

# Better Bus Network Redesign

Fairfax County Board Transportation Committee

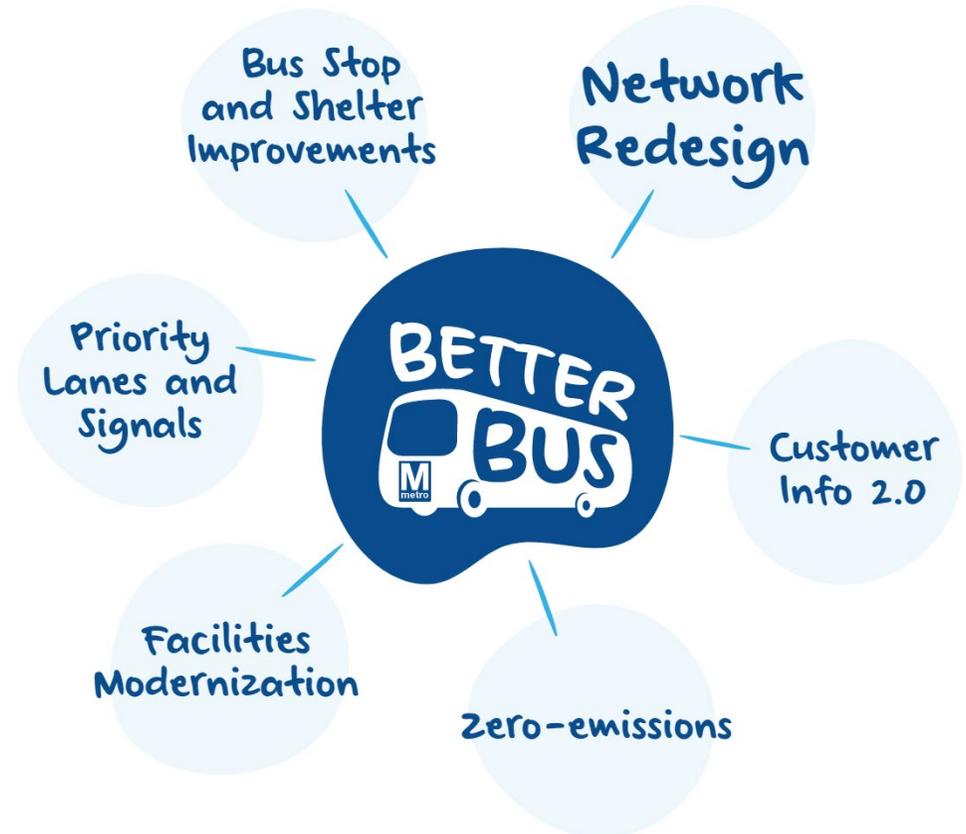
May 16, 2023





# 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



# Why Redesign the Bus Network?



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



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



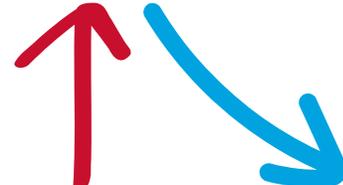
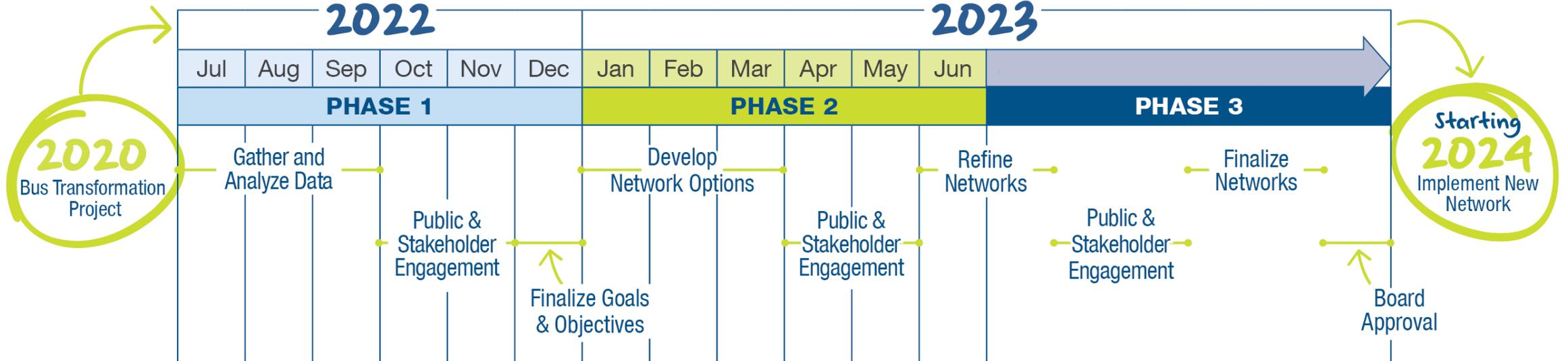
**To keep up with our evolving region and the people that live here**



**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 5**

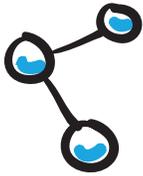




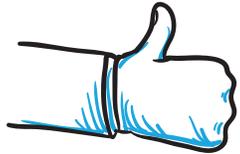
# Highlights from the Visionary Network



# The Draft Visionary Network Could Deliver...



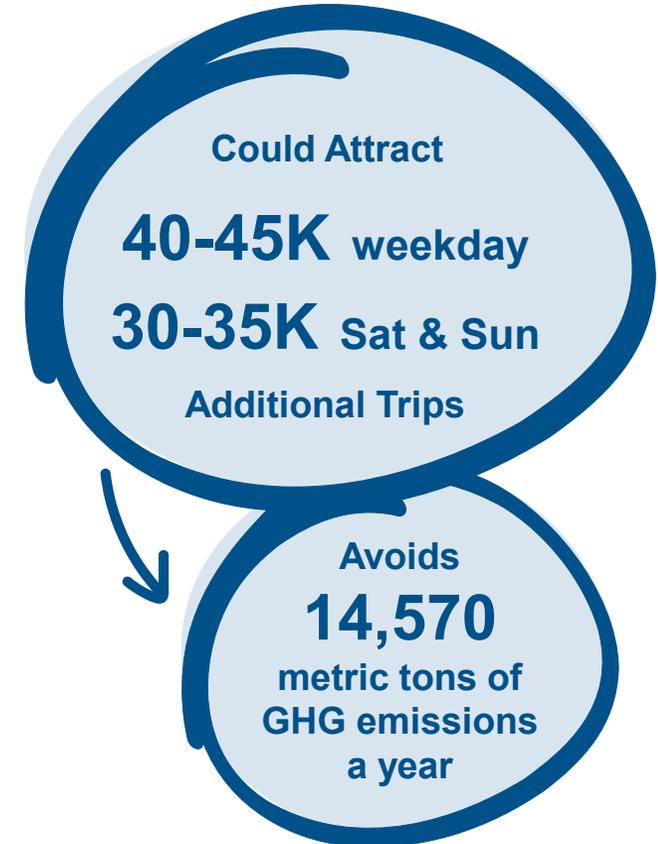
**Regional Connectivity** – Matches when and where people want to travel



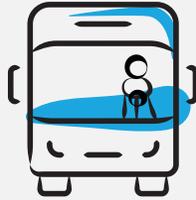
**Quality Customer and Operator Experience** – Provides fast, frequent, and reliable service



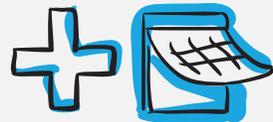
**Equity** – Addresses inequities and increases access to opportunity for disenfranchised communities



# The Bus Network the Region Needs



Expanded Frequent  
Service Network



More service all  
day/all week

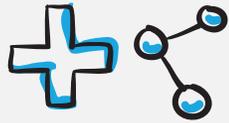
## *Draft Visionary Network Essentials*

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

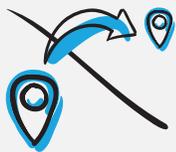
# The Bus Network the Region Needs



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 existing and future rail lines



New 24-hour route connecting Bethesda and Tysons

Connect to transit hubs



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

Connect to hospitals, schools and employment



New Inova Alexandria Hospital hub  
More connections to George Mason University

Connect around the clock



Dulles International Airport after Metrorail closes

# The Visionary Network... *Connects the Region*

By providing more access to high frequency service to more people at more times of day  
Example: Fairfax County



73% more on Saturdays  
64% more on Sundays



60% more during the  
weekday midday



85% more routes with  
12 min or better service



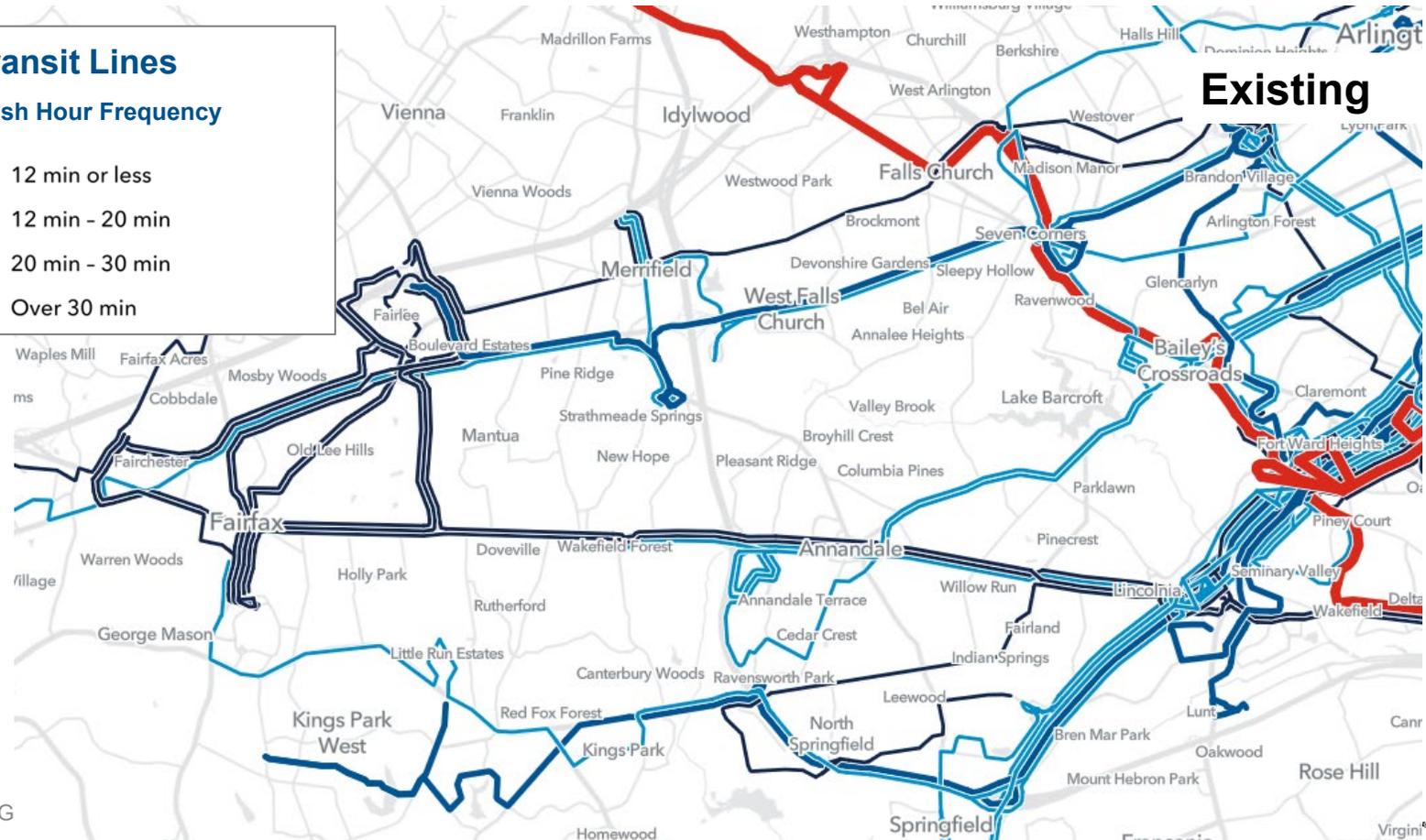
300% more routes with  
12-20 min service



**Transit Lines**

Rush Hour Frequency

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





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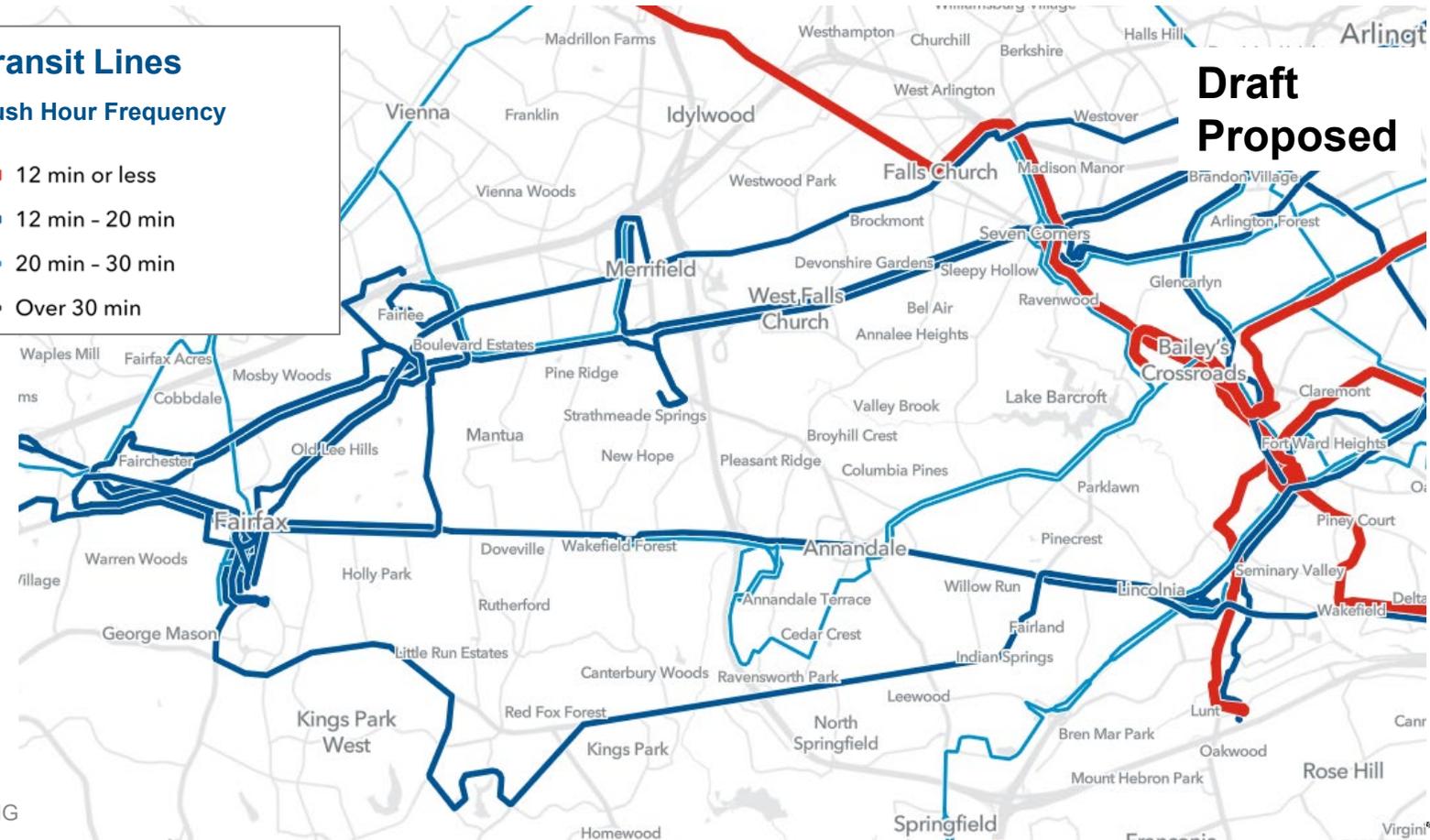
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# Draft Visionary Network Considerations



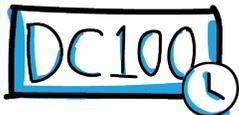
Data and public, bus operations, jurisdiction partner **input** formed the basis for the draft Visionary Network



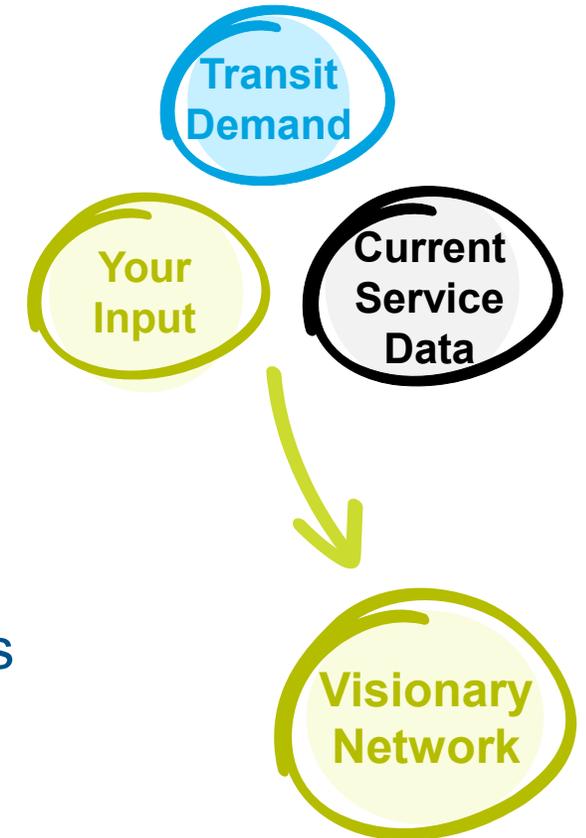
Implementing the draft Visionary Network will require a **35 percent increase in funding for bus in the region**



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





# Engagement Approach



# How Will We Be Engaging the Public?



We're reaching a wide variety of customers in a wide variety of ways at a wide variety of events!  
Customers will find the Better Bus blue-shirt teams...



...surveying on buses



...hearing from youth audiences

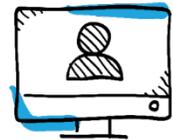
We're hosting  
50 events in 50 days  
to celebrate  
**50**  
Years  
of Metrobus!



## UPCOMING POP-UP EVENT



Tuesday, May 9 – 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
@ Seven Corners Transit Center



...informing virtually at webinars in each jurisdiction

MD

VA

DC

...chatting at pop-ups

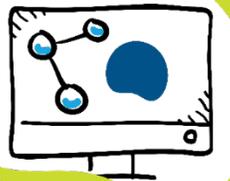


...engaging with community-based organizations



...listening at community workshops

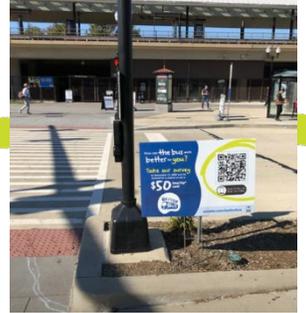
Those who can't make it to our events can visit [wmata.com/betterbus](http://wmata.com/betterbus) to explore the new network and provide feedback virtually...



# Better Bus Virtual Experience LAB



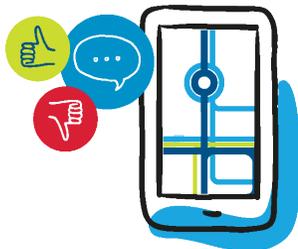
Experience the Visionary Network Online!



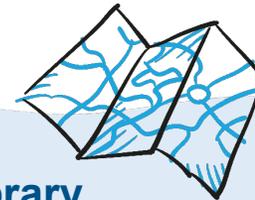
**New Trip Planner**  
Compare your trip on the current network to the Visionary Network



**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

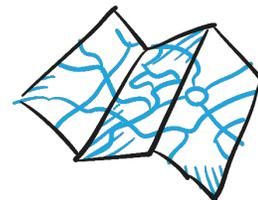


**Survey**  
Tell us what you think of the Visionary Network and what it means to you



# Network Built in Coordination with Jurisdictional Partners

- Recurring meeting with the project's Technical Committee since project kick-off
  - To get early input and ensure collaboration with jurisdictional partner throughout the project
- Network design informed by two rounds of all-day jurisdictional coordination workshops
- Visionary Network build on partners' existing and planned service



Jurisdictional Coordination Workshops

# Next Stop: Better Bus

- Continue engaging customers, future customers, elected officials, and other audiences on the draft Visionary Network
- Refine draft Visionary Network using information and comments received Spring 2023





# Appendix

# The Visionary Network... **Existing** **Connects the Region**

By providing service to people where and when they need it.



**1.1M residents across the region will have 24-hour bus service** (300k Virginia residents)

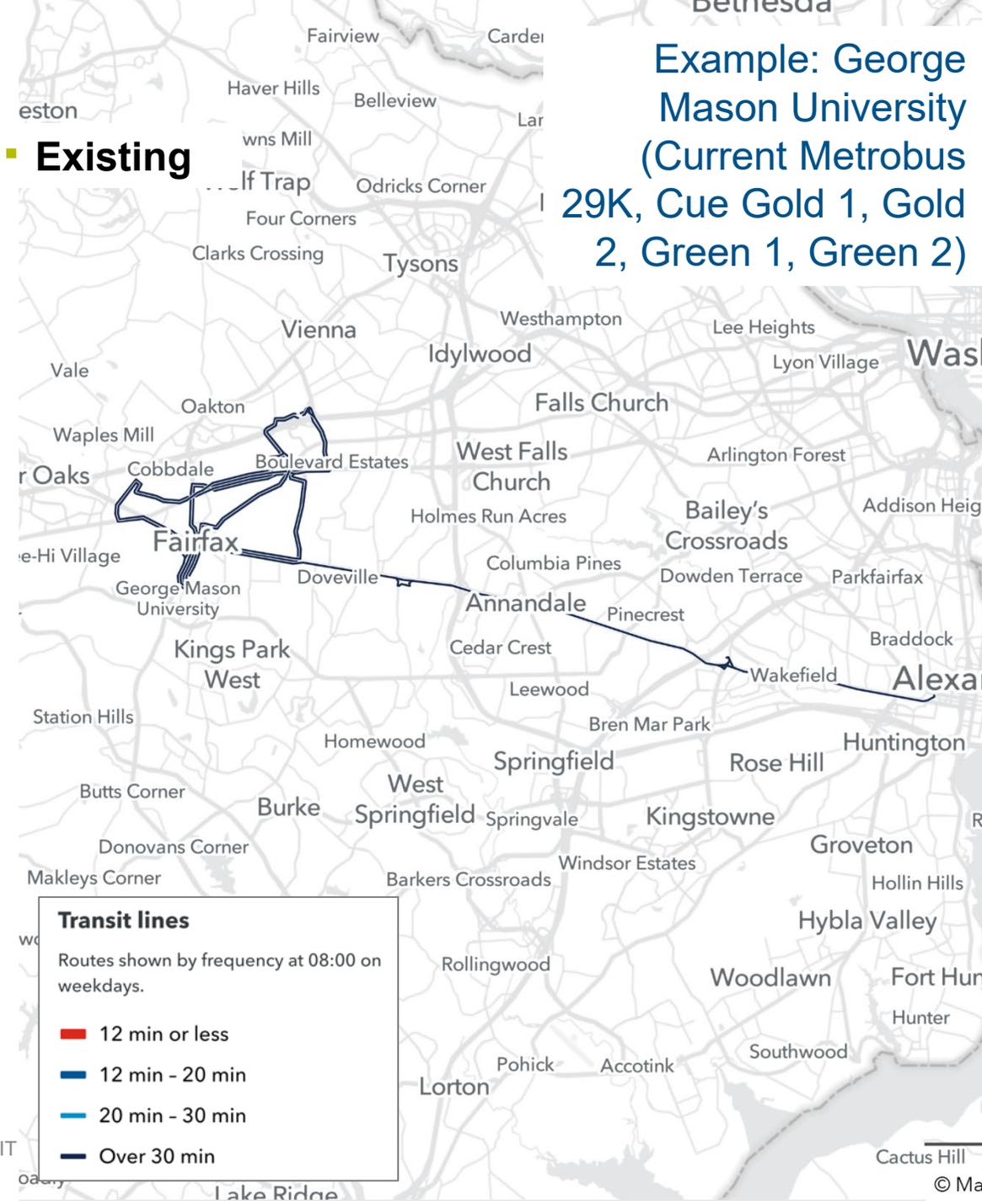


**Better connections** to hospitals, schools and employment, such as new Inova Alexandria Hospital hub and GMU



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

Example: George Mason University (Current Metrobus 29K, Cue Gold 1, Gold 2, Green 1, Green 2)



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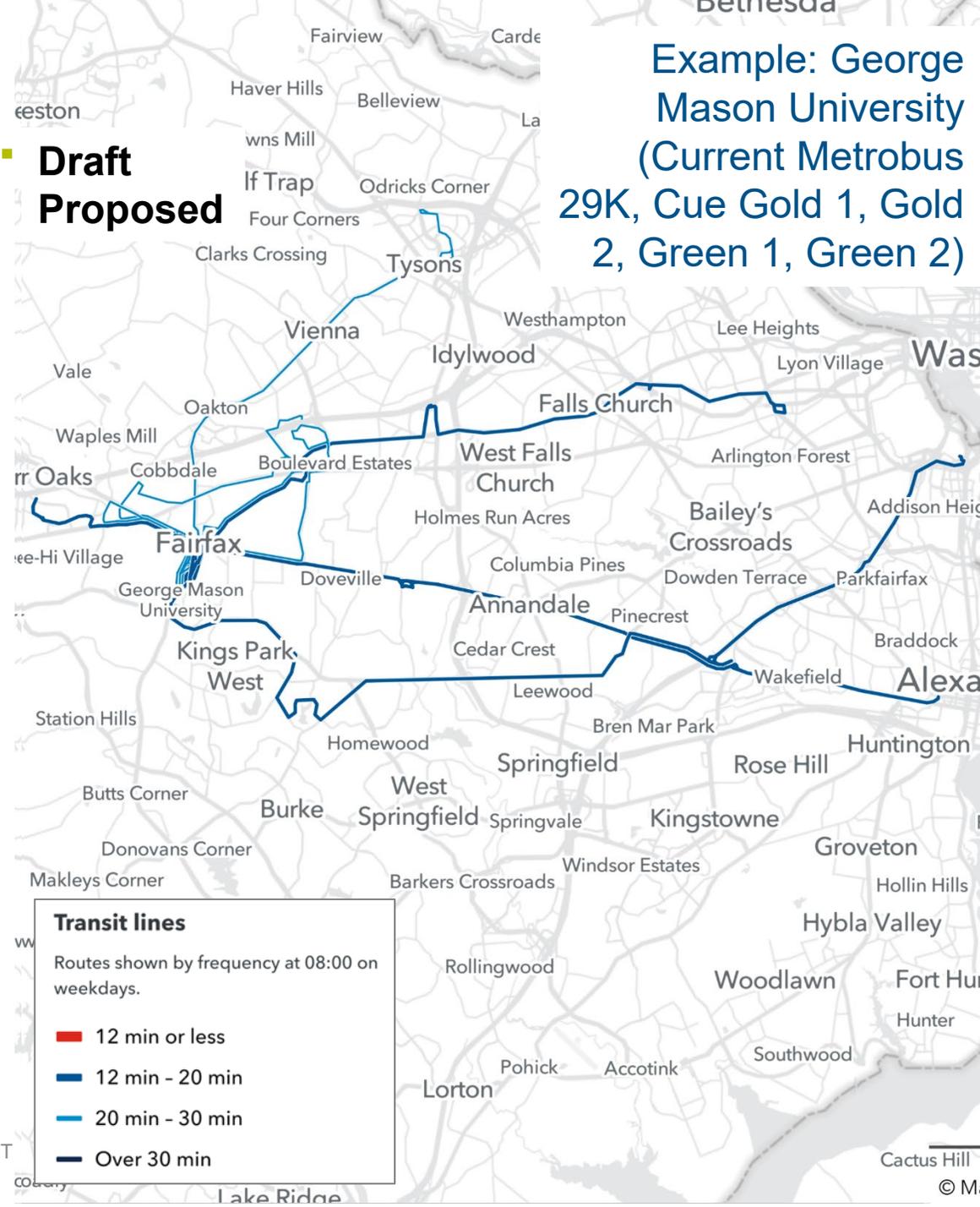


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**Draft  
Proposed**



# The Visionary Network... *Improves the Customer Experience*

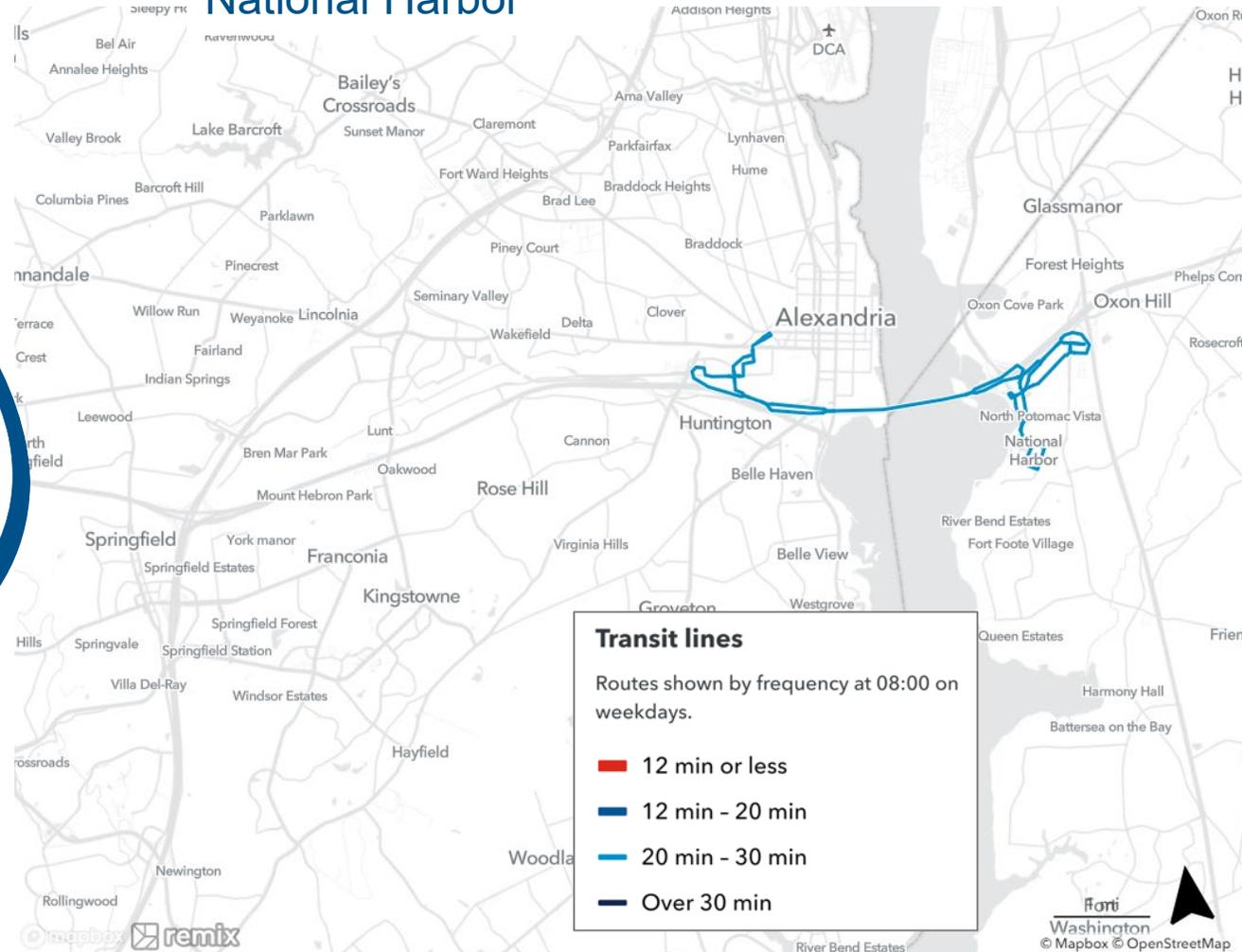
By providing convenient transit options for more of the trips people make

- **Faster average trips** for current bus customers
- 10% more transit trips 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!

Example: Franconia-Springfield to National Harbor

Existing



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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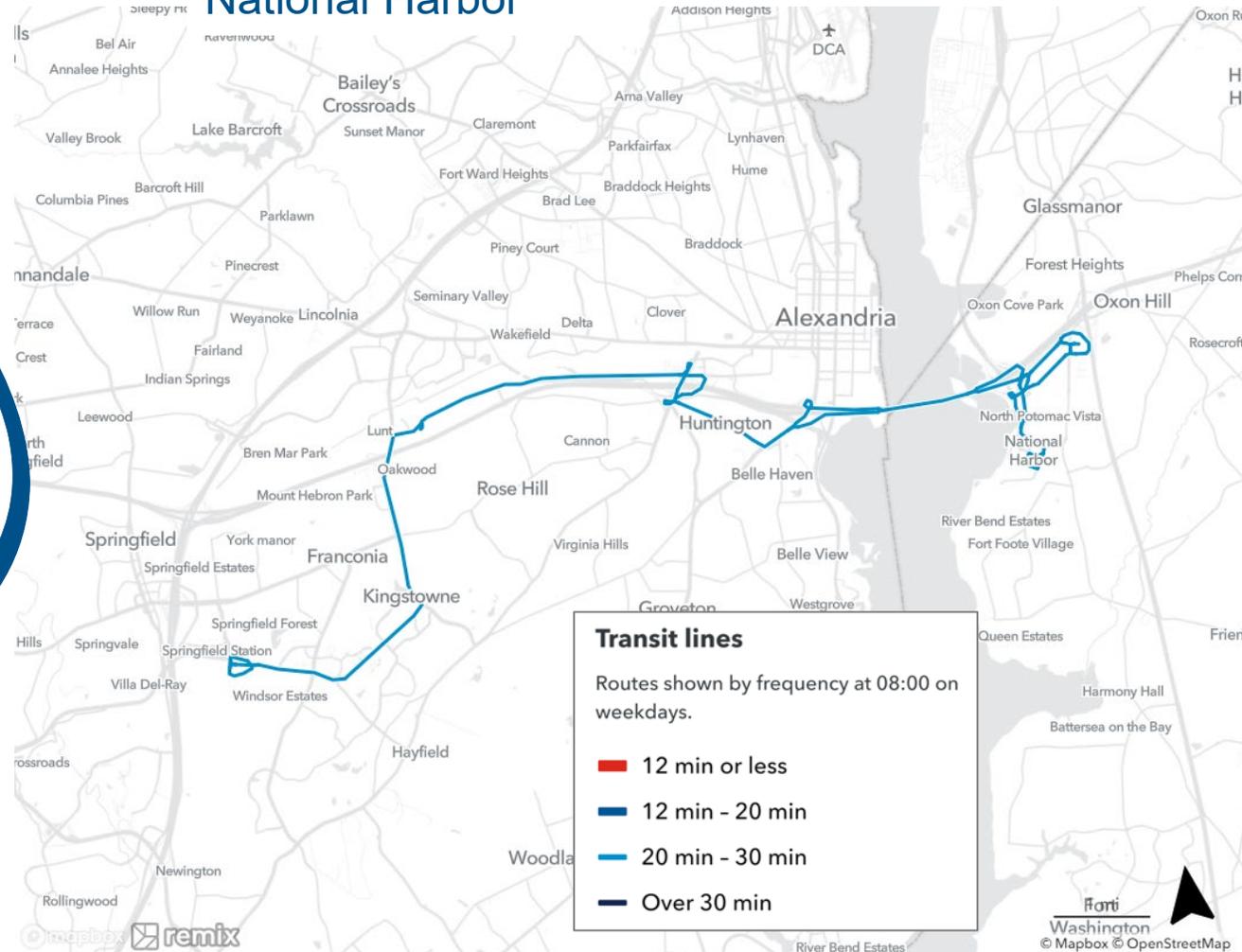
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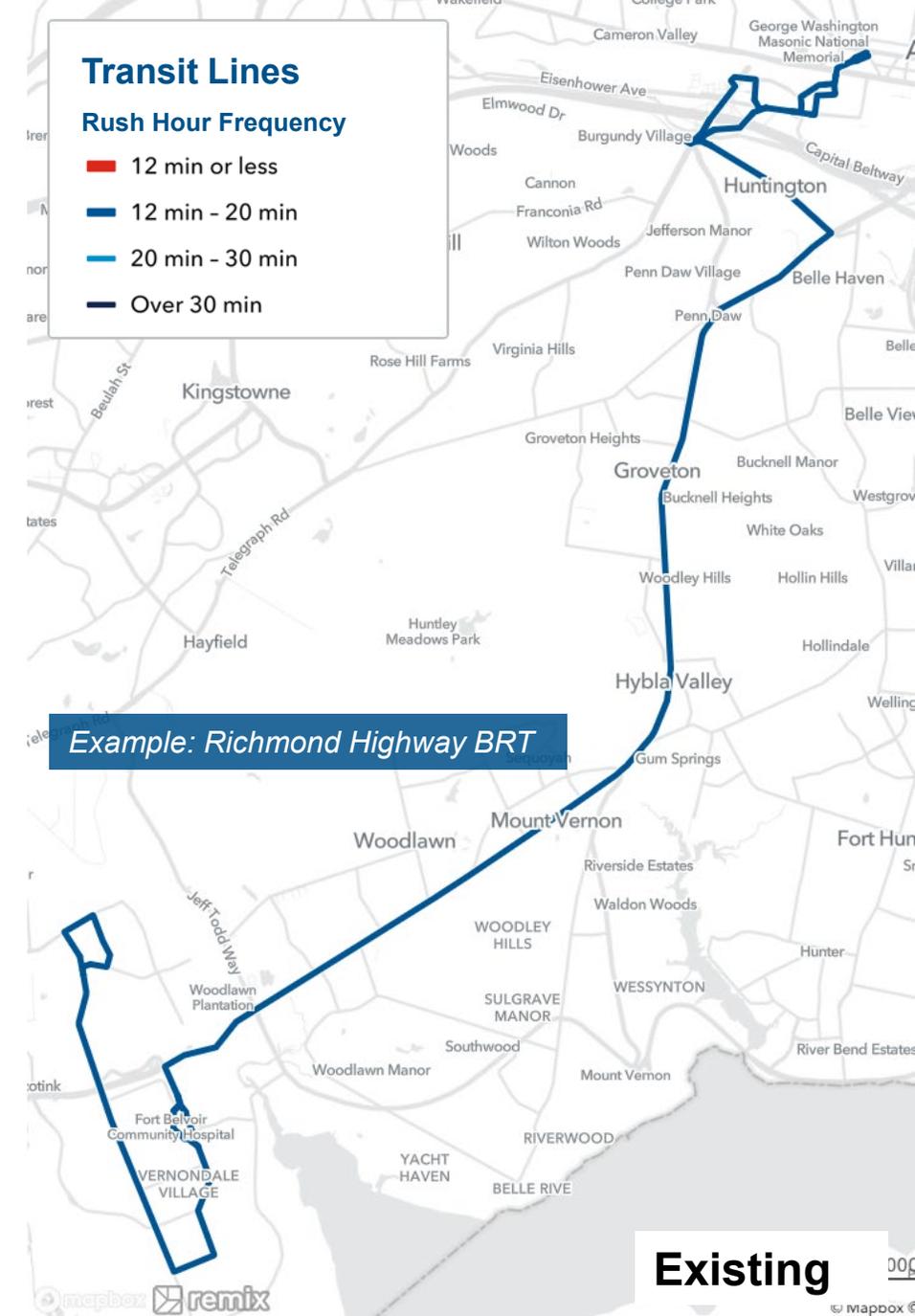
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# The Draft Visionary Network... *Improves the Customer Experience*

By providing more bus service in dedicated/prioritized facilities in Virginia

- More bus service operates on streets with bus priority in Virginia, **making service faster and more reliable to ride and operate**
  - 84% more on Sundays (116% more in VA)
  - 64% more on Saturdays (108% more in VA), and
  - 39% more midday (66% more in VA)
- **Maximizes jurisdictional partner investments** in bus priority infrastructure



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