

**FAIRFAX COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2009**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Frank A. de la Fe, Chairman, Hunter Mill District
Jay P. Donahue, Dranesville District
Earl L. Flanagan, Mount Vernon District
James R. Hart, At-Large
Kenneth A. Lawrence, Providence District

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

Timothy J. Sargeant, At-Large

OTHER COMMISSIONER PRESENT:

Suzanne F. Harsel, Braddock District

STAFF PRESENT:

Rollo C. Axton, Chief, Transit Services Division, Fairfax County Department of
Transportation (FCDOT)
Randall T. White, Jr., Countywide Transit Services Coordinator, FCDOT
S. Robin Ransom, Assistant Director, Planning Commission Office
Kara A. DeArrastia, Deputy Clerk to the Planning Commission

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lora Byala, Consultant Project Manager, ATCS, P.L.C.
Matthew Zisman, Transportation Planner, ATCS, P.L.C.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Fairfax County Bus Transit Development Plan (TDP): Briefing and Review of Draft Final Recommendations, Fall 2009 PowerPoint presentation
- B. Announcing Plans for Improved Fairfax Bus Services flyer

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Chairman Frank A. de la Fe called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., in the Board Conference Room, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22035.

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Commissioner Lawrence MOVED THAT THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES OF JANUARY 15, 2009 BE APPROVED.

Commissioner Hart seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

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Chairman de la Fe announced that the Committee would next meet on Wednesday, December 2, 2009, at 7:30 p.m., in the Board Conference Room, to receive a presentation on the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project Extension to Wiehle Avenue.

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Randall T. White, Jr., Countywide Transit Services Coordinator, Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT), said he was also the Project Manager for the County's comprehensive 10-year Bus Transit Development Plan (TDP). He explained that the purpose of the TDP was to improve Metrobus and Fairfax Connector service throughout the County.

Rollo C. Axton, Chief, Transit Services Division, FCDOT, stated that the draft final bus service recommendations had been reviewed by every member of the Board of Supervisors and would be presented for adoption in December. He noted that public outreach consisted of 55 public meetings. Mr. Axton explained that comments and suggestions would be accepted until November 30, 2009, through any of the following formats: by attending one of the upcoming public meetings; by filling out the online comment form at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/tdp_comment.htm; by calling 703-324-1500; or by writing to Mr. White, FCDOT, 4050 Legato Road, Suite 400, Fairfax, VA 22033-2895. He said he looked forward to receiving feedback from Committee members.

Lora Byala, Consultant Project Manager, ATCS, P.L.C., delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the TDP and draft final recommendations, as shown in Attachment A. The slides covered the following topics:

- Agenda
- TDP Project Overview
- TDP Project Update
- Select TDP Tasks Results Overview: Park and Ride Lot Analysis
- Select TDP Tasks Results Overview: Special Populations Analysis

In response to a question from Chairman de la Fe, Ms. Byala explained that the objective of the Special Populations Analysis was to ensure that the general recommendations better met the transit service needs of those populations.

Ms. Byala narrated the following slide:

- Select TDP Tasks Results Overview: Prioritization Methodology

Responding to questions from Commissioner Lawrence, Ms. Byala explained that the prioritization of recommendations considered the following four factors: external project timelines (i.e. High Occupancy Toll Lanes, Base Realignment and Closure, Dulles Rail); productivity of bus routes in terms of estimated ridership; comparison of draft costs to ridership as a cost-effectiveness measure; and qualitative measures such as the population demographics surrounding a particular route. Ms. Byala noted that additional bus service to major medical

facilities had been recommended as an improvement to transit service but the routes had not been prioritized based on whether they stopped at a medical facility. She pointed out that key destinations were a main factor in service planning, which she said would be addressed in the next slide.

Ms. Byala reviewed the following slides:

- Service Planning Factors
- Existing Route Performance
- Recommendations Summary

In reply to a question from Robin Ransom, Assistant Director, Planning Commission Office, Ms. Byala indicated that the TDP had identified priority corridors on many major roadways to focus providing transit service, which included Route 28, VA-7 (Leesburg Pike), VA-267 (Dulles Toll Road), I-266, US-1 (Richmond Highway), and Fairfax County Parkway.

Ms. Byala discussed the following slide:

- Service Strategies and Examples

Replying to a question from Chairman de la Fe, Ms. Byala said ATCS and FCDOT staff had not been asked to develop recommendations for moving buses faster. She explained that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority was conducting a regional study on identifying capital improvements, such as exclusive bus lanes, traffic signal priority, and other amenities, on certain corridors to include Richmond Highway, Route 7, and Little River Turnpike. She noted that when any of those improvements were implemented, they would help enhance Fairfax Connector and Metrobus bus service that operated along those corridors.

Ms. Byala reviewed the following slides:

- Service Strategies and Examples
- Recommendations: Implement Neighborhood Shuttles and Circulators
- Implement Neighborhood Shuttles and Circulators: North County

In response to a question from Chairman de la Fe, Ms. Byala pointed out that the maps included in her presentation did not show every route in the proposed enhanced bus network. She encouraged Committee members to attend one of the upcoming public meetings so they could view detailed information on those routes. She said the results of a parallel study of the Reston Internal Bus System (RIBS) routes would be incorporated into the TDP recommendations.

Ms. Byala described the maps on the following slides:

- Implement Neighborhood Shuttles and Circulators: South County
- Implement Neighborhood Shuttles and Circulators: Tysons Corner Shuttles

Ms. Byala noted that the orange lines depicted on the Tysons Corner Shuttles map represented the various neighborhood routes connecting Pimmit Hills, Vienna, and McLean to the Tysons Corner area. She said the regional routes, such as Metrobus 28 and Fairfax Connector 401, would transport riders from farther out in the County to Tysons. She stated that the TDP recommended five Tysons Link shuttle routes that would connect the future Silver Line Metro stations with Tysons Corner Center Mall and employment centers and residential developments throughout Tysons. Ms. Byala explained that the shuttles would operate all day and run at 10-minute headways during the peak period and lunchtime, and that either one or more of the shuttles would be within a quarter-mile walking distance of any location within Tysons. She pointed out that the shuttles were not part of the circulator system recommended by the Tysons Land Use Task Force.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Lawrence, Ms. Byala discussed the two public meetings that had taken place so far and noted that the dates, times, and locations of additional meetings were listed in Attachment B. She also noted that ATCS and FCDOT staff would meet with the Tysons Transportation Association (TYTRAN) on Friday, November 13.

In reply to a question from Commissioner Donahue, Ms. Byala said ATCS and FCDOT staff had met with each member of the Board Supervisors in March 2008 and July 2009 and their input had been incorporated into the recommendations. She noted that ATCS and FCDOT staff had also solicited additional input from Supervisors Linda Smyth, John Foust, and Catherine Hudgins, regarding the Tysons Corner shuttles planning. She pointed out that Supervisors had also sent out information to their constituents about the public meetings.

Replying to a question from Commissioner Harsel, Mr. Axton explained that three phases of transit service were proposed for Tysons Corner:

- Phase 1 – Lunchtime Tysons Connector shuttle, funded by the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority's Dulles Corridor Metrorail Rail Project Transportation Management Plan (TMP), and scheduled to commence on November 23, 2009.
- Phase 2 – Tysons Link shuttle routes, scheduled to begin when the Silver Line Metro stations opened.
- Phase 3 – Circulator system recommended by the Tysons Land Use Task Force and planned for the next 30 years.

Ms. Byala pointed out that the TDP reports, maps, and other related information were available on the TDP Web page at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/tdp.htm.

Concluding her presentation, Ms. Byala reviewed the final slide:

- Recommendations: Implement BRT/Enhanced Bus

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In response to a question from Commissioner Flanagan, Ms. Byala said feedback provided by Metrobus planning staff involved in the County's internal staff work group had been incorporated into the TDP recommendations.

Mr. Axton replied to a question from Commissioner Flanagan about funds allocated for bus stop improvements.

Referring to the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) recommendations slide, Chairman de la Fe pointed out that the express routes along VA-267 would be eliminated when the Silver Line opened. Ms. Byala said she would verify this and noted that no service enhancements would be made to VA-267 once the Silver Line opened. Mr. White agreed and explained that the implementation plan would not be developed until the service recommendations had been finalized.

In reply to a question from Commissioner Lawrence, Ms. Byala clarified that the "Boardings/Rev-Mile" column heading in the "Existing Route Performance" chart represented boardings per revenue-mile. She said the existing route performance was very healthy based on the area and types of land use being served.

Mr. Axton commented on the difficulty that he had encountered attempting to discontinue bus service near the rail lines along routes 595, 597, and 380 from Springfield.

Commissioner Harsel recalled her experience riding a bus and said she understood why people would object to cutting a route.

Chairman de la Fe said he believed the TDP recommendations considered the importance of convenient bus service.

At the request of Chairman de la Fe, Ms. Byala distributed flyers that announced the upcoming public meetings on improved Fairfax County bus services, as shown in Attachment B.

Chairman de la Fe thanked Ms. Byala for her informative presentation.

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.
Frank A. de la Fe, Chairman

An audio recording of this meeting is available in the Planning Commission Office, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 330, Fairfax, Virginia 22035.

Minutes by: Kara A. DeArrastia
Approved on: December 2, 2009

Linda B. Rodeffer, Clerk
Fairfax County Planning Commission

Fairfax County Bus Transit Development Plan (TDP)



Briefing and Review of Draft Final Recommendations
Fall 2009

Agenda

- Purpose of this meeting
- TDP Overview
- Results of select TDP tasks
- Draft recommendations review
- Questions/Comments

TDP Project Overview

- Develop 10-year Transit Development Plan for bus service in the entire County.
- All bus routes funded by and operating in Fairfax County, both Fairfax Connector and Metrobus, have been reviewed and modifications recommended as warranted.
- New and revised services have been proposed based on current needs, current ridership, projected demographics and known large scale projects.
- Other TDP tasks looked at other aspects of service improvements.

TDP Project Update

- Data collection and analysis is complete.
- Initial outreach activities completed in Spring 2008.
- Service recommendations in “draft final” form.
- Implementation plan to be developed, including phasing of service changes.
- Special populations analysis in draft final form.
- Potential new park and ride lot locations identified.
- Detailed Tysons analysis for Phase 1 Silver Line in progress.

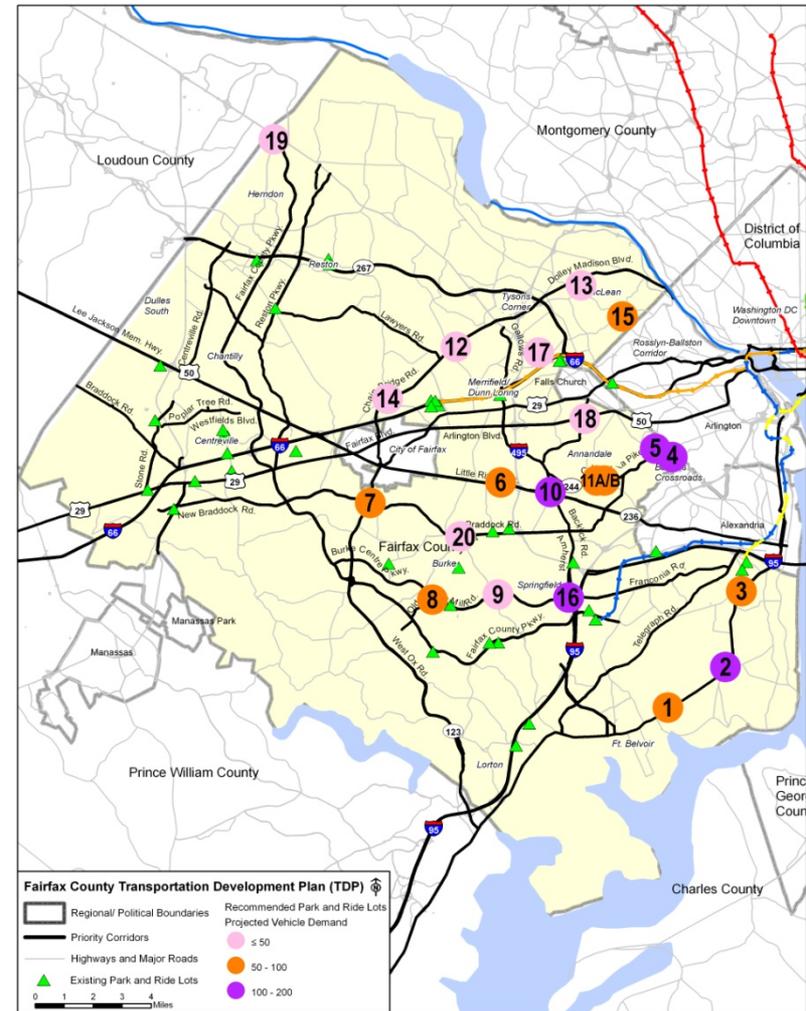
TDP Project Update (continued)

- Met with all members of Board of Supervisors, July 2009.
- Outreach meetings to share the draft final recommendations with the public will be held in Fall 2009.
- Final report, including addressing comments from Board of Supervisors and public, will be available in December 2009.

Select TDP Tasks Results Overview:

Park and Ride Lot Analysis

- Identified general locations along priority corridor network and elsewhere.
- Located specific potential sites based on existing land use, ownership records and site visits.
- Additional analysis on proposed locations for transit centers, park and ride lots and Connector Stores is underway and this list may be refined.



Select TDP Tasks Results Overview:

Special Populations Analysis

- Concentrated focus on the transit needs of three populations: seniors, disabled and workforce housing residents.
- Met with and recorded comments and concerns of the Disability Services Board (DSB) and Commission on Aging (COA), and spoke with representatives from the County's Housing and Community Development Department.
- Reviewed locations of these populations vis-à-vis existing services and proposed services.
- Conducted a review of the proposed services.

Select TDP Tasks Results Overview:

Prioritization Methodology

- Prioritization of recommendations
 - High (Short-term): first 3 years of planning period
 - Medium (Medium-term): second 3 years of the planning period
 - Low (Long-term): last part of the planning period
- Prioritization considers four factors
 - External Project Timelines, i.e. BRAC, Dulles Rail, HOT Lanes
 - Productivity (ridership)
 - Cost-effectiveness
 - Qualitative Measures (e.g. essential mobility needs)

Service Planning Factors

- Land use/density
- Demographic characteristics
- Travel patterns
- Route design principles
- Market segmentation approach
- Upcoming changes, i.e., BRAC, Dulles Rail, etc.
- Priority corridors
- Performance of existing service

Existing Route Performance

	Routes	Peak Buses	Weekday Boardings	Boardings/ Rev-Mile	Boardings/ Platform-Hr	Boardings/ Trip
South County	24	72	20,591	1.78	22	26
North County	26	74	19,762	1.60	25	22
All Fairfax Connector	50	146	40,353	1.69	24	24
All Metrobus in County	41	238	72,463	2.57	36	56

Recommendations Summary

- Overall goal is prudent service expansion
- Rationalize existing service
 - Underperforming
 - Duplicative
 - Circuitous
 - Unreliable
- Accommodate/take advantage of external changes
 - BRAC
 - Silver Line
 - HOT Lanes

Service Strategies and Examples

- Improve frequency of service
 - 151/2 Richmond Highway Circulators
- Extend service hours
 - 463 Dunn Loring-Tysons midday and Saturday service
- Overlay limited-stop premium service
 - 401 Backlick/Gallows
- Split long routes to improve reliability
 - Metrobus 2B Lee Highway split at Dunn Loring
- Improve directness
 - Metrobus 3T Pimmit Hills

Service Strategies and Examples (cont'd)

- Create new connections
 - Franconia-Springfield to GMU via Roberts Road
- Extend routes to cover new areas
 - Metrobus 1C rerouted through Government Center area
- Combine route segments more effectively
 - Rework 305 and 307 into new 309
- Establish new express routes using HOT Lanes
 - Tysons to Fort Belvoir
- Establish new neighborhood circulators with smaller buses
 - New Burke neighborhood shuttles
- Accommodate Silver Line construction
 - Restructure Reston service to future Wiehle Ave station
 - New Tysons Link shuttles

Recommendations:

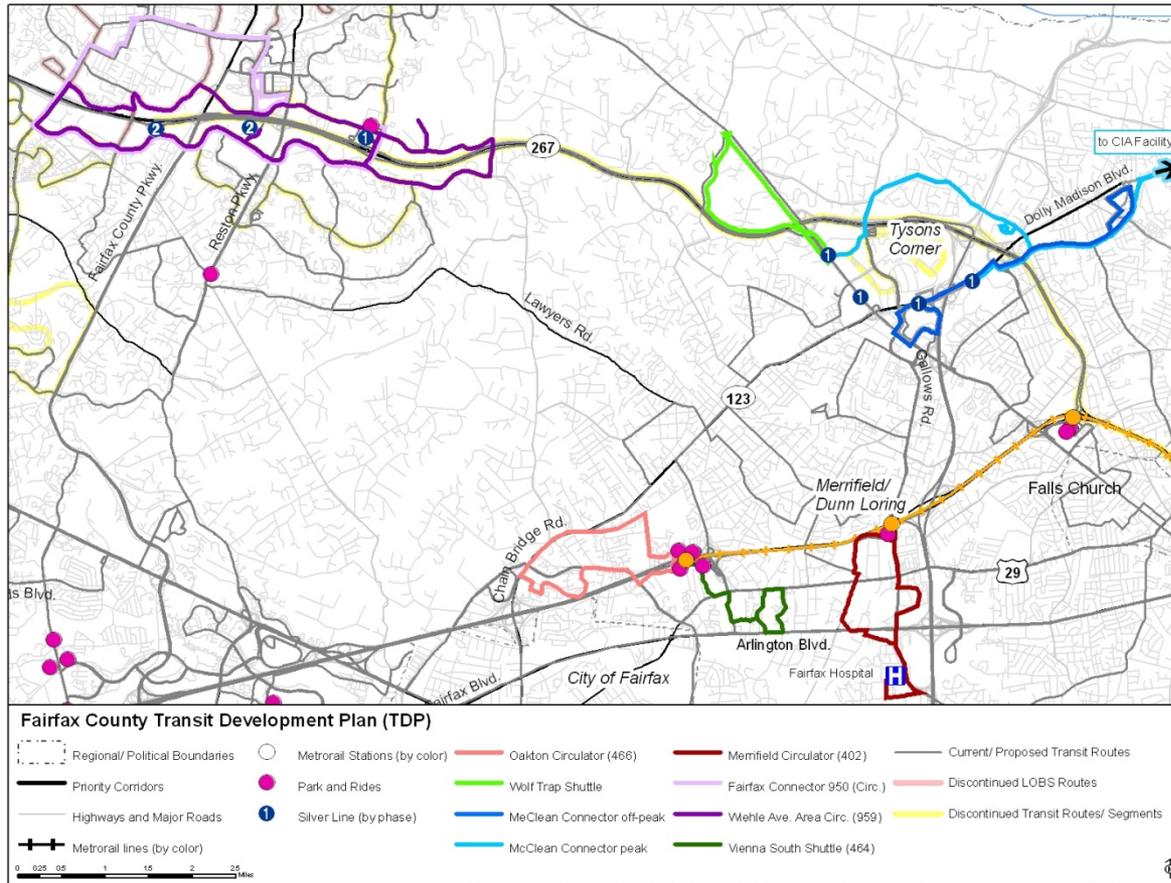
Implement Neighborhood Shuttles and Circulators

- Existing Circulators:
 - Richmond Highway Circulators (151/152, 161/162) [full-size]
 - Greater Springfield Circulators (321/322) [full-size]
 - I-95 Circulators (331/332) [full-size]
 - TAGS Shuttles [small]
 - RIBS [small]
- New Circulators and Shuttles:
 - McLean Connector [small]
 - Wolf Trap Shuttle [TBD based on demand]
 - Tysons Shuttles [small]
 - Wiehle Avenue Area Circulator (959) [full-size]
 - Merrifield Circulator [medium]
 - Fairfax Connector 950 Conversion to Reston/Herndon Circulator [small]
 - Annandale Circulator [small]
 - Burke Circulators [small]
 - I-95 Circulators (333 and 334) [full-size]
 - BRAC Shuttles 1 and 2 [small]
- Other routes for which smaller buses might be appropriate:
 - Restructured Fairfax Connector 574 [small to medium]
 - Restructured Fairfax Connector 466 [small]
 - Restructured Fairfax Connector 462 and 463* [small]
 - New Fairfax Connector routes 624 and 625 [small]
 - Restructured Fairfax Connector 231/232 [small]
 - Vienna South Feeder (464) [small]
 - Restructured Fairfax Connector 304 [small]
 - Restructured Fairfax Connector 305/307 into 309 [small]
 - New Franconia-Springfield to GMU Route [medium]
 - New Franconia-Springfield to Fair Oaks Mall Route [medium]

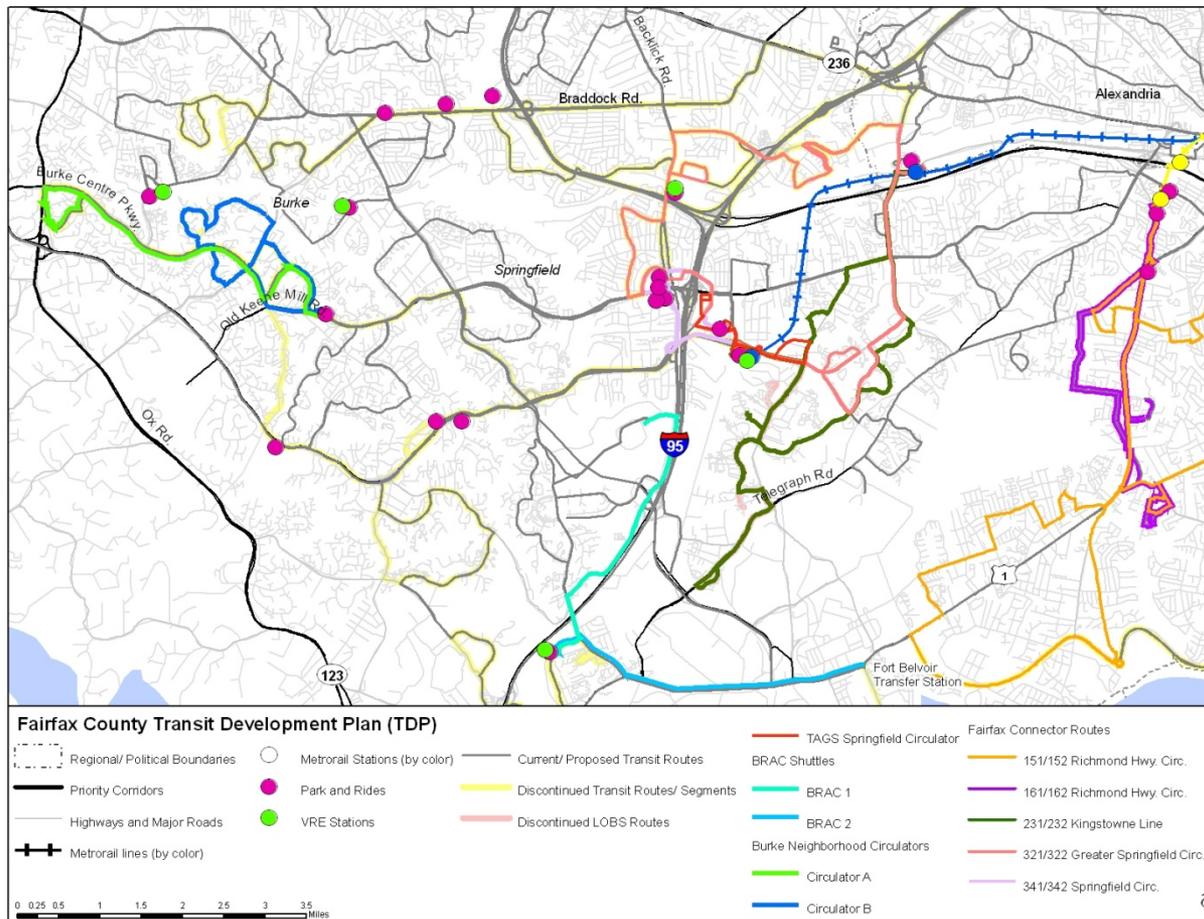
Small ~ 30', Medium~35', Full-Size=40'

* Formerly 402 and 403 prior to June 28, 2009

Implement Neighborhood Shuttles and Circulators: North County

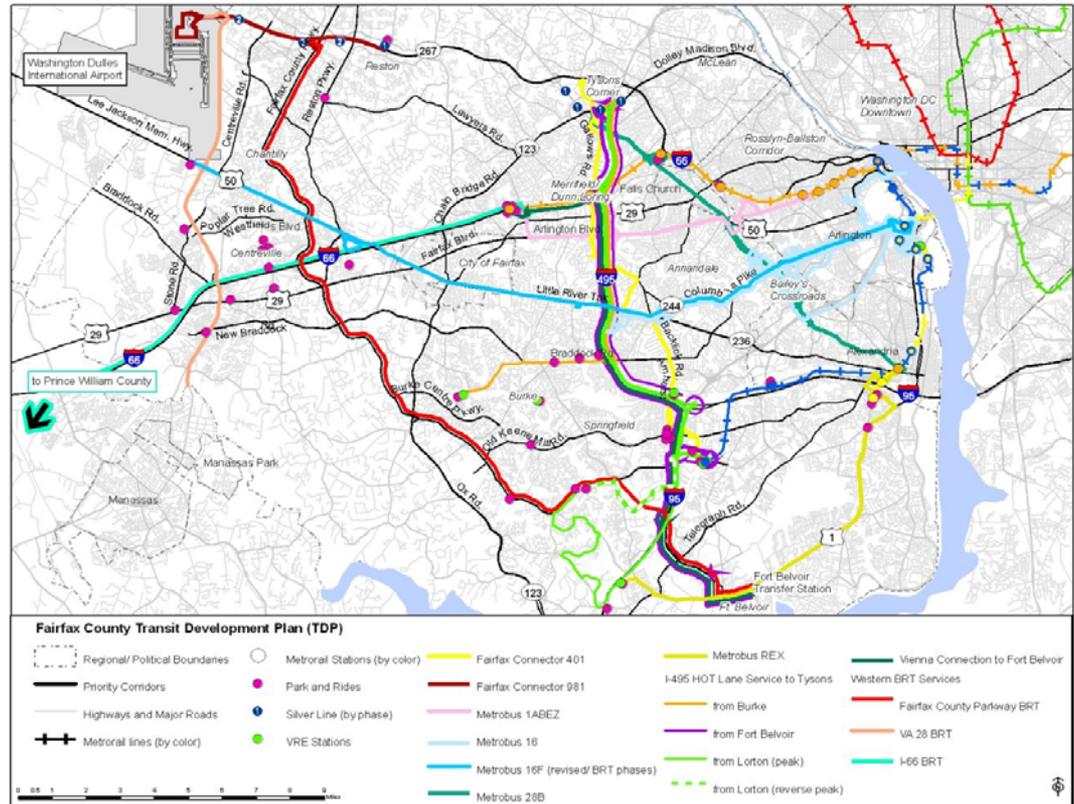


Implement Neighborhood Shuttles and Circulators: South County



Recommendations: Implement BRT/Enhanced Bus

- Richmond Highway (REX)-
Implemented
- Route 7 (Metrobus 28s)
- US-29/US-50 (Metrobus 1s)
- Columbia Pike – *Implemented in Arlington, extend to Fairfax*
- Columbia Pike/Little River Turnpike
- I-95/395 HOT Lanes and I-495 HOT Lanes
 - Lorton to Tysons
 - Burke Center to Tysons
 - Centreville to Tysons
 - Vienna to Fort Belvoir
 - Vienna to Reston-Herndon
 - Tysons to Fort Belvoir
- Express Routes on I-66 and I-267
- *Longer Term Cross County Service*
 - Route 28
 - Fairfax County Parkway



Questions and Comments

Contact Information

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Consultant Project Manager

Lora Byala

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www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/tdp.htm

Announcing Plans for Improved Fairfax Bus Services



We've received your input and suggestions and now Fairfax County is excited to present its ten-year bus service plan. Join us at a meeting to discuss improved services such as more frequent bus service and service to more places that will better meet your needs. Personnel working on the project will be available to take your comments and answer questions.

You can also learn more and comment by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/tdp.htm – or call 703-324-1500, TTY 711, to leave a recorded message with your comments.

Make sure your bus service serves you!



FAIRFAX COUNTY IS FINALIZING A COMPREHENSIVE 10-YEAR PLAN FOR IMPROVING FAIRFAX CONNECTOR AND METROBUS SERVICE COUNTYWIDE

Please join us at one of the following open house meetings to learn more:

Thursday, Oct. 15
6-8 p.m.
Vienna Town Hall
127 Center Street South,
Vienna

Thursday, Nov. 5
6-8 p.m.
Springfield Government Center
6140 Rolling Road,
Springfield

Monday, Nov. 16
6-8 p.m.
County Government Center
12000 Government Ctr Pkwy,
Fairfax

Saturday, Oct. 17*
10 a.m.-noon
County Government Center
12000 Government Ctr Pkwy,
Fairfax

Monday, Nov. 9
6-8 p.m.
North County Government
Center
12000 Bowman Towne Dr,
Reston

Tuesday, Nov. 17*
6-8 p.m.
South County Center
8350 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria

Wednesday, Nov. 4
6-8 p.m.
Mason District Government
Center
6507 Columbia Pike,
Annandale

Tuesday, Nov. 10
6-8 p.m.
McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Avenue,
McLean

Formal presentations at 7 p.m. for the evening meetings and 11 a.m. for the Saturday meeting.

** Spanish speaking staff will be in attendance at the Oct. 17 and Nov. 17 meetings.*

** Intérpretes de español estarán disponibles en la reuniones del 17 de oct. y 17 de nov.*



To request reasonable ADA accommodations or alternative format of materials, call Katharyn Rogers at 703-877-5637, TTY 711.

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