

### Better Bus: Network Redesign for Metrobus and TheBus

Prince George's County Council

Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and the Environment Committee

June 13, 2024





### Building a Better Network





#### Now is the Time to Redesign the Bus Network

Buses are a major part of the region's transportation network, providing transit service when and where people want to travel and complementing the rail network.



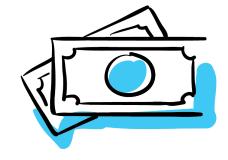
Our region is growing



People's travel patterns are changing



Need to prioritize the customer experience

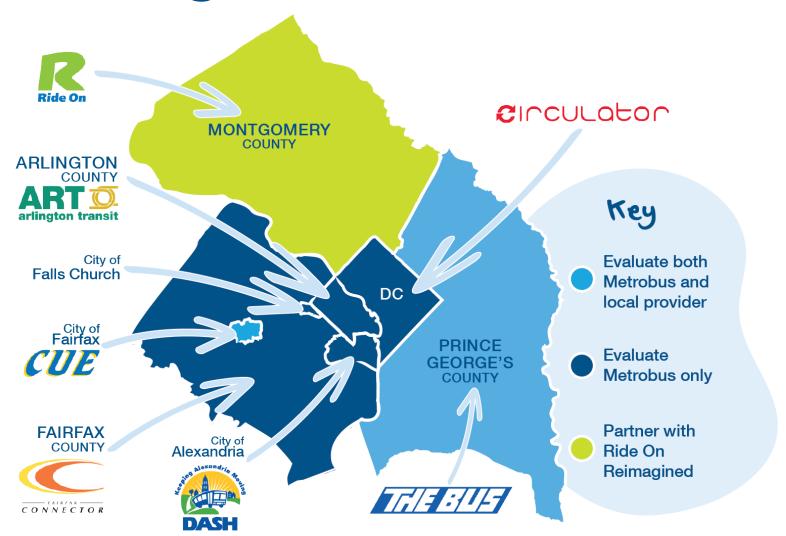


Need to use limited resources efficiently





### Partnering with Local Bus Providers

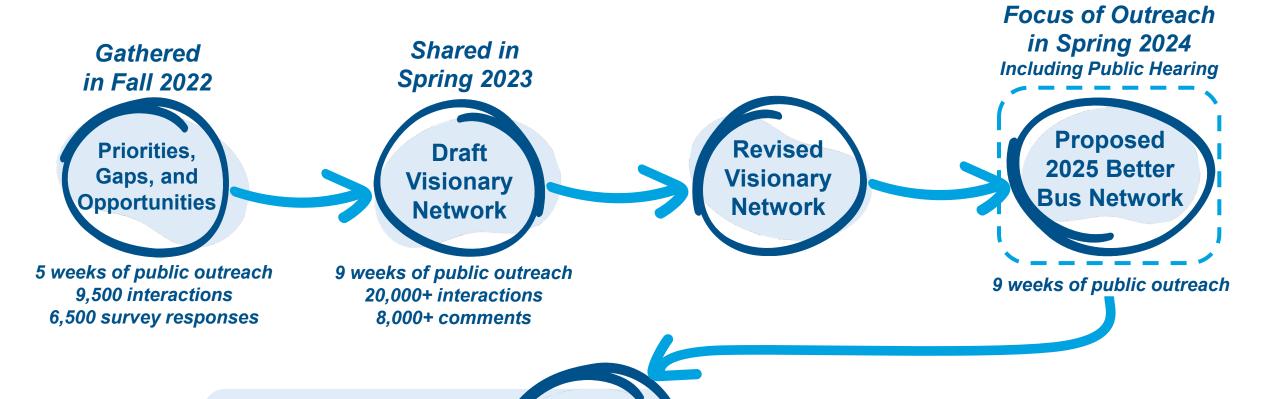


Metro has been working hand in hand with Prince George's County staff to redesign Metrobus and TheBus service in the County



#### The Region's Input Builds a Better Bus Network





Adopt in Fall 2024 and Implement starting in Summer 2025 within existing resources

Final 2025 Better Bus Network



As additional resources are available



### Network Built in Coordination with

BEITER

 Recurring meetings with DPW&T Transit leadership and staff since project kick-off

**DPW&T Staff** 

- To get early input and ensure collaboration with jurisdictional partner throughout the project
- Several half-day and all-day workshops to receive feedback and concurrence on network recommendations prior launch of outreach phases
- Combined, coordinated meeting with regional agencies and local governments on BBNR and Transit Vision Plan project efforts
- Coordinated activities during each round of outreach to obtain feedback on both project studies
- Engaged TheBus' operators at the division









### The Proposed 2025 Better Bus Network Attracts More Customers Using the Same Level of Resources



 More frequent all day, all week service, including midday, evening, Saturday, and Sundays



 More connections to job centers, transit stations, hospitals and other places people want to travel



 More convenient and direct service, saving customers time and improving operations



More reliable service using bus lanes



Could attract
13,000 more daily
weekday trips and
avoid 4,300 metric
tons of GHG
emissions a year



# With additional investment, the Visionary Network can improve access, frequency, and convenience and attract many more customers



- Provide at least 30-minute frequency throughout the day for most routes
- Provide 30 new routes, including more connections between Metrorail branches and emerging activity centers
- Create a regionwide 24-hour bus network including overnight connections to the region's airports
- Create even more consistent frequent service all day and all week

Benefits to Customers and the Region from the Visionary Network\*

Attract **twice as many new customers** than the proposed 2025 network

Avoid 9,200 metric tons of GHG emissions annually

Save 3x more time on an average weekday for transit customers

Make an additional 200k weekday trips convenient to take on transit

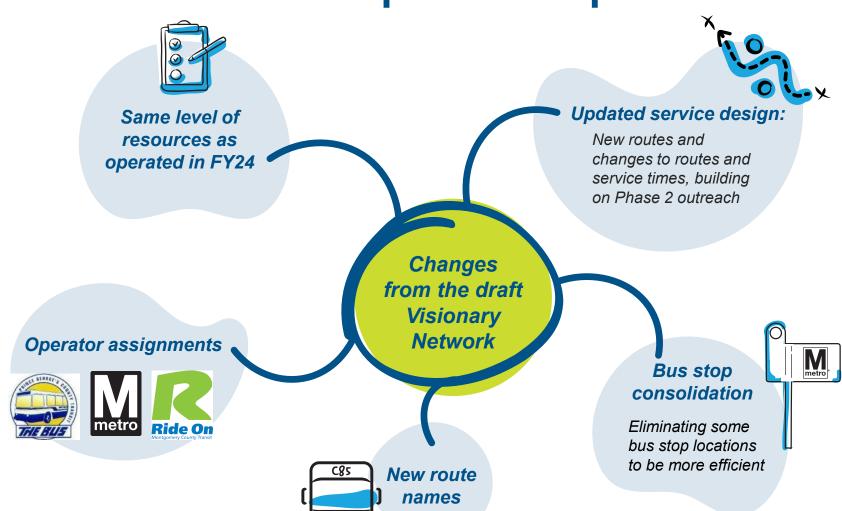
Provide access to 17k more jobs within 60 mins on transit for residents of the region



\*Metrics compared to proposed 2025 Better Bus Network

### The Proposed 2025 Better Bus Network Delivers Customer and Operator Improvements





#### Redesigned Network Built Based on Data

- Transit ridership
- Metrobus annual performance report FY19-23
- TheBus performance data
- Location Based Data (all trips CY19, CY22)
- COG Population and Job Data
- Metrobus Passenger Survey (2018)
- Census and American Community Survey
- Earlier comments on priorities and Visionary network



### BETTER

## Tradeoffs Are Required to Balance Competing Needs

Only so much can be achieved using currently available resources

Because the Consistent Providing better Making service **Proposed 2025** service levels service in Equity faster and more throughout the **Better Bus Network** Focus direct day and the week Communities prioritized: Some areas having Reducing service Some customers will less-frequent in areas with low It resulted in: have to travel further service during rush ridership to get to a bus stop periods





#### The Proposed 2025 Better Bus Network...

#### Improves Access to Better Bus Service

#### **Especially on evenings, and weekends**



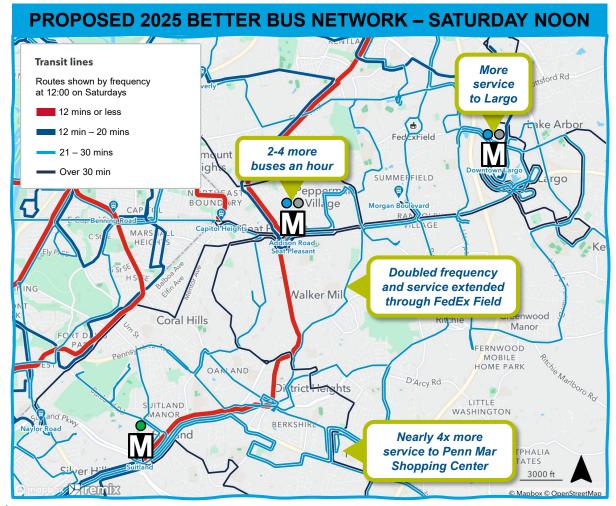
22k and 46k more residents will have bus service on Saturdays and Sundays respectively

47k residents of Equity Focus
Communities (EFC) in Maryland will
gain access to high-frequency bus
service during the morning rush



>146k residents will gain access to high frequency service during evening hours 7 days/week

47% increase in the number of routes in the 20-min **frequent service network** (28 routes compared to 19 routes currently)







#### The Proposed 2025 Better Bus Network...

#### Makes the Bus More Convenient

By creating more direct, easier to understand, and more frequent service

Save existing customers 10,000 hours every weekday



Routes are more direct to save time and avoid confusion

More than 140k people will now have access to service that comes at least every 30 minutes midday and weekends, as compared to service that comes less than twice an hour today



4% more of the trips made in the region will be convenient to take by transit, with biggest improvements during the weekday PM rush and evening

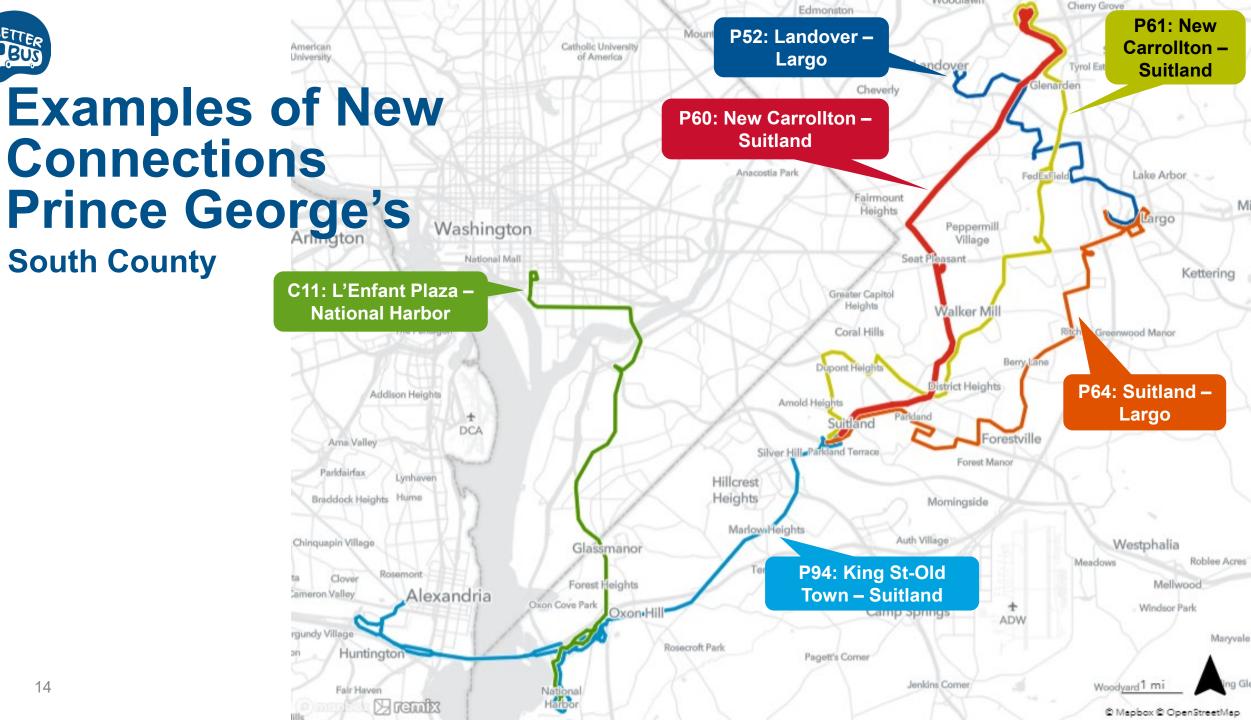




Layhill Village Snow Hill Manor Examples of New Fairland Colesville gian Forest Bu Deer Park M44: Glenmont -Connections: **College Park** Glenmont Calverton Prince George's **Grey Estates** Wheaton White Oak Kemp Mill **North County** ellman Estates ngton Heights Beltsville Lewiston Hillandale Rosedale Park Whitehouse Sandy Hill Acres McKenney Hills Four Corners White Oak Manor North Hills Sligo Park **P23: New Carrollton Buck Lodge** Greenbelt Adelphi - Glenn Dale Lyttonsville Silver Spring Goddard Spac Flight Center Berwyn Heights hase Springfield University Langley Park Maryland Glenn Dale Hillmeade Manor Seabrook Carole Highlands College Park High Bridg tions Takoma Park Seabrook Acres Glendale Heights University Park Chillum Lincoln Riverdale Parl Holmehurst Hyattsville Rolling View Woodlawn P42: Takoma -Edmonston **New Carrollton** Mount Rainier Bladensburg atholic University Springdale of America Landover Tyrol Estates lmar Manor Glenarden Cheverly 13 1 mi\_W > remix Mapbox OpenStreetMap



**South County** 





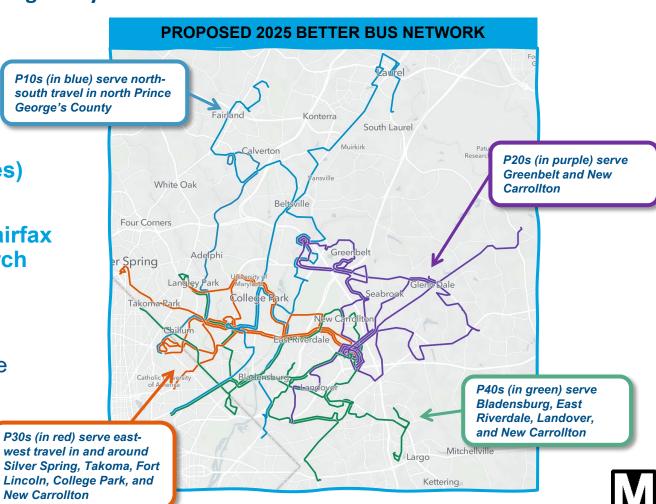
#### The Proposed 2025 Better Bus Network...

#### Is More Intuitive and Easier to Understand

By renaming bus routes to make a more consistent and legible system

#### **Approach to New Route Names:**

- First character =
  - P for Prince George's, M for Montgomery
  - D (downtown routes) or C (crosstown routes) for DC
  - A for Arlington and Alexandria, and F for Fairfax County and Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church
- Second character = a number for route's corridor/neighborhood
- Third character = a number to distinguish it from the other routes or an X for limited stop
- Local providers can also apply this approach





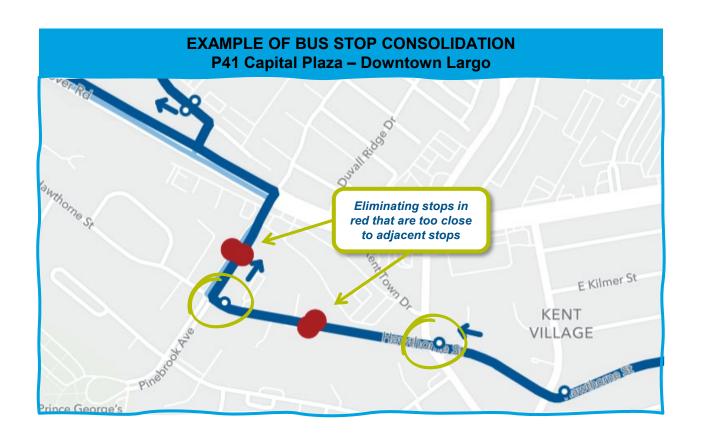
#### The Proposed 2025 Better Bus Network...

#### Creates Faster, More Reliable Travel Time

By eliminating some bus stops that are too close together

### Eliminate 600+ bus stops (of 9,500 stops Metrobus uses) that:

- Are too close to the next stop, based on Metrobus service guidelines
- Have low ridership (boardings and alightings)
- Do not provide safe pedestrian access (sidewalks and crosswalks)







### **Engagement Opportunities**



### Multiple Opportunities to Provide Feedback

Public

See wmata.com/betterbus for the most current schedule of events





Wednesday, June 26, 2024 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.

- Interactive "expo" to learn about proposed network & provide feedback
- Separate Public Hearing room

#### **Virtual Public Hearings**

By *video* or by *phone* at (206) 899-2028

Tuesday, June 18, 2024 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Meeting Code: 490 122 856# Monday June 24, 2024 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Code: 787 960 816#

#### **Ride-Alongs**

 Focus on high-change routes & areas not reached by other events

#### Pop-Ups

Targets high-change areas, high ridership, equity focus communities

### Hyattsville Crossing Metro Station

May 15: spoke with 1,700+ customers New Carrollton Metro Station June 5: spoke with 1,700+ customers

#### **Greenbelt Metro Station**

May 22: spoke with 2,000+ customers

#### Still to come

**Southern Ave Metro Station**Friday, June 21
3:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Capitol Heights
Metro Station
Tuesday, June 25
3:00 – 7:00 p.m.



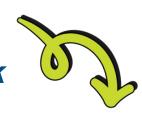


#### Online Opportunities to Explore the Routes

Discover the proposed 2025 Better Bus Network on the Discovery Hub at wmata.com/betterbus



Use the Map Library to Explore the Proposed 2025 Better Bus Network





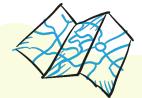
#### **Explore State Maps**

Review all routes in the proposed 2025 Network for DC, VA, and MD



#### Review Route Profiles

Review details for each route in the network



#### View Neighborhood Profiles

See summaries of proposed changes by geographic area



#### Learn About New Route Names

Understand how new route names were developed



#### **Online Opportunities to Share Your Input**



Discover the proposed 2025 Better Bus Network on the Discovery Hub at wmata.com/betterbus



Share Your Input on the Proposed 2025 Better Bus Network





**Comment Using An Interactive Map** 

Leave route-by-route feedback on an interactive map



Take a Survey

Tell us what you think of the proposed 2025

Network



Provide Written Comments

Leave a digital comment concerning the network



Upload A Document

Share a document concerning the network





#### Call to Action

1

Use the social media and newsletter content in the Communications Toolkit to spread the word



Co-host an event with us



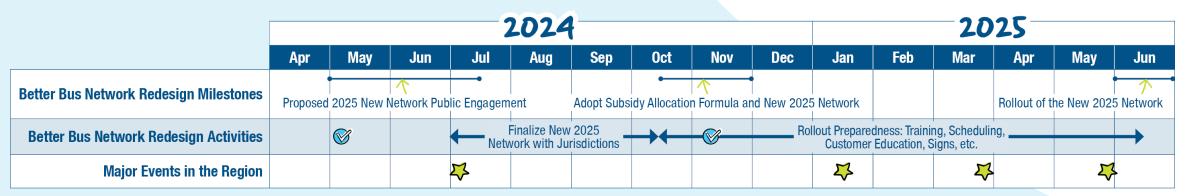
Provide feedback on the network for you and the people you represent

Toolkit and information about the project available at wmata.com/betterbus



### BETTER

### Next Steps to Implement the 2025 Better Bus Network



**Legend:** W Board Meetings External Events: July Fourth, Inauguration, Cherry Blossoms, World Pride

Refining the network based on public and stakeholder feedback and striving to implement in 2025 will require detailed planning, coordination, and a series of Metro and Prince George's County activities/actions





### Thank you!

Questions?





# Appendix: Examples of Notable Changes From Existing





#### The Proposed 2025 Better Bus Network...

#### **Better Connects the Region**

By linking people with jobs, destinations, and other transit modes

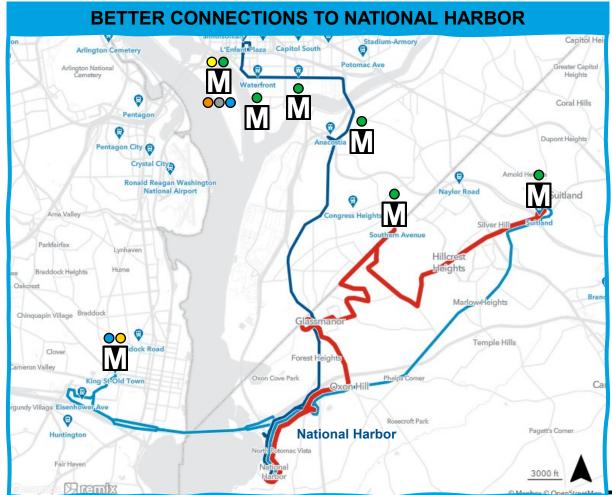


**12k more jobs** within 60 minutes on transit during the morning rush.

4-6% more bus trips connect destinations between the District, Maryland, and/or Virginia on weekdays



More residents – especially people of color and residents of low-income households – will have easier access to hospitals, colleges, and grocery stores at all times of day.





#### The Proposed 2025 Better Bus Network...

### BETTER

#### Advances Access to Opportunity

#### For Equity Focused Communities (EFCs)



~14k residents of EFCs will gain access to high-frequency bus service during weekday AM rush



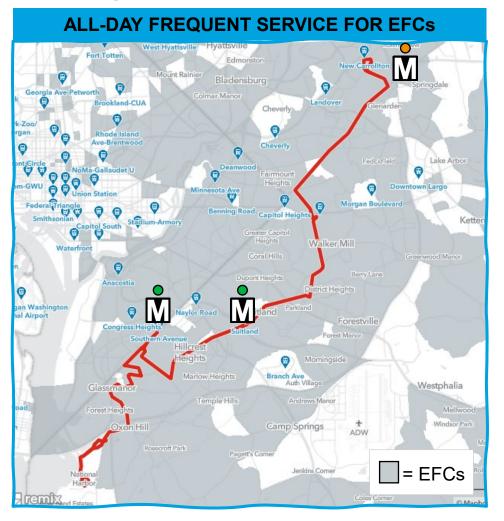
In Maryland, 31% more EFC residents will have access to high-frequency bus service in the AM rush

Across the region, residents of EFCs will have access to 8-9% more jobs during the AM rush.



5% more of the trips made by residents of EFCs will have a convenient transit option – higher than for the region as a whole

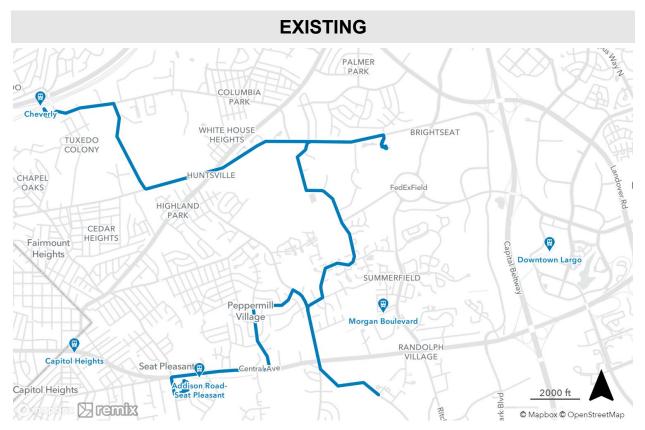
An additional 35k people of color will have access to a college during the weekday peak



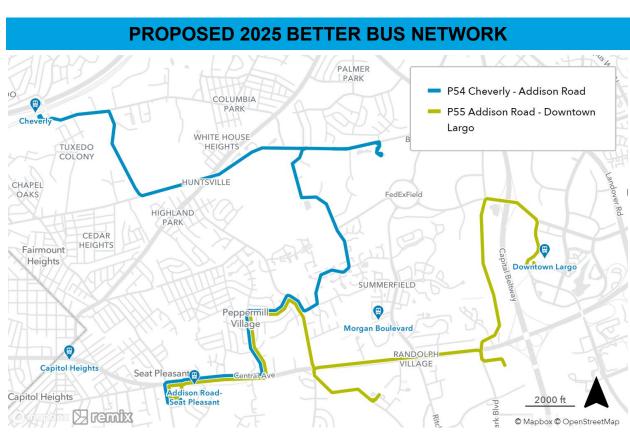


#### Simplifies the rider & operator experience





 Existing TheBus 23 doubles back on itself several times, which results in a circuitous journey to Addison Road Metro.

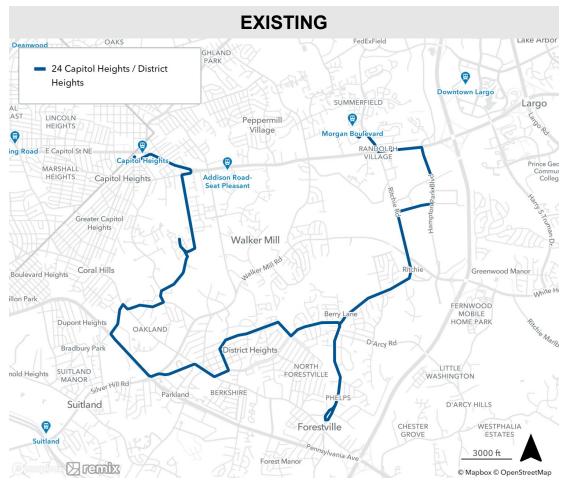


• The draft Year One Network splits this route into two, resulting in less circuitous routings and opening up new connections.

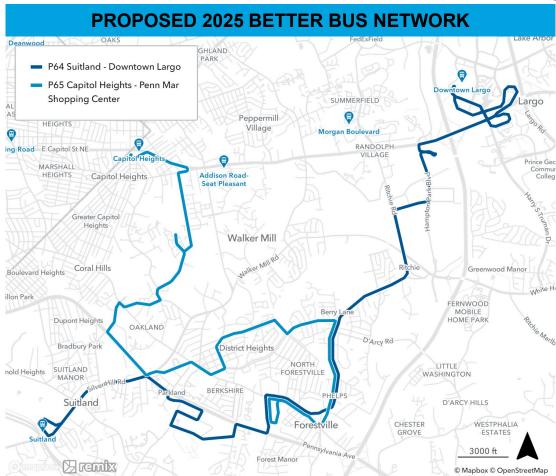


#### Simplifies the rider & operator experience





 Existing TheBus 24 a long deviation down Ritchie Road/Old Forestville Road, which just loops back up to where the words "Berry Lane" are after circling back on itself. Moreover, it just misses making it to Penn Mar Shopping Center, a huge activity generator in this area

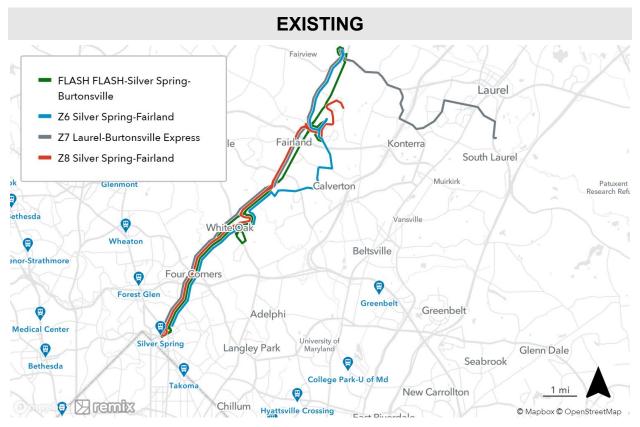


The draft Year One Network splits this route into two, while still covering virtually every stop. P65 is the western half of today's route 24 – running from Capitol Heights to Penn Mar. P64 is basically the eastern half of route 24, but realigned from Morgan Boulevard to Downtown Largo (which has more connections), and extended past Penn Mar to Suitland – the only connection between Largo and not only Penn Mar but also the Green Line (neither of these connections exist today).

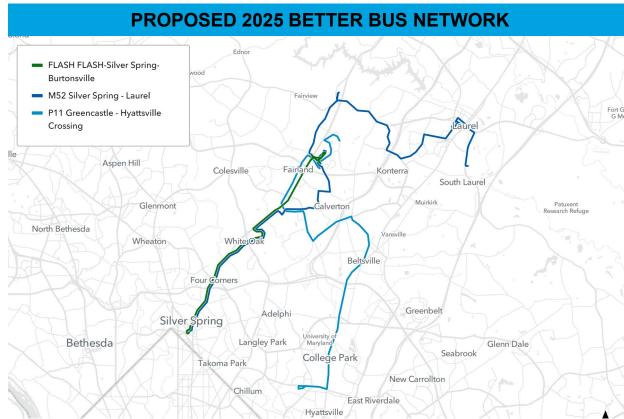


#### **Creates direct multimodal connections**





• The Z-line provides uneven bus service along the US-29 corridor



Year One route M52 establishes 20-minute local service that underlies Montgomery County's FLASH BRT, and route P11 connects US-29 to College Park/Hyattsville



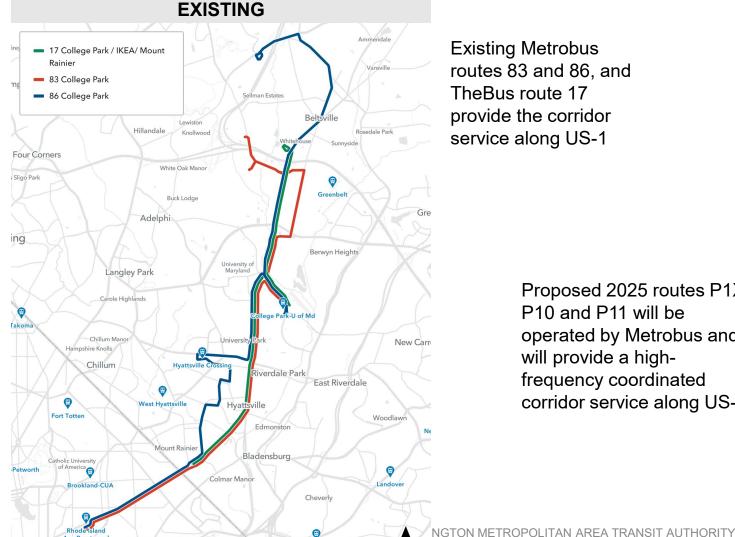
#### Improves coordination / reduces duplication with local providers across the region



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#### **PROPOSED 2025 BETTER BUS NETWORK**

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Fremitz

**Existing Metrobus** routes 83 and 86, and TheBus route 17 provide the corridor service along US-1

> Proposed 2025 routes P1X. P10 and P11 will be operated by Metrobus and will provide a highfrequency coordinated corridor service along US-1

#### PROPOSED 2025 BETTER BUS NETWORK P1X Rhode Island Avenue Greenbelt P10 Rhode Island Avenue College Park P11 Greencastle - Hvattsville Four Corners White Oak Manor Buck Lodge Adelphi Berwyn Heights Langley Park Carole Highlands Takoma Park -Chillum Mano New Carr mpshire Knolls Chillum Riverdale Park East Riverdale Woodlaw Bladensburg Landover Colmar Manor Cheverly

12 remix

#### Responds to feedback



#### **EXISTING** G12 Greenbelt-New Carr.. 86 College Park G14 Greenbelt Rd - Goo... Overview Timetable Overview Overview Timetable Weekday Weekday 0 Weekday EVERY RU EVERY RU EVERY RL 05:15 08:45 30 min Hul 10:00 60 min 05:00 38.5 min 1 08:45 13:45 60 min 31.3 min 20:45 23:15 155 min 18:15 30 min 19:30 50 min \* 60 min Saturday Saturday EVERY RU TO Saturday EVERY RI 60 min 22:00 07:00 60 min 06:30 21:30 60 min 60 min Sunday Sunday Sunday FROM TO EVERY RU EVERY RI FROM EVERY RU 07:00 22:00 60 min ' 21:30 60 min

- Existing Greenbelt routes start between 5:00 and 5:30 a.m.
- In Phase 2, Greenbelt Mayor Jordan asked that the proposed routes start at 5:00 a.m.

PROPOSED 2025 BETTER BUS NETWORK													
×	P21 Greenbelt - New Car  Overview Timetable				×	P24 New Carrollton - Bo  Overview Timetable			×	P11 Greencastle - Hyatts •			
ä					古				苘	Overview Timetable			Ċ
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	18:00	22:00	30 min	86		21:00	22:15	75.7 min	<u></u>	21:30	22:30	30 min	146
	Saturday FROM	то	EVERY	RU		Saturday FROM	то	EVERY RL		<b>Saturday</b> FROM	ТО	EVERY	RUI
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	06:00	21:00	60 min	86		07:00	22:00	60 min		07:30	19:30	30 min	148

• Improved early service in the Proposed 2025 Network.

