North Bethesda
Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
Planning Study
Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC)

March 9, 2022
Meeting Expectations

- We’re committed to starting on time and ending on time
- Meeting facilitator will guide discussion
- We’re creating spaces for all voices to be heard
- Take advantage of the “raise hand” feature
- Place microphones on mute when not talking
Using Zoom

Ask a question (in text):
• If you have a question during the presentation, send it via chat.

To send a chat:
• Click “chat” in the bottom menu
• A new window will appear.
• Type your question and send it.
Using Zoom

Raise your hand:
- If you’d like to speak to ask a question or make a comment, please **raise your hand**

To raise your hand:
- Click “Reactions” in the bottom menu
- A new window will appear. Click the “raise hand button” at the bottom.
- If you’ve dialed in by phone, dial **#9**.
Project Team Participants

Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT)

• Joana Conklin
• Sandra Marks
• Corey Pitts

Planning Consultant Team
Kimley-Horn

• Melissa DuMond, AICP
• Lucas Muller, PE
• Kate Widness, AICP, CNU-A
Meeting Agenda

• Introductions
• Project Overview and Background
• Goals and Objectives
• Study Area Context
• Engagement Update
Welcome to the Corridor Advisory Committee for the North Bethesda BRT

- **Introductions**
  - Name
  - What interested you in this project?
  - What are your top priorities for this Transitway/corridor?
Role of Corridor Advisory Committee

• Provide input, guidance and oversight in accordance with the Master Plan

• Community involvement throughout project

• Information sharing with community

• Build consensus
What is Bus Rapid Transit?
Bus Rapid Transit Overview

- BRT initiative in Montgomery County
- North Bethesda BRT originally identified in the **2013 Countywide Transit Corridor Functional Master Plan**
  - Connect Westfield Montgomery Mall Transit Center through the Rock Spring office park to the Metrorail Red Line
North Bethesda Transitway Planning Study

• **Corridor Extents from Master Plan Study:**
  - **Western Terminus:** Westfield Montgomery Mall
  - **Eastern Terminus:** White Flint Metrorail station *OR* Grosvenor-Strathmore Metrorail station

• **Study Outcomes:**
  - Select an Eastern terminus
  - Designate alignment types
    - *Dedicated BRT lanes vs mixed traffic*
  - Identify stop locations
Throughout the project there will be updates and opportunities to provide input at the following:

- Project Webpage
- Project Survey
- Pop-Up Events
- Bus Stop Chats
- Public Meetings
  - Virtual
  - In-Person
The Role of the CAC

- **Kick-off Meeting**: Winter 2022
- **Corridor Foundations**: Spring 2022
- **Initial Termini Identification Screening**: Summer 2022
- **Build Alternatives Development**: Fall 2022
- **Build Alternatives Findings**: Winter 2023
- **Preferred Alternative**: Spring 2023
Goals and Objectives

**Goals**
Quality Service

**Objectives**
“Provide a fast, reliable, efficient, and connected transit service”

**Metrics**
- Travel time
- Ridership
- Transit mode share
Goals and Objectives

**Quality Service**
Provide a fast, reliable, efficient, and connected transit service

**Mobility Choices**
Improve access to jobs, activity centers, and community facilities

**Sustainable Solutions**
Minimize environmental impacts and utilize cost-effective design

**Community Equity**
Provide improved and accessible transit service for underserved populations

**Economic Growth**
Promote economic development with appealing and functional transit

**Public Safety**
Improve safety of our streets and the livability and wellness of our communities
How To Use Poll EV

On a browser, go to pollev.com/amp812

Select answer(s) to the question
Goals and Objectives

Provide a fast, reliable, efficient, and connected transit service
Improve access to jobs, activity centers, and community facilities
Minimize environmental impacts and utilize cost-effective design
Provide improved and accessible transit service for underserved populations
Promote economic development with appealing and functional transit
Improve safety of our streets and the livability and wellness of our communities

Which 2 goals are most important to the community?

PollEv.com/amp812
| Quality Service | Mobility Choices | Sustainable Solutions | Community Equity | Economic Growth | Public Safety |

Which Two North Bethesda BRT Project Goals Are Most Important to the Community? (Select 2)
Study Area Context
BRT Alternatives and Study Area

Legend
- Orange: North Bethesda BRT Planned Connection
- Orange Dots: North Bethesda BRT Potential Connection
- Black: Study Area
- Blue Dashed: MD 355 Flash BRT Service (Planned)
- Red: Metro Red Line
- M: Metro Stations
Study Area Demographics - % Minority Population

Legend
- Study Area
- MD 355 Flash BRT Service (Planned)
- Metro Red Line
- Metro Stations

Minority % of Population
- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%
Master Plans and Pipeline Developments

Legend
- North Bethesda BRT Alternatives
- MD 355 Flash BRT Service (Planned)
- Metro Red Line
- Metro Stations

Adopted Master Plans
- GROSVENOR MINOR MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT
- NORTH BETHESDA GARRETT PARK MASTER PLAN
- ROCK SPRING SECTOR PLAN
- WHITE FLINT SECTOR PLAN
- WHITE FLINT SECTOR PLAN PHASE 2

Pipeline Developments
- Mixed
- Non-Residential
- Residential

Map showing various areas and developments with a legend explaining the symbols and colors used.
Transit Oriented Propensity –
Areas where there is a presence of residents more likely to use transit.
Commuter Propensity –
Areas where commuters who use transit are likely to live.
Employment Destination Propensity –
Areas where commuters are likely to go based on total jobs and job density.
Inflow and Outflow of Work Trips To and From the Study Area

Legend:
- Transitway Study Area
- Census Block Groups

- 96% of workers
  - Inbound 66,200 trips
- 12% of residents
  - Internal 3,100 trips
- 88% of residents
  - Outbound 22,900 trips
Work Locations of People Who Live in the Study Area

Legend

- North Bethesda Transitway Study Area
- MD355 Planned Flash BRT
- Other Planned Flash BRT
- MARC Train Lines
- Metro Lines (Regional)
- Purple Line

Where Residents of the Study Area Work

- Some Density
- Medium Density
- High Density

Source: United States Census Bureau LEHD Data
Before the pandemic, how did you travel to work?

PollEv.com/amp812
Before the COVID-19 pandemic, how did you travel to work?

| Personal Car | Walk | Bike/Scooter | Bus | Metrorail | Rideshare/Carpool |
Pedestrian Level of Comfort in the Study Area
Current Characteristics

- Transit ridership has not recovered to pre-pandemic levels, unlike private auto use
- More people are commuting into the study area to work, than commuting out
- Opportunities exist to upgrade bike and ped facilities
- High transit propensity around metro stations
- Lower density and less transit-supportive land use in middle of corridor

Future BRT Considerations

- Consider stops, frequency and regional transit connectivity
- Consider capacity needs and users in design
- Opportunity to achieve visions of master plans
- Look at increasing frequency and expanding hours of service
- Include quality bike and ped facilities in design
- Look at future demand in screening the termini options
Discussion

Was there anything in the data that surprised you?

Is there anything else you would like to share about existing conditions?
Upcoming Engagement

- **Project Webpage**
  - Ongoing throughout project

- **Project Survey**
  - March 2022 – April 2022

- **Pop-Up Events**
  - March 2022 – April 2022

- **Bus Stop Chats**
  - March 2022 – April 2022

Scan This to Register for Project Updates
We need your help spreading the word!

• **Take the Project Survey**

• **Purpose**: gather public feedback on project goals, how the corridor is used, and overall travel trends.

• **When**: late March 2022 – mid April 2022

• **Where**: Project Webpage *(once survey is published)*

• **Who**: Anyone—Spread the word through your local advocacy groups and share with your neighbors, friends, and other contacts!
Questions?
Sandra Marks – BRT Project Manager, MCDOT
Sandra.marks@montgomerycountymd.gov
Project Webpage
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte/projects/NorthBethesda/