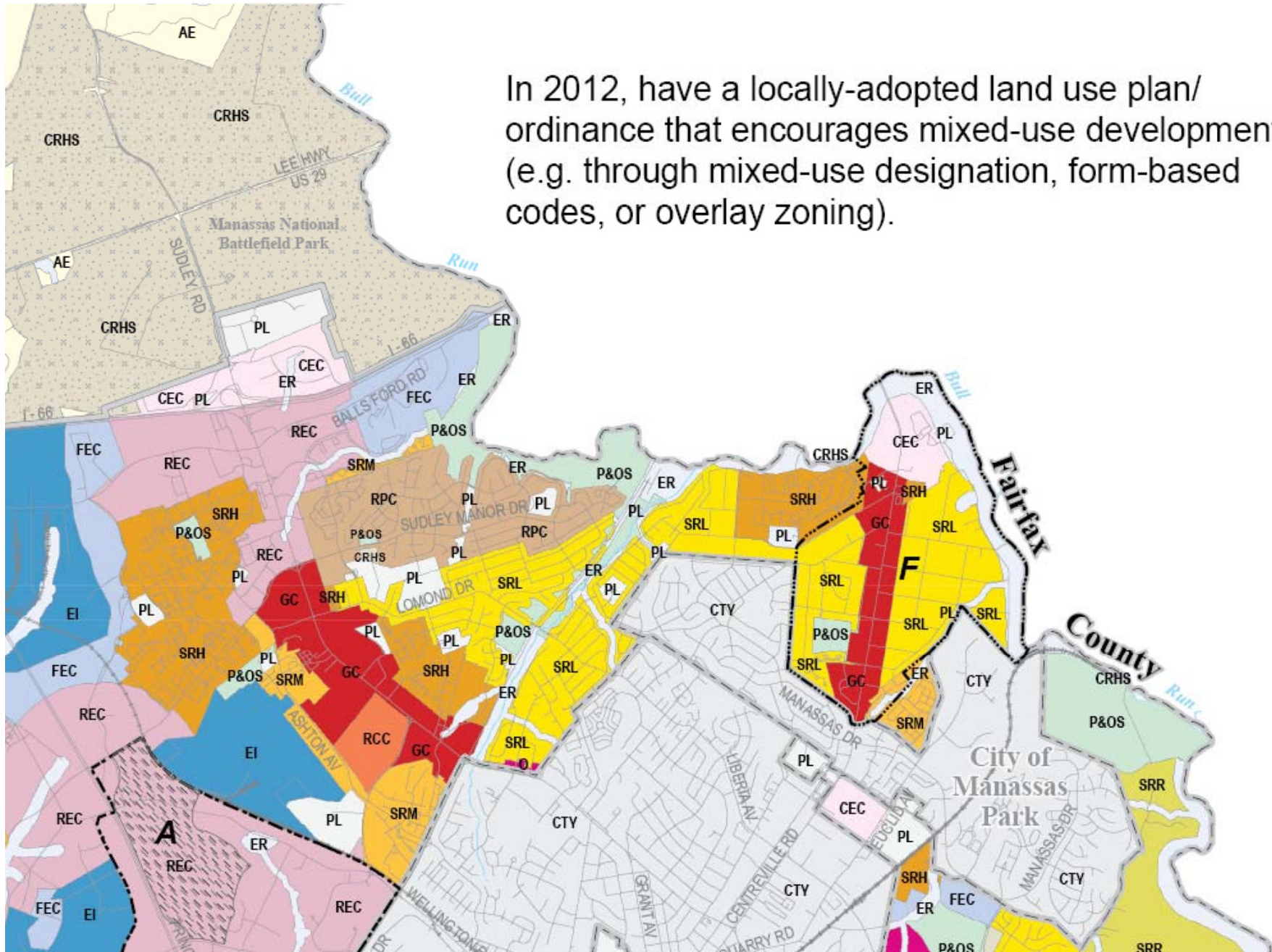
- existing high-capacity/performance transit (e.g. Metrorail, BRT, commuter rail, or light rail) *OR*
- planned transit identified in the CLRP *OR*
- planned transit with dedicated local funding  
(*Region Forward Target*)



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

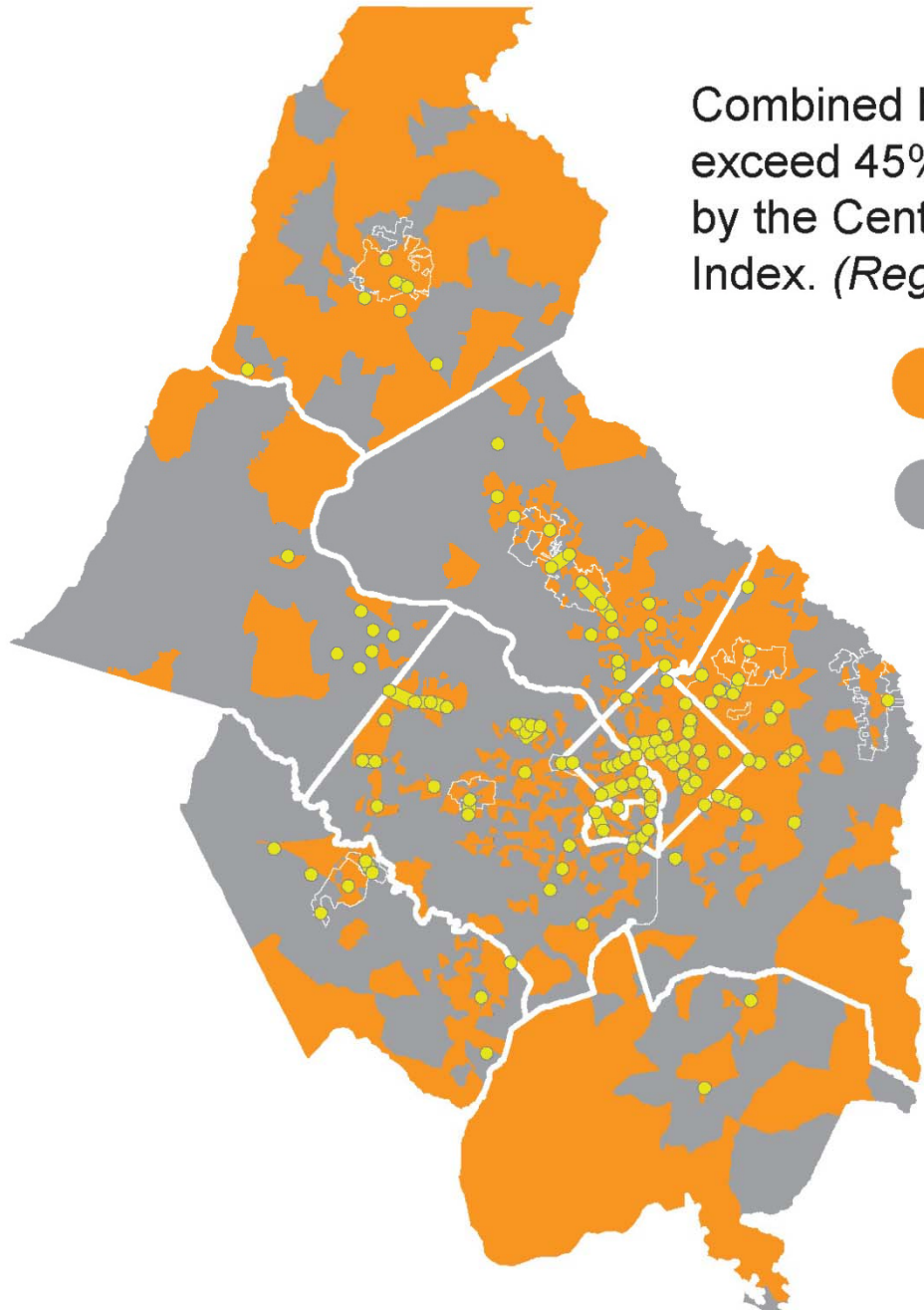
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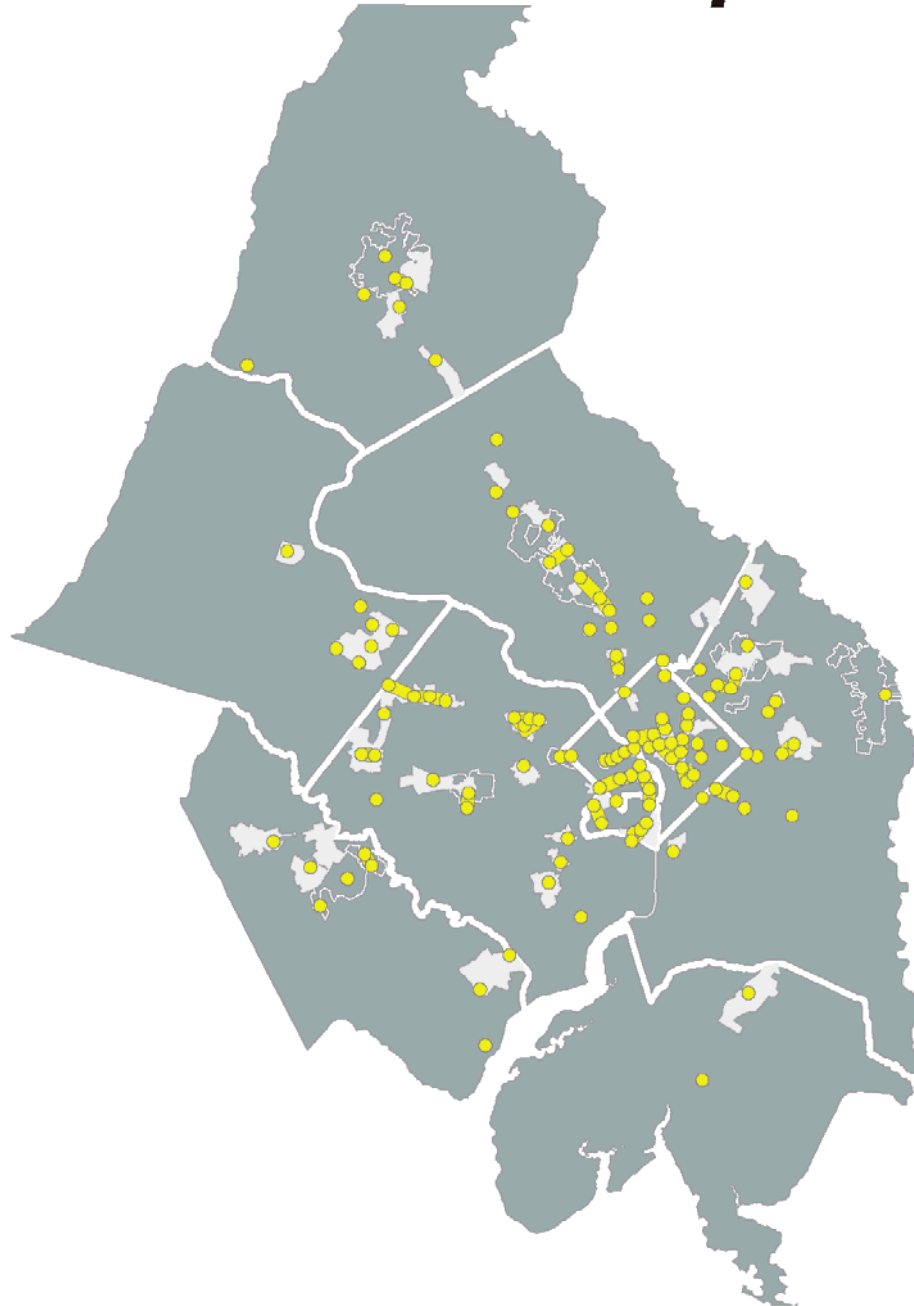
# ADDITIONAL: *H + T Affordability*

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

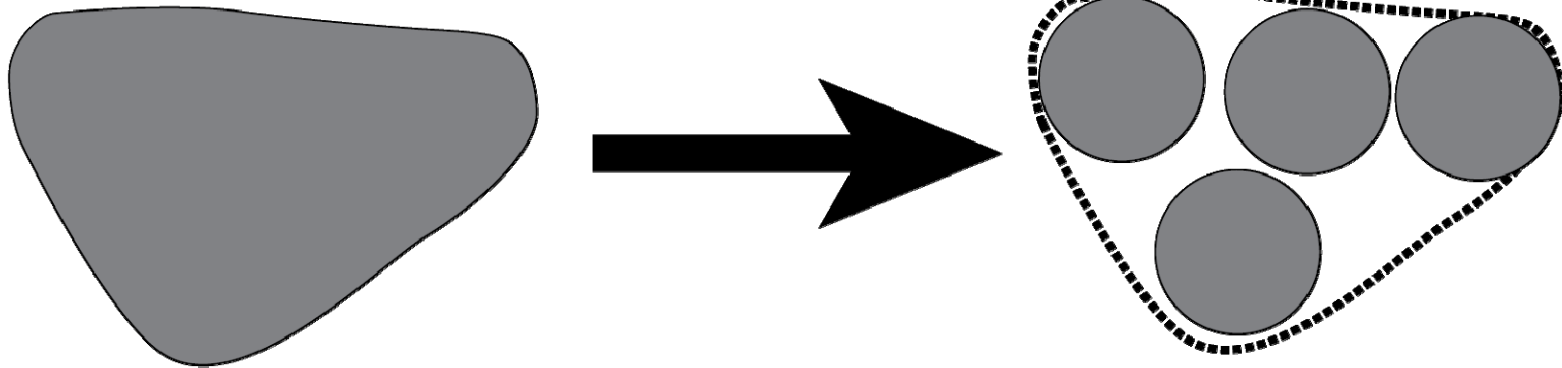
# Key Outcomes

- **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



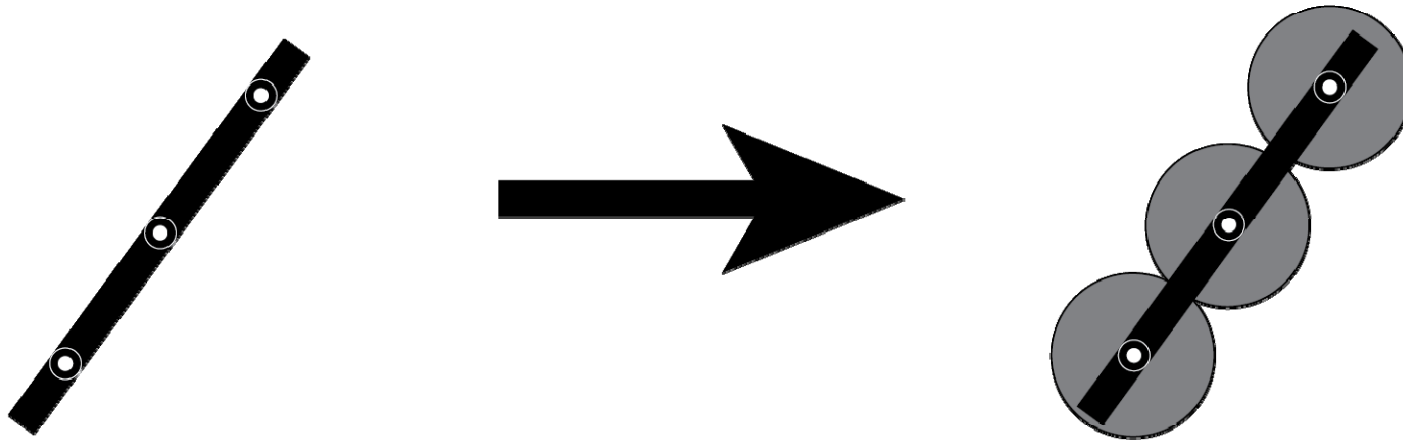
- Recognizes potential for wide range of places to contribute to regional goals
- Understand the building blocks of larger regional places
- Better scale for implementing Complete Communities

# Key Outcomes

## ➤ Better Leverages Existing and Planned Infrastructure

Current Centers:

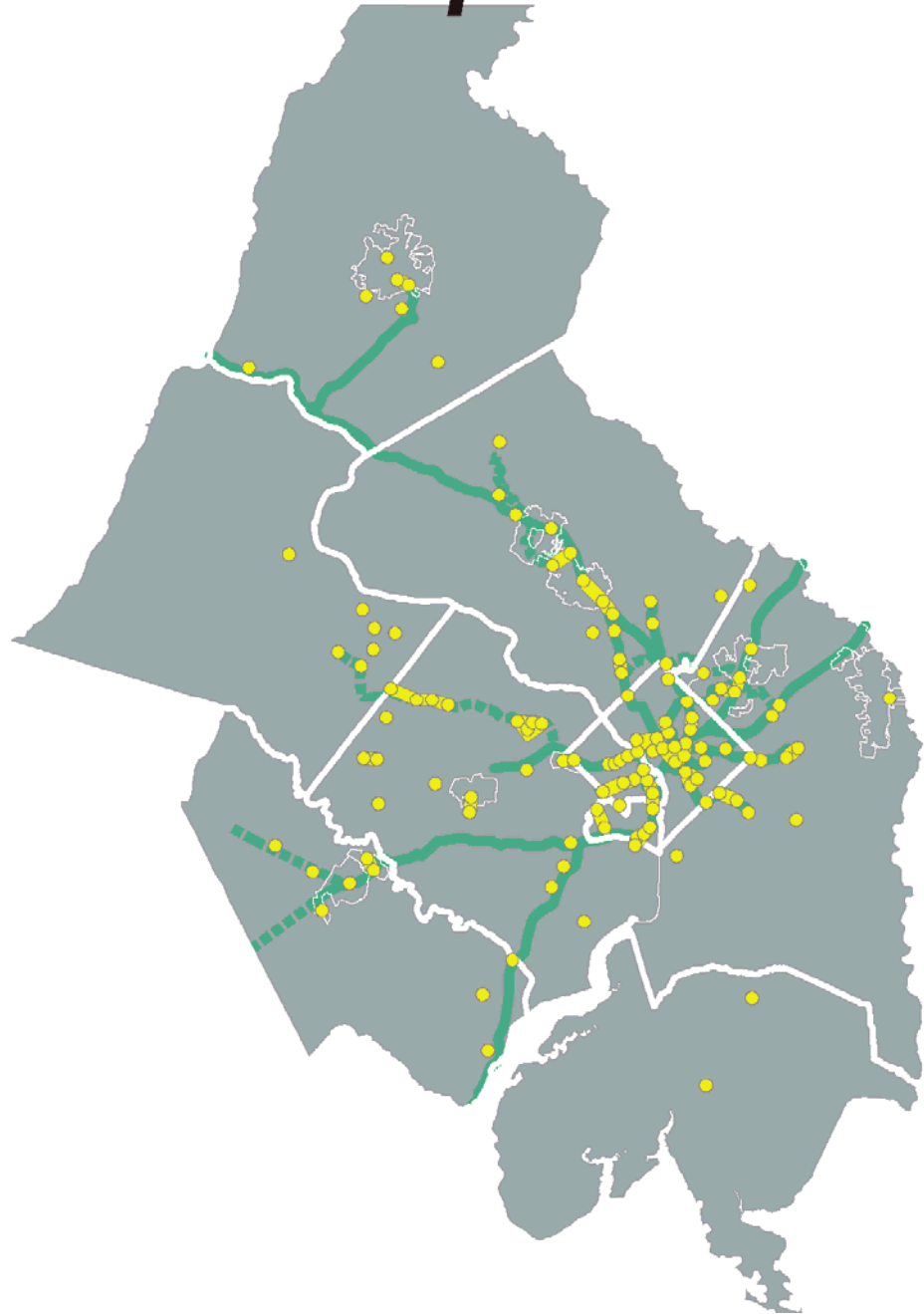
- Many transit stations were not in centers
- 40% of centers served by transit by 2040



New Centers:

- 70% of centers served by transit by 2040

# *Proposed Activity Centers*



## High-Capacity/Performance Transit Network

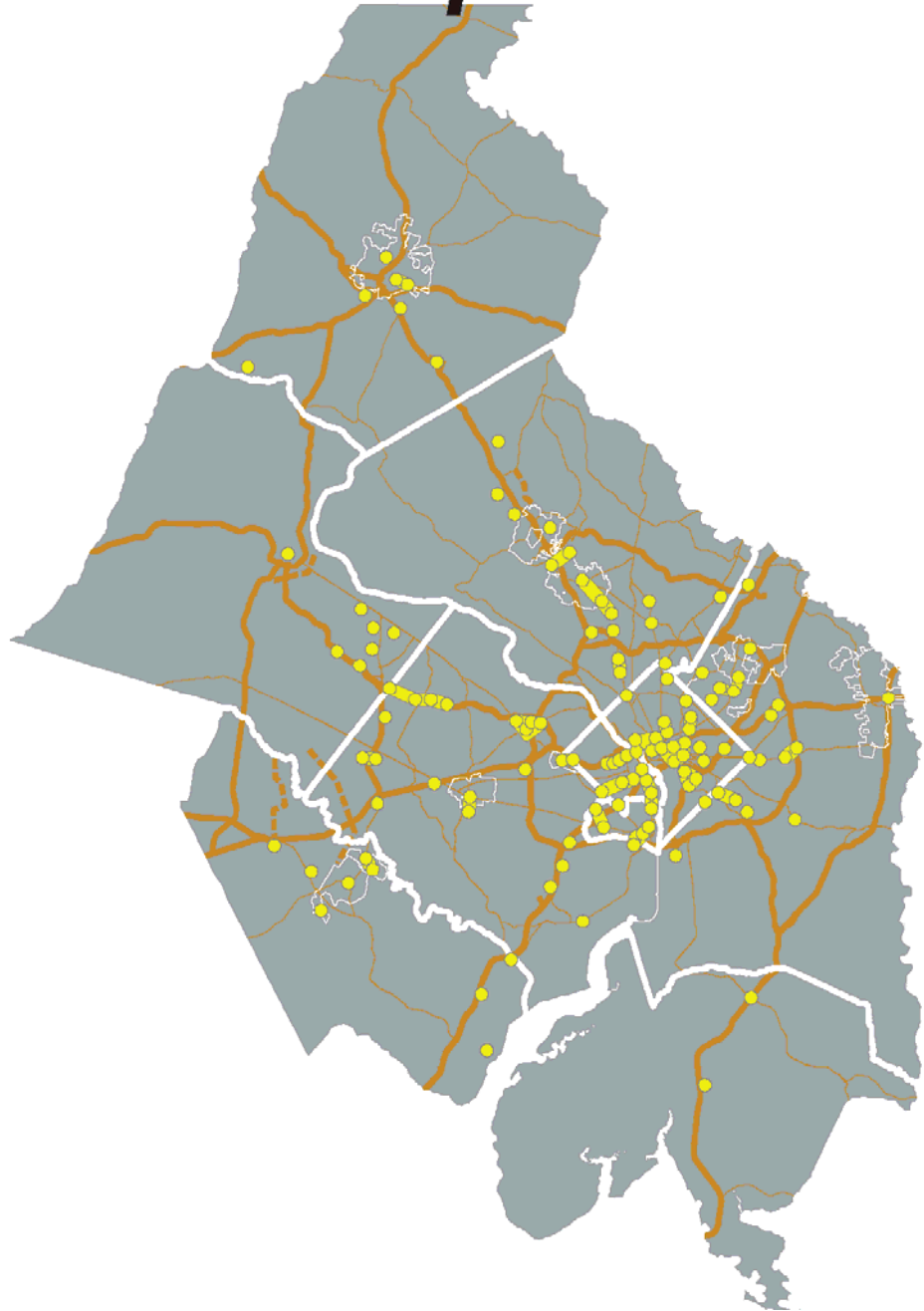
● Proposed Activity Center

— 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*

- Leverage existing investments & accommodate growth efficiently
- Coordinate economic development
- Prioritize locations for affordable housing development & preservation
- Concentrate green infrastructure & green building investment
- Enhance quality of life through small-scale improvements: streetscape, open space, access
- Other?

# Key Questions

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