MD 355 BRT Corridor Planning Study

Project Team Members

Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) Team

Transportation Engineering Division

Corey Pitts, AICP is responsible for overseeing the MD 355 corridor BRT project for his division. He has experience in transit system operations and feasibility, transit facility planning, transportation system modeling, multimodal planning and project management.

The Director’s Office

Joana Conklin leads Montgomery County’s BRT Program, coordinating efforts on all BRT projects. She has worked with transit agencies across the country for 18 years as a consultant prior to joining MCDOT. She also chairs the Transportation Research Board’s committee on Public Transportation Planning and Development.

Darcy Buckley, AICP is MCDOT’s lead liaison for the MD 355 BRT Corridor Advisor Committees (CACs). She leads collaboration efforts on the MD 355 BRT project for MCDOT’s Director’s Office and specializes in public outreach and education, stakeholder coordination, and transportation/land use planning.

Tom Pogue assists the BRT Team in the Director’s Office with community relations work including support for the CACs. He is a 35-year veteran of the County, having worked in MCDOT on commuter services, pedestrian safety, program management, and community outreach.

Consultant Team

Steve Hawtof, PE, ENV SP (Gannett Fleming), is the Consultant Project Manager, team lead, and primary liaison to MCDOT this Study. He is overseeing the development and implementation of the strategic plan for the project.

Denny Finnerin, PE (Gannett Fleming) is the Assistant Project Manager and engineering lead for this Study. She is leading the development of the engineering alternatives along the corridor including typical sections, horizontal alignments, and limits of project impact. She is also involved in public involvement and environmental documentation.

Lora Byala, AICP (Foursquare Integrated Transportation Planning (Foursquare ITP)) is responsible for overall quality assurance/quality control on the public involvement and transit service planning components of the project. She is also playing a role in framing the project objectives and measures of effectiveness and the strategic direction for the local bus and BRT transit service planning.
Michael Weinberger (Foursquare ITP) is the Get on Board BRT program facilitator and the public outreach lead for this Study. The Get on Board BRT program is intended to introduce the concept of BRT to Montgomery County. His work includes the implementation of public involvement programs, events, and meetings along the corridor, and serving as a facilitator at the South CAC meetings.

Alanna McKeeman, AICP (Foursquare ITP) is involved in various aspects of the public involvement for the MD 355 BRT Corridor Planning Study, serving as the facilitator for the North CAC meetings, developing outreach plans, and planning and supporting stakeholder meetings and other events.

Dan Lovas, PE (VHB) is the Engineering Manager for VHB, focusing on the northern portion of the corridor. He provides oversight and work on development and refinement of alignment alternatives, Build Alternative engineering concepts, BRT station options, pedestrian and bicycle facility design, and cost estimates.

Chris Bell (AECOM) is the project lead for the traffic simulation and ridership forecasting elements of the Study. His responsibilities include overseeing the development of traffic simulation models, overseeing the ridership forecasting, and managing the analysis of the model outputs for inclusion in the alternative selection process.

Josh Diamond (Foursquare ITP) is leading the service planning team in reviewing the performance of existing transit services, conducting a market analysis to identify transit need, and reviewing recent and ongoing planning efforts. These tasks will inform alignment, route, and level of service recommendations for the BRT and complementary Ride On and WMATA local bus services.

Christine Potocki, PE, PTOE, LEED AP BD+C (VHB) is assisting in the development of engineering concepts for the Build Alternatives. Her tasks include the development of typical sections, horizontal alignments, and limits of project impacts.

Drew Morrison will be supporting the Study with station location and transportation planning expertise. Drew previously worked on the MD 355 BRT planning process as a staffer for Councilmember Roger Berliner and County Executive Isiah Leggett.

Craig Shirk, AICP, ENV SP (Gannett Fleming) is leading the environmental analysis for this Study. He is responsible for overall consideration of natural, social, economic, and cultural resources in the development of transit alignments and BRT components and operations, and identification of approaches to avoid and minimize environmental impacts.