

# Arlington Transit Strategic Plan

## **PUBLIC MEETING**

DES – Transportation

Lynn Rivers – Transit Bureau Chief

Paul Mounier – Transit Planning Manager

Nate Graham – Public Engagement Specialist

**October 19, 2022**

- Team Introductions
- What is a Transit Strategic Plan (TSP)?
- What Are We Talking About Today?
  - Vision & Mission, Draft Goals and Objectives
  - What Does Transit Service Look Like Today?
- Share your Feedback
- Community Engagement Timeline

# How this works:

## For questions during this presentation

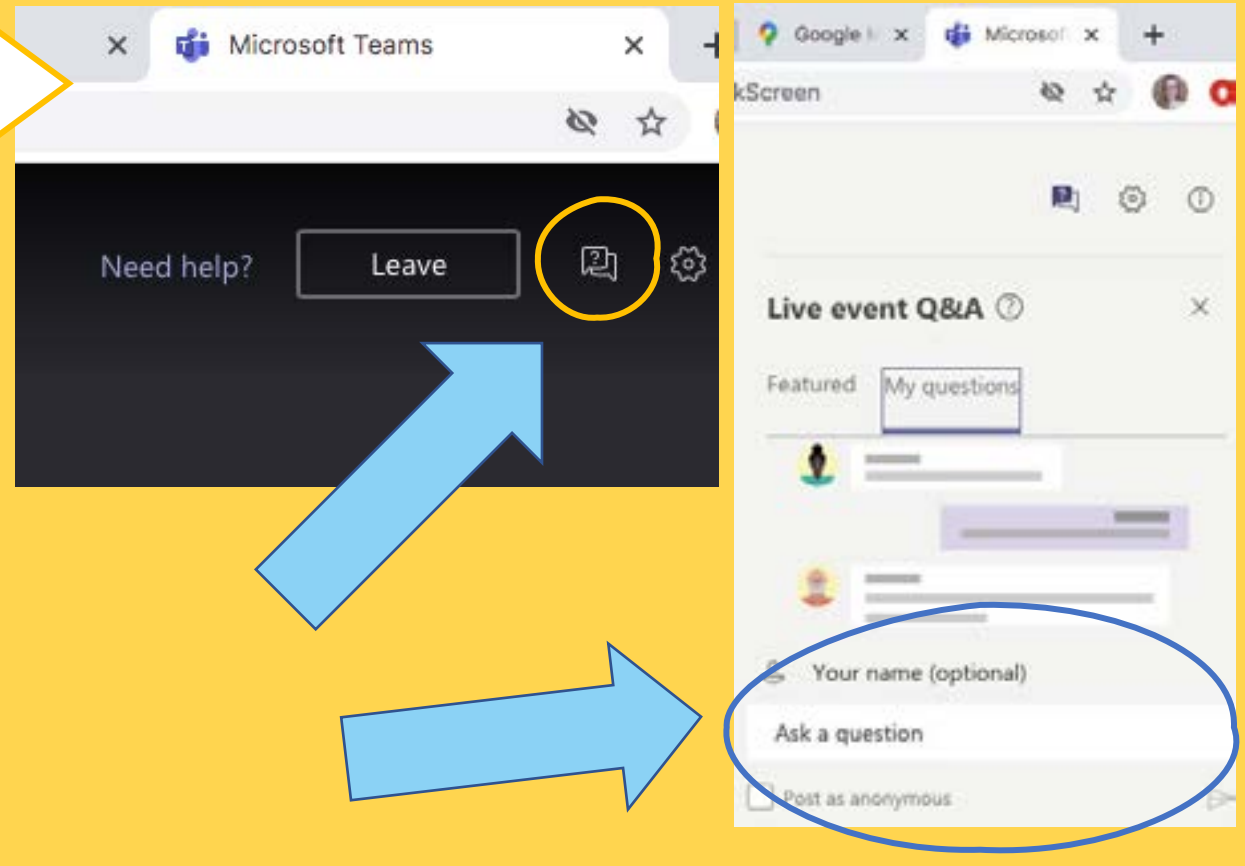
- Ask us questions anytime during the presentation using the Live Event Q&A
- County staff will respond to your questions during the Q&A period following the presentation
- To provide your input:
  - Fill out the online feedback form
  - Visit one of our 7 pop-up engagements

### Questions? Concerns?

Paul Mounier, *Project Manager*  
[pmounier@arlingtonva.us](mailto:pmounier@arlingtonva.us)

Nate Graham, *Public Engagement Specialist*  
[nsgraham@arlingtonva.us](mailto:nsgraham@arlingtonva.us)

### How to ask questions during the presentation:



# What is a Transit Strategic Plan (TSP)?



## Why are we doing it?

- Arlington is committed to providing a multimodal transportation network, including transit
- ART is committed to continuous improvement
- Basis for inclusion in statewide funding programs

## What got us to this point?

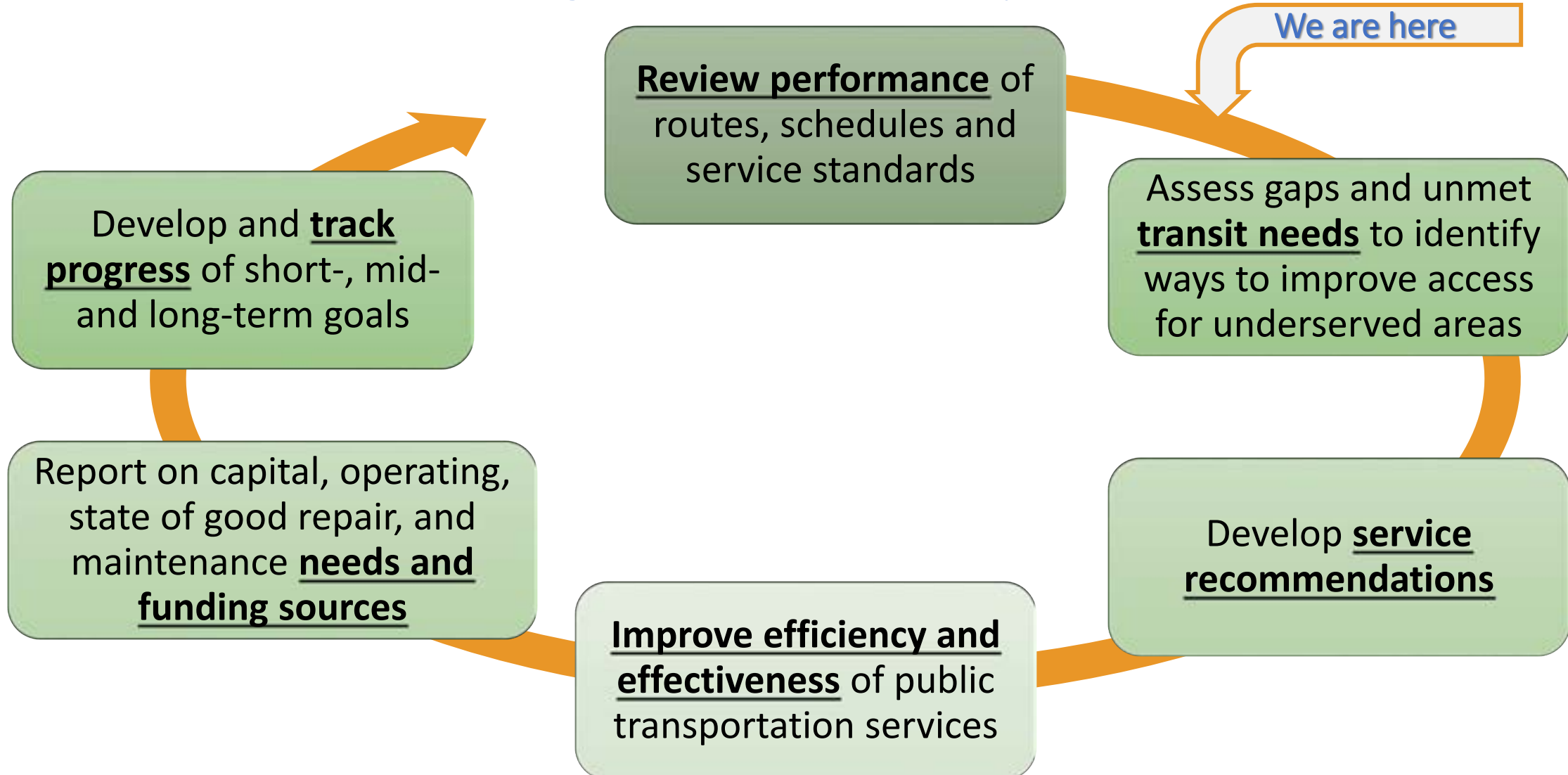
- Previous six-year Transit Development Plan (TDP) now expiring
- ART now meets threshold to require a TSP
- State-funded and mandated update process

## What is the expected outcome?

- Better understanding of community needs
- Opportunity to maximize transit investment

# What is Transit Strategic Plan (TSP)?

A living document of the planning, management, and policy process for the fixed-route (ART) and paratransit (STAR) service that Arlington delivers as a transit provider

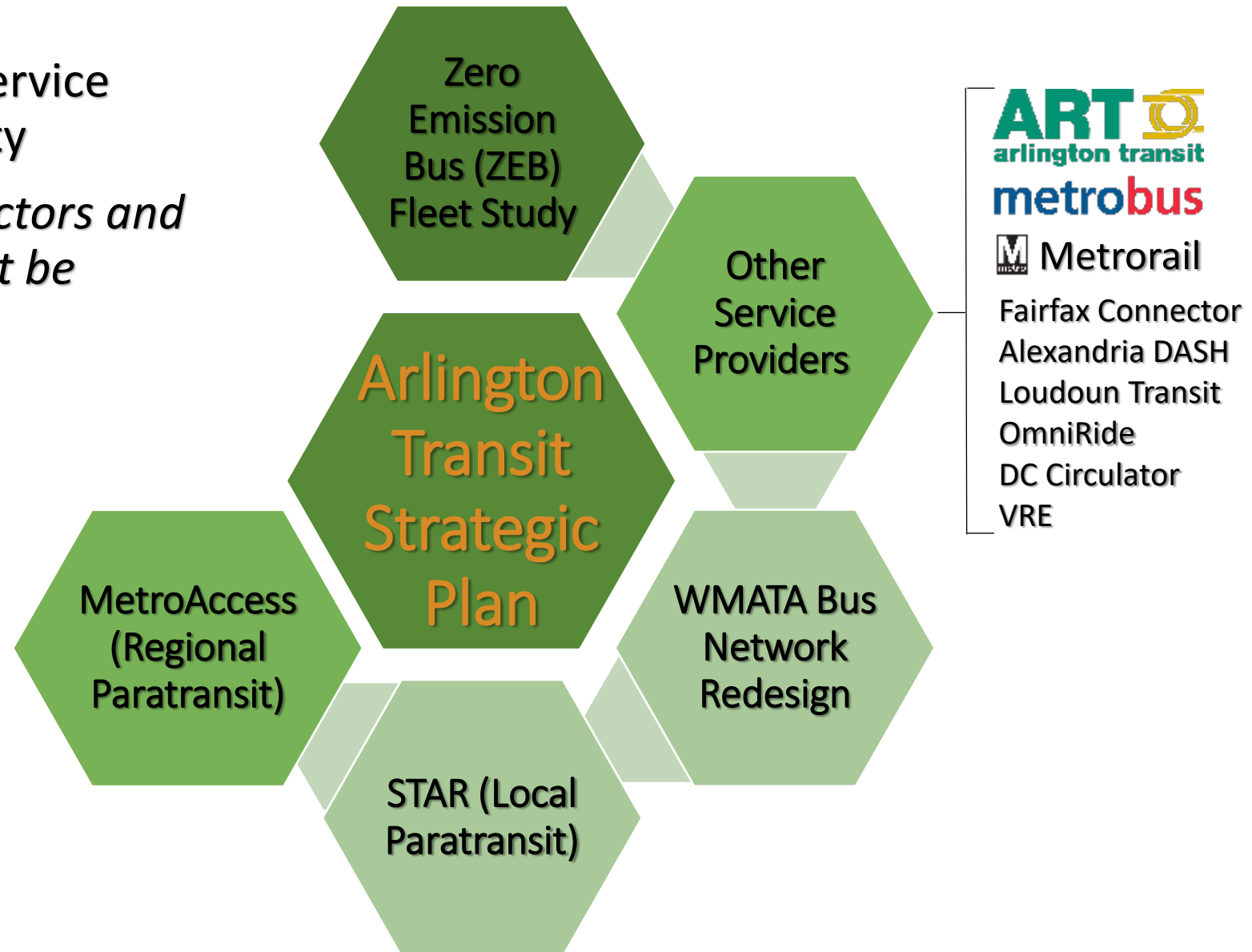


# How Do We Plan for Transit in Arlington?

## Where does the TSP fit?

This study focuses on ART service provided by Arlington County

*However, there are many factors and ongoing processes that must be considered as we plan:*



# What Does this Discussion Include?

## What Does Service Look Like Today?

- Routes and Service

## How is Service Performing Today?

- Travel patterns and ridership trends

## Arlington Transit Vision & Mission

- Guides how ART defines priorities

## Draft Goals & Objectives

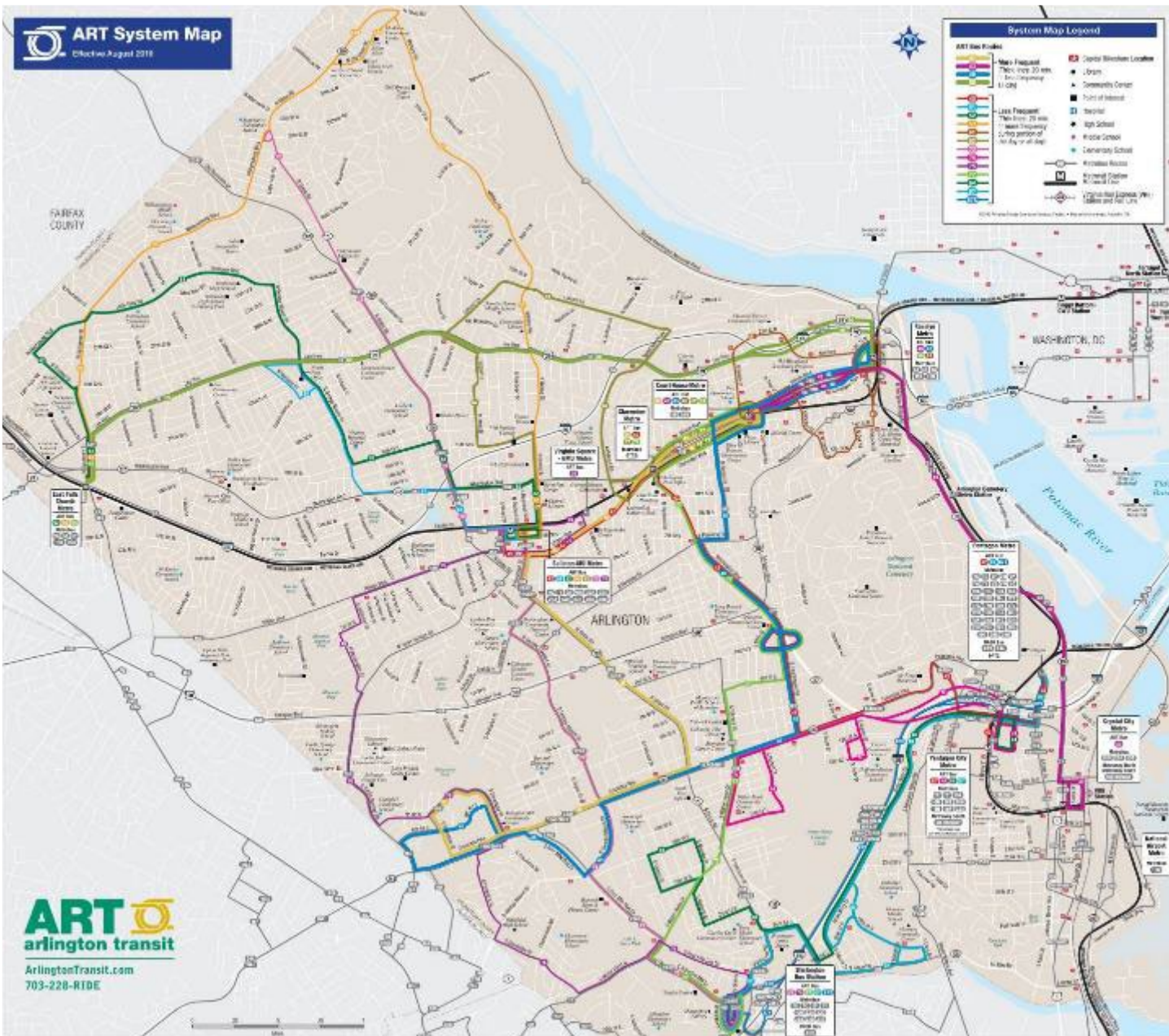
- Guides how ART delivers service

## Sharing Your Input

- How you can get involved



# What Does Service Look Like Today?



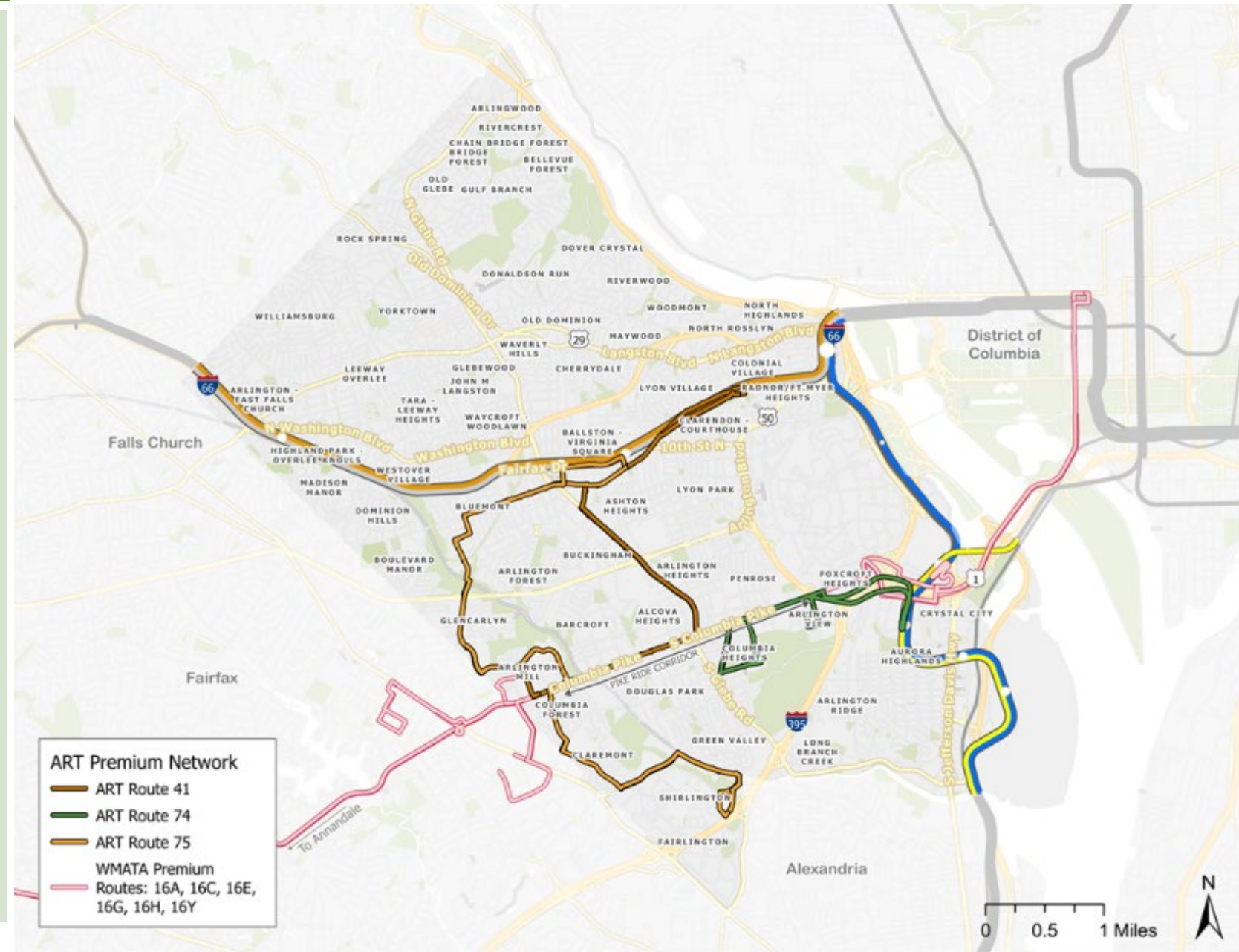
- **Service Strategy: cover gaps and needs not addressed by Metrobus**
- Deliver service that addresses equity issues for access to jobs, services, housing
- ART uses three network designations to classify fixed-route service:
  - Premium Transit Network  
*Infrastructure-specific*
  - Primary Transit Network  
*Service-based*
  - Secondary Transit Network  
*Service-based*



# What Does Service Look Like Today?

## Premium Transit Network *Infrastructure-specific*

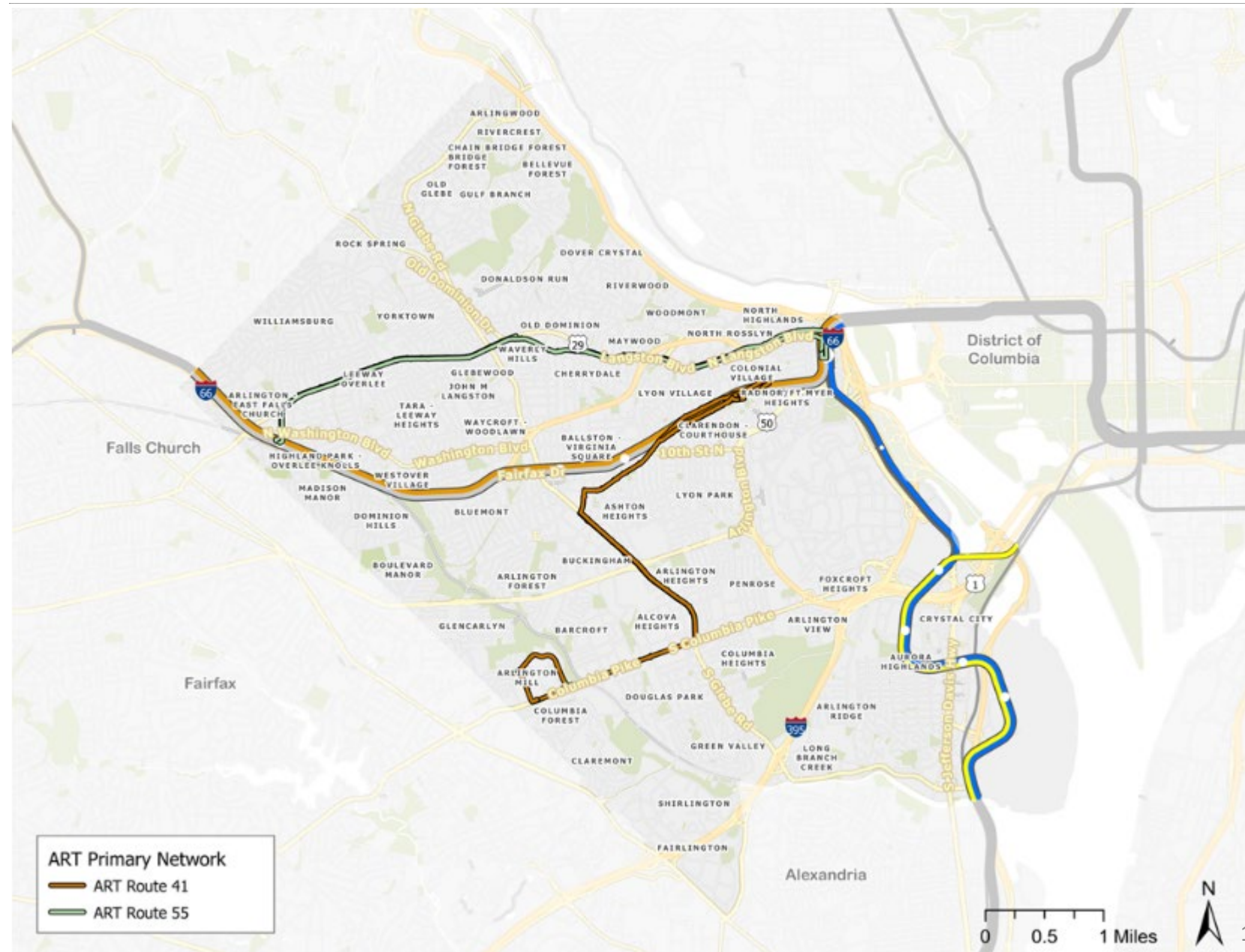
- Transit lanes, signal priority, stations with off-board fare collection, branded vehicles
- Routes serve origins and destinations beyond the Premium Corridor
- “Pike Ride” Columbia Pike between Skyline and Pentagon City
  - ART Routes 41, 74, 75
  - Metrobus Routes 16A, 16C, 16E, 16G, 16H, 16Y
  - Proposed limited-stop Route 16M service



# What Does Service Look Like Today?

## Primary Transit Network *Service-based*

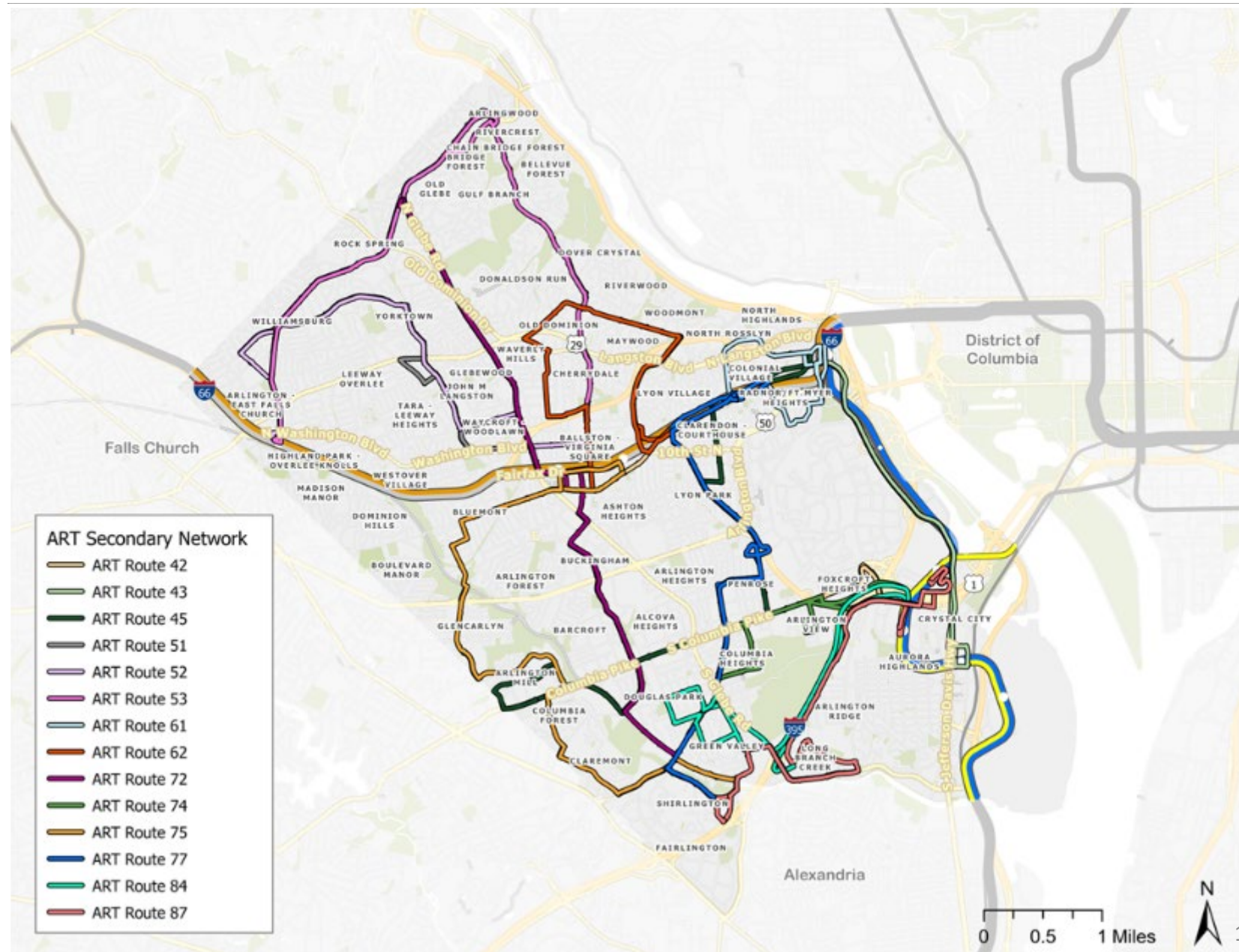
- All-day frequent service along length of route
- ART Routes 41, 55



# What Does Service Look Like Today?

## Secondary Transit Network *Service-based*

- Lower frequency, all-day, peak-only or weekday-only service

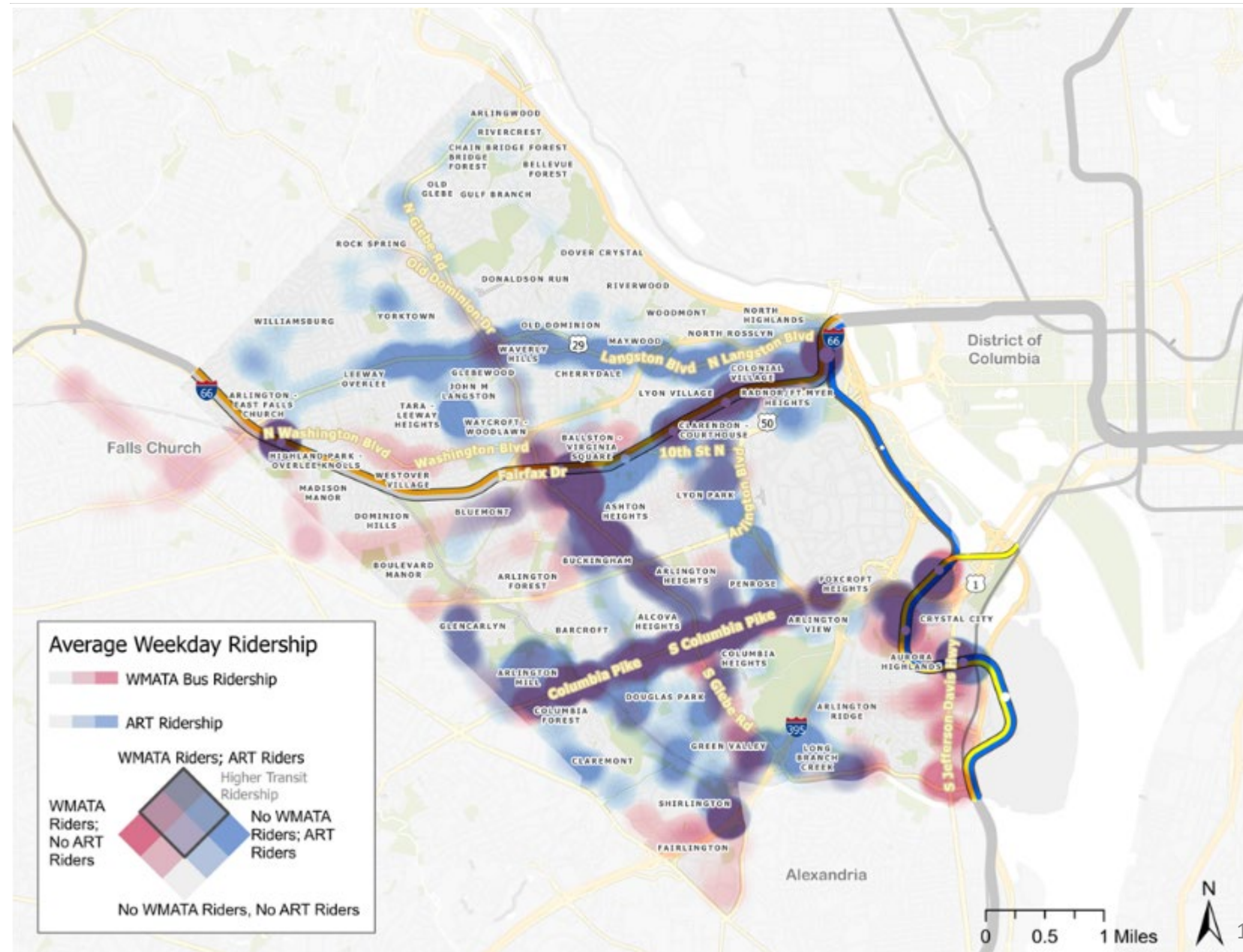


# What Does Service Look Like Today?

## ART and WMATA Stop-Level Ridership

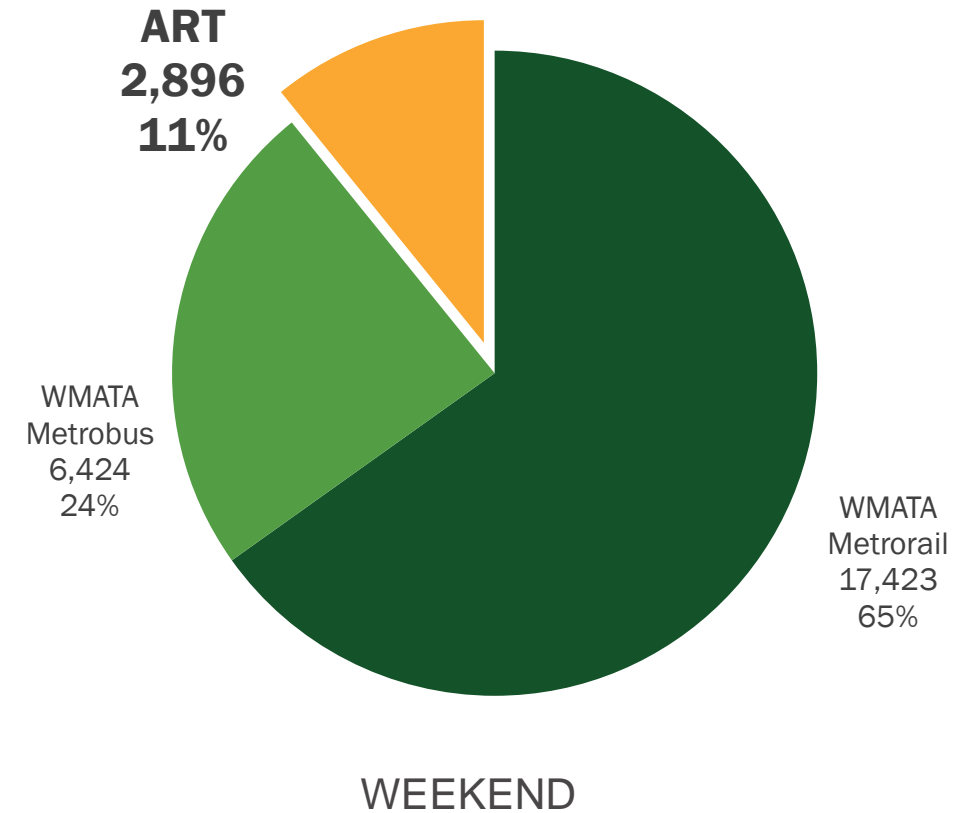
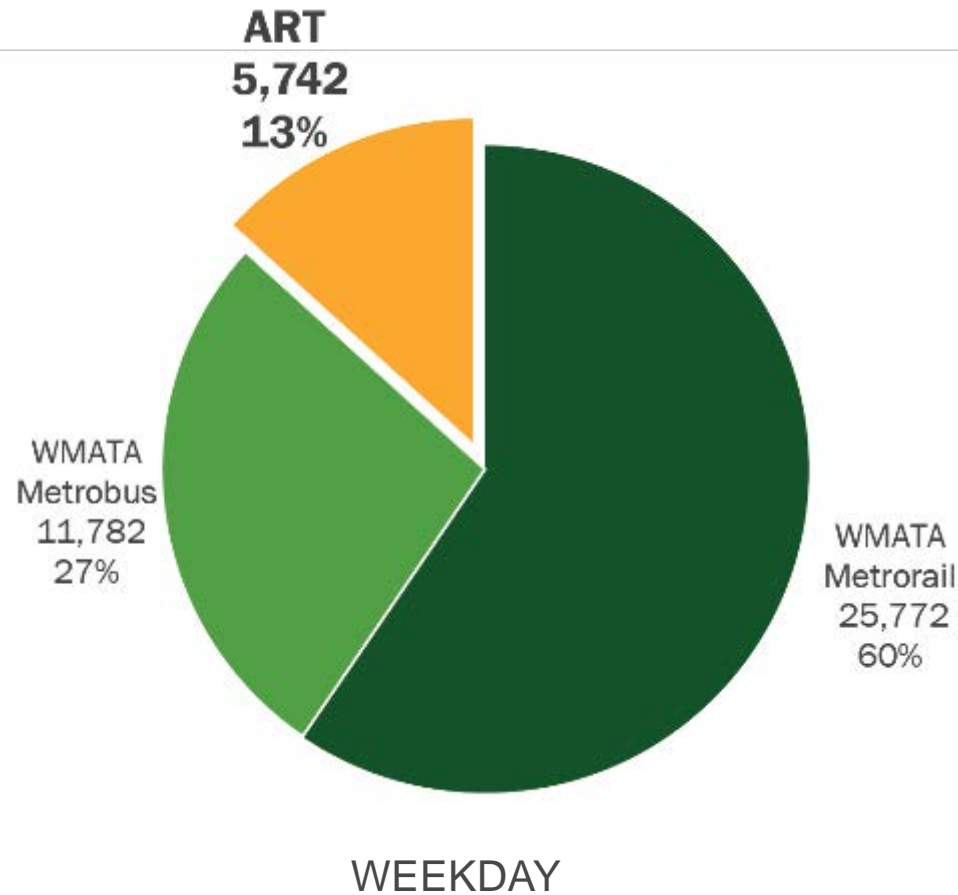
This “Heatmap” shows a composite of ART and Metrobus ridership by stop

- Blue circles are mostly ART riders
- Red circles mostly Metrobus riders
- Purple areas signify busy ART and Metrobus stops
- Dark circles indicate high ridership / lighter circles indicate lower ridership



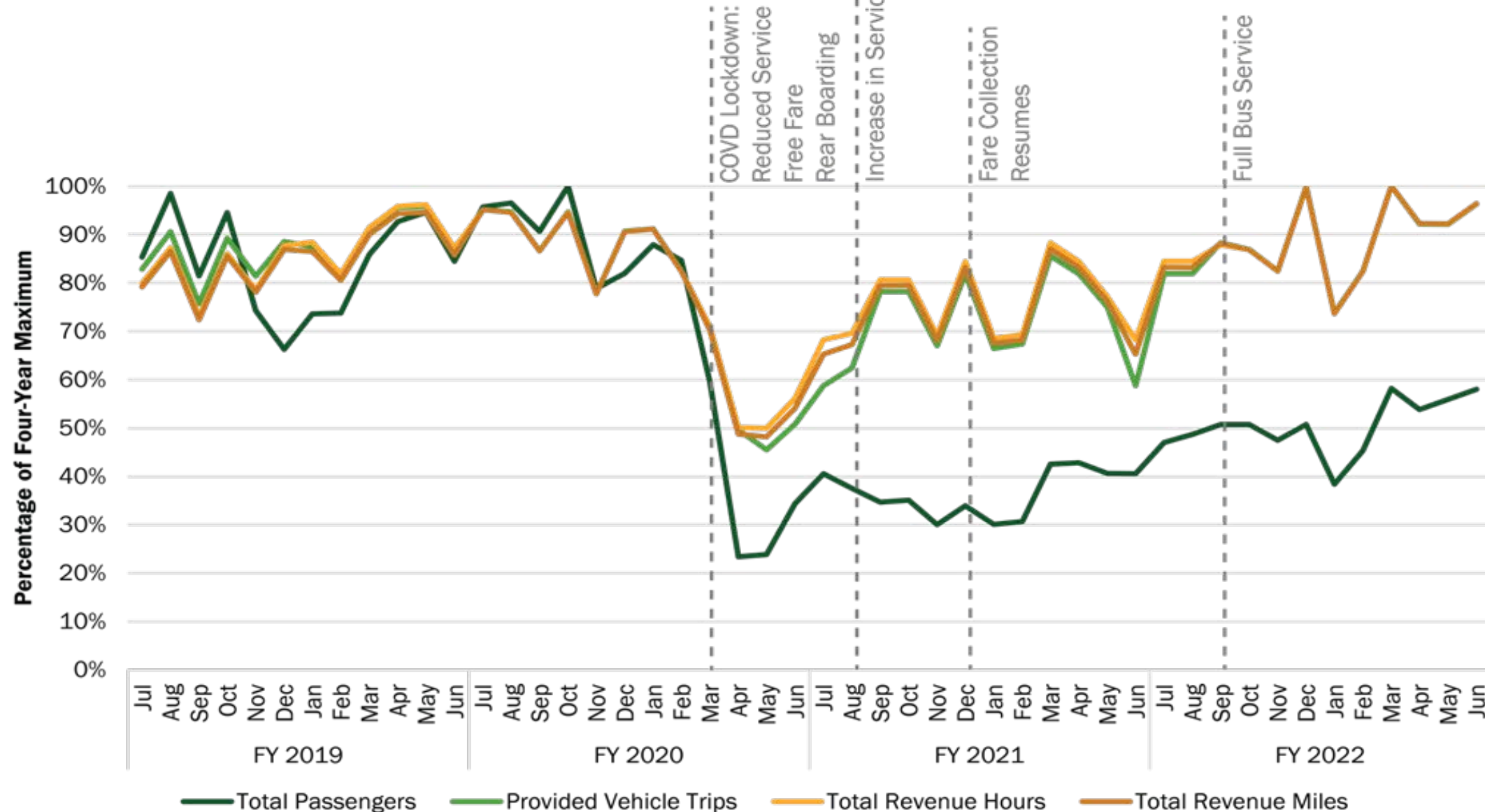
# What Does Service Look Like Today?

## ART and WMATA Share of Ridership in Arlington County



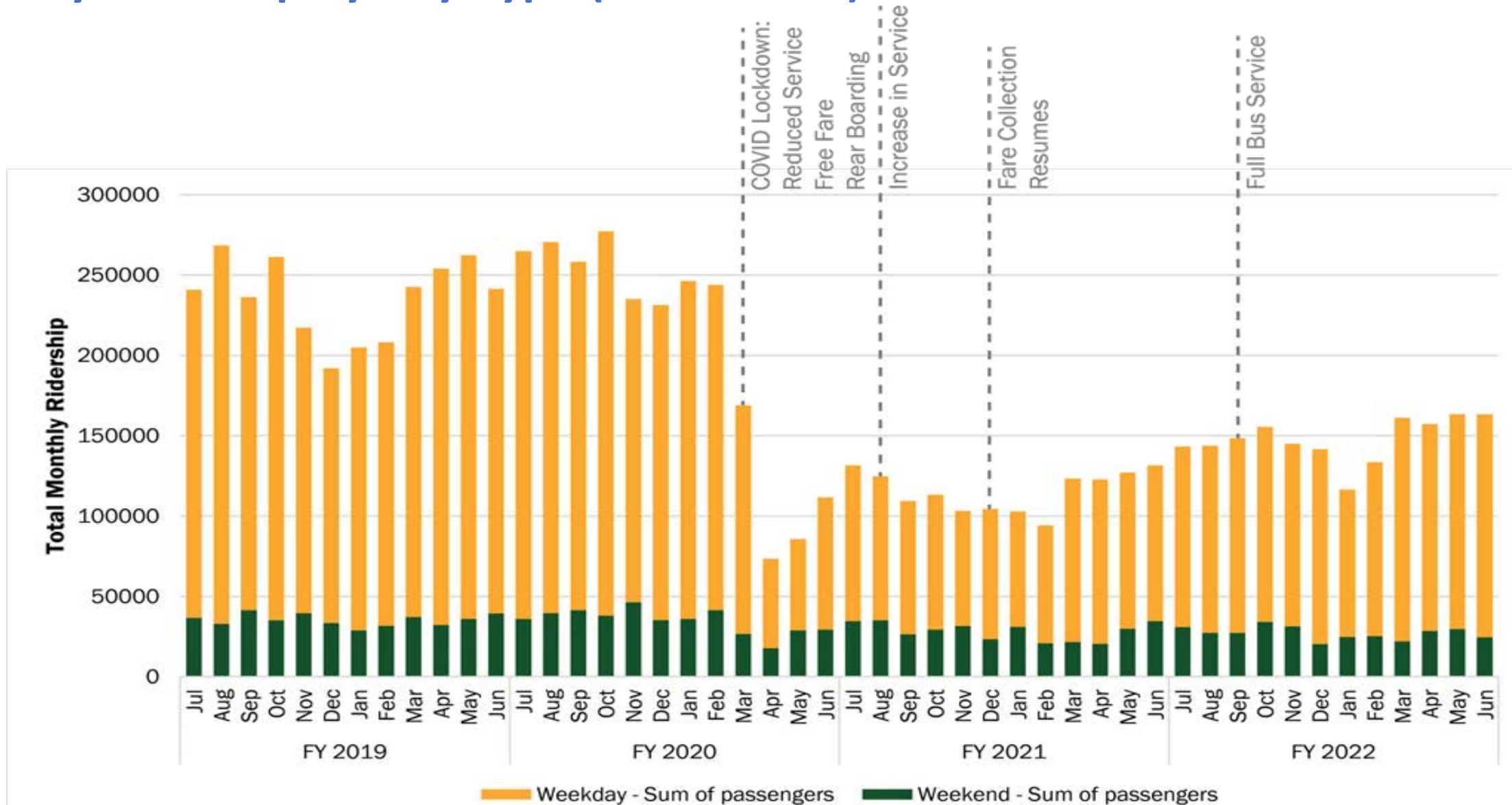
# What Does Service Look Like Today?

## Weekday Performance Indicator Trends By Month (FY19 - FY22)



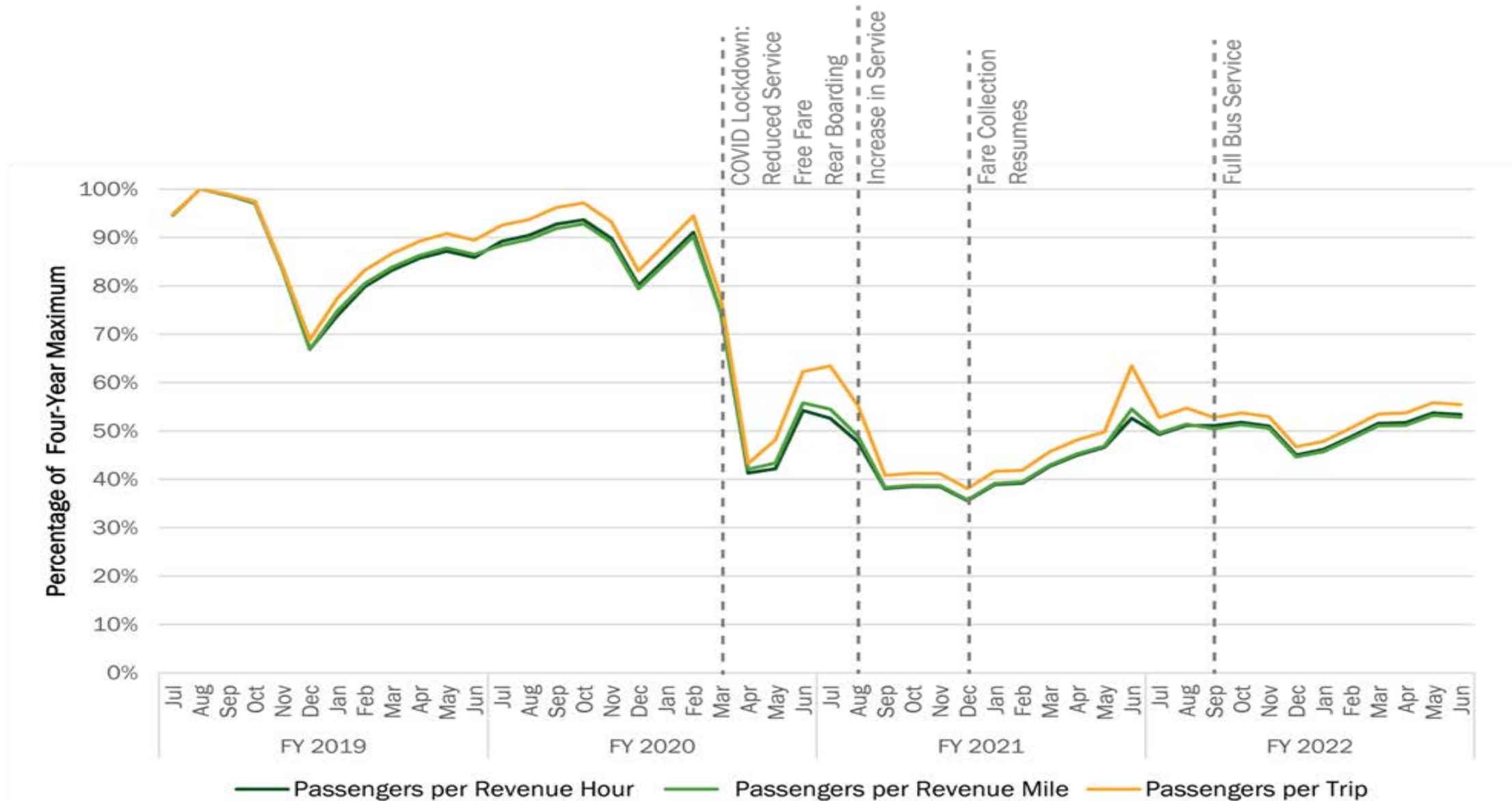
# What Does Service Look Like Today?

## Monthly Ridership by Day-Type (FY19 - FY22)



# What Does Service Look Like Today?

## Weekday Performance Metric Trends By Month (FY19 - FY22)





## Arlington County Commuter Services (ACCS) and Mobility Lab

### 2021 Resident Travel Survey

- Half of respondents made a non-work trip by walking, 2 in 10 made a non-work trip by transit
- Respondents who continued traveling to an outside work location during the pandemic changed their commutes from pre-pandemic, particularly reducing use of transit and increasing use of driving alone
- Respondents increased their use of walking, driving alone, and bicycling since the pandemic began and reduced their use of transit, ride-hail, and taxi
- Most respondents anticipated likely resuming modes they used before the pandemic when resuming commute trips to a workplace outside their home

# DRAFT Goals and Objectives



## Why Do We Define Goals and Values?

- The big picture is made up of the trips you make every day
- The TSP is a systemwide discussion
- To make systemwide decisions that affect individual trips, we need to know how we define our service Goals and Values
- We are presenting our DRAFT Goals and Objectives to provide an opportunity for you to review and provide feedback

## Arlington Transit Vision:

*A safe, equitable, accessible, reliable, and convenient transportation system that effectively and efficiently sustains the environment, economy, and quality of life in Arlington*

## Arlington Transit Mission:

*Move Arlington forward by working together to plan, build, operate and maintain the transit network*



People

Excellence

Equity

Inclusion

Accountability

Transparency

Sustainability

Collaboration

**Safety, Quality,  
and Performance**

**Goal 1:** Promote transit as an attractive transportation option

**Goal 2:** Maintain a safe and secure transit environment

**Goal 3:** Deploy infrastructure and services equitably

**Goal 4:** Exercise sound financial management

**Goal 5:** Create a resilient community through environmentally sustainable transportation

**Goal 6:** Ensure accessible communications

**Communication  
and Collaboration**

**Goal 7:** Create a safe and positive workplace

**Goal 8:** Proactively collaborate with regional partners

## What informed the development of the Draft Goals & Objectives?

- Review of peer agency and industry best practices
- Transit Bureau Vision, Mission and Values

## Why Goals and Objectives?

- They will form the core of the Transit Strategic Plan
- They help to frame the way we connect and operate the transit network
- They provide a basis for measuring performance, equity, successes and gaps

## What are your Priorities?

- We want your feedback on the draft Goals and Objectives for Transit in Arlington
- Do they align with your priorities for Transit in Arlington?



## We need your input!

- We want to learn more about:
  - How you use transit
  - How you think it can be improved, and
  - How can the system be most useful to you
  - Your goals for transit in Arlington
- Share your feedback until November 20 via:
  - This meeting
  - An online feedback form
  - Seven pop-up events in our community

Visit “[www.arlingtonva.us](http://www.arlingtonva.us)” and search “TSP”



We want to hear from you - your input is vital to this process!

- A detailed assessment of current conditions has been completed
- Your feedback will be used to refine the service guidelines and develop system recommendations
- The goals and objectives directly inform how we will provide service in the future
- We will re-engage with the public in the spring once service gaps are identified and draft recommendations are completed over the winter

Visit “[www.arlingtonva.us](http://www.arlingtonva.us)” and search “TSP”

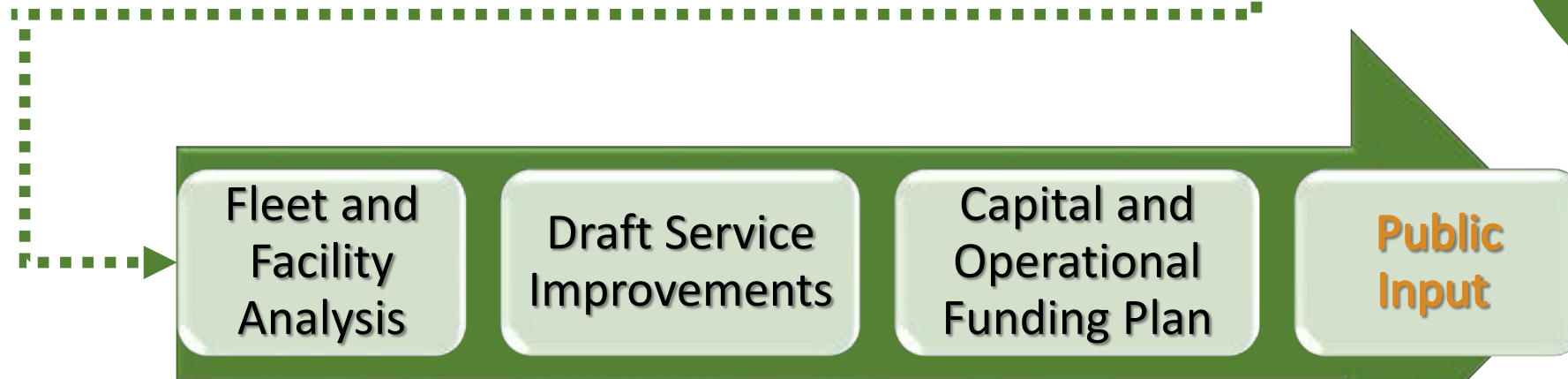


## Pop-up locations

1. Major transit stops
  - a) Ballston Metro Station
  - b) Shirlington Transit Center
  - c) Columbia Pike and S. Glebe Rd
  - d) Pentagon City Metro Station
2. S. Dinwiddie St. /Arlington Mill CC
3. AFAC Warehouse
4. DHS's Sequoia Center

# Project Engagement Timeline

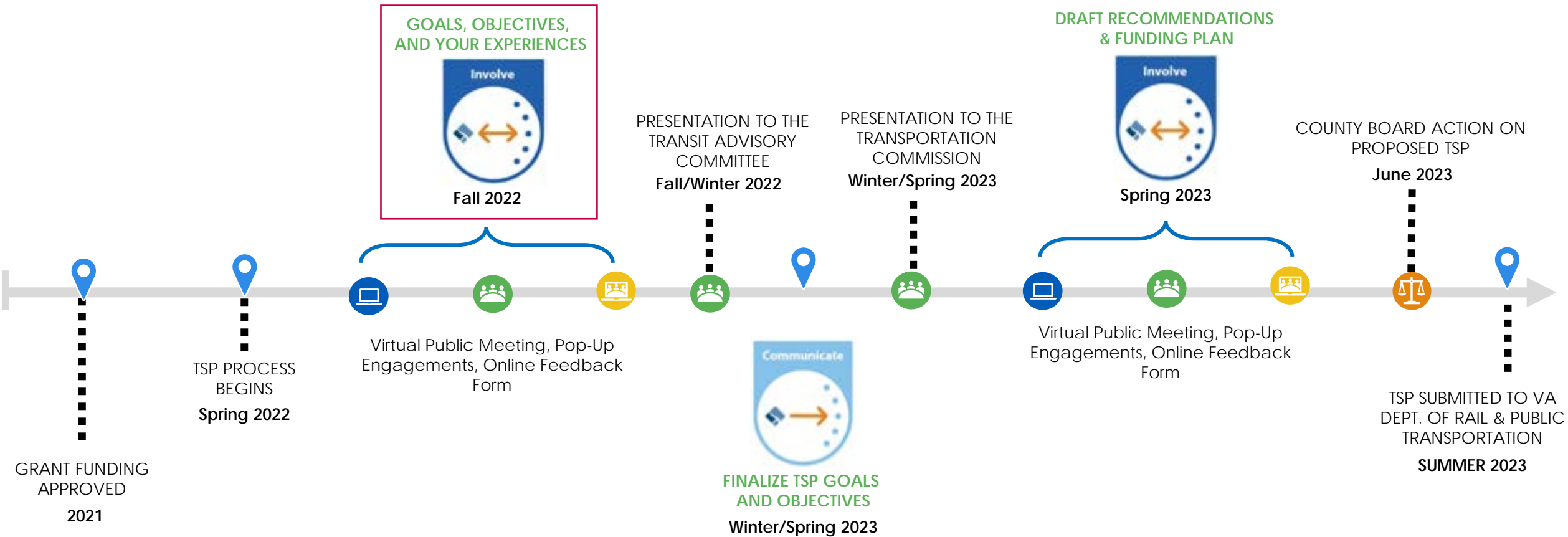
## Engagement Round 1



## Engagement Round 2



# Transit Strategic Plan – Public Engagement Timeline



**Online Feedback**  
(e.g., questionnaire, feedback form, etc.)

**In-Person Engagements and Pop-ups**  
(e.g., community meeting, roundtable, tabling, walking/bus tour, deliberative dialogue, etc.)

**Virtual Meeting**  
(e.g., TEAMS, TEAMS Live, Zoom, etc.)

**Count Board Engagement**  
(e.g., public hearing, board work session, open door Monday, commission meeting, etc.)

**Key Milestone**



# Thank you

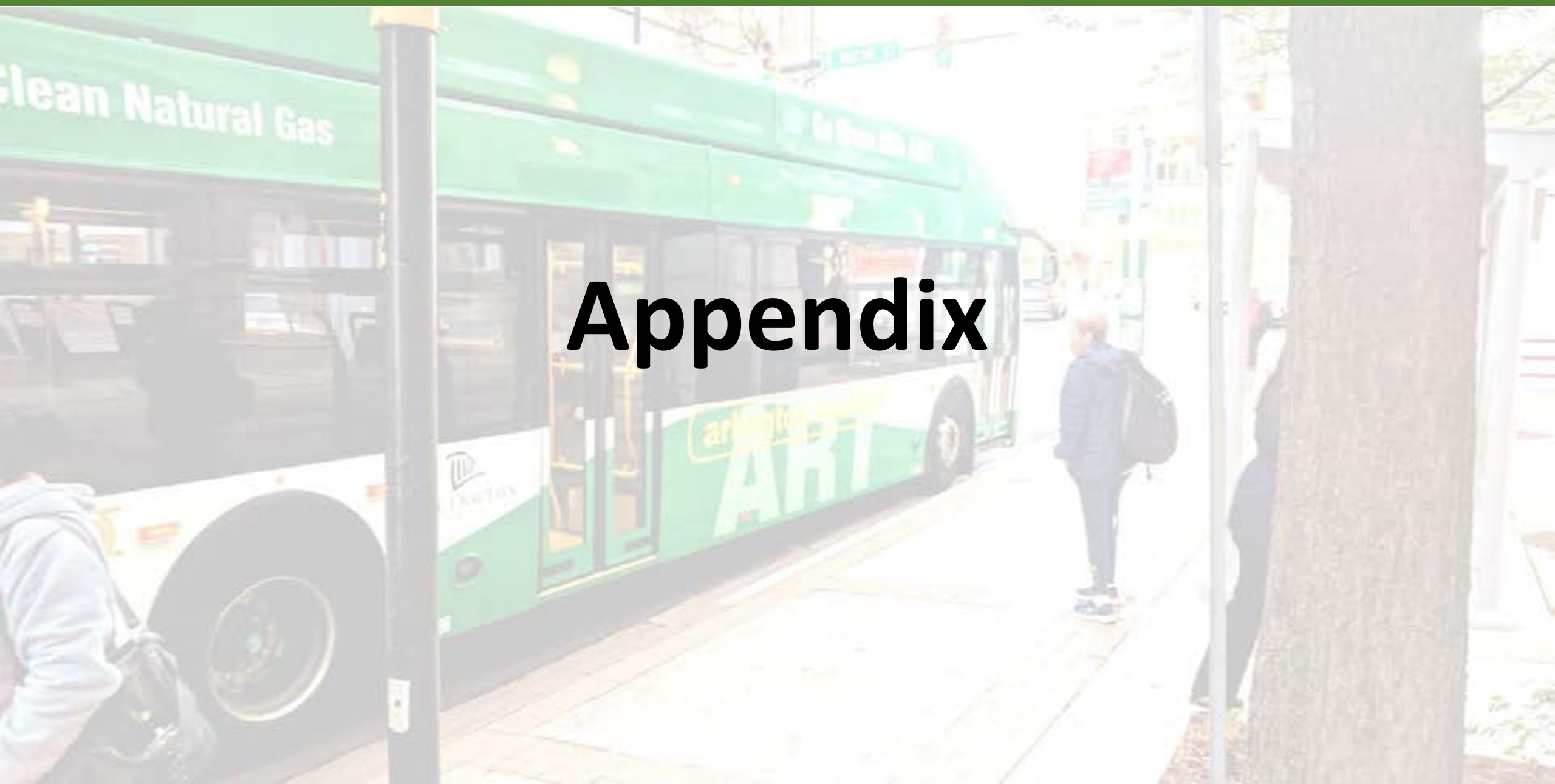
Visit “[www.arlingtonva.us](http://www.arlingtonva.us)” and search “TSP”

Lynn Rivers – Bureau Chief, Transit [lrivers@arlingtonva.us](mailto:lrivers@arlingtonva.us)

Paul Mounier – Transit Planning Manager [pmounier@arlingtonva.us](mailto:pmounier@arlingtonva.us)

Nate Graham – Public Engagement Specialist [nsgraham@arlingtonva.us](mailto:nsgraham@arlingtonva.us)

# Appendix





## WHAT: Equity and Sustainability

### **Goal 3: Deploy infrastructure and services equitably throughout Arlington**

- Identify and correct disparity for low income and minority populations with service
- Provide enhanced economic opportunity for low income and minority populations through transit
- Ensure transit amenities and service provide a positive impact on underserved communities
- Provide high quality paratransit service and accessible infrastructure that allows everyone access to transportation

### **Goal 5: Connect Arlington and the region through shared, sustainable transportation and create a resilient community through environmentally sustainable transportation**

- Contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- Convert trips taken with SOV's to shared transit trips
- Designing and building following "green" principles, promote energy management and renewable energy creation



## WHY: Equity and Sustainability

- Equity and sustainability are key principles for providing transit service
- Providing transportation for people who don't have access to other forms of transportation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by combining trips give fundamental advantages to transit over many other modes



## WHAT: Safety, Quality, and Performance

### **Goal 1: Promote transit as an attractive transportation option**

- Maintain a clean, reliable fleet
- Promote transparency and customer satisfaction
- Meet or exceed transit performance metrics

### **Goal 2: Provide infrastructure and services that create and maintain a safe and secure transit environment**

- Promote a culture of safety
- Support Vision Zero Goals
- Identify and Implement Safety Improvements
- Maintain security of transit services and facilities

### **Goal 4: Exercise sound financial management in delivering infrastructure and services**

- Identifying grant opportunities to leverage local funding
- Deliver efficient and effective services
- Ensure facilities and vehicles are maintained in a state of good repair



## WHY: Safety, Quality, and Performance

- Safety, high quality service, and efficiency are critical considerations for providing transit
- Transit provides transportation for thousands of people every day and the safety of those riders are a critical responsibility
- On time, convenient and reliable service attract riders that have other transportation options
- Efficiency gained through sound financial decisions and data driven planning for service and infrastructure allows transit to serve the greatest number of people for the lowest cost

## WHAT: Communication and Collaboration

**Goal 6: Ensure accessible communications that inform, involve, and empower staff and the public to shape the delivery of transit service and transit infrastructure**

- Engage with residents and commuters to inform development of transit projects and services
- Provide proactive customer service and passenger notifications
- Notification to the public of new projects and services in a timely manner





## WHAT: Communication and Collaboration

**Goal 7: Create a safe and positive workplace where the entire team responsible for service delivery can focus on their work**

- Cultivate and maintain positive relationships with stakeholders
- Create a collaborative and inclusive work environment
- Attract, recruit, and retain effective employees
- Enhance relationships and partnerships with our regional transit stakeholders

## WHAT: Communication and Collaboration

**Goal 8: Proactively collaborate with regional partners to improve transit infrastructure, effectively coordinate, communicate, and plan transit service, and establish emergency response procedures**

- Provide robust regional service transit service
- Improve shared transit infrastructure within the County
- Continuity of service during weather, emergency, and special events
- Coordination Communications plan for weather, emergency, and special events



## WHY: Communication and Collaboration

- Open communication and thoughtful collaboration are hallmarks of well-run organizations
- Open and honest communication allows for productive discussion to resolve issues and identify projects and services that address issues
- Thoughtful collaboration is inclusive where everyone's voice is heard, shaping solutions that make the greatest positive impact

