



Coalition for Smarter Growth  
DC • MD • VA

# Lunch & Learn

## Better Bus Network Redesign

*Hosted by Coalition for Smarter Growth*

June 1, 2023

*Welcome! Thank you for joining us.  
The virtual meeting will begin shortly.*



# Agenda

- Using Zoom
- Team Introductions
- Project Overview
- How We Got to the Visionary Network
- Network Highlights
- Providing Feedback
- Q & A



# Using Zoom



- Please stay muted at all times
- Questions can be submitted to the project team via the Q&A function
- Automated captions are available

*Note: This webinar is being recorded and will be posted on [wmata.com/betterbus](http://wmata.com/betterbus) and on [smartergrowth.net](http://smartergrowth.net).*



# About CSG: Think Regionally, Act Locally

- Founded by leading conservation and environmental groups, six staff working in nine major DC area jurisdictions
- We address the interconnected issues of land use, transportation, housing, and the environment
- Vision for network of walkable, mixed-use, mixed-income communities connected by our Metro, light rail, bus and bus rapid transit lines
- Partnering with WMATA on the Better Bus Network Redesign – key for equity, economic opportunity, and environment



# Polling Question:

How often do you ride the bus?

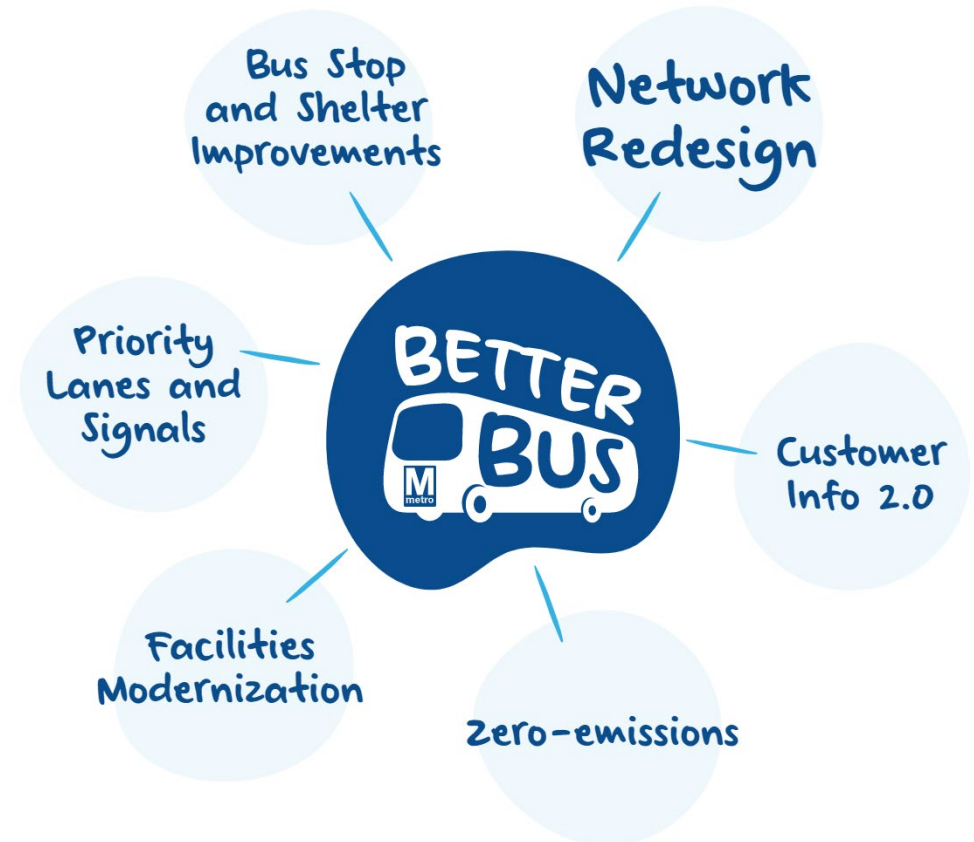


# Project Overview

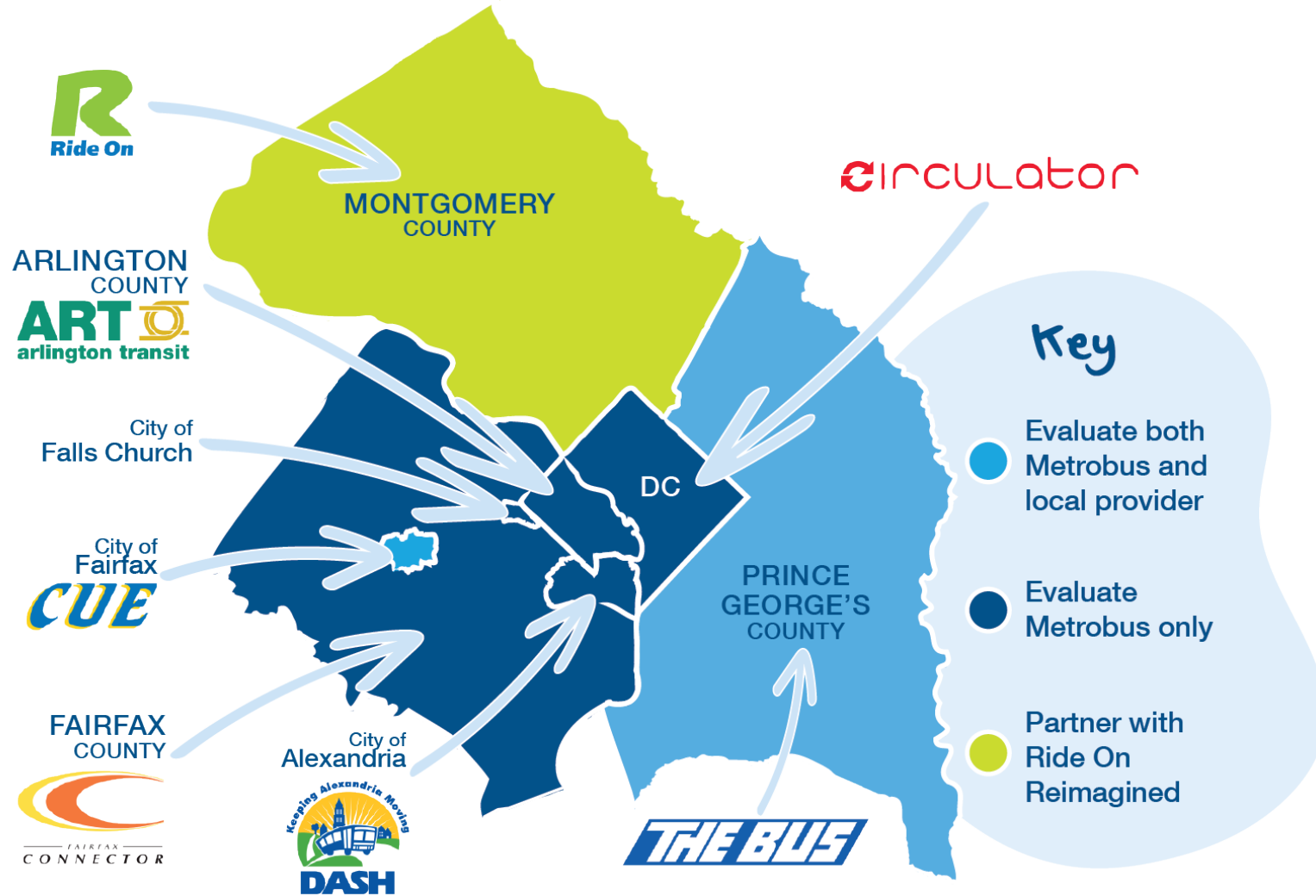


# What is the Better Bus Network Redesign?

- The Network Redesign is a project to rethink, redesign, and revitalize bus service
- Part of the Better Bus Initiative – which includes many ongoing and future efforts to improve bus service



# Partnering with Local Bus Providers



Metro is working collaboratively with each local provider to design or enhance effectiveness of local bus service



# Why Redesign the Bus Network?



**To better connect people to where they need to go**



**To promote equity, inclusiveness, and access to opportunity**



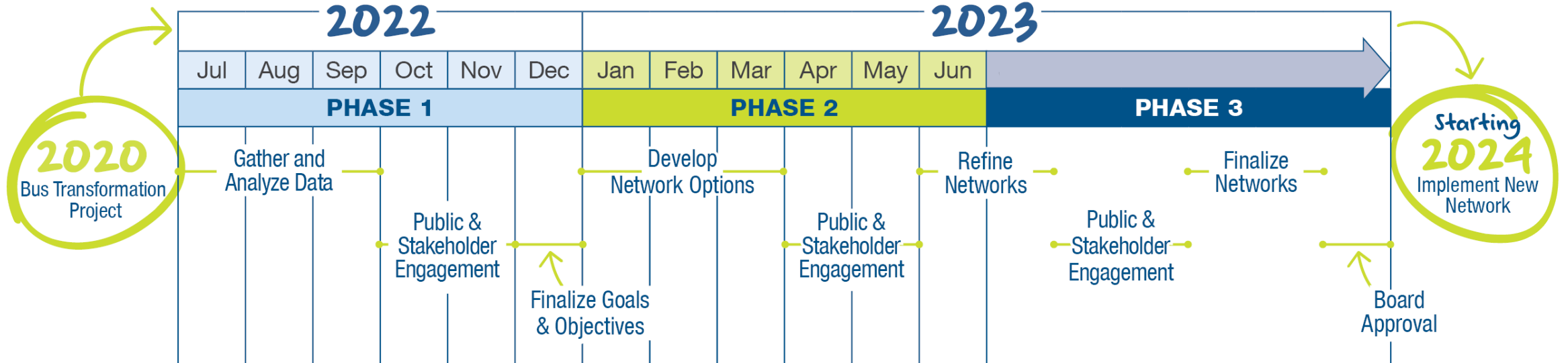
**To keep up with our evolving region and the people that live here**



**To create an easy-to-use network, no matter where you are**



# Better Bus Network Redesign Roadmap



**We are here**

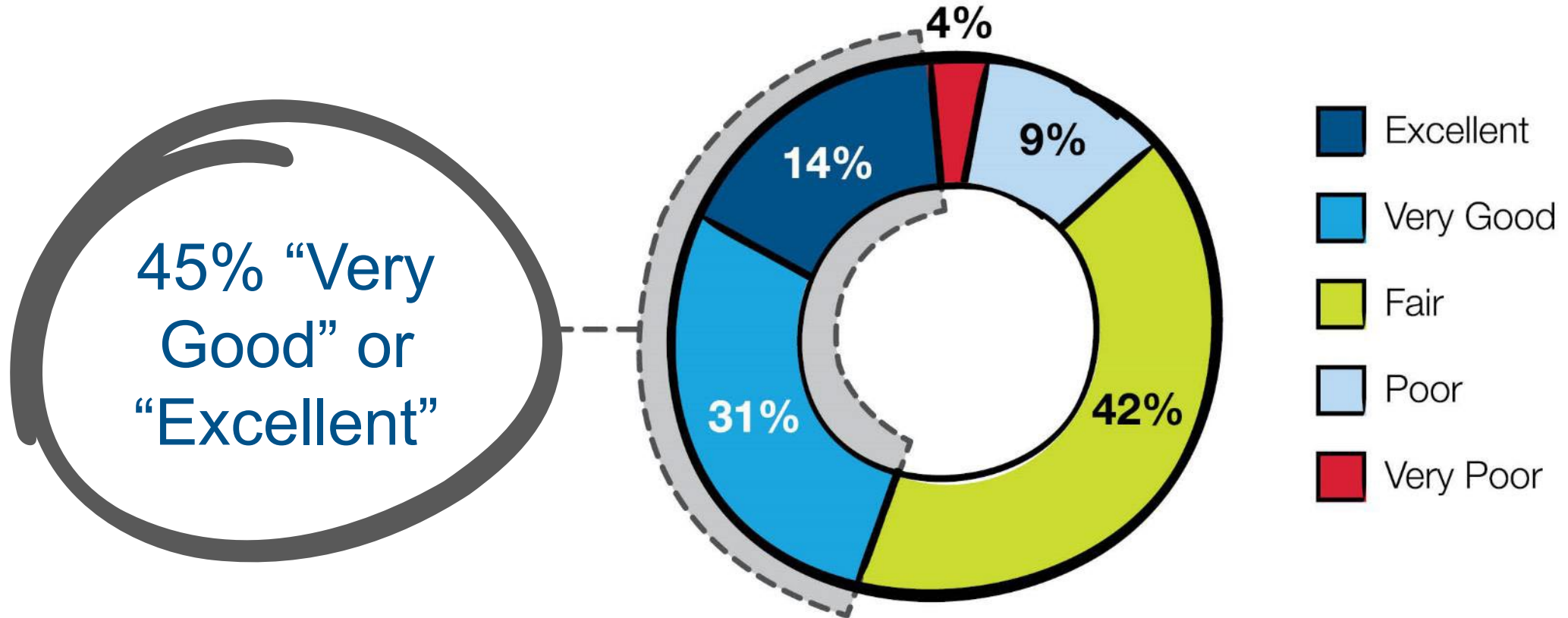
Public comment period for the draft Visionary Network: **April 17 – June 18**





# How We Got to the Draft Visionary Network

# You Told Us: Regional Bus Service is Good, and it Could Be Better



Source: 2022 Public Survey  
Overall Rating of Regional Bus Service

# You Told Us How to Make the Bus Better... And We're Doing It!

## DRAFT VISIONARY NETWORK AT A GLANCE



Expanded frequent service



More service all day/all week



Increase crosstown & cross-county connections



Service is easier to understand along major routes

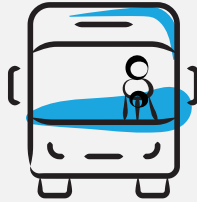


Direct, frequent routes connecting key destinations & transit hubs



Extended service beyond jurisdictional borders

# The Bus Network the Region Needs



Expanded Frequent  
Service Network



More service all  
day/all week

## *Draft Visionary Network Essentials*

All non-commuter service should  
operate **seven days/week**  
across the region

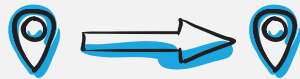
All service should operate  
as frequently as possible and  
**at least every 30 minutes**

Regional **24-hour network**  
to key job and nightlife areas

# The Bus Network the Region Needs



Increased crosstown and cross-county connections



Connect key destinations, including transit hubs, with direct, frequent routes



Extending service beyond jurisdictional borders

## Examples of Potential New Connections

Connect to transit hubs



Extend Farragut – Georgetown – Arlington service to Seven Corners Transit Center

Connect to hospitals, schools, and employment



New Inova Alexandria Hospital  
New MacArthur HS and Malcolm X ES  
National Harbor

Connect adjacent neighborhoods and across borders



Deanwood ↔ Fort Lincoln  
Chevy Chase DC ↔ Chevy Chase, MD  
Huntington ↔ Oxon Hill

Connect existing and future rail lines



New 24-hour route connecting Bethesda and Tysons, improving connections between the Red and Silver Lines

Connect around the clock



New bus to Dulles International Airport and extended Metroway to L'Enfant Plaza after Metrorail closes

# Draft Visionary Network Considerations



Data and public, bus operations, jurisdiction partner **input** formed the basis for the draft Visionary Network



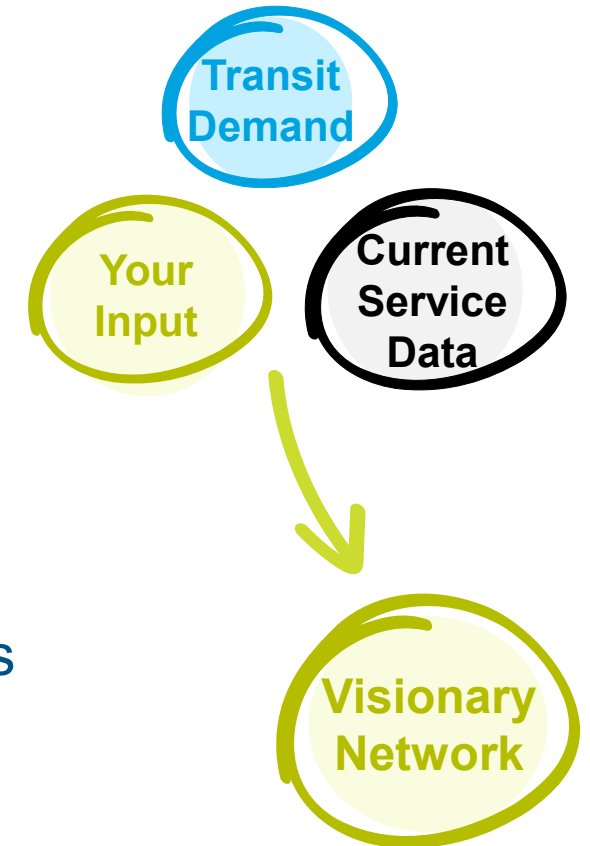
Implementing the draft Visionary Network will require a **35 percent increase in funding for bus in the region**



Network does not specify which **operator will operate the service** nor have we yet specified stops or stopping patterns

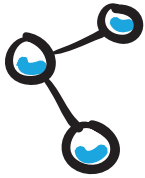


**Temporary bus route numbers** to accommodate new routes and changes to existing routes

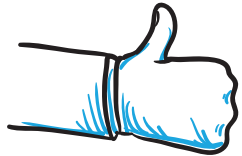




# The Draft Visionary Network Could Deliver...



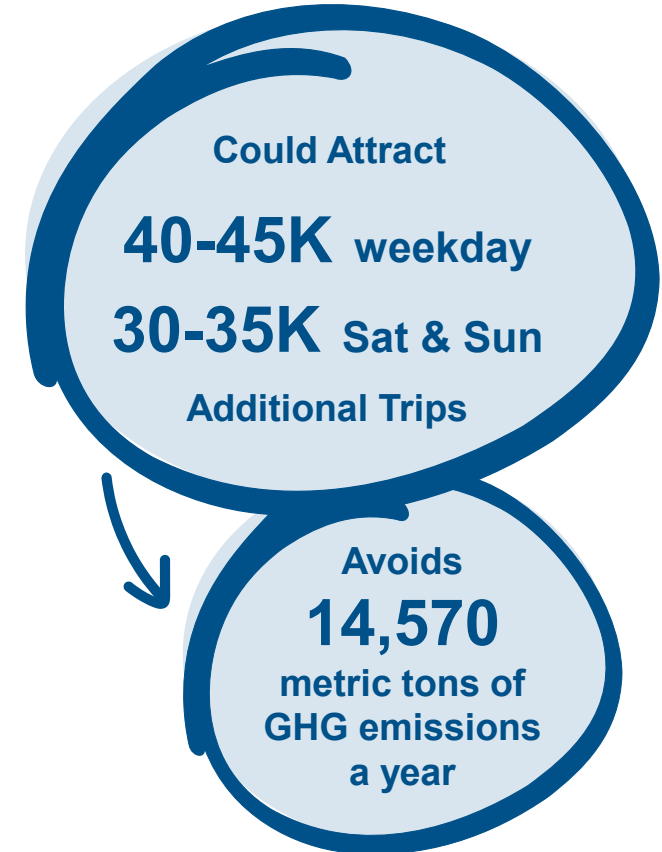
**Regional Connectivity** – Matches when and where people want to travel



**Quality Customer and Operator Experience** – Provides fast, frequent, and reliable service




**Equity** – Addresses inequities and increases access to opportunity for disenfranchised communities



# Polling Question:


What Choice Would You Make?



high frequency  
service, with  
transfers

or

less frequent,  
but direct  
service





# Highlights from the Draft Visionary Network



# The Visionary Network... Connects the Region

By providing more access to high frequency service to more people at more times of day

Example: DC and Prince George's County



73% more on Saturdays  
64% more on Sundays



60% more during the  
weekday midday



85% more routes with  
12 min or better service

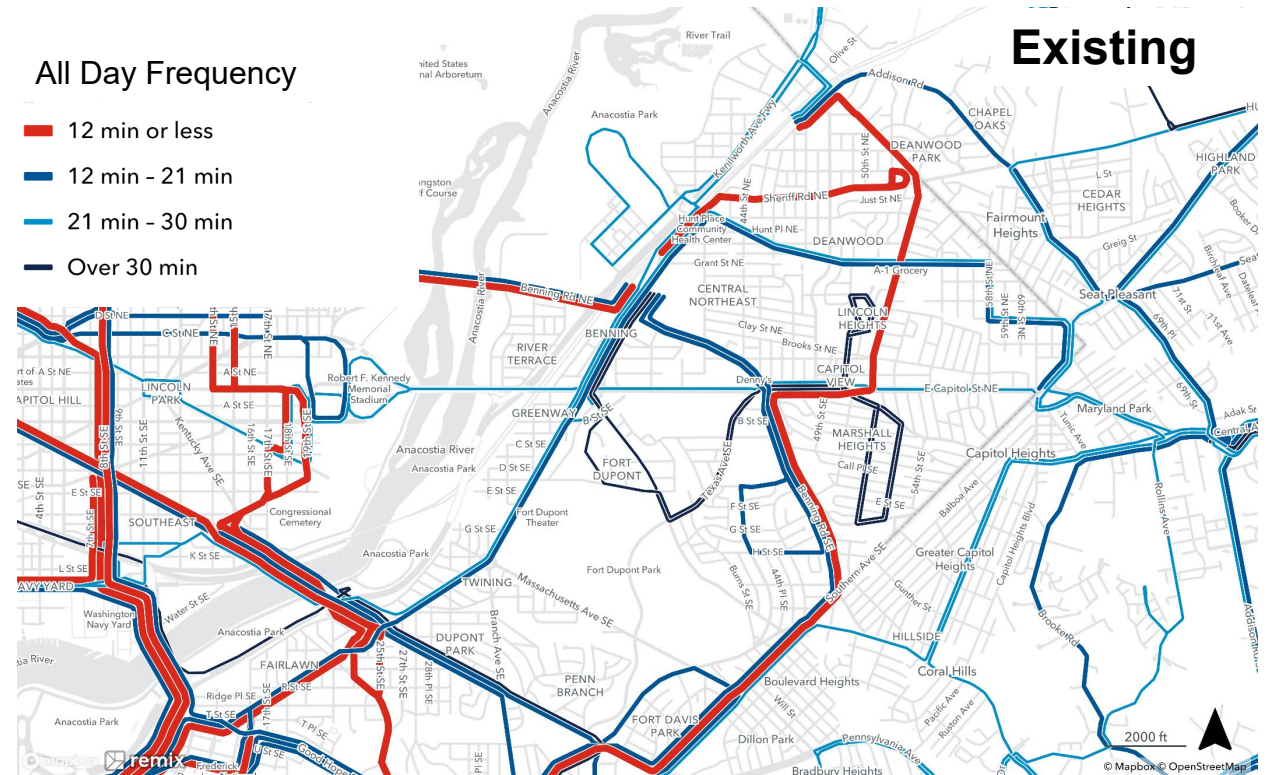


300% more routes with  
12-20 min service



All Day Frequency

- 12 min or less
- 12 min - 21 min
- 21 min - 30 min
- Over 30 min





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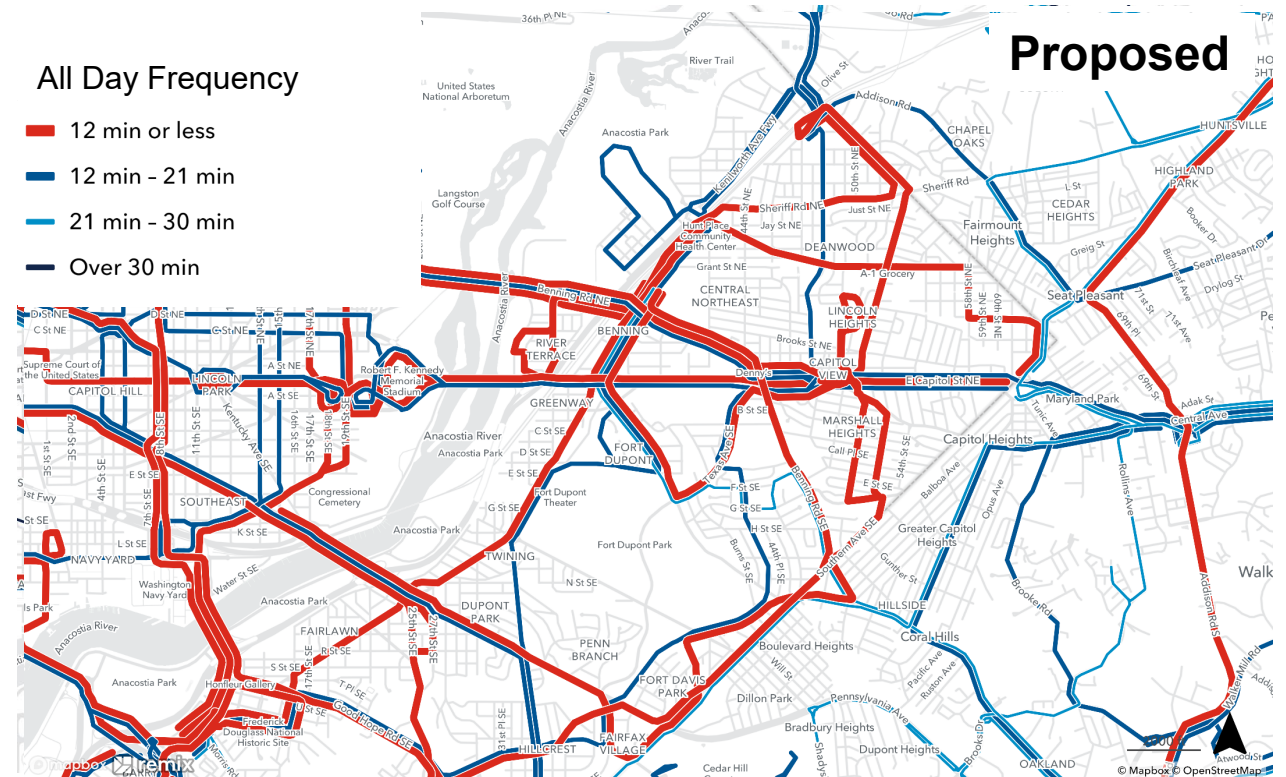


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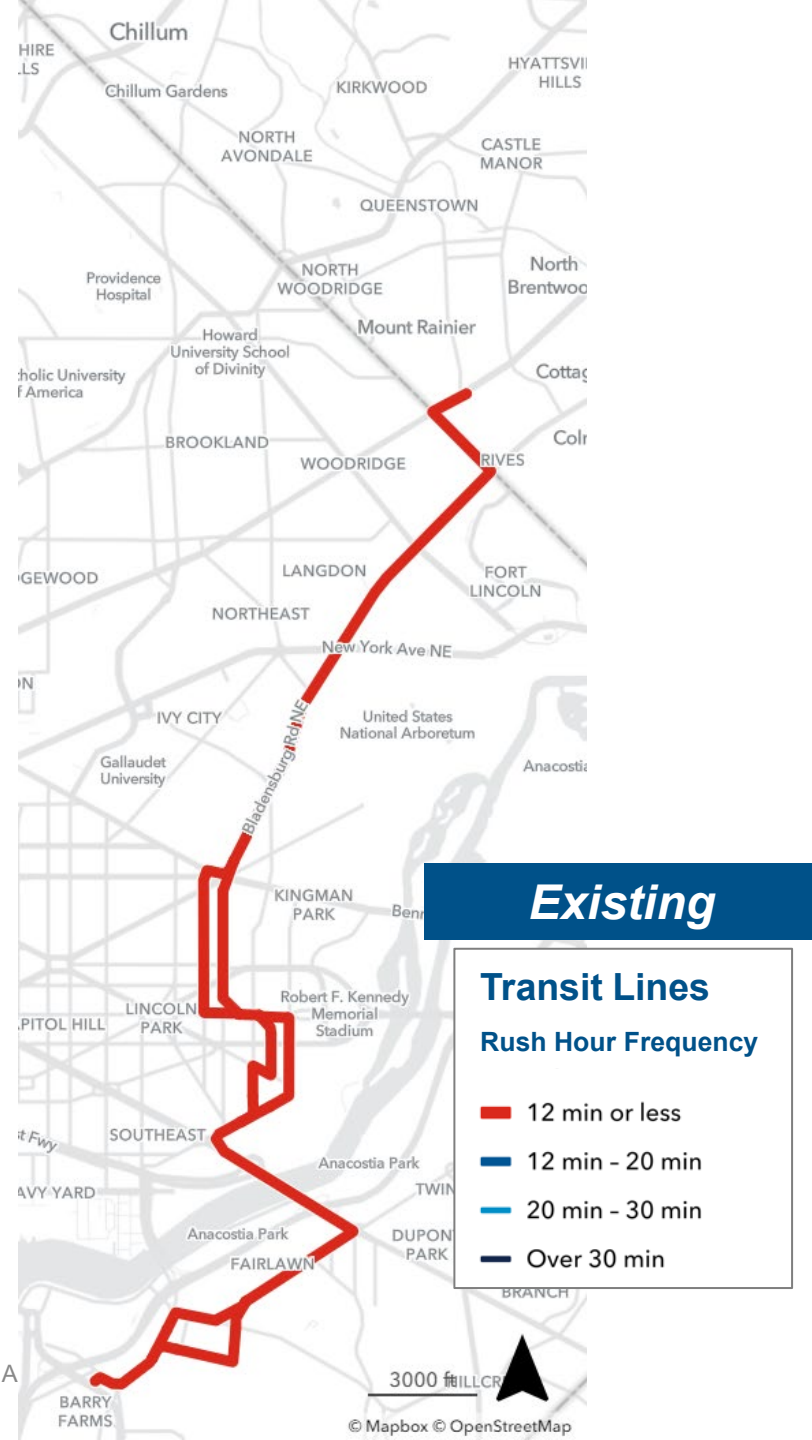
1.1M residents across the region will have 24-hour bus service (523k DC residents)



Better connections to hospitals, schools and employment, such as new the new MacArthur High School and Malcolm X Elementary School



99% of residents who currently have bus service will continue to have bus service under the Visionary Network





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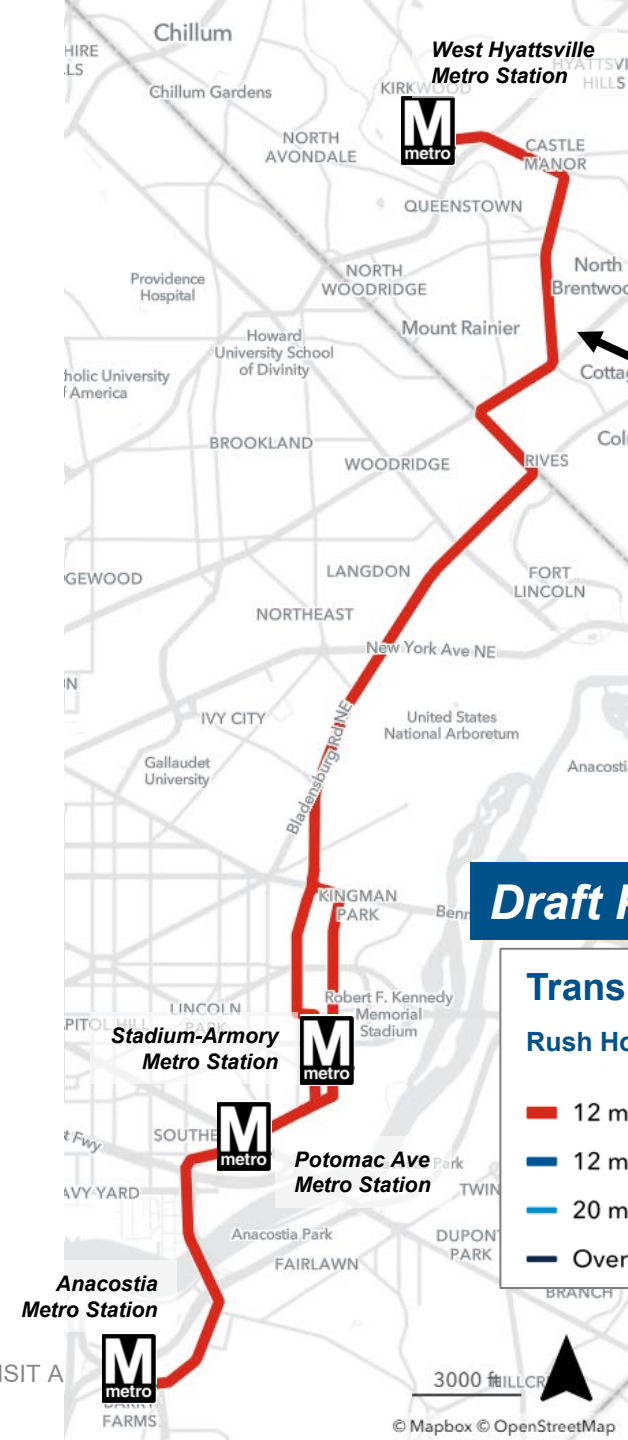
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Extended to West Hyattsville Station with High Frequency All Day/Week Service

**Draft Proposed**

**Transit Lines**

**Rush Hour Frequency**

- 12 min or less
- 12 min - 20 min
- 20 min - 30 min
- Over 30 min





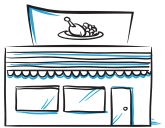
# The Visionary Network...

## Connects the Region...

By providing access to more key destinations and jobs.



Residents in the region will be able to **access an additional 13k jobs** within 60 minutes on transit

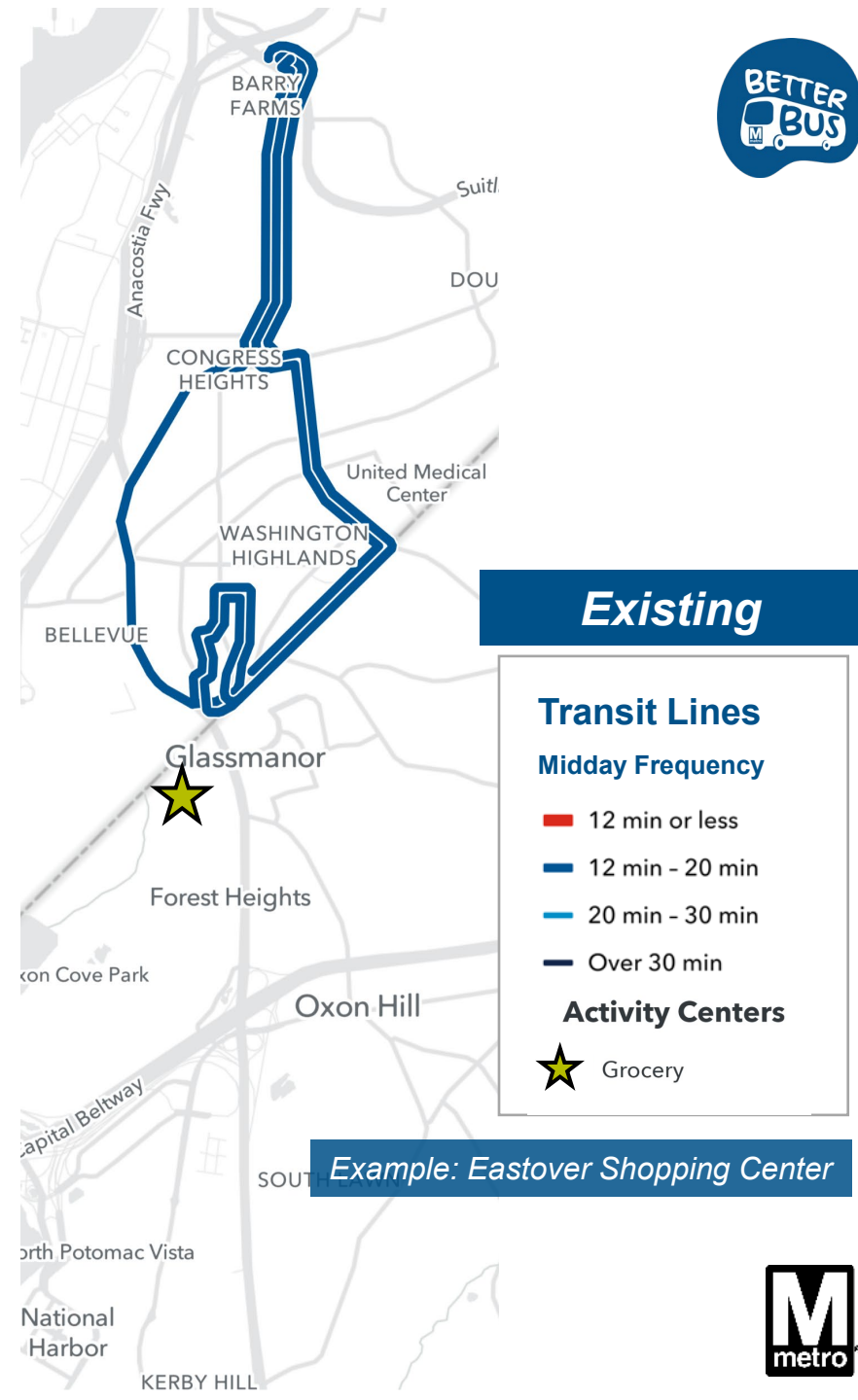


Residents will have **better access to grocery stores** – especially on the weekends and at midday



Residents of Equity Focus Communities in DC will be able to **access 14 more K-12 schools** within 60 minutes on transit

*Note: EFCs represent the areas that have the highest concentrations of people of color, low-income households, and/or disabled residents in the region*



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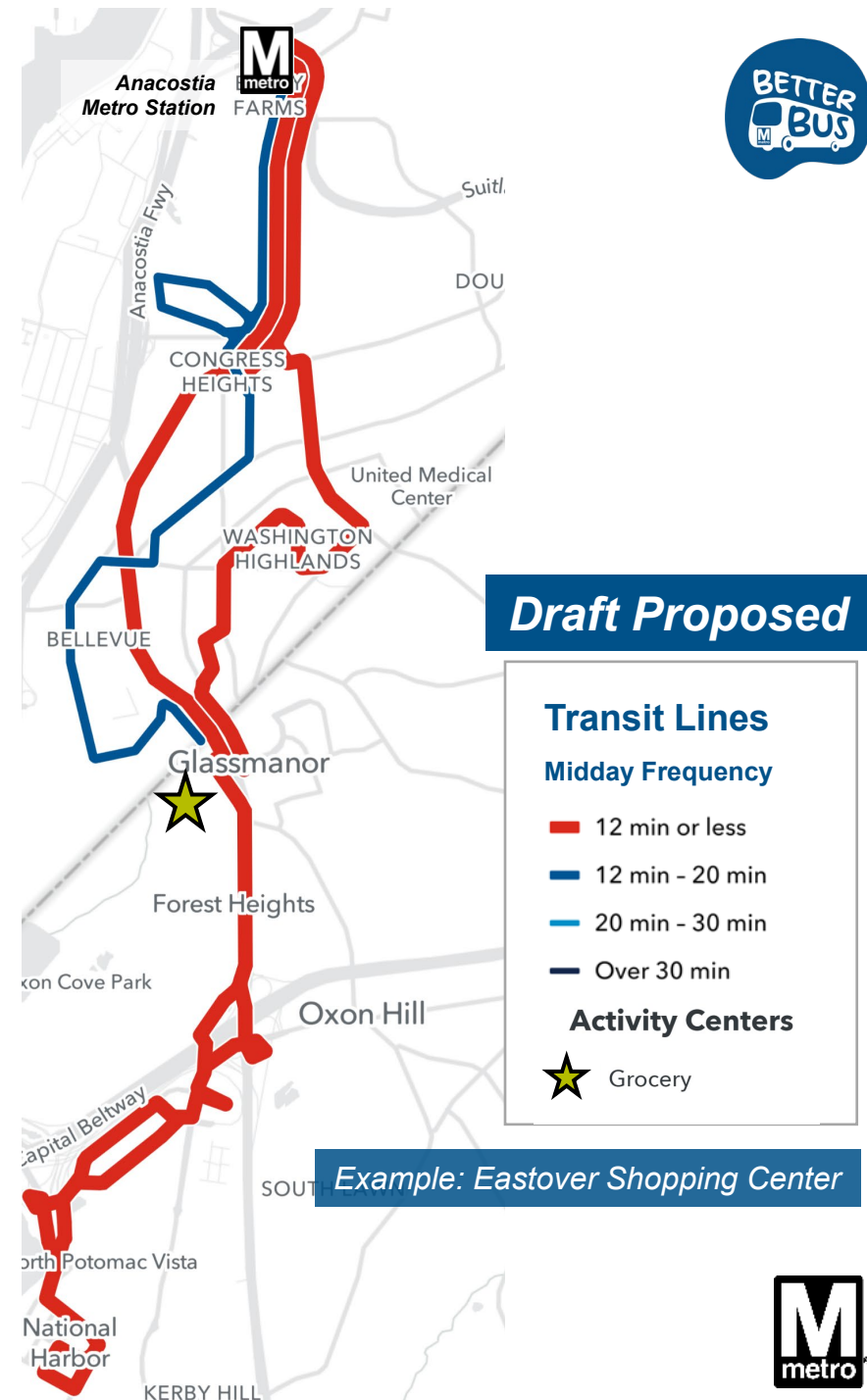


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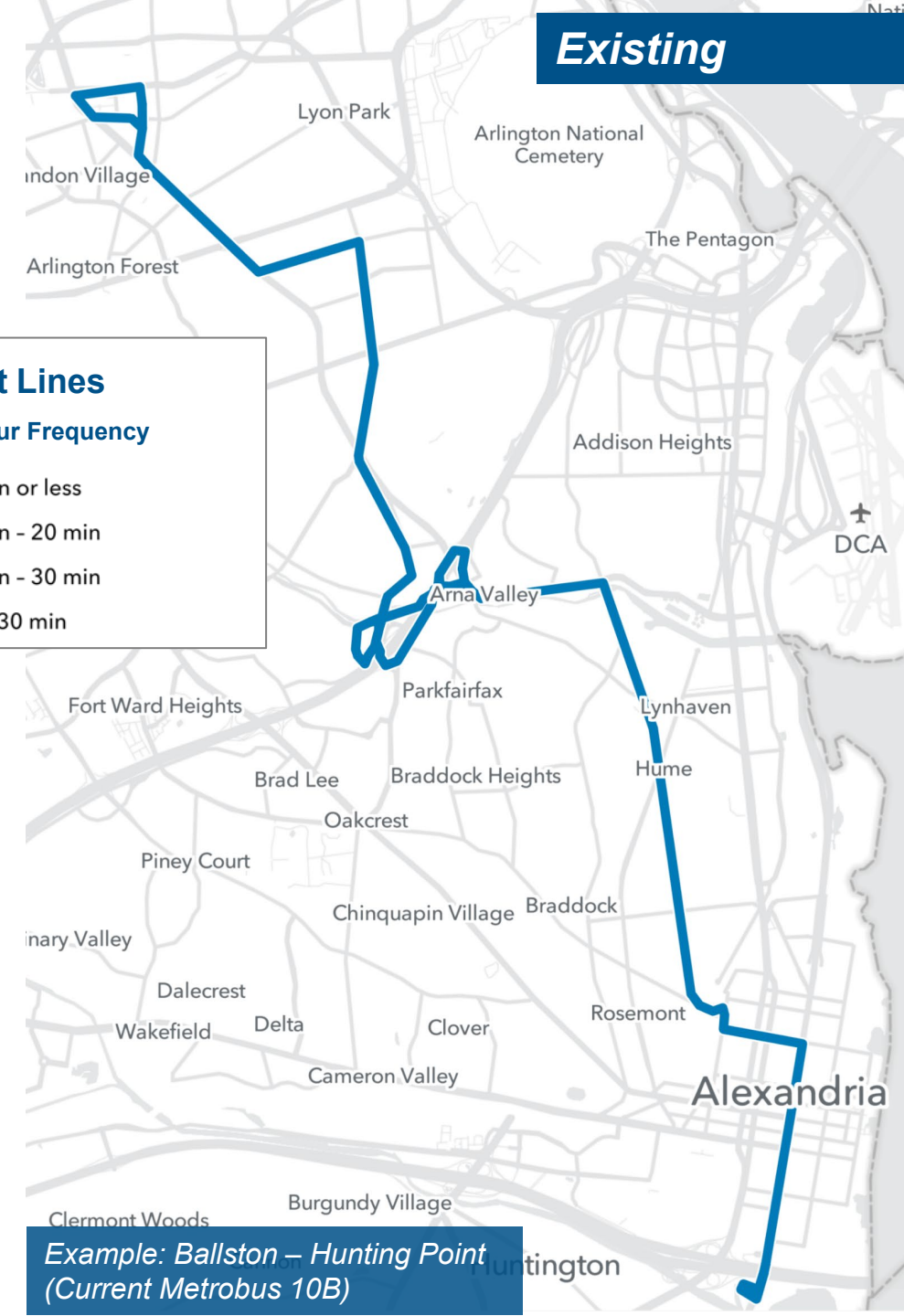
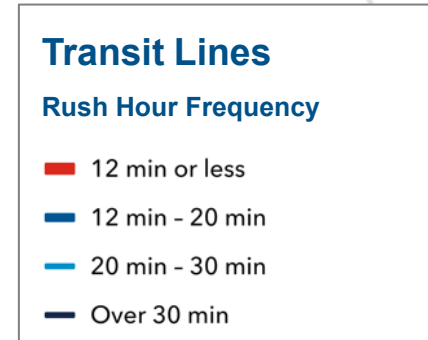
## Improves the Customer Experience

By providing convenient transit options for more of the trips people make.

- **Faster average trips** for current bus customers across the region
- 10% more transit trips in the region that could take 30 mins or less
- 20% more trips in the region could be made conveniently by transit

Improvements will save bus customers almost  
**20,000**  
hours every weekday!

*Note: Convenient Transit Trips are defined as those that take less than 3 times as long as the same trip would take in a car. These types of trips have been shown to have a higher level of transit usage than other trips.*

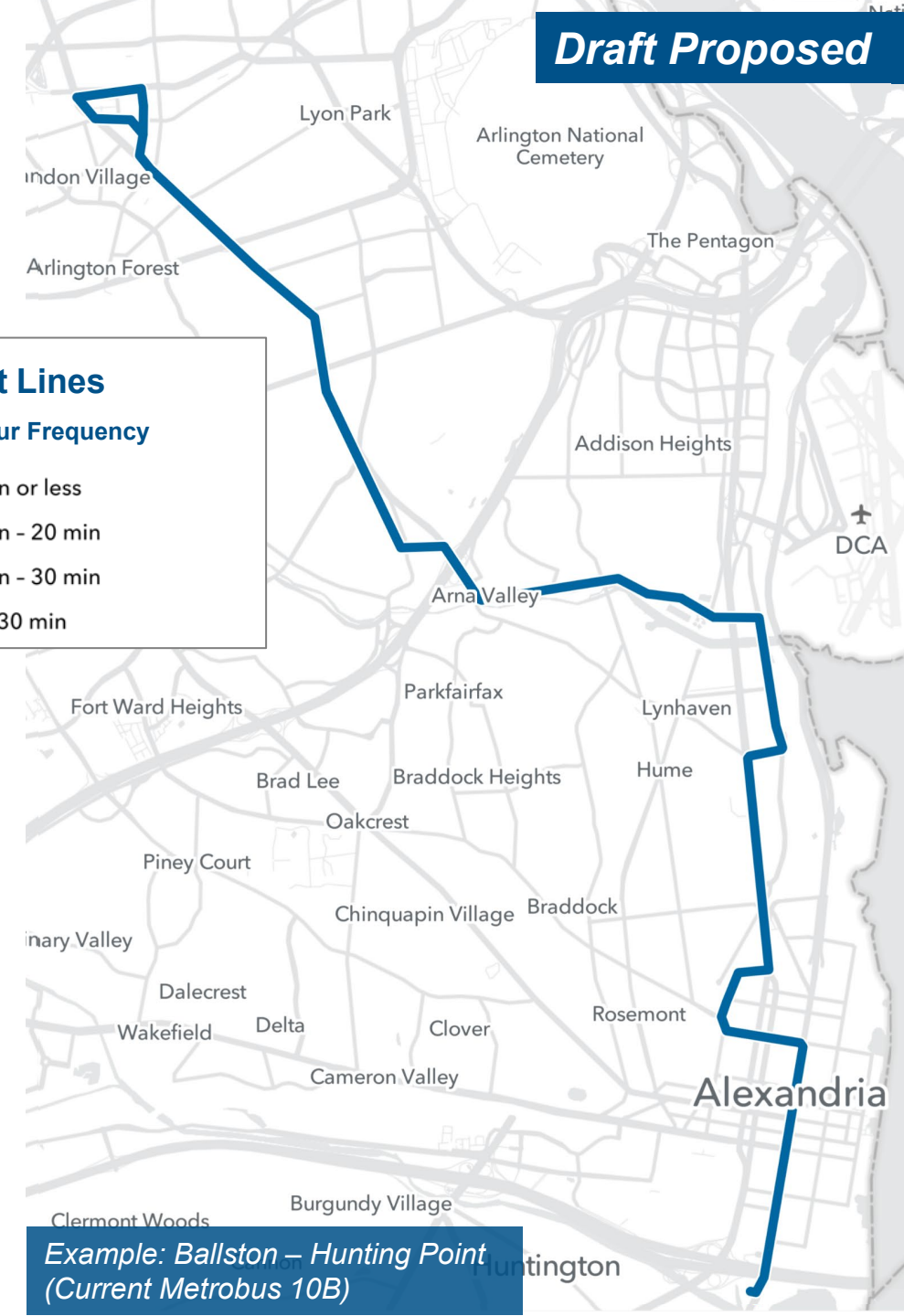
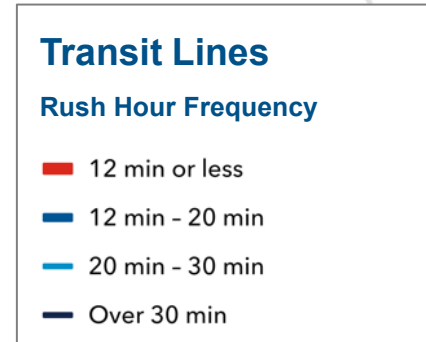


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Example: Ballston – Hunting Point  
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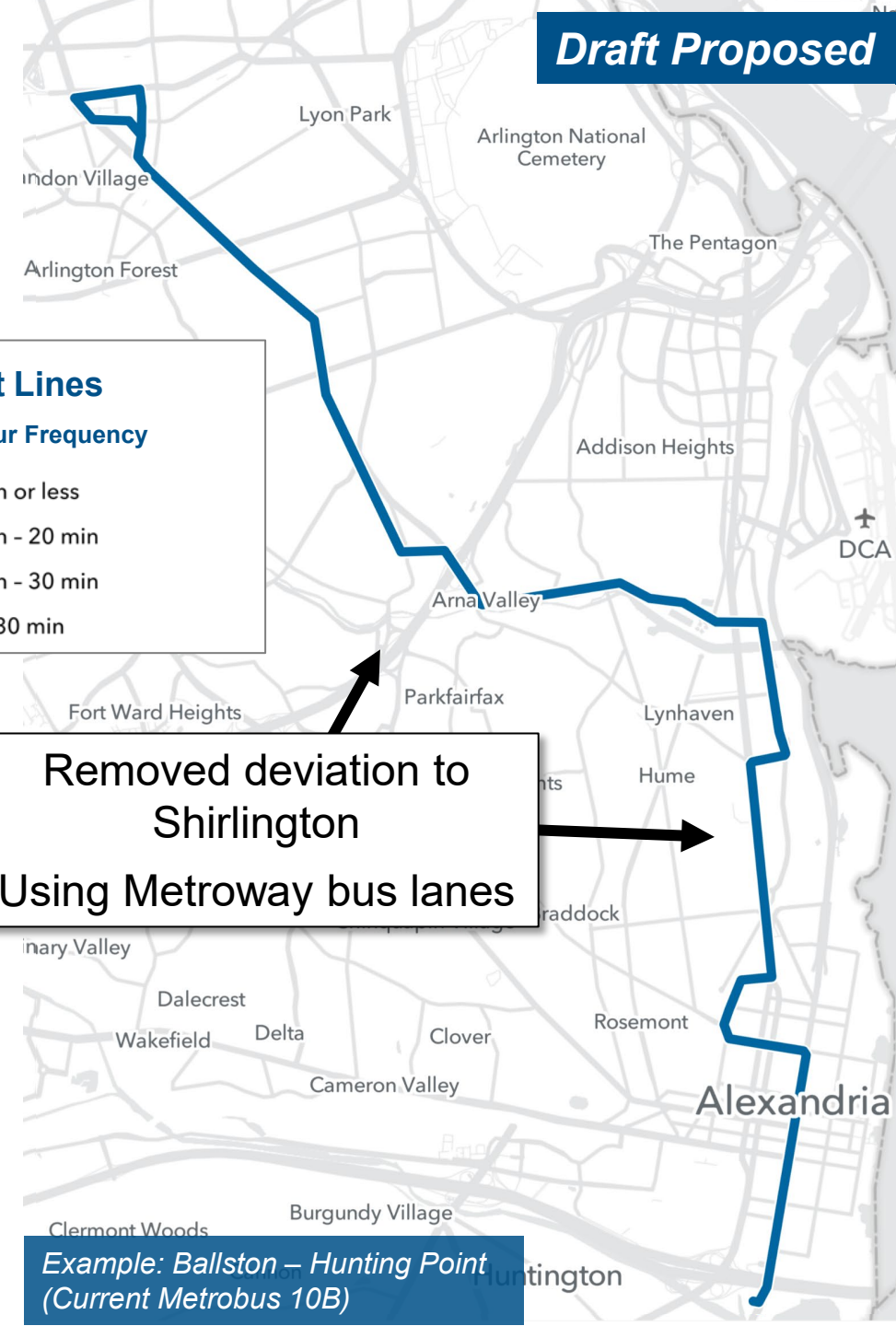
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**Transit Lines**  
Rush Hour Frequency

- 12 min or less
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Removed deviation to Shirlington  
Using Metroway bus lanes

Example: Ballston – Hunting Point  
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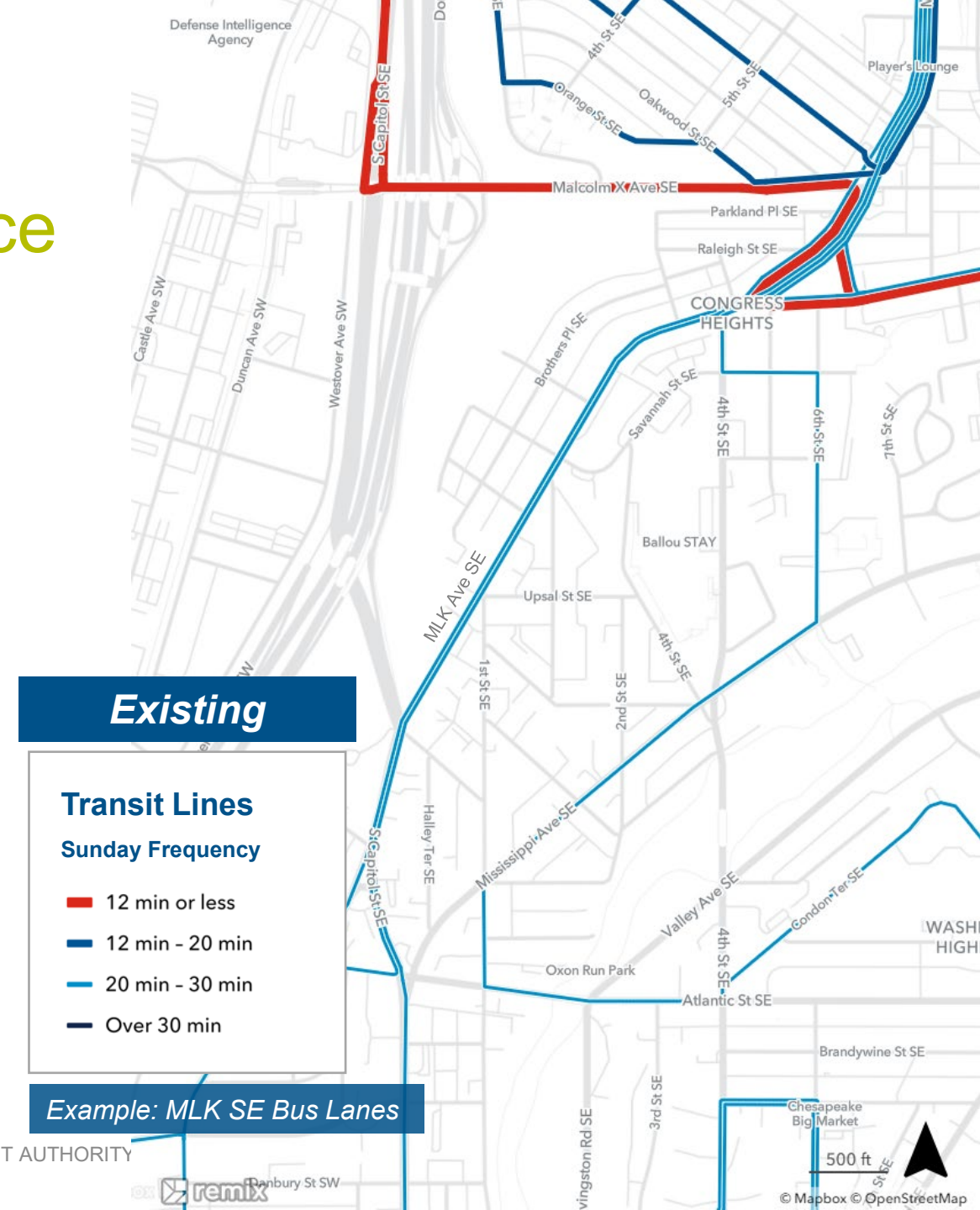
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# The Visionary Network...

## Improves the Customer Experience

By providing more bus service in dedicated/prioritized facilities.

- More bus service operates on streets with bus priority, **making service faster and more reliable to ride and operate**
  - 84% more on Sundays (41% more in DC)
  - 64% more on Saturdays (32% more in DC)
  - 39% more on weekdays (18% more in DC)
- **Maximizes jurisdictional partner investments** in bus priority infrastructure

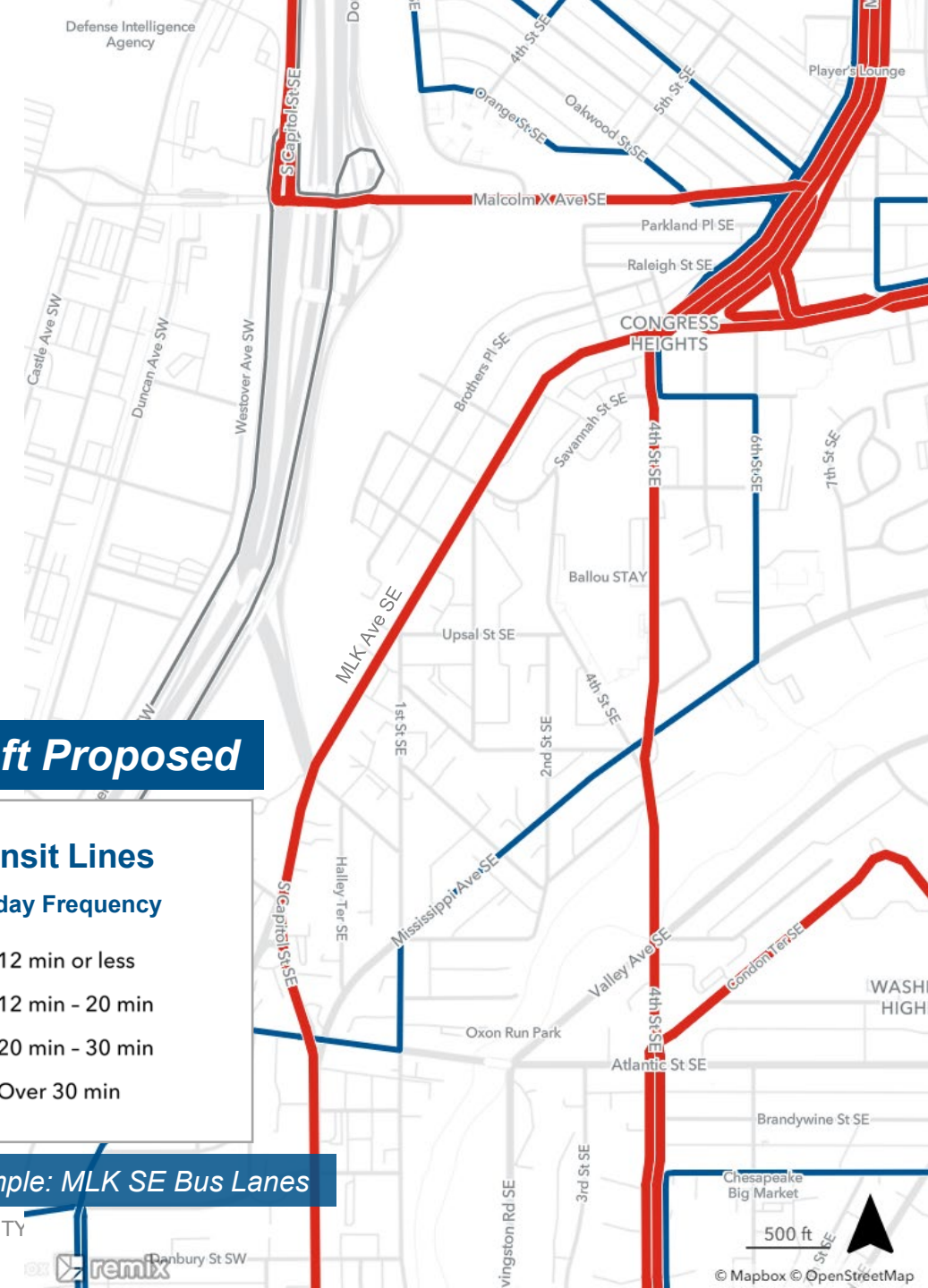


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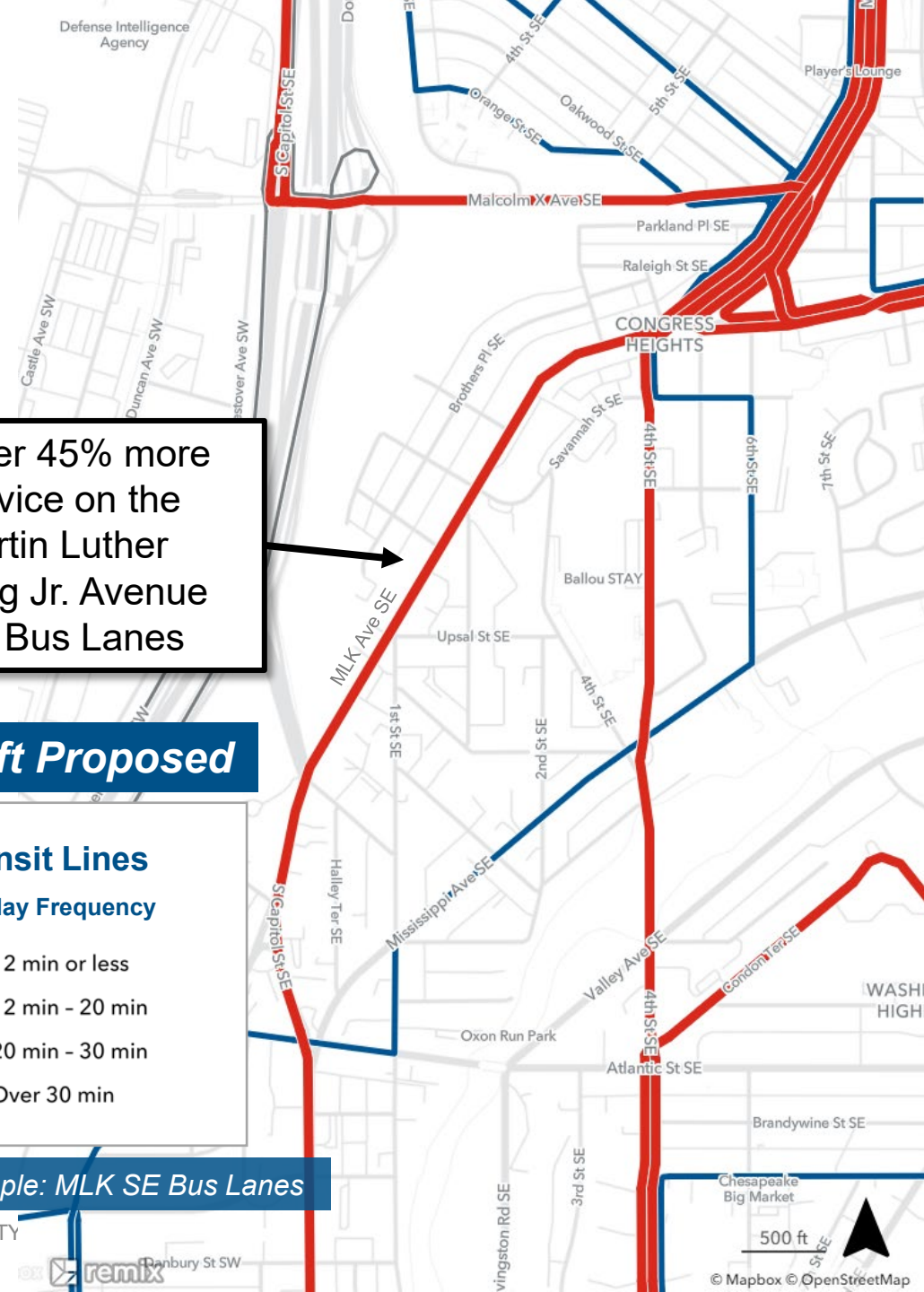
Over 45% more service on the Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE Bus Lanes

**Draft Proposed**

**Transit Lines  
Sunday Frequency**

- 12 min or less
- 12 min - 20 min
- 20 min - 30 min
- Over 30 min


**Example: MLK SE Bus Lanes**





# Polling Question:

What Choice Would You Make?

A blue arrow pointing upwards and to the right is located on the left side of the slide.

less frequent  
bus service on  
every street

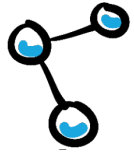
or

more frequent  
bus service on  
fewer streets



# Engagement Approach

# How We've Engaged the Public



We have conducted a series of public events since launching the Draft Visionary Network April 17<sup>th</sup>.  
 17 Pop Ups, Five Workshops, 31 Ride-Alongs with One Pop Up and Four Ride-Alongs remaining

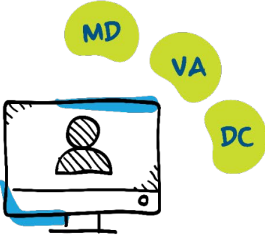


...chatting at pop-ups



...surveying on buses

...interacting on social media



...informing virtually at webinars in each jurisdiction

We're hosting  
**50 events in 50 days**  
 to celebrate  
**50 years**  
 of Metrobus!

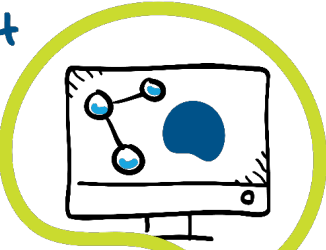


...capturing feedback through visual notetaking



...hearing from youth audiences

Those who can't make it to our events can visit [wmata.com/betterbus](http://wmata.com/betterbus) to explore the new network and provide feedback virtually...

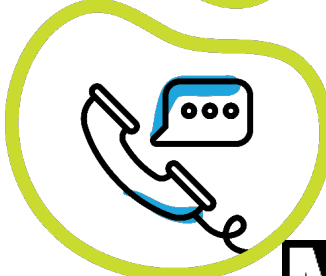


...engaging with community-based organizations



...listening at community workshops

...or respond by phone!



# Better Bus Experience LAB



Experience the  
Visionary Network  
*Online!*



**New Trip Planner**  
Compare your trip on the current network to the Visionary Network

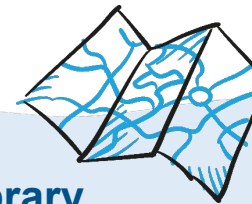


**Survey**  
Tell us what you think of the Visionary Network and what it means to you



**Comment on Your Route**  
Leave route-by-route feedback on an interactive map

**Map Library**  
Explore an atlas of maps of the Visionary Network, including route profiles



# Next Stop: Better Bus

- Feedback received from the public and various groups will help us to refine the Visionary Network.
- We will adjust where routes go, when service operates, and how often buses run based on what we hear from customers
- Begin identifying first steps towards implementation of a Visionary network would be



# Question and Answer Session

- Send in your questions via the Q&A function
- Please continue to have your microphone muted
- More information on the project and feedback opportunities can be found at [wmata.com/betterbus](http://wmata.com/betterbus)





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DC • MD • VA

# Thank You and Stay Engaged!

Explore the Visionary Network and provide feedback through June 18

[wmata.com/betterbus](http://wmata.com/betterbus)

