

# Planning Bus Rapid Transit for the Montgomery College community

*A presentation from research for Montgomery College Honors  
Course Service Learning Project*



**FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

**Communities for Transit • Coalition for Smarter Growth**

# Montgomery College, a major stakeholder for RTS:

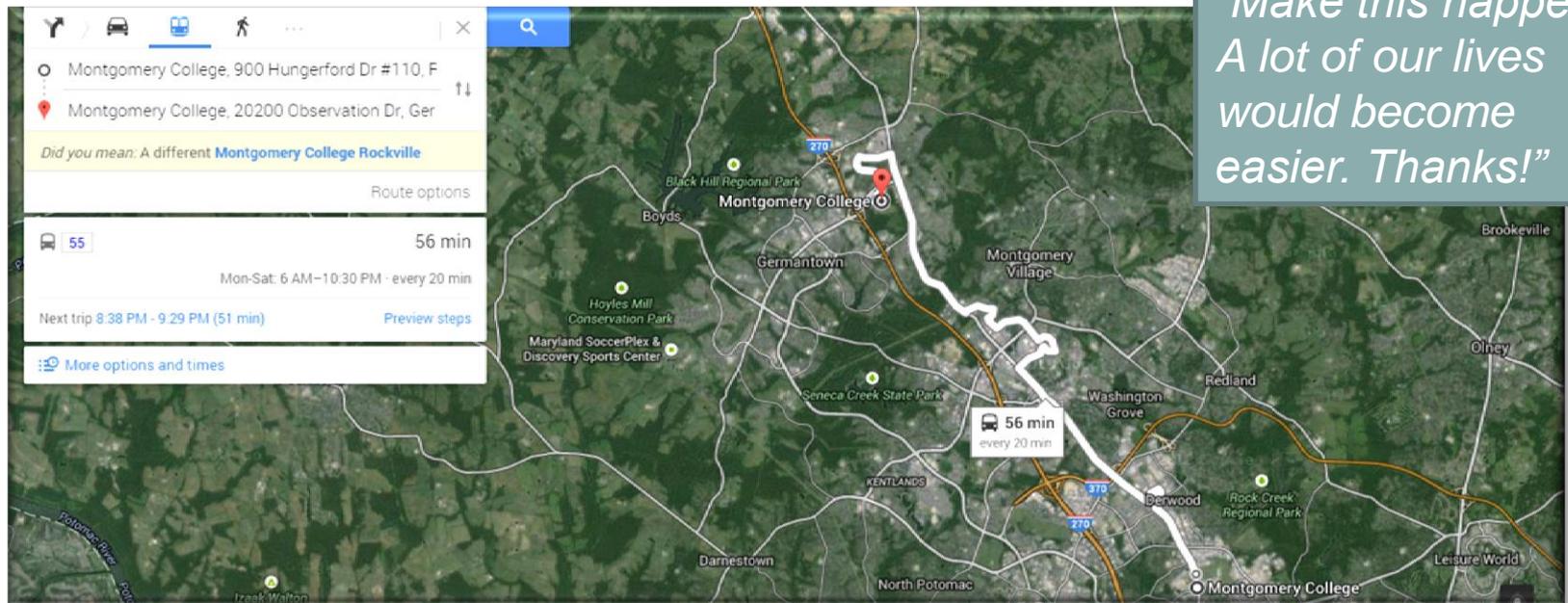
- 3 campuses, none at Metrorail, all at future BRT stations
- 60,000 students, 60% take transit
- Going through restructuring to unify three campuses, so more travel between campuses for classes, clubs, sports.



# Service learning assignment:

*“Each group will conduct research to communicate how Montgomery County’s planned bus rapid transit network will benefit the Montgomery College community, and to recommend how the network could be designed to best serve the Montgomery College community. This is your chance to become planners and contribute to the development of a system that could majorly improve students’ and staff’s quality of life in the future.”*

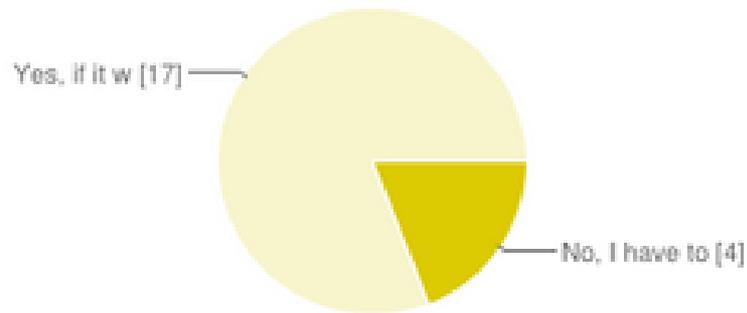
# Germantown Students – Takeaways and Recommendations



- **Travel between campuses is important:** 48% travel to other campuses at least once a week (Once a week- 22%, Multiple Times a Week- 16%, Everyday- 10%). **Car trip to Rockville campus takes 16 minutes, compared to 55 minutes on the bus.**
- **Add amenities:** Wifi (60%) and real time arrival screens (68%) were the most popular, shelters not as much (30%). Stations need bike racks.
- **Stopping on campus:** The BRT could detour onto campus only at certain hours or every other bus in order to speed service for non-campus commuters, while still conveniently serving the campus.

# Germantown Employees – Takeaways and Recommendations

If you use a car, would you switch to a more environment-friendly alternative means of transportation?

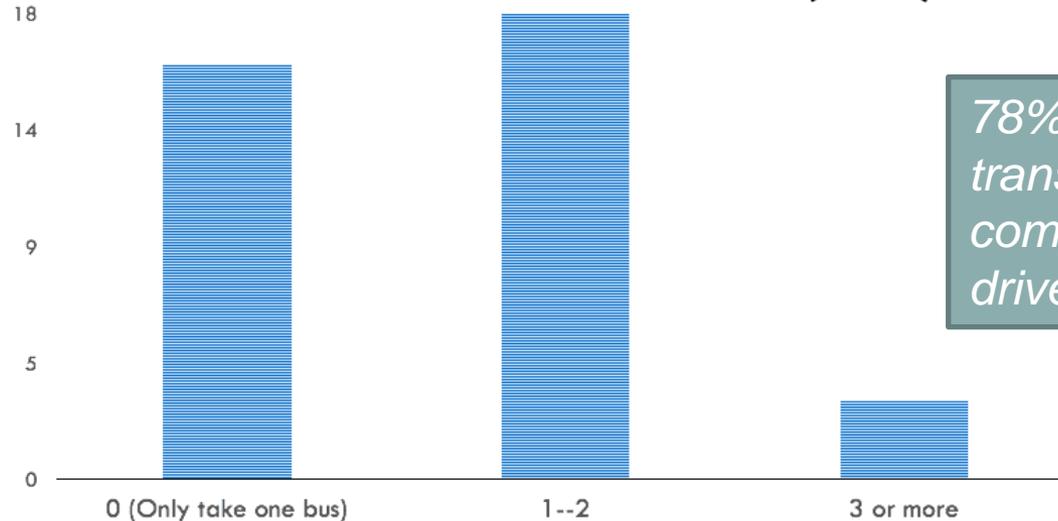


No, I have to drive.	4	18%
Yes, if it was convenient and reliable.	17	77%

- **Looking for increased reliability:** 91% drive today, but 77% said they would switch to transit if it was convenient and reliable.
- **Add amenities:** Respondents mentioned real time arrival screens, power outlets, wifi, and restrooms at stations
- **Make it safe:** Respondents wanted safe walking and biking connections to stations, and students found poor access to current bus stops.

# Takoma Park Students – Takeaways and Recommendations

## NUMBER OF BUS TRANSFER (2.0)

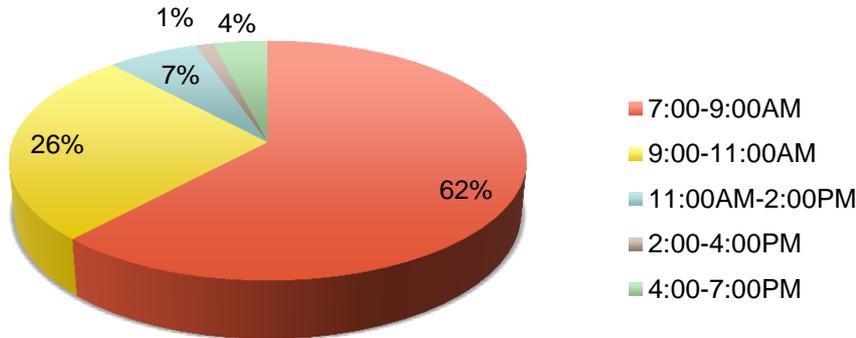


78% surveyed were transit riders, compared to 22% drivers

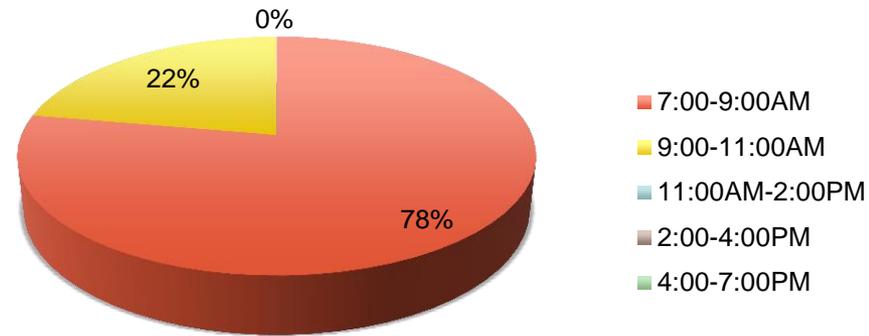
- **Limit transfers where possible:** Over half the students surveyed have 1-2 bus transfers, with a small number transferring 3 or more times. A direct route between Silver Spring and Rockville on Viers Mill could be important.
- **Add amenities:** Wifi (37%), cheaper bus fare (26%), and more bus seats (21%) were the most important factors for making the BRT convenient.
- **Crowding is an issue:** 61% said space is an issue on their commutes.

# Takoma Park Employees – Takeaways and Recommendations

## Chart 2a: Arrival Times by Car



## Chart 2b: Arrival Times by Public Transportation

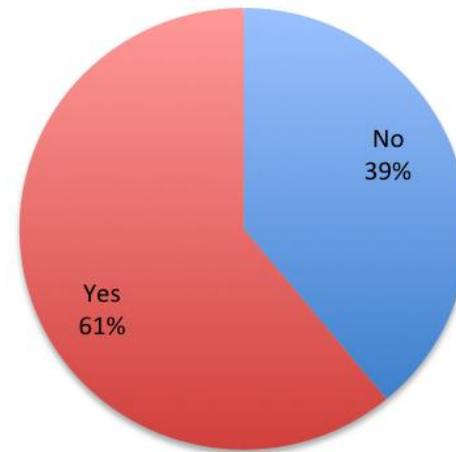


- **Employees arrive, leave at rush hour:** A vast majority arrive between 7-9am, and leave between 4-7pm, when transit is competitive with driving. More frequency during these time periods is important.
- **Cost is a good selling point:** Average weekly transportation costs for employees were \$33.40 for drivers, \$22.67 for transit riders
- **Amenities are important:** Again, real time arrival information and wifi were the big winners!

# Rockville students – Takeaways and Recommendations



If there were a better, alternative bus transportation service, would you consider using it?



- **Better service would increase ridership:** While 40% reported taking the bus currently, 61% said they would take BRT
- **Frequency matters:** Students listed “timing” as the biggest issue preventing them from taking the bus, as many routes only come every 30 minutes, even during rush hour.
- **Don’t force us to transfer!** Students want to see direct routes as much as possible so they don’t have to worry about missing transfers



**Thank you! Questions?**