

TPB WMATA BETTER BUS WORK SESSION

Introduction

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Transportation Planning Board
Special Work Session
April 19, 2023



Schedule

Welcome and introduction (5 mins)

TPB Overview (5 mins)

Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC)
perspective (15 mins)

Discussion on three key Better Bus topics (45 mins: 15
mins each)

Wrap-up (5 mins)



NCR Transit Systems



- WMATA Metrorail
- Two commuter rail systems: MARC and Virginia Railway Express (VRE)
- DC Streetcar
- 12 local and commuter bus operators

- *Many jurisdictions / systems interacting with WMATA Better Bus or reexamining their own transit networks*



TPB Activities in Support of Transit

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BUS RAPID TRANSIT AND TRANSITWAYS: FAST-TRACK YOUR TRIP

visualize 2045
A Vision for the Future of the National Capital Region

Bus agencies in metropolitan Washington provide over 164 million trips annually, and most people live within 1/4 mile of a bus route. But increased traffic means trips are getting slower and less reliable. Enhancements such as dedicated lanes and transit signals that prioritize bus travel can improve mobility.

Bus rapid transit, or BRT, is an enhanced, high-frequency service that makes use of transitways and brings together other enhancements that can move more people faster and more reliably than traditional bus services.

HOW IT WORKS

- 1 Improved stations have off-board fare collection and platform-level, all-door boarding.
- 2 Frequent, reliable service shortens wait times.
- 3 Transitways with dedicated lanes provide faster trips.
- 4 Transit signal priority and queue jumping for BRT buses go first at traffic lights, reducing delay.

WHY IT MATTERS

- More reliable, faster trips
- More affordable travel options
- Expanded access to jobs and opportunities
- Improved mobility options
- Fewer greenhouse gas emissions

BRT and Transitways in Your Neighborhood

Location	Destination
Metroway BRT, Arlington and Alexandria, VA	5.6 miles connecting the Pentagon City and Blue
Flash BRT, Montgomery County, MD	14-mile stretch of U.S. Route 29
Transitway District of Columbia	3 miles along 14th Street NW

Plan Together. Prosper Together.
Get involved with the Transportation Planning Board.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Long-Range Plan and Transportation Improvement Program > Federal funding
- Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee
- State of Public Transportation Report
- Transit Equity White Paper
- Bus Lane Enforcement Study
- Transit Within Reach Program
- Transportation – Land Use Connections (TLC) Program
- Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse
- Primary Transit Corridors Traffic Trends Analysis
- Regional Travel Survey analysis

STATE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

2021 Report
September 2022



National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board

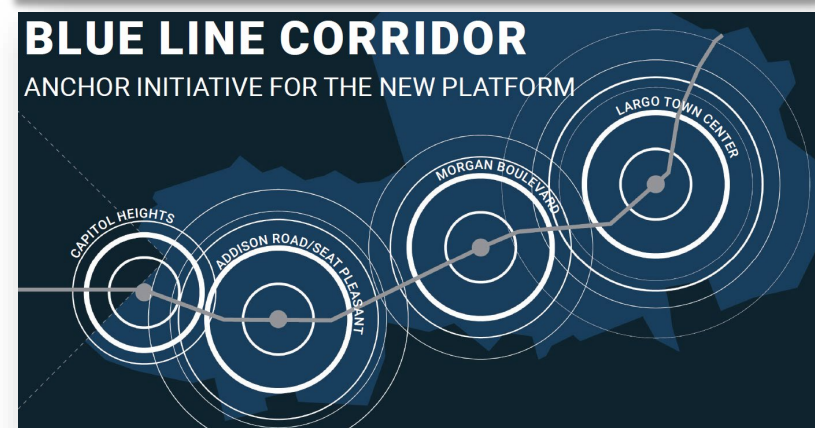
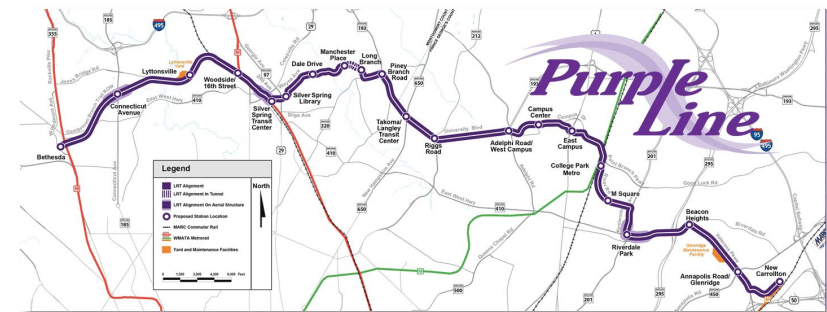
GHG Reduction Goals and Strategies

- Resolution R18-2022, adopted June 15, 2022
 - Regional, voluntary, on-road transportation-sector-specific GHG reduction goals of 50% below 2005 levels by 2030 and 80% below 2005 levels by 2050
- On-road GHG Reduction Strategies adopted as priorities by the TPB
 - #3 - Convert private and public sector light, medium and heavy-duty vehicles, and public transit buses to clean fuels, by 2030.
 - #6 - Reduce travel times on all public transportation bus services.



Planned Transit Projects in the Region

- Purple Line
- Bus Rapid Transit and Transitways:
 - Corridor Cities Transitway
 - Montgomery County – BRT projects
 - Virginia – Metroway completion (Arlington), US 1 Richmond Highway – “The One”
 - DC – K Street Transitway
- Commuter Rail:
 - MARC/VRE service improvements
 - Long Bridge – new 2-track span
 - 4th Track in Alexandria; 3rd Track south
 - MARC Cornerstone Plan
 - Virginia Passenger Rail Authority plans



Metro's Better Bus Initiative



A framework that identifies the variety of programs Metro is advancing to transform bus into a **fast, frequent, reliable, affordable service** that feels unified to the customer



Parallel Efforts

Ride On
Reimagined



**A Comprehensive Review of the
Montgomery County Bus Network**

MC DOT
Montgomery County Department of Transportation

Ride On
Montgomery County Transit

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



Eastern Service Restructure for 2024

TRANSIT

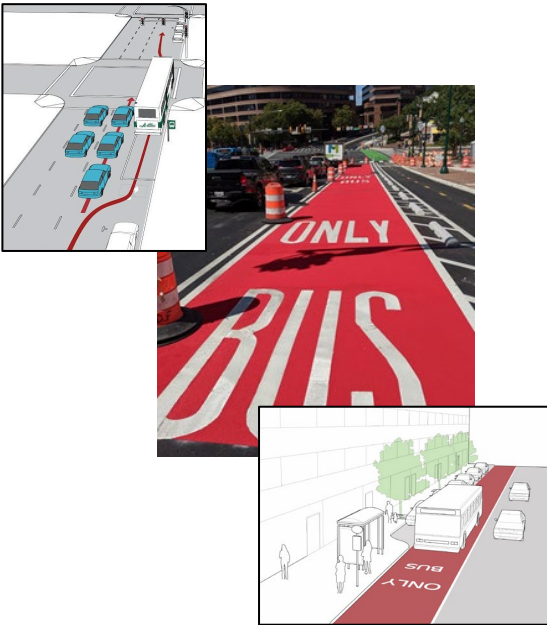
County and City of Frederick transit route restructuring



Three Topics for Work Session



Bus Prioritization



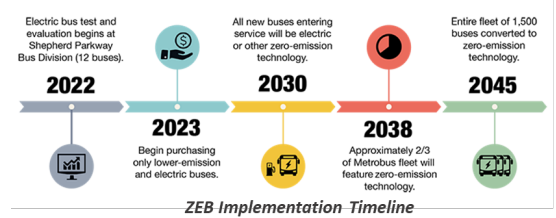
Bus Stops and Station Improvements



Zero-Emissions Buses



Metrobus Battery Electric Bus



Four Questions



1 What is the problem?

2 What actions is Metro currently taking?

3 What are the challenges and barriers to success?

4 What can do TPB/TPB members do to help?



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National Capital Region
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Links to Presentations and Reports

- [WMATA Better Bus Listening Session Presentation \(Nov 2022\)](#)

TPB Publications

- [TPB Climate Change Mitigation Study of 2021](#)
- [Bus Priority Best Practices Synthesis for the National Capital Region \(2020\)](#)
- [Bus Lane Enforcement Study \(2017\)](#)
- [Bus Priority Treatment Guidelines \(2011\)](#)