



VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE FOR
Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on
Veirs Mill Road (MD 586)
October 15, 2020

- Presentation will begin shortly -



MC DOT
Montgomery County
Department of Transportation

Welcome!

- We're all learning so please bear with us!
- 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 **Jennifer Owers.**
- 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.

Using Zoom

Welcome to the virtual community meeting!
Let's get you oriented to the Zoom meeting.

- Muting

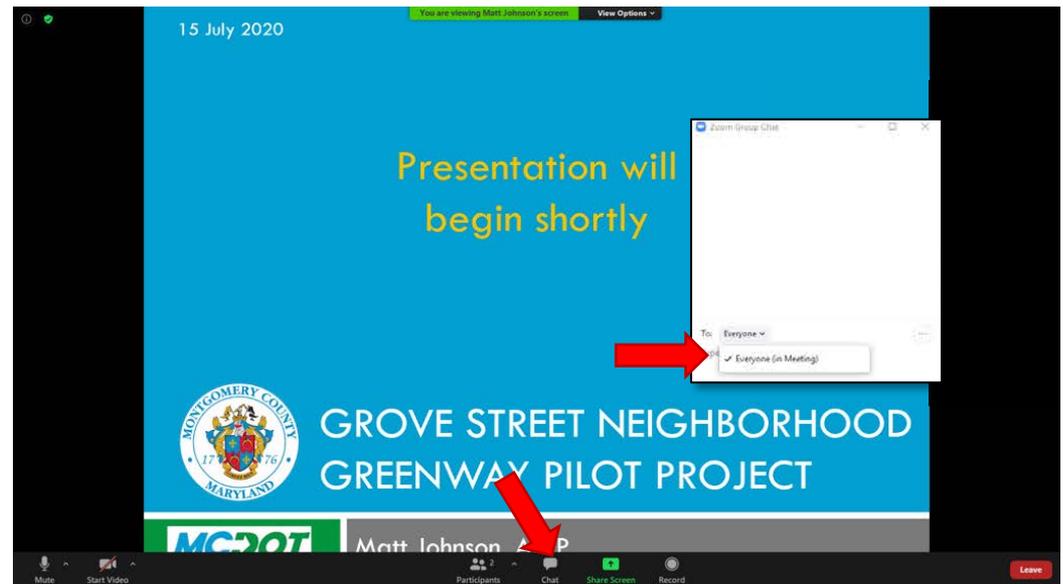
- Everyone is on mute. You cannot unmute yourself. We can unmute you during the Q&A and comment period.
- To request to speak, you'll need to use the raise hand feature (instructions in just a minute). Once we unmute you, you may still need to click a pop-up menu to unmute yourself.
- If you have called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

Using Zoom

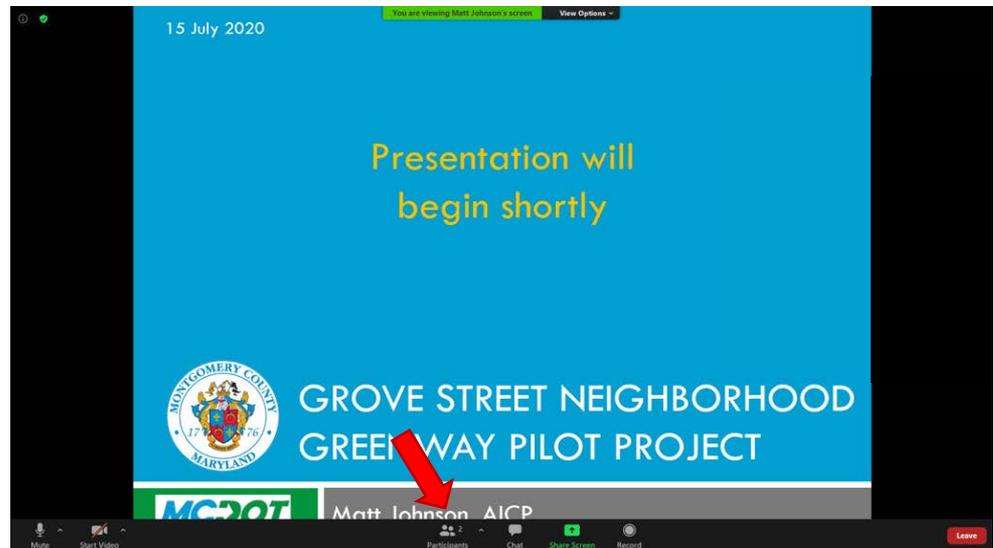
- Ask a question (Text)
 - If you have a question during the presentation, send it via chat.
- To send a chat:
 - Click “chat” in the bottom menu
 - A new window will appear. In the “to” field, change the drop down to “Jennifer Owers”
 - Type your question and send it.



Using Zoom

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

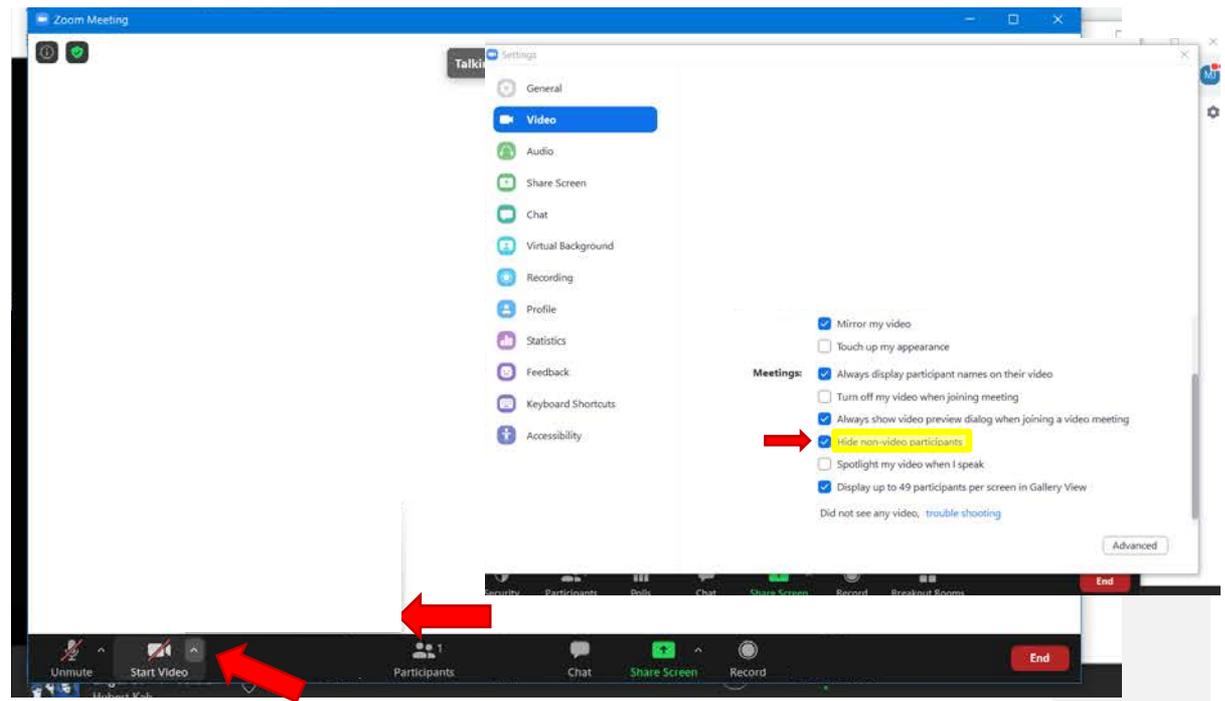
- To raise your hand
 - Click “participants” in the bottom menu
 - A new window will appear. Click the blue “raise hand button”.
 - If you've dialed in by phone, dial *9.



Using Zoom

To change your view so that you only see people with cameras on:

- Click the up arrow next to “start video”.
- Select “Video settings”.
- Make sure “Hide non-video participants” is checked.



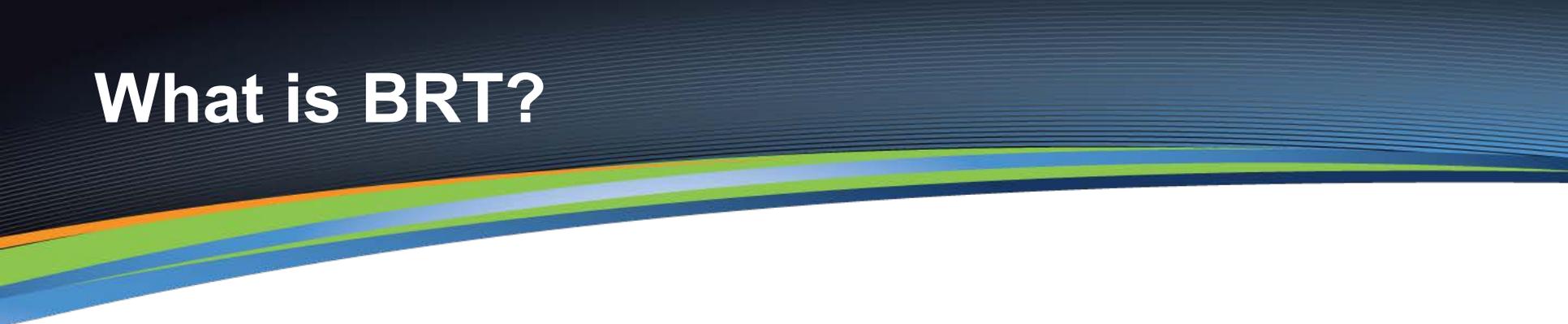
Purpose of Tonight's Open House

- Provide overview of transit improvements along Veirs Mill Road corridor
- Review project schedule and budget
- The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) is requesting public comments to get feedback on the details of the BRT stations and service

To get the most out of this meeting:

- Hear from the project team and ask questions
- Fill out the comment form to provide your input

What is BRT?



BRT Introduction Video
<https://youtu.be/b72-wCfBTLg>

What is BRT?

- A comfortable, reliable transit option for Montgomery County.
 - Bus Rapid Transit, or BRT, drives on the street, often in its own lane on busy roads. It makes fewer stops than a traditional bus so you can get where you need to go quickly.
- US 29 FLASH between Silver Spring and Burtonsville opened this Fall



**Gets you
out of traffic**



**Saves you
money**



**Better for the
environment**



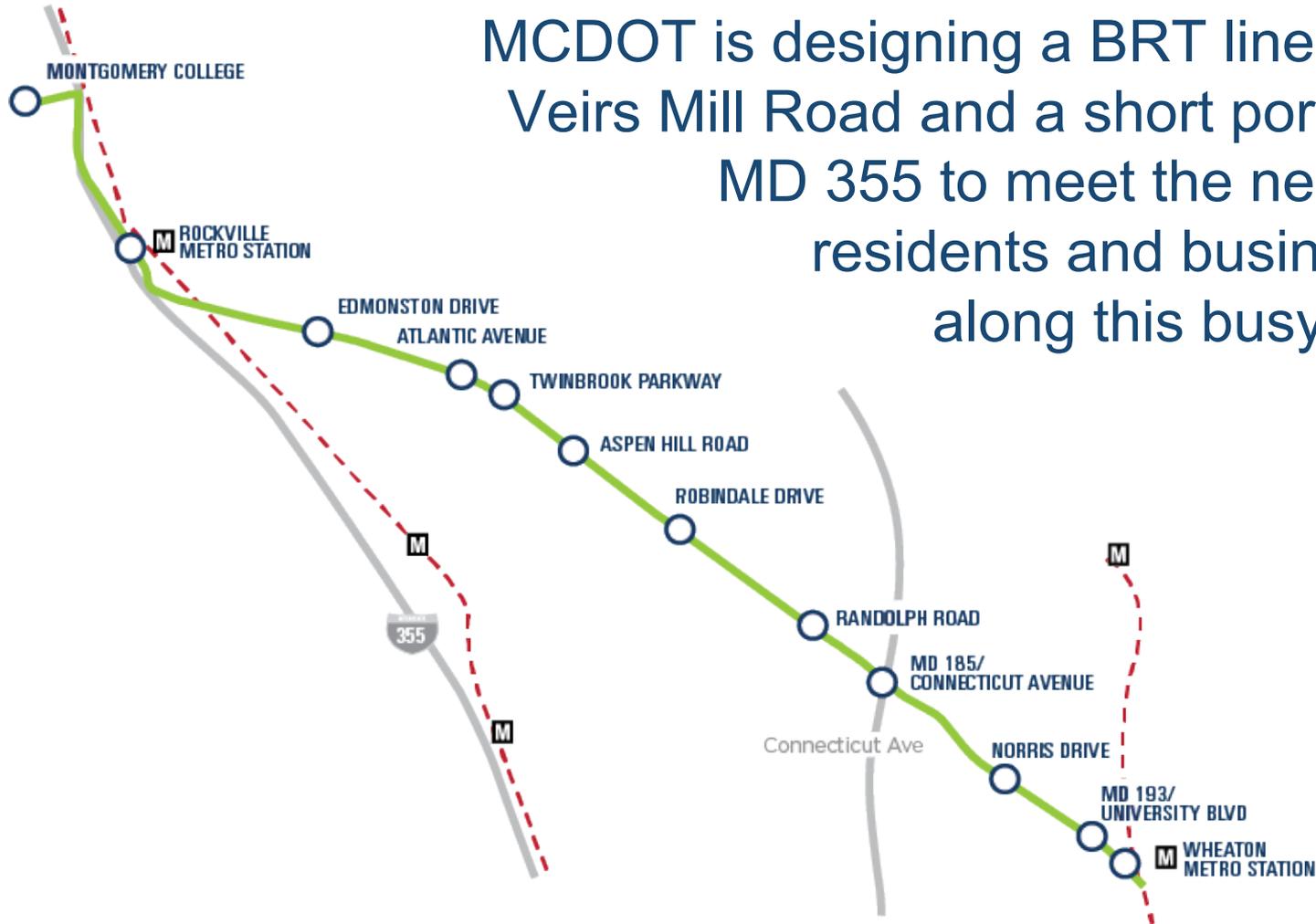
**Gets you where
you want to go
quickly**

BRT Features



Veirs Mill Road BRT Project

MCDOT is designing a BRT line along Veirs Mill Road and a short portion of MD 355 to meet the needs of residents and businesses along this busy route



Veirs Mill Road BRT Project

BRT will:

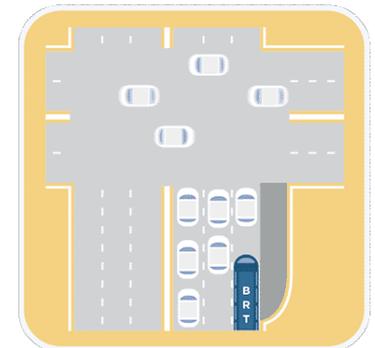
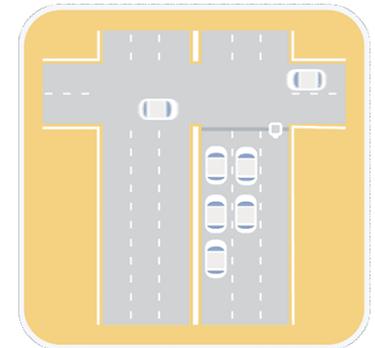
- Use existing wide shoulders, right-turn only, and bus only lanes along the corridor
- Operate in mixed traffic elsewhere along Veirs Mill Road and along MD 355



Veirs Mill Road BRT Project

Service plans being considered include:

- Typically running between 5-10 minutes during the peak period and every 10-15 minutes during the off-peak
- Transit Signal Priority (TSP) will be installed at nine intersections along the corridor to provide traffic signal benefits to BRT vehicles where appropriate, reducing travel time and increasing reliability
- Queue Jumps: An added lane at the approach to an intersection designated for exclusive use of a BRT vehicle and, in some cases, right-turning vehicles only



Veirs Mill Road BRT - Project Schedule

35% Design

FALL 2020 TO FALL 2021

Final Design

MID-2022 TO LATE 2023

Construction

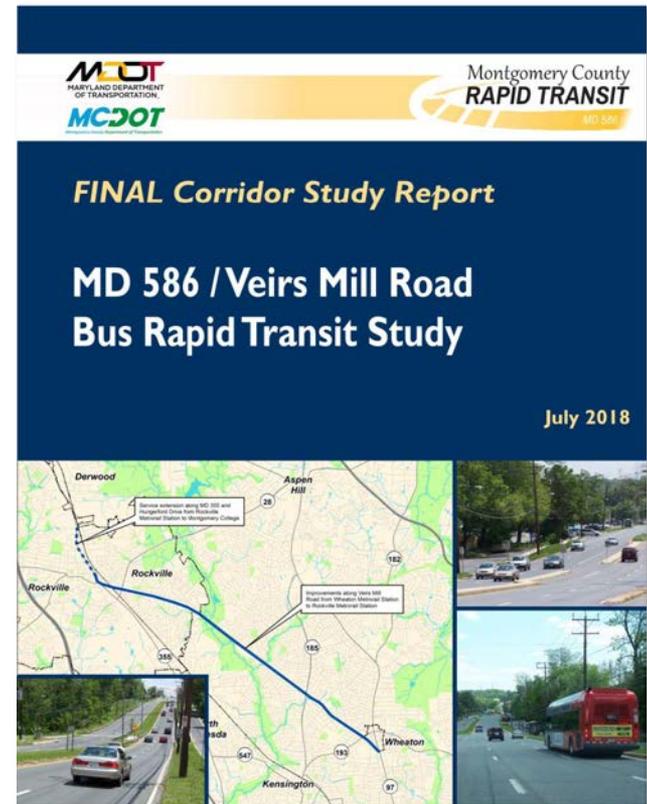
MID-2024 TO LATE 2026

*schedule is contingent on receiving funding



Project Background

- Planning study conducted by Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) completed in 2018 resulted in the evaluation of alternatives and selection of a recommended alternative for new BRT service along Veirs Mill Road



Selection of Alternative 2.5

- New alternative (Alternative 2.5) was developed after briefing County Council:
 - Alternative 2.5 contains the infrastructure improvements of Alternative 2 (queue jumps) and the operational improvements of Alternative 3
- Alternative 2.5 was selected by County Council as the recommended alternative, with Alternative 3 retained as the long-term Master Plan option
- Planning, design, and construction of Alternative 2.5 is moving forward under Montgomery County Department of Transportation

Project Background

- Findings from the corridor study included:
 - BRT station and queue jump locations
 - Service plans
 - Property and environmental impacts
 - Ridership and traffic analysis
 - Capital cost
 - Station Access



Need for BRT on Veirs Mill Road

System Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High-quality, express east-west transit connection is not available between Rockville and Wheaton Metrorail Stations
Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Traffic congestion impedes bus travel and results in unpredictable and increased travel times• Local bus is often delayed 15 minutes or more
Transit Demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High transit ridership exists throughout corridor• Existing and planned transit-oriented development at both Metrorail stations will increase transit commuters
Livability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create more reliable, accessible transportation network• Enhance choices for users• Improve station access to affordable housing, employment, and other destinations

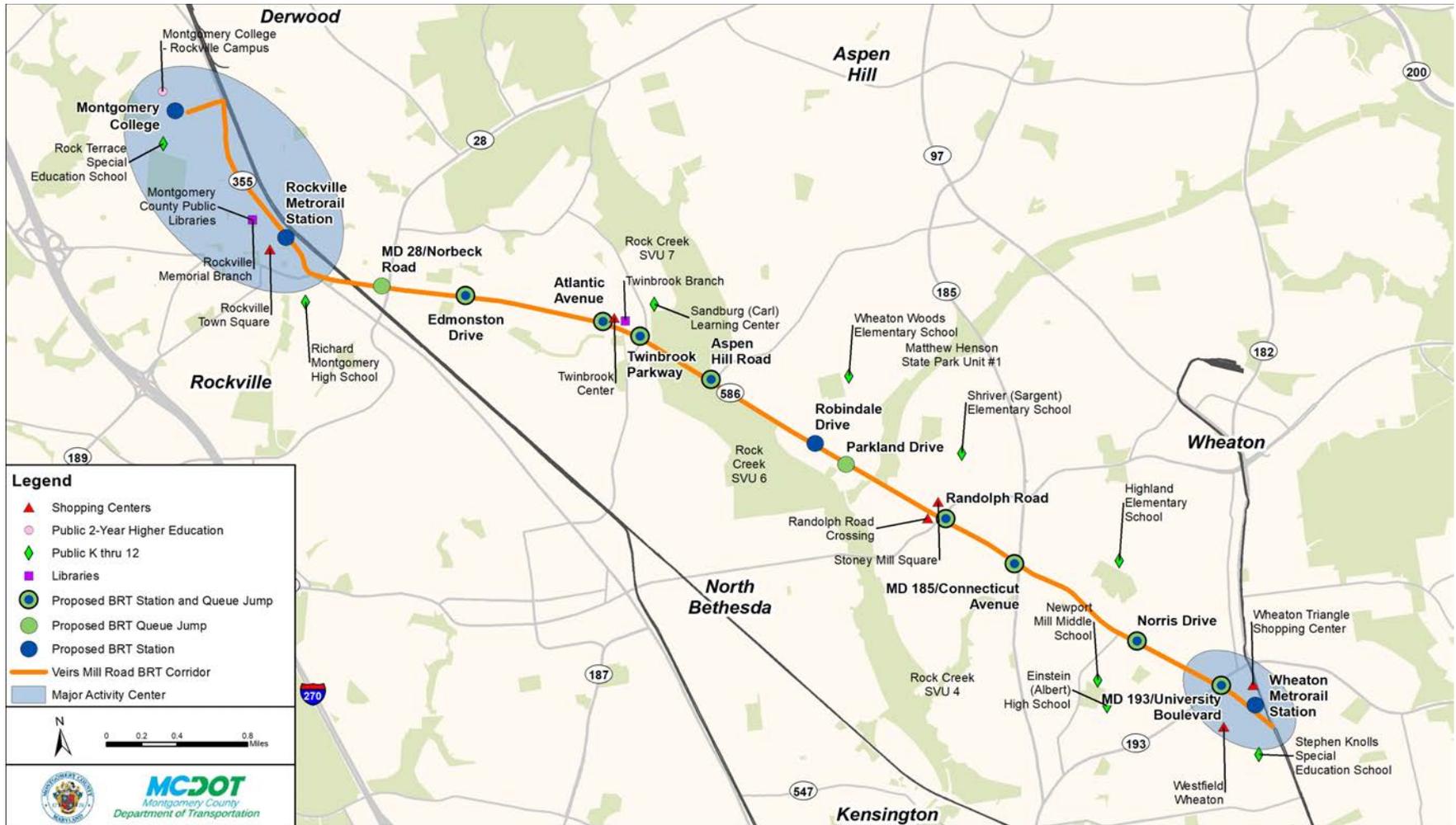
Pedestrian and Cyclist Access Improvements

- Reviewed Veirs Mill Corridor Master Plan, Bicycle Master Plan, and other relevant planning documents
- Coordinating with a variety of agencies and staff to reduce overlap and identify synergies
- Will present details at a future Open House



Explore the Veirs Mill Road Corridor

Let's take a closer look



BRT Station Design

Perspective



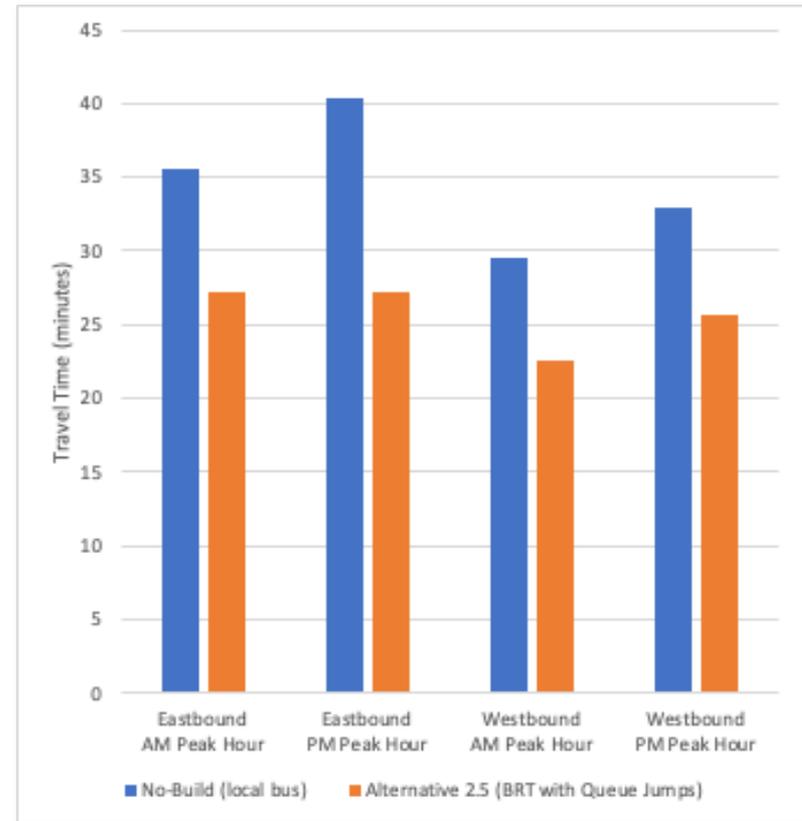
BRT Station Design

Components



Veirs Mill Road BRT Benefits and Cost

- Projected BRT ridership
 - 2040 daily boardings: 6,400 (2,700 new)
- Improved car/truck travel times
- Improved transit reliability
 - Dedicated bus lanes/shoulder use
 - Transit signal priority



Veirs Mill Road BRT Benefits and Cost

Project Element	Estimated Cost – Corridor Study
Engineering and Construction	\$51.5 M
Right-of-Way	\$11.1 M
Vehicles	\$13.5 M*
Total Capital Cost	\$76.1 M
Annual Operating Cost	\$3.9 M*

*Unit costs updated based on actual costs for US 29 Flash

Next Steps / Wrap-up

- Planning (Concept Design) is expected to be completed by late October 2020
- Preliminary engineering design to begin this Fall
- Application for federal funding will be advanced
- Existing local bus service will be evaluated to interface with BRT
- Meetings with stakeholders and public will continue through preliminary design



Next Steps / Wrap-up

Today:

- Fill out a comment form at our website below.
- Send an email to Project Manager, Michael Mitchell

Michael Mitchell, PE

Division of Transportation Engineering

100 Edison Park, 4th Floor

Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Michael.Mitchell@montgomerycountymd.gov

montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte/projects/VeirsMillBRT/

Continue to Stay Connect

Later:

- Request a Community Meeting
 - We want to meet you!
 - If you belong to a civic group such as a homeowners association or community advocacy organization, please visit our website below to request a community meeting
- Attend a future Open House
- Continue to engage with the staff that work directly on the design of the BRT route and stations. Your questions, comments, and ideas from tonight's Open House will be integrated into the design process.

montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte/projects/VeirsMillBRT/

Questions

Please send your questions to **Jennifer Owers** using Zoom's private chat function.

Contact Information

Michael Mitchell, PE
Project Manager
MCDOT

100 Edison Park Drive, 4th Floor
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Michael.Mitchell@montgomerycountymd.gov



Note: Due to Covid-19, most of our staff is working from home. Email is much preferred for communication, rather than regular mail or our desk phones.