

Moving Forward. Faster. Dedicated to Faster Bus Service.

University Blvd (MD 193) BUS LANE PILOT

Presenters:

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Montgomery County DOT

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Traffic Engineer
Mead & Hunt



Agenda

- Welcome – Review Zoom meeting basics
- Project Introduction
- Dedicated bus lanes on University Blvd
- Review the pilot plan and details
- Project benefits
- Schedule
- Next steps
- Ways to get involved
- Q & A



Welcome

- We're going to go over some basic controls to help you use the Zoom meeting format before we start the presentation.
- Please send questions via the chat to **Lori Main**.
- Please note this meeting is being recorded.
 - It is being recorded on video and audio and will be posted on our website.
 - If you do not wish to have your voice or likeness recorded, please keep your camera off and do not unmute yourself.

Welcome

- **Muting**

- Everyone is on mute. You cannot unmute yourself. We can unmute you during the Q&A and comment period.
- To request to speak, you'll need to use the raise hand feature (instructions in just a minute). Once we unmute you, you may still need to click a pop-up menu to unmute yourself.
- If you have called in by telephone, you can unmute yourself by dialing *6 once we unmute you.

- **Video**

- Your video camera is off by default. To reduce the bandwidth of the meeting, we ask that you please do not turn your camera on.



Purpose of today's public meeting

- Provide overview of the dedicated bus lane (DBL) pilot project on University Blvd (MD 193)
- Review project plans and schedule
- Obtain public comment

To get the most out of this meeting:

- Hear from the project team and ask questions



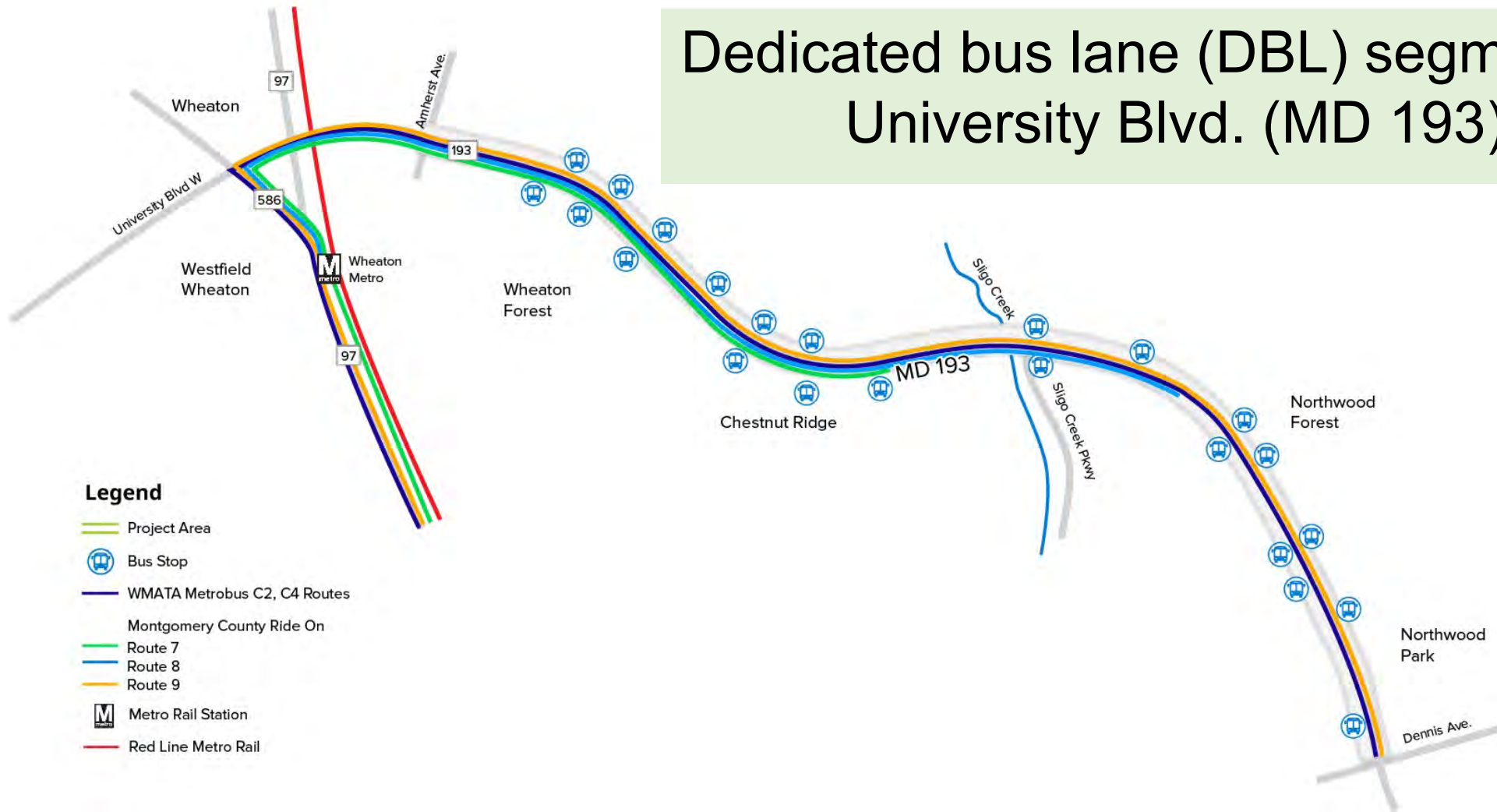
Project Background

- There is a difference between this project and the Montgomery Planning Master Plan for University Blvd.
- The experience of the bike lane pilot on University Blvd. contributed to this project plan.
- The **right turn lane from Arcola onto University will not be blocked** as it was for the bike lane pilot.



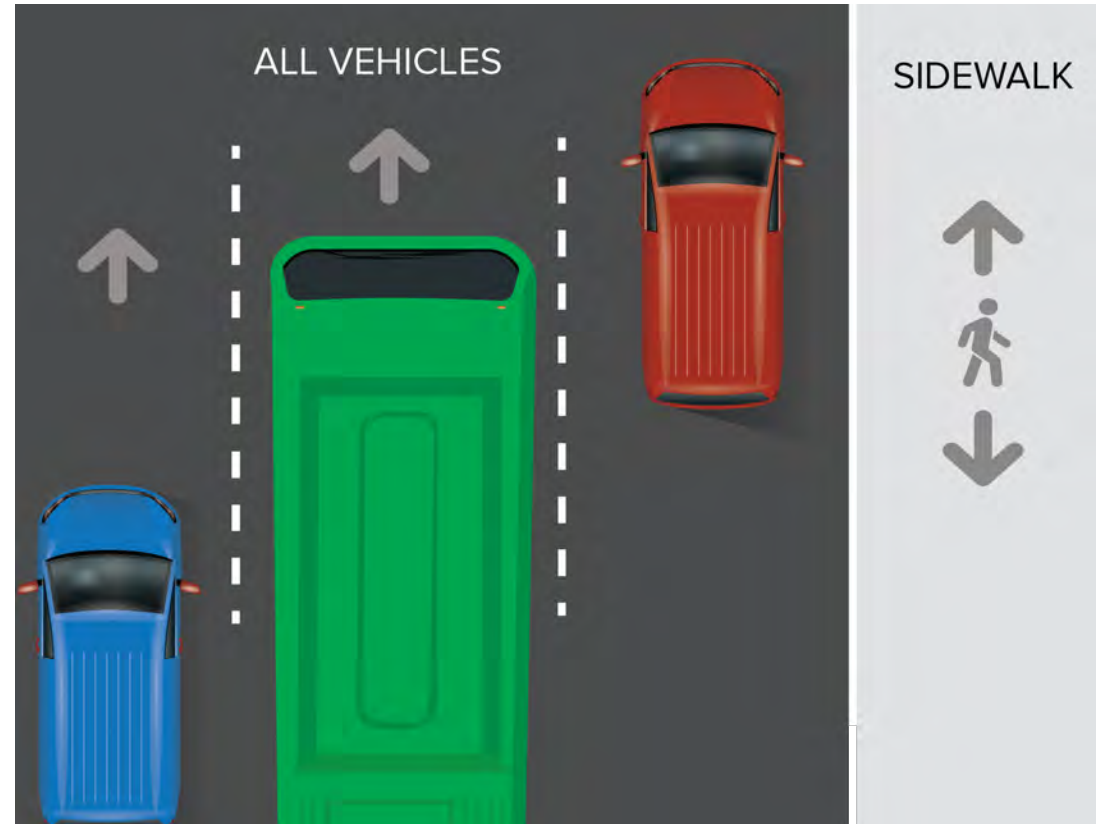
Project Introduction

Dedicated bus lane (DBL) segment on University Blvd. (MD 193)



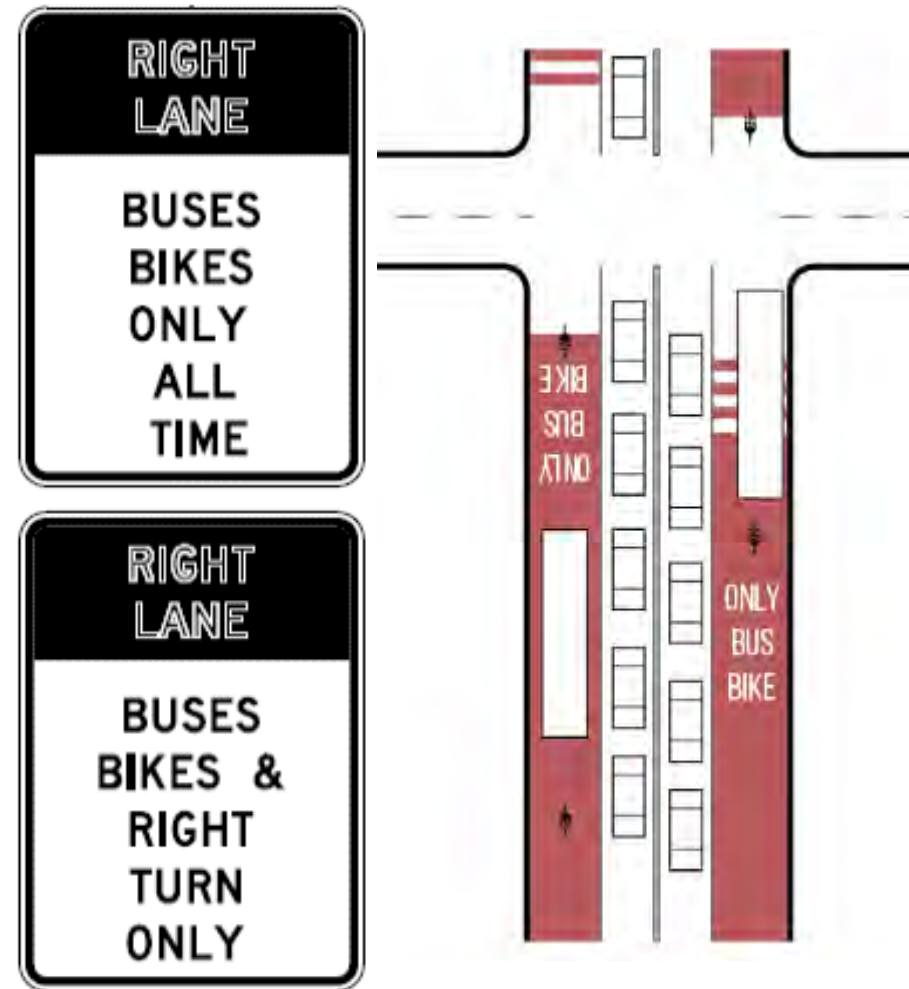
What are Dedicated Bus Lanes?

- What are dedicated bus lanes?
 - Lanes that allow buses to travel independently of regular traffic along the same roadway.
 - For this project, the bus lanes are the curb lanes in each direction.



What are Dedicated Bus Lanes?

- Dedicated Bus Lanes often include shared bus-bike lanes
 - Can accommodate both modes
 - Low speeds
 - Approx 10-15 buses per/hour
 - Buses are discouraged from passing
 - Bicyclists pass buses only at stops
 - Can provide basic bicycle access on transit streets when no space is available for dedicated bikeways



Why on University Blvd (MD 193)?

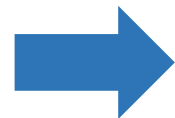
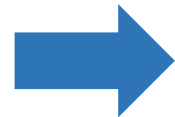
MetroBus Routes C2/C4 ranked highest ridership in Maryland along this corridor

Current status

Highest ridership –
approx **8,067 daily**

19.2% congestion delay**
during the day

An average of **35% variation**
in **bus travel** time throughout
the day due to congestion



Projected result

Many riders will be impacted by
service improvements

DBL will **remove buses from mixed travel lanes**
eliminating much of the congestion delays

Riders will experience more **consistent travel**
times due to improved congestion delays

* Based on ridership data from the April 2023 ridership report

** Congestion delay: comparison of median run time to an estimated free flow run time for buses (i.e., no congestion)

Why on University Blvd (MD 193)?

To improve on-time performance

- **Ride-On Bus Route 9:** runs on this corridor
 - Average daily ridership: 1,530
 - Low on-time performance: 78%
- **Ride-On Bus Route 7:** Peak hour only, between Amherst Ave and Inwood Ave
- **Ride-On Bus Route 8:** Operates daily, between Amherst Ave and Gabel Ave

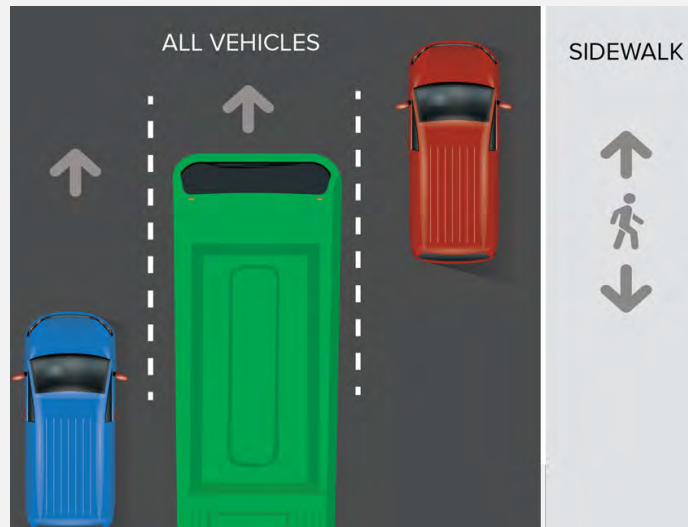


Why on University Blvd (MD 193)?

To support equitable connections in this area

NOW

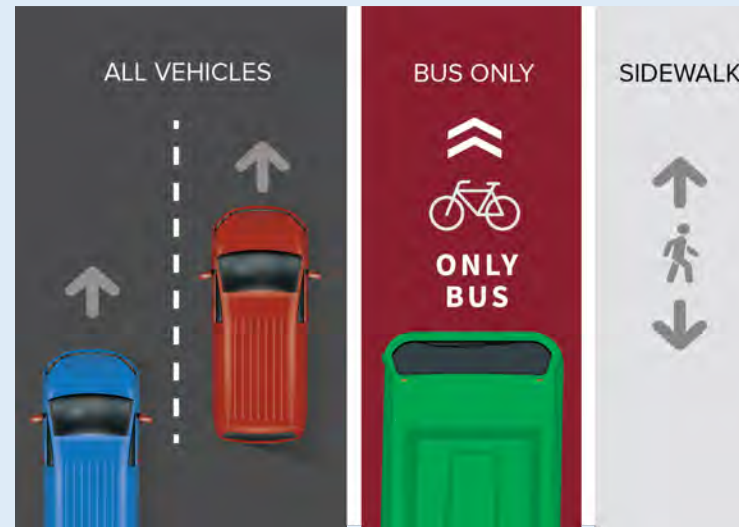
1000 cars + 15 buses



Typical rush hour traffic

PILOT

2 Lanes for 1000 cars + 1 Lane for buses 500 riders



Typical rush hour traffic

Those who use public transit won't be experiencing longer travel time due to their choice of travel mode

There is spare capacity to support implementing a bus lane with equitable results*

* Based on ridership data from September to December 2022

The Pilot Concept Plan

University Blvd @ Arcola Intersection



Red pavement marking shown here is the preferred treatment.

The Test Area

University Blvd @ Arcola Intersection Updated Plan View

Turning vehicles from Arcola onto University can cross the bus lane briefly to safely merge into the traffic lane.

Red pavement marking shown here is the preferred treatment.



The Pilot Concept Plan

University Blvd @ Northwood High School



Red pavement marking shown here is the preferred treatment.

Other Local Dedicated Bus Lanes

MLK Ave

Bus/Bike Lane in Washington, DC,
W St SE & St. Elizabeth's East
Campus; Peak Hour Only; Curb Lane



North Ave

Bus Lane, Baltimore, MD;
All Day; Middle Lane



14th St

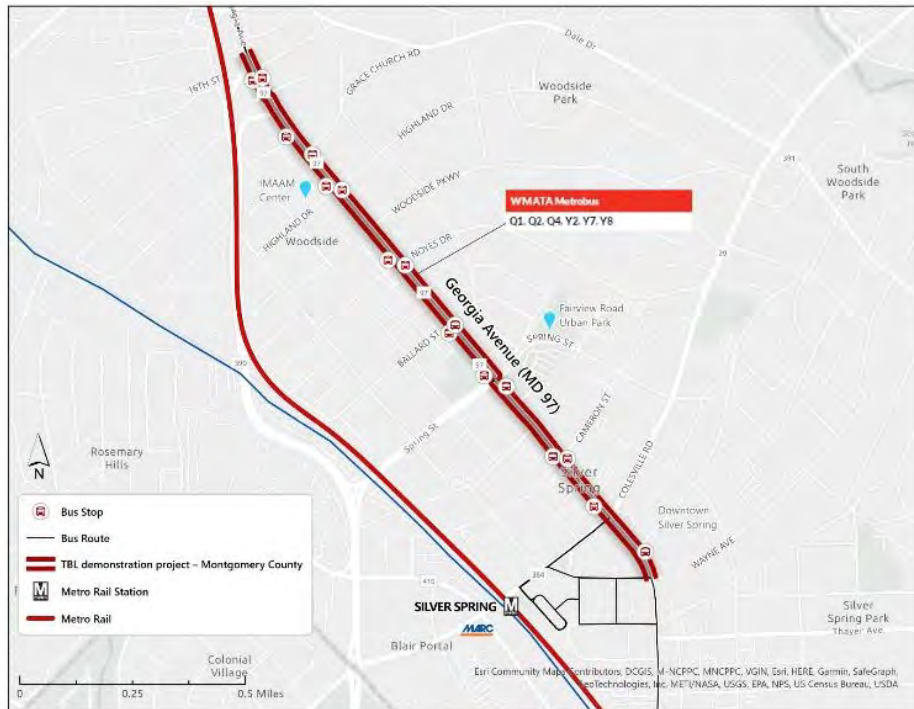
Bus/Bike Lane, Washington, DC;
All Day; Curb Lane



Other Proposed Dedicated Bus Lanes

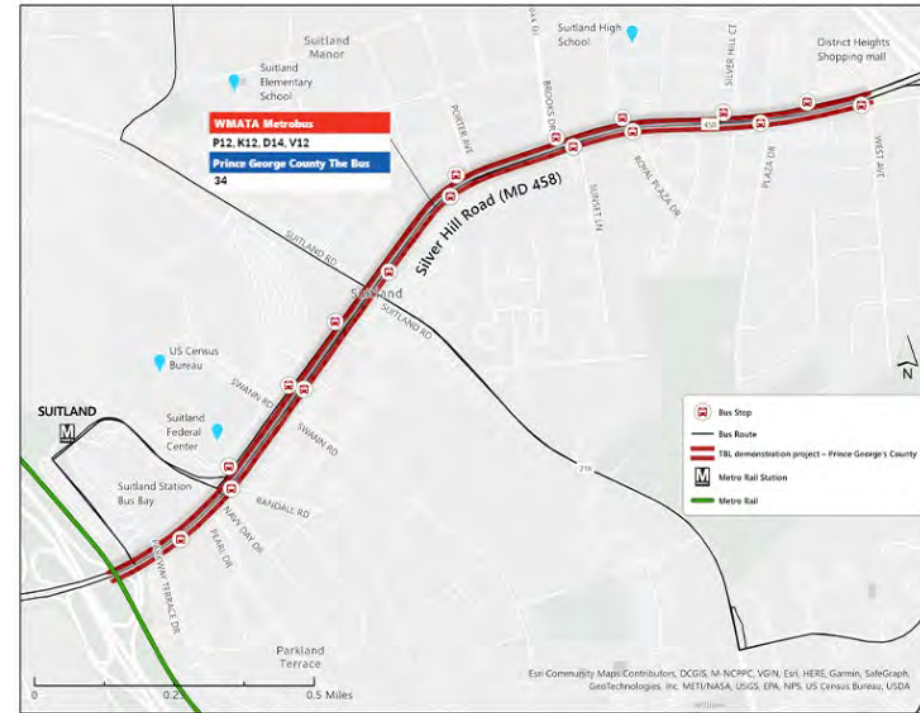
Georgia Ave (MD 97)

in Montgomery County, between
16th St NW & Wayne Ave



Silver Hill Rd (MD 458)

in Suitland, Prince George's County

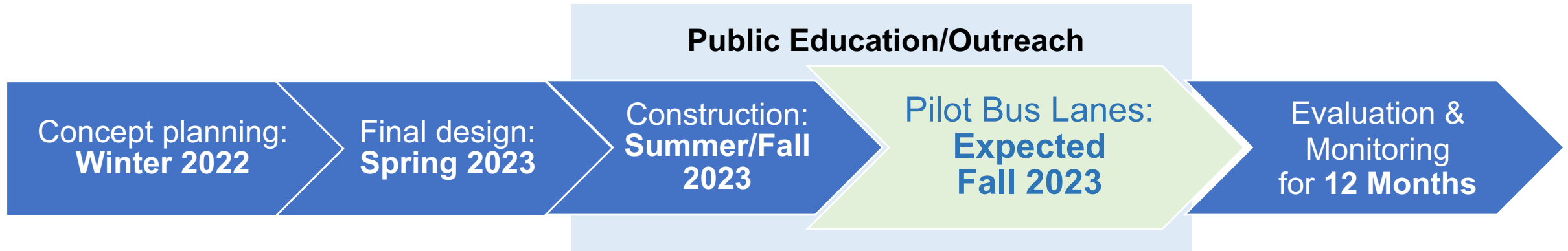


Project Benefits

- Reduces bus times and protects buses from traffic congestion, providing better on-time reliability
- Improves connections between Metro, bus services and access to Wheaton and Silver Spring Transit Center



Project Schedule



After an evaluation (month 12-18), the success of the bus lane pilot will be determined, and lanes will remain as constructed or revised as appropriate.

How to Use the Dedicated Lanes

Who can travel in the dedicated bus lanes?

- Buses
- Bicycles
- Emergency Vehicles
- Any vehicle turning right at an intersection or a driveway

University Blvd (MD 193)

All Vehicles

Bus Lane

How to Use the Dedicated Lanes

How do I make a right turn when there is a dedicated lane?

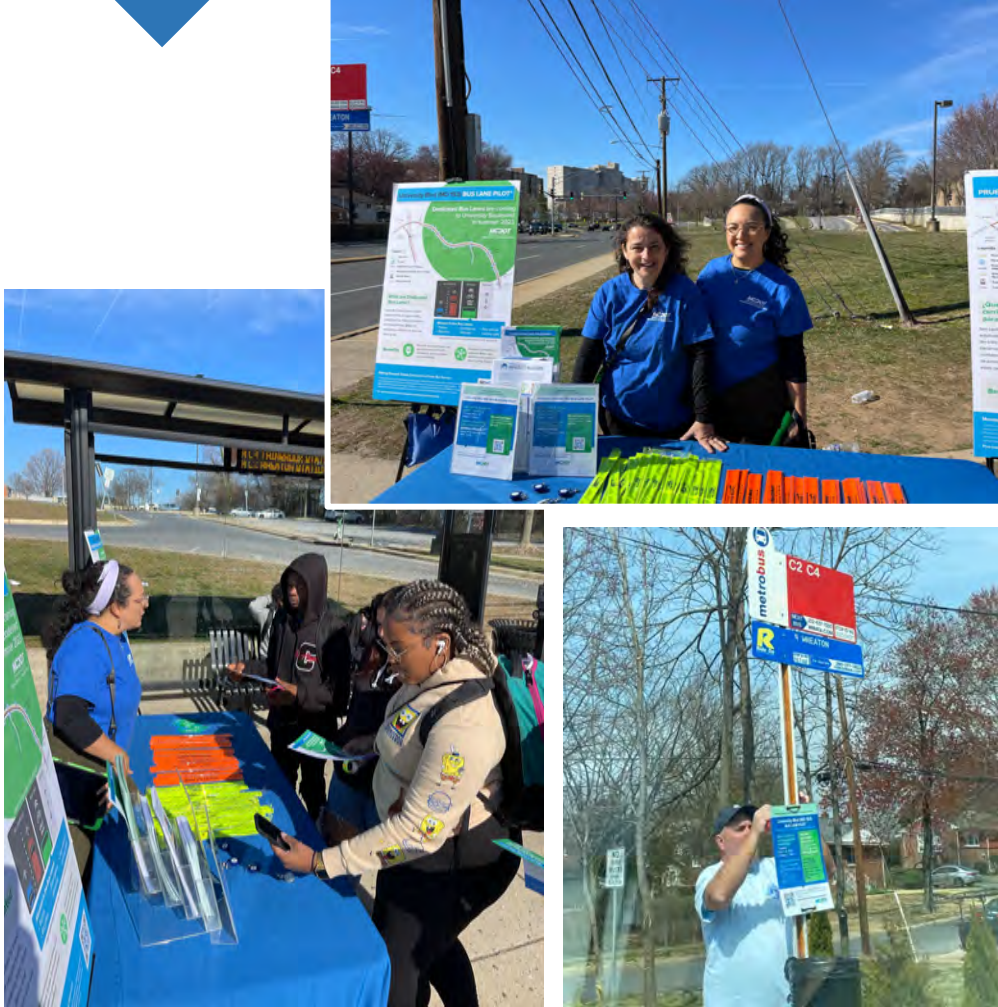
- Enter the bus lane 100 feet before making the turn
 - Sometimes the lane paint will be striped where right turns are allowed
- Turn as you normally would

University Blvd (MD 193)

Drivers **SHOULD** enter the dedicated bus lane 100 ft. before making a right turn.



Outreach/Public Education



- Email blasts
- Social media posts
- Project web pages
- Virtual public meeting 3/30/23
 - Recording available on project website
- Bus stop bulletins
- Distributed materials to residential buildings and area businesses
- Ongoing community meetings
- Popups / street teams (ongoing)
 - Metro station
 - Bus stops
 - Shopping centers

What do people think about the project?

Survey Results - Survey Duration: March 1 - April 30, 2023

RESPONDENTS WHO USE MD 193 (REGARDLESS OF MODE) REPORTED THE FOLLOWING AS "OFTEN":



68%
Shopping



58%
Entertainment



52%
Doctor/Medical



51%
Work



38%
School



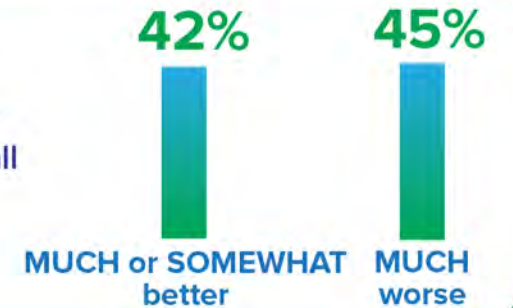
58%
Other

83% OF RESPONDENTS STATED THEY WERE EITHER



FAMILIAR WITH DEDICATED BUS LANES

When asked about the impact dedicated bus lanes would have on overall travel in the area, respondents said:



30%
OF RESPONDENTS STATED THAT THEY USE PUBLIC TRANSIT ALONG MD 193



STATED THAT THE ADDITION OF THIS PROGRAM WOULD MAKE THEM MORE LIKELY TO USE TRANSIT ALONG MD 193



48%
View dedicated bus lanes as a benefit

Next Steps

Tell us what YOU think!

Contact a project manager with comments and questions.

Gary Erenrich

Special Assistant to the Director
Montgomery County DOT

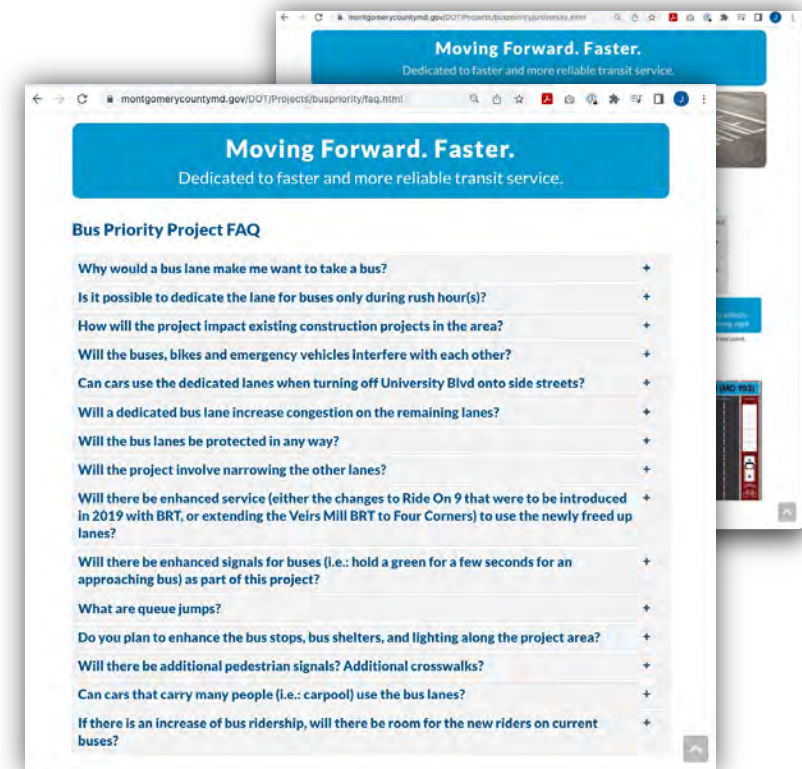
Gary.erenrich@montgomerycountymd.gov

301-221-8104

Visit Our Website

for FAQ and to download the flyer and presentation

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT/Projects/buspriority/university.html



Stay Connected

- Request a Community Meeting
- We want to hear from you!
- If you belong to a civic group such as a homeowners association or community advocacy organization, please visit our website to request a community meeting (via the form) or email Gary.erenrich@montgomerycountymd.gov
- Attend a future public meeting

