

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

# Connecting Communities through Walkable Station Areas

TPB Bicycle & Pedestrian SubCommittee May 19, 2015



## Agenda

- Metro's Connecting Communities Key Performance Indicator (KPI)
- Walkshed Research
- Station Area Strategic Investment Plan



#### Metro's Strategic Goal Framework





## Why Connecting Communities Matters

- Access to Metro means access to opportunity
- Concentrating growth near transit maximizes use of regional infrastructure
- Connecting communities to transit attracts more ridership
- More ridership contributes to lower carbon footprints





## How Does this KPI Operate? Three Pathways

#### Grow Near Transit

- Transit-oriented development
- Zoning
- Planning



#### Expand Transit

- Expand bus routes
- Build new Metrorail lines and stations



#### Improve Access to Your Stations

- Fix pedestrian barriers
- Build paths and sidewalks





# **Re-Defining Station Walk Sheds**

- Defined as walking distance:
  - 1/2 mile from rail station
- Accounts for actual network – not as crow flies





# Where Can I Really Walk?

- Include each station entrance
- Remove non-developable land from the station area: parks, water, cemeteries, etc.
- Include trails outside of road network commonly used for station access



Rosslyn



## Results, Walk Shed Coverage





### **Connectivity and Ridership**





## Land Use and Ridership Connection: Making the Case

• Land use near transit directly results in walk ridership at Metrorail stations

#### **Ridership = 7 Trips/ 10 Households**







### Improving Residential Access to Southern Avenue Station

#### **Existing Shed**



#### **Shed with Connection**





#### Improving Jobs Access to Greensboro Station

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More than 4,000 jobs cut off from the station -Potential benefit: 500 entries/day \$800,000 fares/year



### Station Area Strategic Investment Plan

- Build off TCSP, include all 91 stations
- Estimate costs
- Prioritize projects
- Create interactive map





## **Prioritization Criteria**

- Safety
- Walk shed/ ridership growth
- Directness
- Feasibility/ cost
- Access & equity







## Next Steps – Help Wanted!

- *Spring:* Project kickoff and "road shows"
- *Summer/ Fall:* Identify and prioritize projects
- *Winter:* Local review of prioritized projects; Launch wiki site

#### Van Dorn Station

