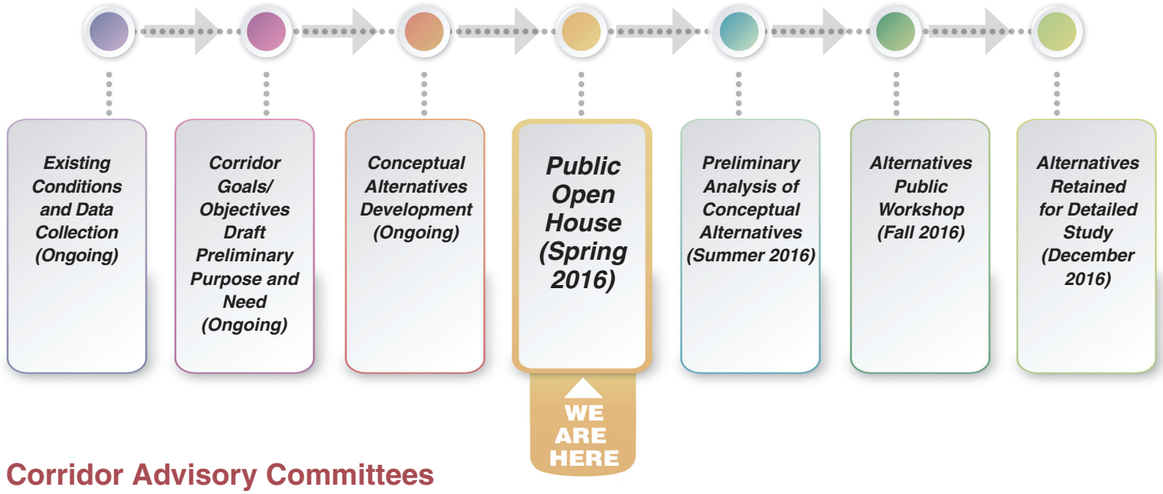
Study Timeline



Corridor Advisory Committees

Two Corridor Advisory Committees (CAC) have been created for the MD 355 BRT Corridor Planning Study. The advisory committees are comprised of residents, business owners and other interested stakeholders. The CACs meet regularly with the project team to review information, ask questions and provide feedback. The CACs serve as one part of the overall public outreach process.

Your Opinion Matters

This open house offers members of the public the opportunity to discuss the MD 355 BRT project and to provide feedback and comments. We will review and consider project concerns and preferences expressed at the Open House. Your comments and suggestions are very important to us.

Project information can be found at montgomerycountymd.gov/rts/.

We encourage you to submit questions or comments to md355brt@mta.maryland.gov or by mail to:

Maryland Transit Administration
6 St. Paul Street, Suite 902
Baltimore, MD 21202.

Study team members are available to meet with community groups, civic associations and other organizations. To request a meeting, please send an email to md355brt@mta.maryland.gov

To find copies of the CAC materials and of the Draft Preliminary Purpose and Need document, visit: montgomerycountymd.gov/rts/. Look for the section on MD 355.

Montgomery County RAPID TRANSIT MD 355

MD 355 Bus Rapid Transit Corridor Planning Study

Study to Evaluate Bus Rapid Transit Service Along MD 355

The Maryland Department of Transportation, in partnership with Montgomery County Department of Transportation, is conducting the MD 355 Rapid Transit Corridor Planning Study (Study) to evaluate preliminary concepts for providing enhanced transit service along MD 355 from Bethesda to Clarksburg (approximately 21 miles). The purpose of the Study is to conduct an assessment of a range of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) concepts and develop recommendations that will:

- Improve quality of transit service
- Improve mobility opportunities and choices
- Develop transit services that enhance the quality of life
- Develop transit services that support master planned development
- Support sustainable and cost effective transportation solutions

The recommendations of the Study would be used in the future for environmental analysis and documentation as required by either the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) or the Maryland Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). The Study is funded by MDOT for planning only. Design, right-of-way and construction funding and sources have not yet been determined.

This project is part of a larger countywide effort (Countywide Transit Corridors Functional Master Plan) to establish a rapid transit network on major transportation corridors within Montgomery County. Currently, three of the corridors - MD 355, MD 586 and US 29 - in addition to the Corridor Cities Transitway, are being studied.

What is Bus Rapid Transit?

BRT stands for Bus Rapid Transit, a modern, flexible, lower cost, premium form of transportation that combines features of both a bus system and a light rail system. BRT features include:

- Dedicated lanes, which means no traffic congestion for riders
- Lane and signal priority allowing for shorter travel times
- Multiple doors and low floor vehicles, which result in quick, easy and efficient entry and exiting
- Pay stations to pay for the fares before boarding, which allows for faster boarding
- Vehicles with rubber tires which allow them to divert from the transitway on to local streets to provide neighborhood service

BRT Alternative Components

The MD 355 project team will develop conceptual BRT alternatives for the corridor as part of this study. These alternatives will be evaluated against each other and against the no-build (doing nothing). The conceptual alternatives will be composed of three main components:

- Running Way – A designated facility such as striped/ signed lane or exclusive busway in which the vehicle would travel between stations
- Station Location – Specific locations where passengers can access the service and the service can support the local land uses (residential, commercial, etc.)
- Service Plan – The way in which BRT operates including service frequency, hours of service, routing and connecting services

montgomerycountymd.gov/rts

Montgomery County
RAPID TRANSIT
MD 355

MD 355 Corridor Today

TRANSIT

While there are numerous transit routes that intersect or serve portions of the MD 355 corridor, only three Ride On routes run parallel to the proposed BRT alignment from Bethesda to Clarksburg.

- Ride On services along MD 355
  - Route 46: Medical Center Metrorail Station to Shady Grove Metrorail Station
  - Route 55: Rockville Metrorail Station to Germantown Transit Center
  - Route 75: Germantown Transit Center to Montgomery County Correctional Facility
- Several Metrobus routes run along MD 355 for a short distance
- WMATA Metrorail Red Line runs parallel to MD 355 from Bethesda Metrorail Station to Shady Grove Metrorail Station

2040 Growth in Study Area

Population increases by **33%**

Employment increases by **31%**

Traffic increases by **20%**

Peak period travel time increases by **30%**

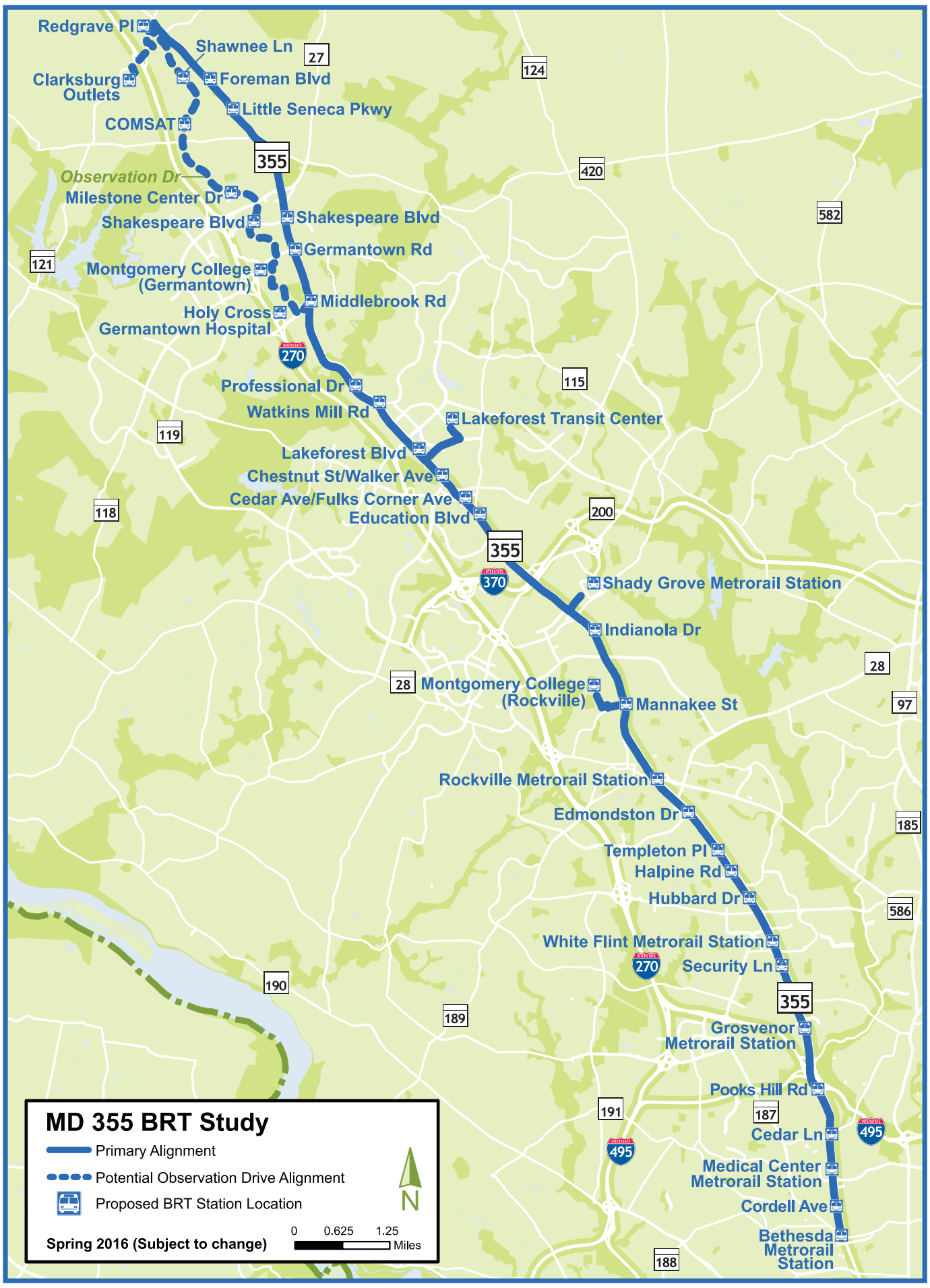
ROADWAY

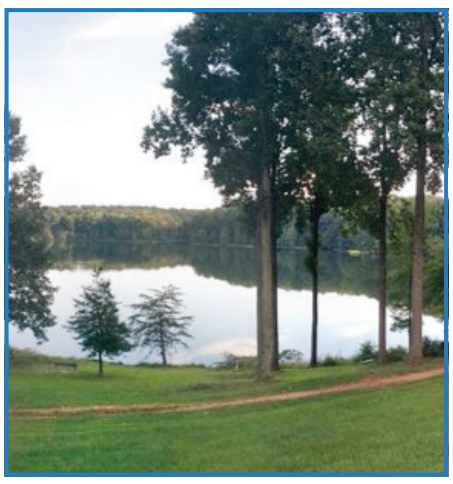
This portion of MD 355 is one of the most heavily used transportation and transit corridors in Montgomery County.

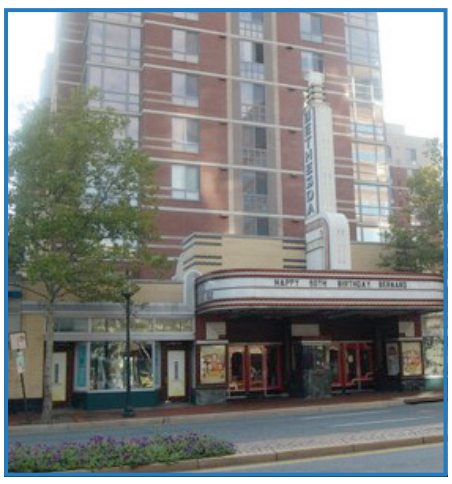
- Approximately 21-mile corridor from Bethesda to Clarksburg
- Posted speeds 30 to 50 mph
- Annual Average Daily Traffic ranges from 7,700 to 67,800 vehicles depending on location
- 85 signalized intersections
- 10 intersections failing in the AM peak and 17 failing in the PM peak
- Approximately 1,900 crashes between 2011 and 2013

Non-work trips account for 88% of overall existing travel in the study corridor

MD 355 Bus Rapid Transit Proposed Alignments and Station Locations







ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

The MD 355 corridor has many environmental resources including:

- 17 publicly owned public parks
- 5 resources listed on the National Register Historic Places (NRHP)
- 18 resources eligible for listing on NRHP
- Several stream crossings, wetlands and 100-year floodplains

MTA Maryland · Montgomery County Maryland · SHA State Highway Administration

montgomerycountymd.gov/rts