



Fairfax Connector and Metrobus Plans for Alternative Service during WMATA's Reconstruction of Blue and Yellow Line Stations South of Reagan National Airport Station

Board Transportation Committee Meeting
March 26, 2019

Michael Felschow & Anna Nissinen
Fairfax County Department of Transportation

Background: Platform Conditions

- 45 outdoor station platforms have been exposed to weather and de-icing agents for decades
- Platforms built 35 to 40 years ago are now deteriorating
 - 10 stations already have rebuilt platforms
 - 15 stations have platforms in good condition
 - 20 stations have platforms requiring immediate attention; temporary measures have been installed where needed to stabilize and ensure safety until reconstruction occurs
- Concrete repair is a necessary safety project

Department of Transportation



Braddock Road Station



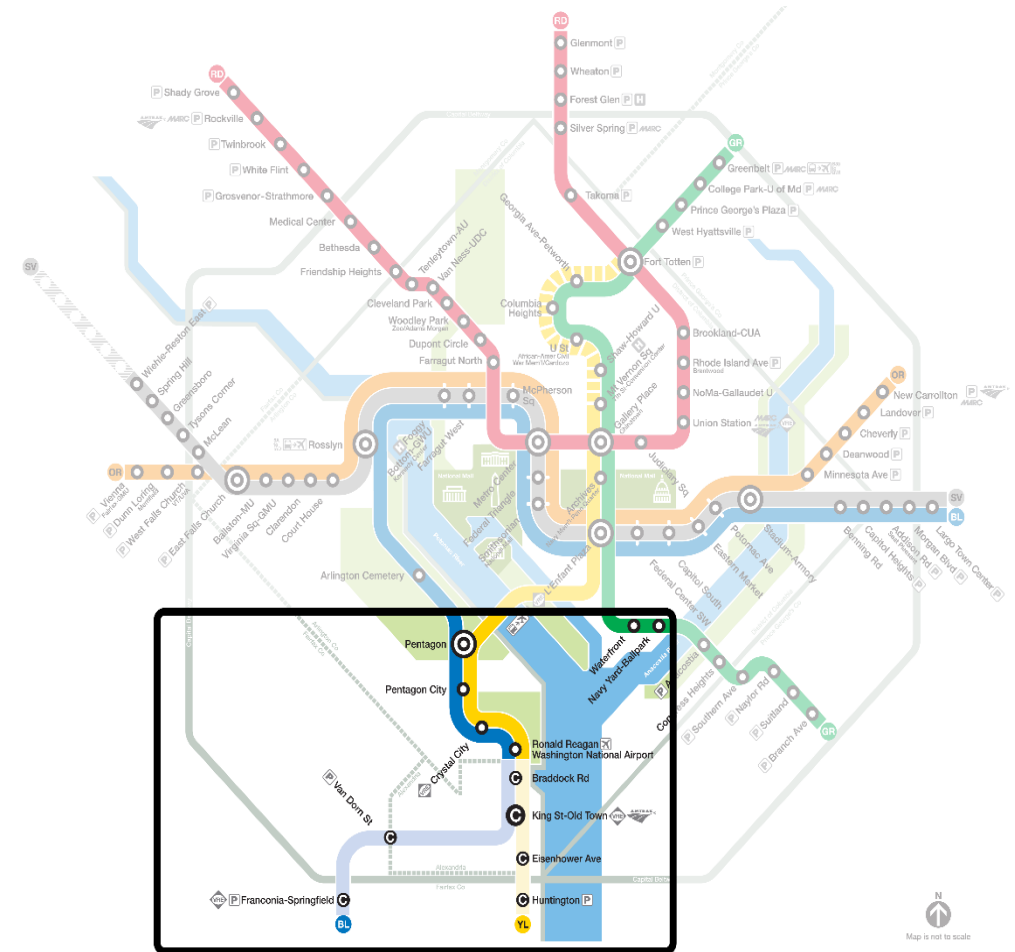
Van Dorn Station

WMATA Major Outage Guidelines to Minimize Customer Impacts

- No station should experience two major outages in a three-year period
- Focus construction on summer and major holiday weekends to reduce impact on loyal commuters
- Concentrate work to minimize impact to riders, rather than conducting a series of smaller outages
- Deliver best possible service outside work zone
- Provide public notification several months in advance

Platform Rehabilitation Project

- During Summer 2019, there will be no Blue or Yellow Line rail service south of National Airport from Saturday, May 25 to Monday, September 2, 2019
- Anticipated Construction Schedule:
 - May 25- September 2, 2019: Braddock Rd, King St-Old Town, and Eisenhower Ave
 - May 25-October 4, 2019: Van Dorn St
 - May 25-December 2, 2019: Huntington and Franconia-Springfield

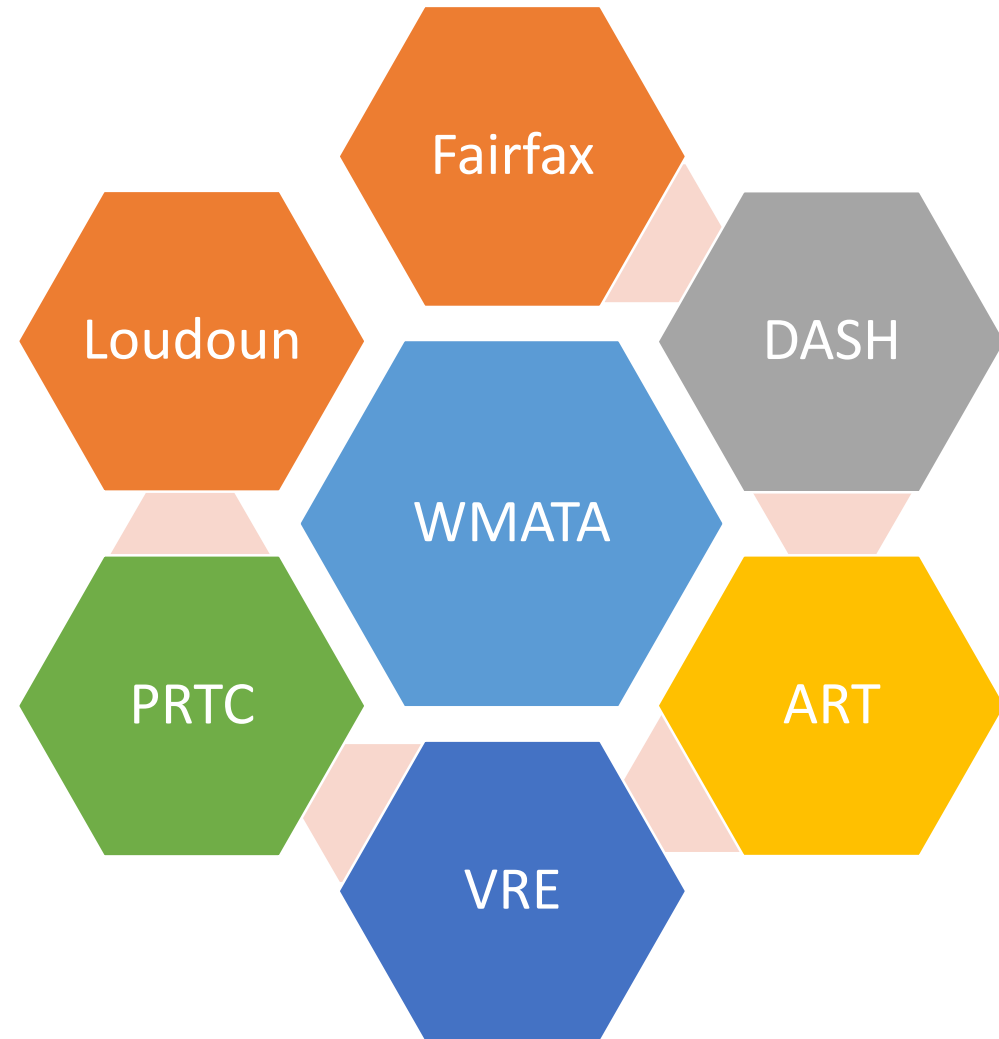


Additional Work During Summer 2019

- Complete other work on Blue and Yellow lines:
 - Repair rail bridge near Van Dorn Station
 - Install new crossover north of King Street Station
 - Replace traction power equipment for three substations
 - Conduct repair blitz of Alexandria Rail Yard
 - Commence invasive work for Potomac Yards Station
 - Repair crossover at Huntington Station
- Improve stations and customer amenities during shutdowns

Regional Coordination for Virginia Closures

- WMATA organized an interagency working group comprised of the region's public transit agencies, Virginia Department of Transportation, Department of Defense, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, and Virginia State Police to plan a comprehensive response to the three-month station closures
- Options being discussed include shuttle bus service, and increased service on parallel bus routes



Service Alternatives: Metrobus

- Free express bus shuttles to Pentagon from Franconia-Springfield and Huntington Metrorail Stations
- Free local bus shuttles connecting closed stations
 - Blue line shuttle does not stop at Braddock Rd
 - Yellow line shuttle does not stop at National Airport
- Additional capacity on existing routes
 - 8Z, 10A, 11Y, 21A, and Metroway



Service Alternatives – Bus Options



Convenient Bus Options

metrobus \$2

- 8Z** Bus service with stops between **Quaker Lane** and **Pentagon Station**
- 10A** Bus service with stops between **Huntington** and **Pentagon** stations
- 10E** Bus service with stops between **Hunting Point** and **Pentagon Station**
- 11Y** Bus service with stops between **Mount Vernon*/Hunting Point** and **Potomac Park**
*Service to **Mount Vernon** only during rush hours
**\$4.25 fare during rush hours
- 21A** Bus service with stops between **Landmark** and **Pentagon** station

M metroway \$2

Limited-stop bus service with stops between **Braddock Rd** and **Pentagon City** stations

- C** closed **May 25–Sept 2**
- BL** No Blue or Yellow Line rail service south of National Airport



Fairfax Connector Bus Planning

- As a funding partner of Metrorail and Metrobus service, Fairfax County (along with the other regional partners) has been asked to provide support during the station shutdowns
- FCDOT staff has evaluated the existing Fairfax Connector bus service and resources to determine what assistance could be provided



Fairfax Connector Supplemental Transit Service

- Add morning and afternoon trips on Fairfax Connector express Routes 393 and 394
 - Capitalizes on existing parking capacity at Saratoga and Backlick North Park-and-Ride Lots
 - Provides 10-minute headways during peak periods from Saratoga Park-and-Ride Lot
 - Add two buses to each of Routes 393 and 394
 - One strategic bus will be stationed at Huntington during peak hours
- Estimated cost for supplemental service
 - DRPT has indicated funding support may be available up to 80%
 - Anticipated county cost approx.: \$50K

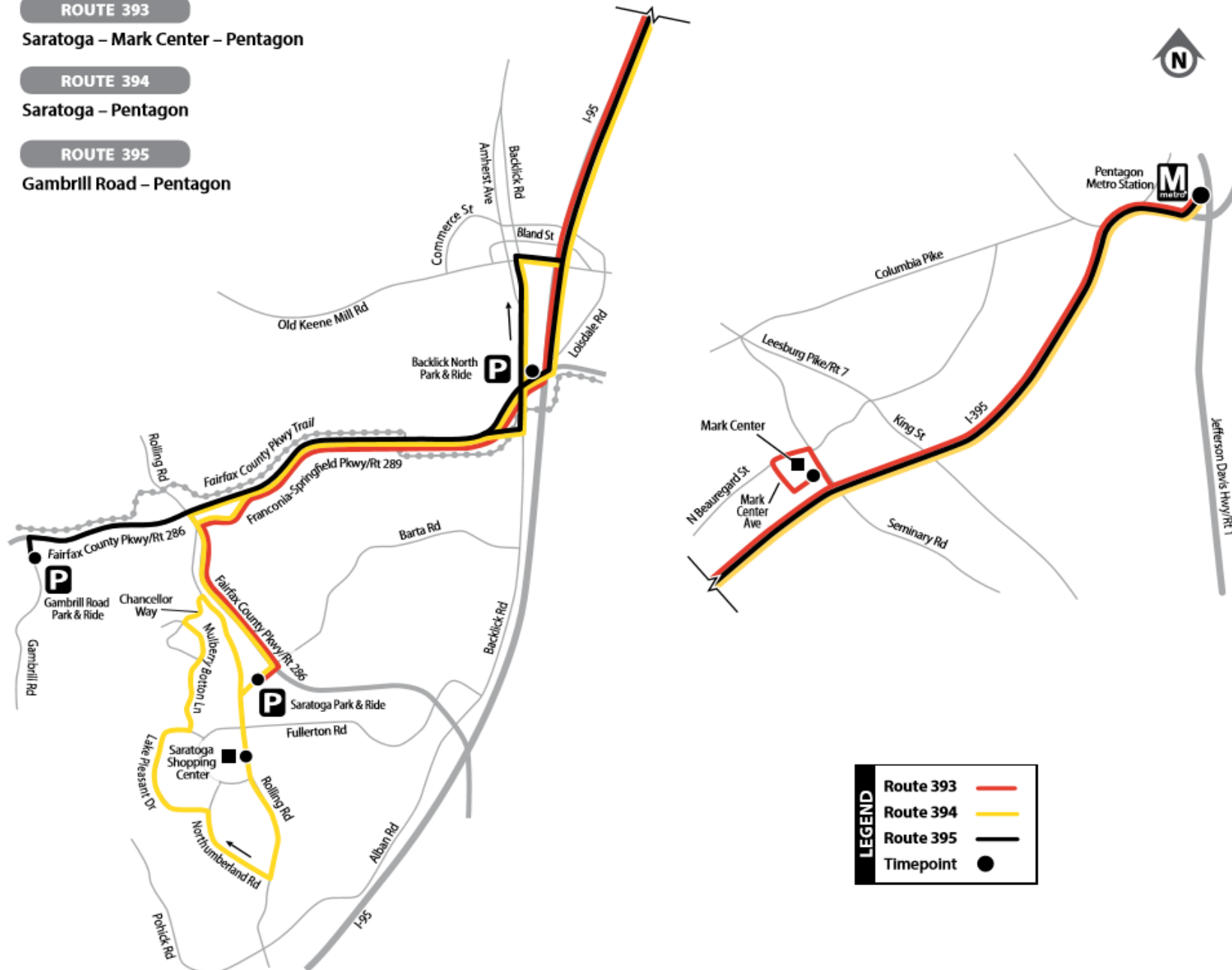
Route	Span of Service	Headways (in minutes)	Additional Buses Added	Closure Period Revenue Hours	Closure Period Operating Cost	DRPT Funding
393	5:13 – 10:08 A.M. 3:35 – 7:59 P.M.	10	2	723	\$86,800	\$69,400
394	5:13 – 10:08 A.M. 3:35 – 7:59 P.M.	10	2	857	\$102,800	\$82,300
Strategic	Peak Hours – Huntington	N/A	1	500	\$60,000	\$48,000
Total			5	2,100	\$249,600	\$199,700

Fairfax Connector Supplemental Transit Service Map

ROUTE 393
Saratoga – Mark Center – Pentagon

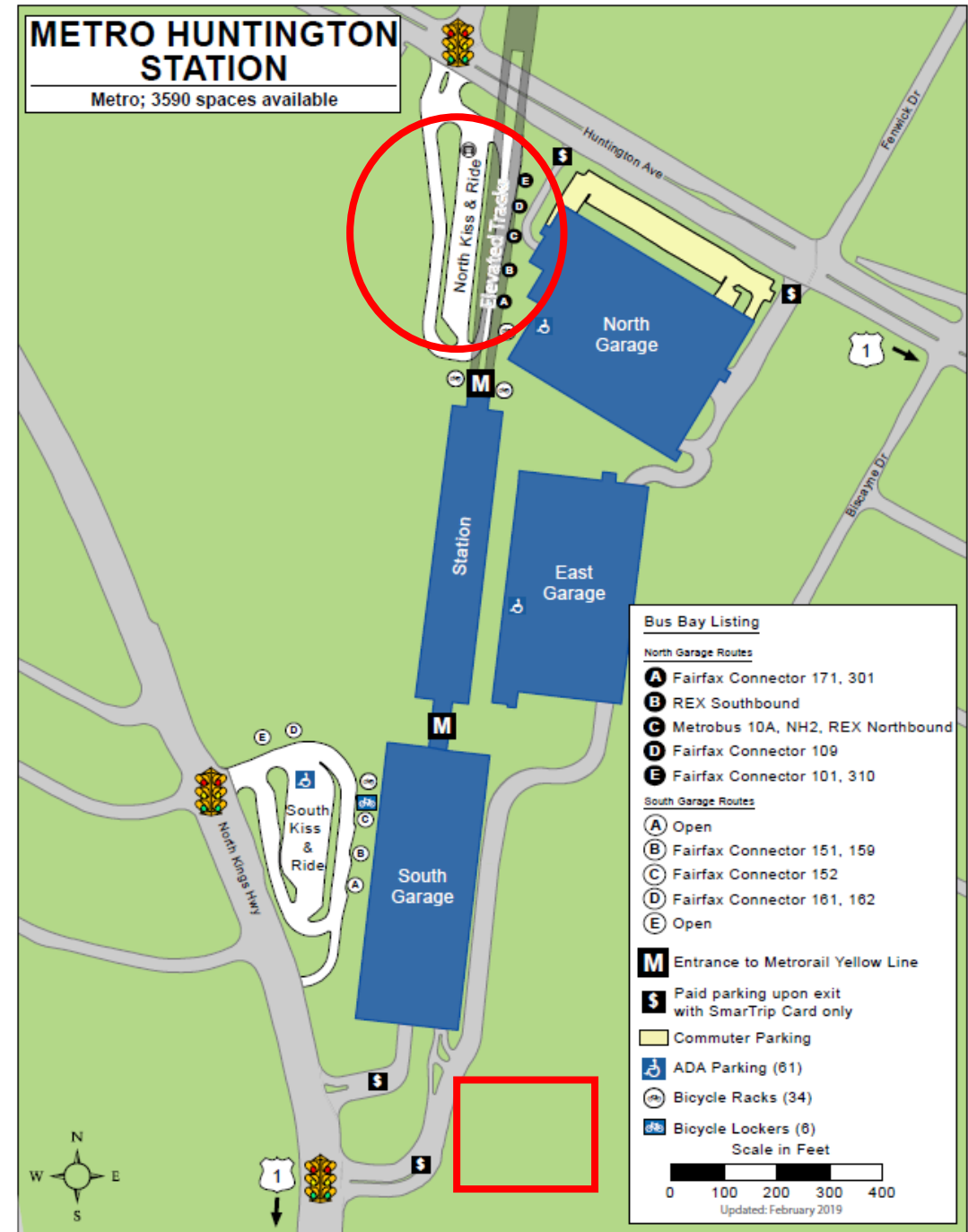
ROUTE 394
Saratoga – Pentagon

ROUTE 395
Gambrill Road – Pentagon



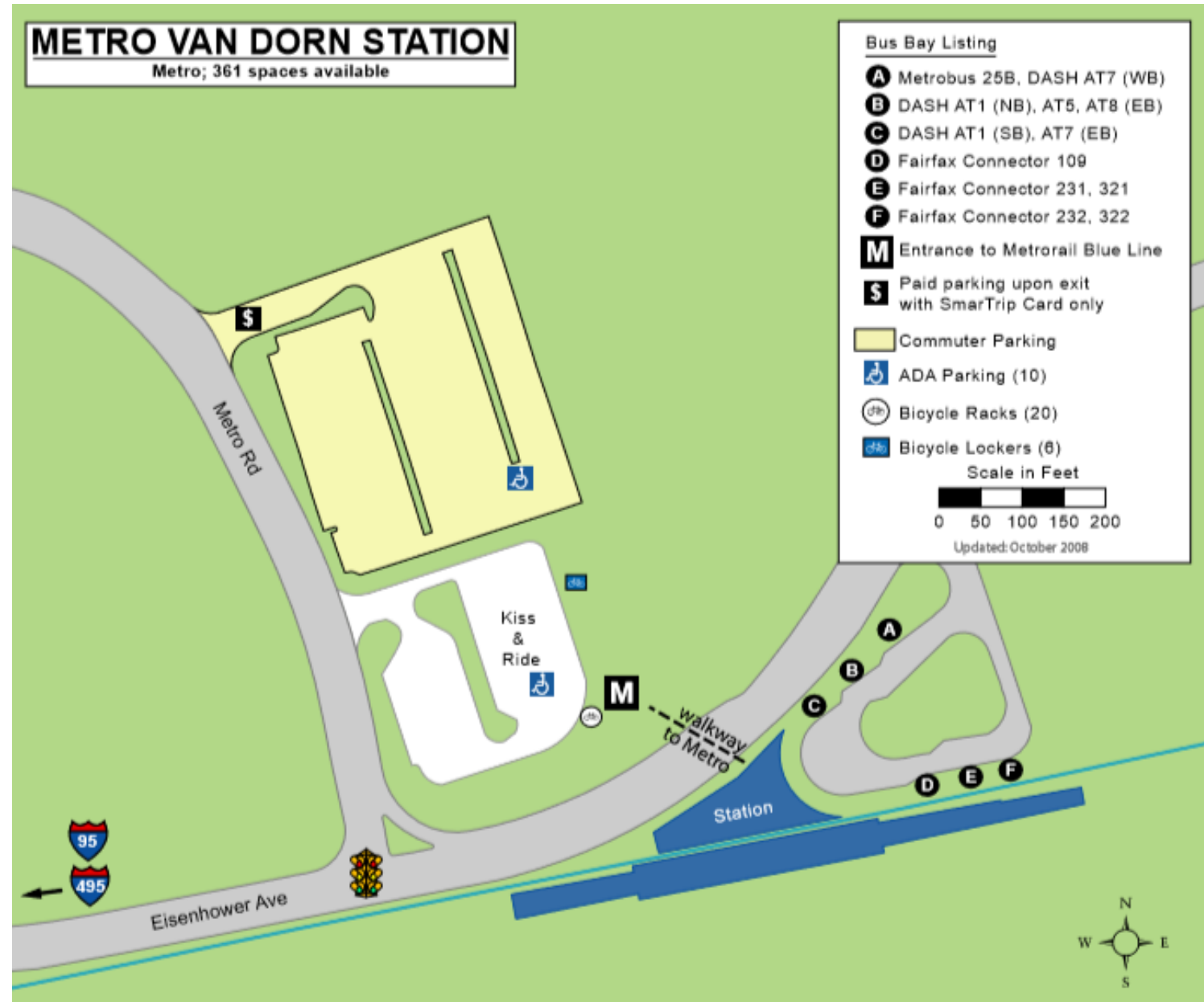
Fairfax County Impacts – Huntington Metrorail Station

- North bus bays:
 - Bays A and B will be closed
 - Bays C, D, and E will serve Routes 109, 301, 310, and REX
 - A new bus bay F will be added to serve WMATA Shuttles
 - Four temporary on-street bus stops will be added on Huntington Avenue to serve Routes 101, 171, and 10A
- South bus bays:
 - Bays A, B, and C will serve Fairfax Connector Routes 151, 152, 159, 161, and 162
 - Bays D and E will serve WMATA Routes 10A, NH2, and WMATA Shuttles



Additional Impacts – Van Dorn

- All bus routes will operate out of the Kiss & Ride Lot
- Routes Affected
 - Connector Routes 109, 231, 232, 321, and 322
 - DASH AT1, AT5, and AT8
 - Metro 25B
 - Shuttle to National Airport
- Planning underway with Alexandria to include employer shuttle location



Alternative Travel Options

- Promote Existing Alternatives to Driving Alone
 - Existing transit services including the Virginia Railway Express
 - Park-and-ride facilities, existing ridesharing arrangements, and capacity for creation of new ridesharing opportunities
 - Flexible/alternate work schedules and telework options
 - Biking and walking connections
- Leverage Commuter Connections (commuterconnections.org)
 - Facilitated by Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC), Commuter Connections provides resources for:
 - Locating regional telework/co-work centers
 - Carpools and vanpool services
 - Facilitating park-and-ride searchers
 - Assisting with Guaranteed Ride Home program



Public Outreach Strategies

- Fairfax County travel alternatives landing page
 - Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov and search “Travel Alerts” OR
 - Direct link www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/travel-alerts/metro-platforms
- Information dissemination through all platforms
 - In and out-of-home advertising
 - Media outreach/earned media coverage
 - Geo-targeted social media posts
 - Text/email alerts - Fairfax Alerts and Fairfax Connector BusTracker
 - Stakeholder outreach and engagement (direct-to-commuter/employer/visitor)



The screenshot shows the Fairfax County website page for "Metrorail Platforms Reconstruction Project Travel Alternatives". The page features a dark blue header with navigation links for "DEPARTMENT", "FAIRFAX COUNTY VIRGINIA", "SERVICES", and "CONNECT". A green "Share" button is visible in the top right corner. The main content area includes a section titled "Important News and Alerts" with a sub-header "Platform Improvement Project" and the Metro logo. The text states: "Anyone traveling within the service area of the Metrorail Blue and Yellow Lines this summer will be impacted by Metrorail station shutdowns south of the Ronald Reagan National Airport from Memorial Day 2019 through Labor Day 2019. To avoid gridlock on Fairfax County roadways, those traveling in and out of Fairfax County are urged to know their travel options, plan their travel now, and avoid driving alone." Below this text are two bullet points: "Metrorail Blue and Yellow Line Stations Closed South of National Airport This Summer - (FCDOT News Release) March, 15, 2019" and "Metro Announces Travel Options, Customer Website for Blue/Yellow Line Customers Affected by Summer Platform Reconstruction Work (WMATA News Release) - March 5, 2019". At the bottom of the page, there are five horizontal buttons: "Sign-up for Notifications and Alerts", "For Commuters and Visitors - Plan Your Travel Now", "Bus and Alternate Rail Connections", "Ridesharing and Park-and-Ride Facilities", and "For Employers - Resources and Incentives".

Public Outreach Strategies

- Collaboration, coordination and cross-promotion
 - Local, regional and state agency PIOs, MWCOG, and WMATA communications
 - Regional Transportation Demand Management (TDM) groups engaging in employer and residential outreach efforts
 - Visit Fairfax, Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA), chambers of commerce, community organizations
 - Informal commuter groups offering ridesharing alternatives
 - Fairfax Connector Telephone Information Center (TIC), Fairfax County Commuter Services (FCCS) and all other Fairfax County customer service groups/platforms

The graphic is a rectangular banner with a black top section and a yellow bottom section. The top section contains the Metro logo (M metro) with 'BL' and 'YL' in blue and yellow circles, followed by the text 'Platform Improvement Project' and 'Late May through September 2019'. Below this is a yellow bar with the text 'MAJOR TRAVEL DISRUPTIONS IN FAIRFAX COUNTY'. The middle section features a black box on the left with 'PLAN NOW!' in white, and a grid of icons on the right representing different transportation modes: Carpool (car), Vanpool (van), Bus (bus), Rail (train), Bike (bicycle), Walk (person), Telework (person at computer), and AWS/Flex (clock). The bottom section is yellow and contains the text 'Visit fairfaxcounty.gov Search "Travel Alerts"', the Fairfax County seal, and the FC DOT 40th Anniversary logo.

M metro BL YL Platform Improvement Project
Late May through September 2019

MAJOR TRAVEL DISRUPTIONS IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

PLAN NOW!

Carpool Vanpool Bus Rail
Bike Walk Telework AWS/Flex

Visit fairfaxcounty.gov
Search "Travel Alerts"

FAIRFAX COUNTY
FC DOT 40 YEARS of SERVICE



Questions and Discussion

