



County of Fairfax, Virginia



Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit Public Meeting #2 January 23, 2019

The Richmond Highway BRT project is funded in part by the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority.





County of Fairfax, Virginia

Agenda

- Project Overview
- Project Updates
- Next Steps
- Staying Involved



Department of Transportation



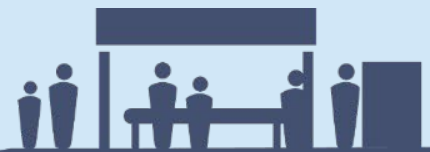


County of Fairfax, Virginia

BRT VIDEO



Project Overview



Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit





How We Got To BRT

- **Route 1 Multimodal Alternatives Analysis**
- **Embark Richmond Highway**
 - Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan Amendment 2015-IV-MV1
 - Richmond Highway Corridor Improvements Projects
 - Richmond Highway BRT



Route 1 Multimodal Alternatives Analysis

- Led by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)
- Studied 15-mile segment of Richmond Highway from Huntington Metrorail to Woodbridge
- Significant Community Input
- Final recommendation was phased implementation of Alternative 4
 - Near-term: Median-running BRT
 - Long-term: A Metrorail extension to Hybla Valley, with BRT
 - Assumes Richmond Highway has a consistent six-lane cross-section
- Completed in January 2015



Four Transit Alternatives

1: BRT – Curb

2: BRT – Median

3: LRT

4: Metrorail/BRT Hybrid





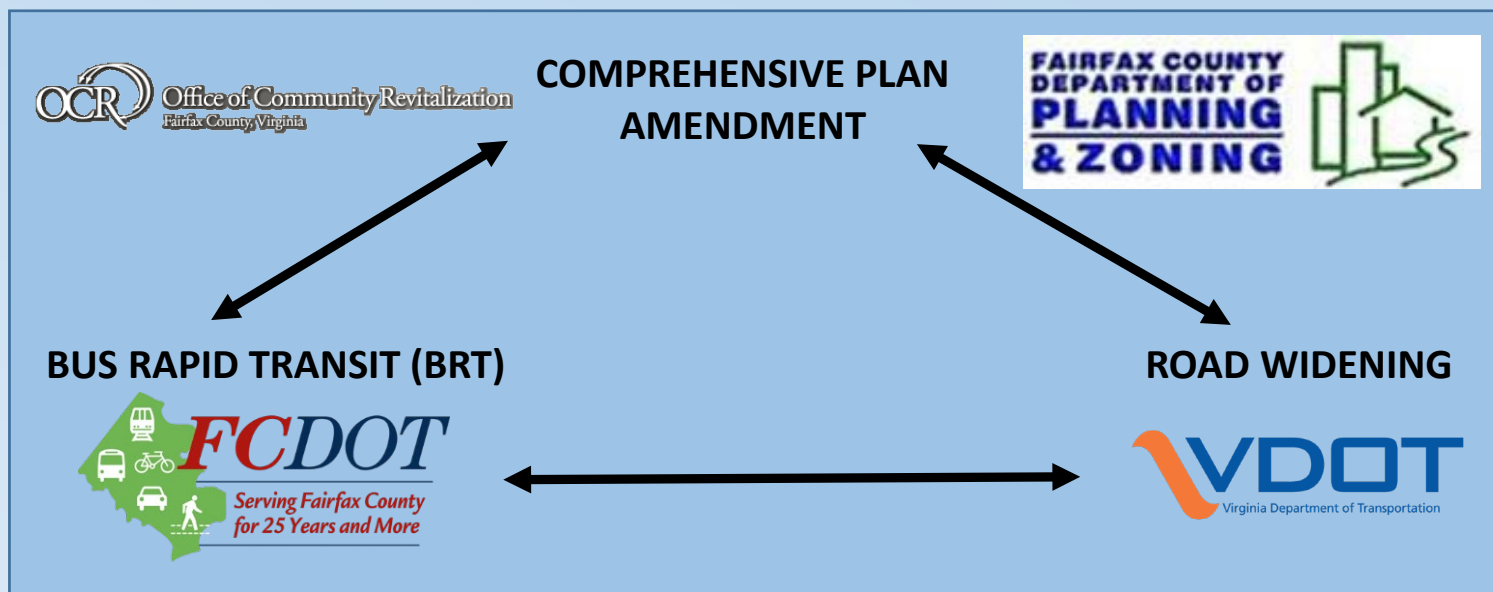
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Embark Richmond Highway



Embark Richmond Highway is the County's vision for the corridor that encompasses and expands upon the DRPT recommendations



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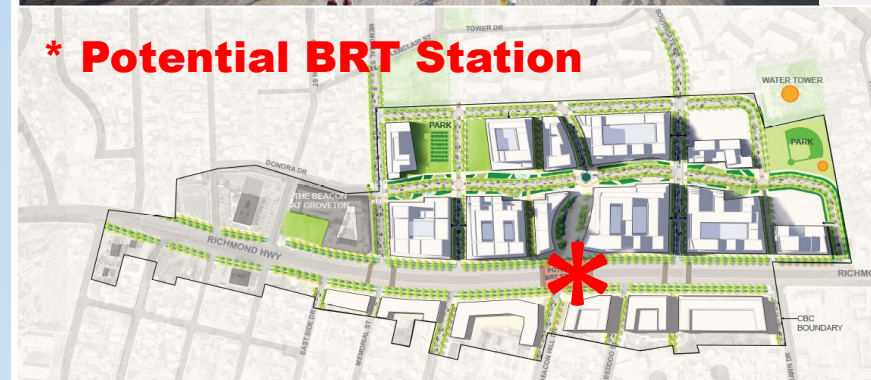




Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan Amendment 2015-IV-MV1

- **Adopted March 20, 2018**
- Establishes **corridor-wide planning goals and objectives**, with an urban design vision and land use changes **in support of BRT**, and guidance for creating **transit-oriented places**
- Implementation will occur through the rezoning and development process
- Office of Community Revitalization (OCR) is now developing **Urban Design Guidelines** for the corridor

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Richmond Highway Corridor Improvements Projects

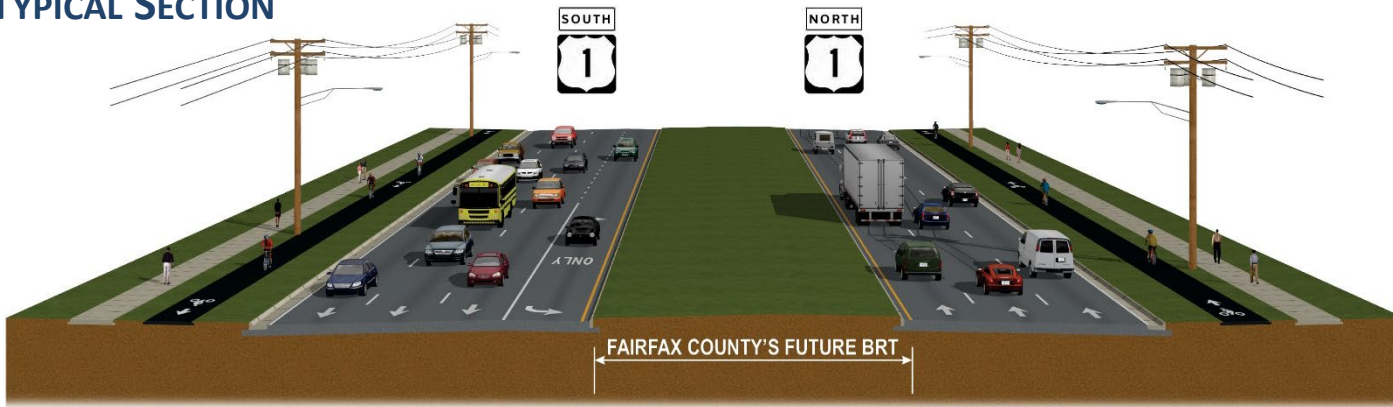
- **Project 1: Telegraph Road to Mount Vernon Highway- Federal Highway Administration [FHWA Eastern Federal Lands]**
 - Completed in fall 2017.
- **Project 2: Jeff Todd Way to Napper Road- Virginia Department of Transportation [VDOT]**
 - Ongoing
 - 2.9 miles
 - Environmental and preliminary design work is currently underway
 - Last remaining four-lane section north of Fort Belvoir



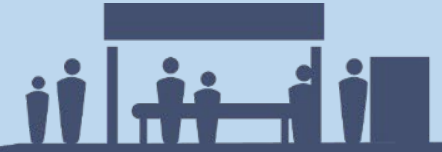
Richmond Highway Corridor Improvements - Project 2

- **VDOT project is under design**, with construction anticipated for 2023-2025
- **In each direction: an additional lane, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, and BRT accommodations**

TYPICAL SECTION

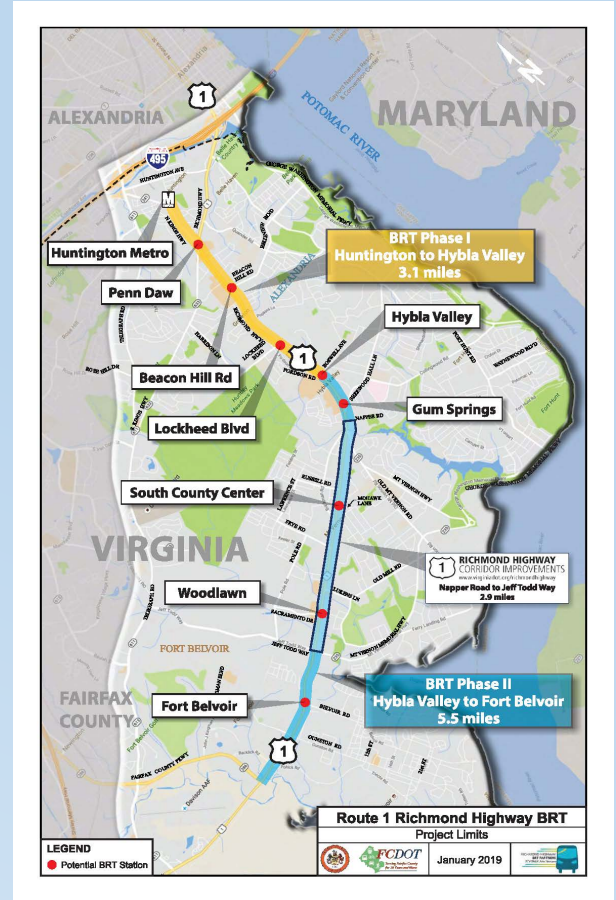


The intent of this graphic is to depict the configuration of elements within the proposed right-of-way. For clarity, potential landscaping is not shown.



Richmond Highway BRT

- The Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project is an effort to **plan, design, and construct** a BRT system between Huntington Metrorail Station and Fort Belvoir
- **Nine potential BRT stations**
- **Two phases:**
 - Phase I: Huntington Metrorail Station to Hybla Valley
 - Phase II: Hybla Valley to Fort Belvoir





County of Fairfax, Virginia



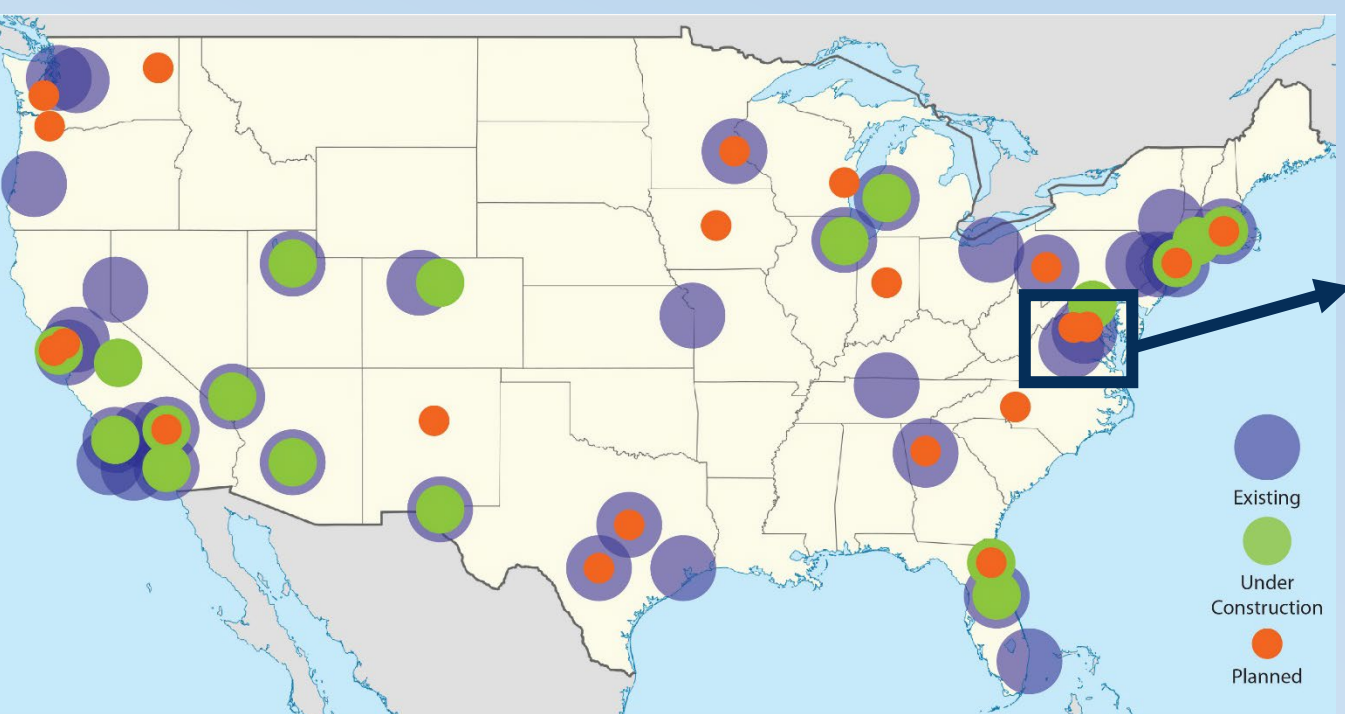
What is Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)?

- BRT is a high-quality public transportation system designed to be **fast, reliable, and more convenient** than traditional bus routes
- It operates much like rail service, on a **dedicated transit way**, but with the **flexibility and lower cost** of bus vehicles





National BRT Examples



In Virginia

Existing:

- Alexandria / Arlington (Metroway)
- Richmond (GRTC Pulse)

Planned:

- Fairfax County (Richmond Highway BRT)
- Route 7 Tysons to Alexandria





County of Fairfax, Virginia



What is Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)?

- **Key elements** of BRT systems often include:
 - Service plans and frequencies that prioritize reliable, frequent, efficient service
 - Dedicated lanes & traffic signal priority
 - Information technology systems
 - “Rail style” stations, with features that enhance rider comfort and convenience
 - High-quality buses
 - Unique graphics & name

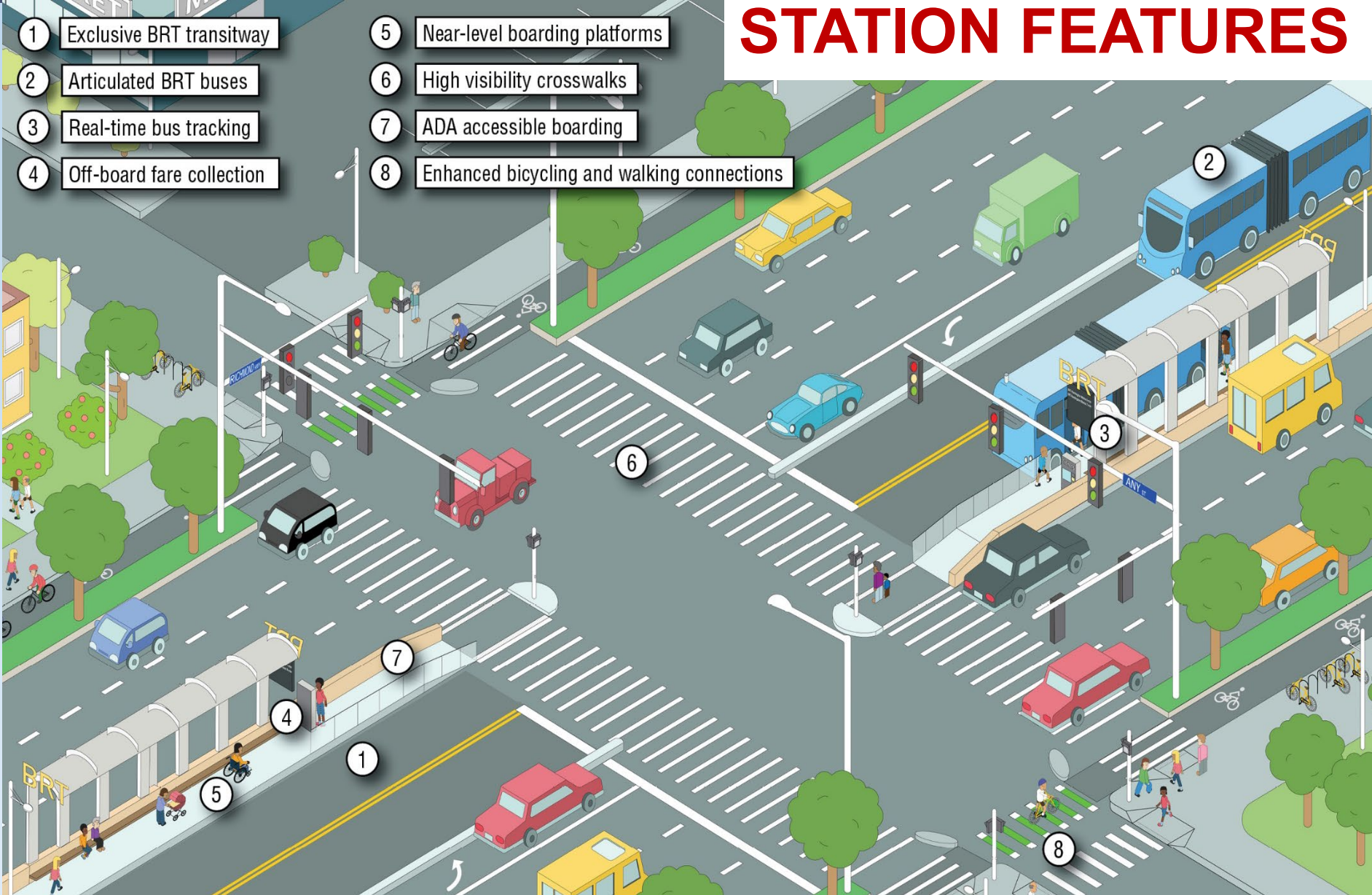




County of Fairfax, Virginia

STATION FEATURES

- 1 Exclusive BRT transitway
- 2 Articulated BRT buses
- 3 Real-time bus tracking
- 4 Off-board fare collection
- 5 Near-level boarding platforms
- 6 High visibility crosswalks
- 7 ADA accessible boarding
- 8 Enhanced bicycling and walking connections





Funding Commitment for BRT

Cost Estimate(M)	Programmed Funding (M)	Funding Gap & Proposed Sources	Funding Sources
\$735M*	\$4M \$8.5 \$250M \$57.5M		DRPT NVTA 30% NVTA 70%(FY18/23) CMAQ/RSTP
		\$50M \$365M	SMART SCALE FTA New Starts
Sub-Total	\$320M	\$415M	

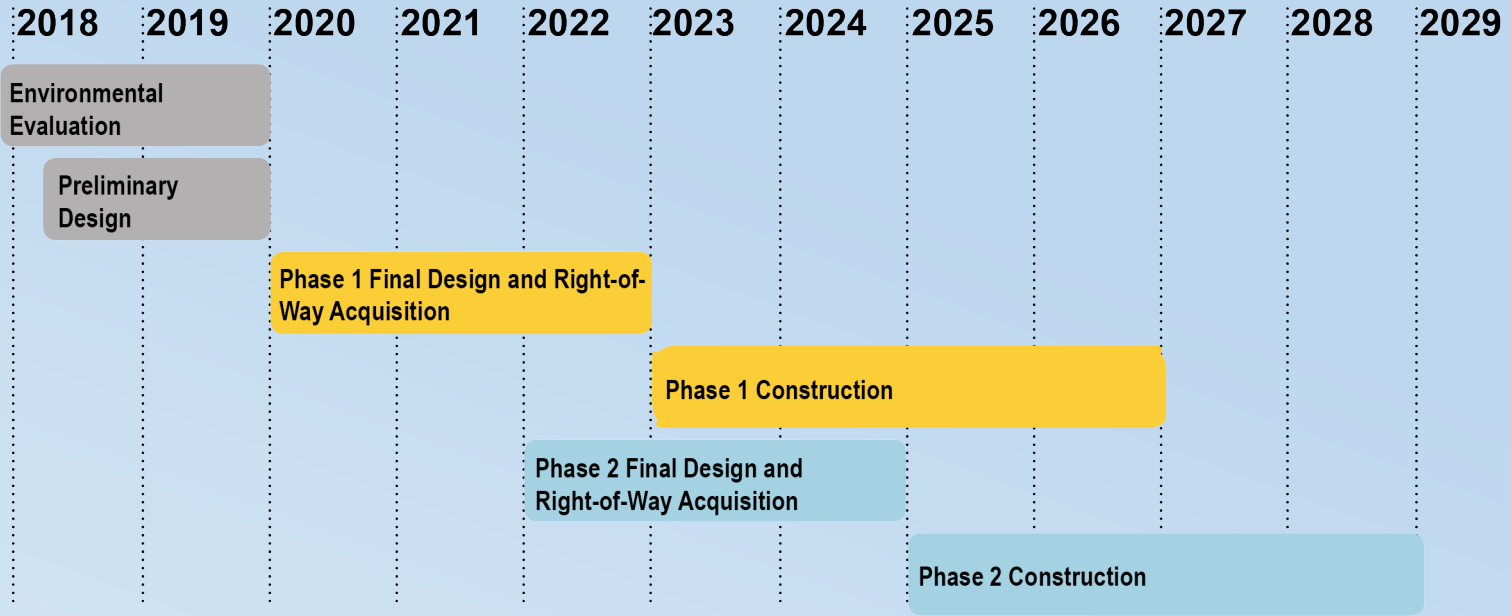
Note: *Cost based on an approximate 5-10% design (currently where the project is) and are still subject to change and refinement as more engineering/design is completed





Project Schedules

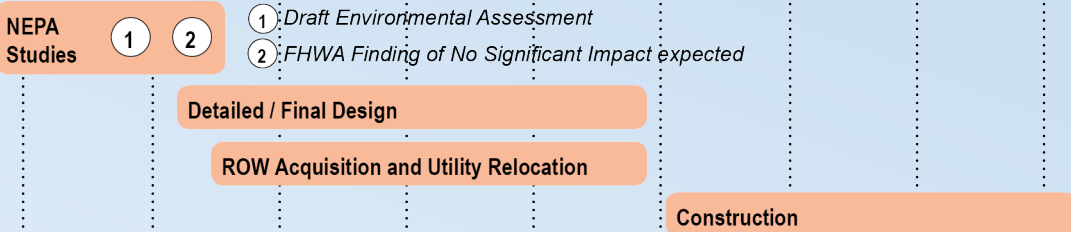
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Note: Time frames and durations for design, utilities, right-of-way, vehicle procurement, and construction will vary depending on project funding.

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For Reference: Richmond Highway Corridor Improvements (VDOT Widening) Schedule



Note: Time frames and durations for Detailed/Final design, utilities, right-of-way and construction are subject to further refinement.

BRT Project Updates



Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit





County of Fairfax, Virginia



Branding

**Branding is more than a logo.
The brand will bring the service to
life and will help frame and
position the BRT Program and the
BRT service with the community,
the stakeholders, and target
audience**





Branding

• Branding Development Team

- Leading the development of the BRT brand
- Made up of representatives from the community, some Community Advisory Group (CAG) members
- Kickoff of the Branding Development Team in November
- Meeting regularly throughout 2019
- Coordination with the CAG and Executive Committee



County of Fairfax, Virginia



Public Outreach

- **Community Advisory Group**
 - Richmond Highway community members appointed by County Supervisors
 - Give project advise to staff
 - Two meetings to date
- **Community meetings**
 - April 17 and 18, 2018





Public Outreach

- **Various engagement activities along the corridor:**
 - Gum Springs Community Day
 - Sacramento Community Day
 - Mt Vernon Pyramid Back-to-School Fair
 - Sherwood Library Farmers Market
 - Huntington Metro Farmers Market
 - County Architectural Review Board (ARB), Trails & Sidewalk Committee, Board Transportation Committee
 - VDOT meetings

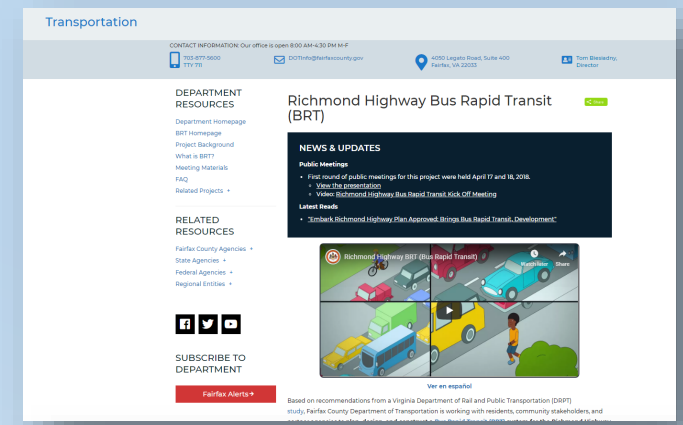


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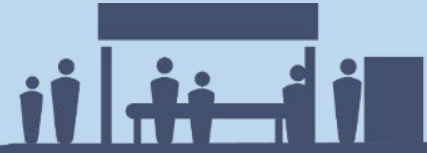
Public Outreach

- Met with the **Community Advisory Group**
- Updated the new website with news and project information, including an informational video
- Created graphics and interactive tools to help the community understand the project
- Developed and distributed project information in newsletters in English & Spanish
- Coordination with Neighborhood & Community Services





County of Fairfax, Virginia



Public Outreach

- Updated Newsletter - #2, with station infographic

ISSUE #2 PAGE 1 PROJECT NEWSLETTER FALL 2018

RICHMOND HIGHWAY

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

Learn More: fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation Keywords: "Richmond Highway BRT"
fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts/ Select: "Richmond Highway BRT Project Updates"

PROJECT BACKGROUND
 Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) is implementing a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system along Richmond Highway and North Kings Highway from Huntington Metrolink Station to Fort Belvoir. This BRT system was included in the recommendations from the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation-led (Route 1) Multimodal Alternatives Analysis (completed 2015).

WHAT IS BRT?
 BRT is a high-quality public transportation system designed to be fast, reliable, and more convenient than traditional bus routes. BRT operates much like rail service, with a dedicated transitway, but uses bus vehicles. The proposed BRT system will have multiple stations and connect to major employment centers, shopping centers, and residential communities along the corridor. The project will include pedestrian and bicycle facilities as well as other amenities to support the proposed system.

FOR MORE INFO ABOUT THE PROJECT, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/richmond-hwy-brt

PROGRESS TO DATE
 Following the first round of community meetings in April 2018, Fairfax County's project team continued preliminary design and environmental evaluation activities, which are scheduled to continue into 2019. Over summer 2018, the team:

- Collected information about natural and cultural resources, such as historic buildings, and began coordination with the federal and state agencies that will eventually review the analysis.
- Continued to refine the concept engineering to better understand the area that could be affected during construction, and started to think about what elements should be included in the stations such as shelters, lighting, seating, signs, and security features.
- Analysed existing pedestrian and bicycle connectivity to proposed BRT stations.
- Studied a possible future feeder bus network, and set up the computer models that will be used to study future traffic conditions.
- Attended festivals, community meetings, and other events to share information about the project.

PLEASE STAY INVOLVED!
 Public input is a critical component in this process. The next round of public meetings is scheduled for early 2019. In the meantime, we encourage you to stay up-to-date on project news and related projects along the Richmond Highway corridor. On the website fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/richmond-hwy-brt, you can learn more about the project background, find answers to frequently asked questions, and sign up for email/text updates through our website. You may also send comments to DOTBRT@fairfaxcounty.gov to Fairfax County Dept. of Transportation, Richmond Highway 4020 Legato Road, Suite 400, Fairfax, VA, 22030.

THE SECOND PUBLIC MEETING IS COMING IN EARLY 2019!
 Please subscribe to Fairfax Alerts or keep an eye on the website for an announcement of the meeting date (tentatively planned for late January or early February).

The Richmond Highway BRT project is funded in part by the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority.

Public Meeting - April 18, 2018
Pop-Up Meeting - June 29, 2018

ISSUE #2 PAGE 2 PROJECT NEWSLETTER FALL 2018

RICHMOND HIGHWAY

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

While the Richmond Highway BRT system has not yet been designed, key elements of BRT systems will likely include those shown on the graphic below.

- 1 Exclusive BRT transitway
- 2 Articulated BRT buses
- 3 Real-time bus tracking
- 4 Off-board fare collection
- 5 Near-level boarding platforms
- 6 High visibility crosswalks
- 7 ADA accessible boarding
- 8 Enhanced bicycling and walking connectors

This graphic is provided for illustrative purposes only and does not represent a proposed station design.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Environmental Evaluation												
Public Review & Design												
Phase 1: Final Design and Right-of-Way Acquisition												
Phase 2: Final Design and Right-of-Way Acquisition												
Phase 1: Construction												
Phase 2: Construction												

Note: Timelines and durations for design, utilities, ROW, vehicle procurement, and construction will vary depending on the availability of funding and the project delivery method.

Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) reserves construction in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you need this information in an alternate format, contact FCDOT at 703-827-5600, TTY 771.





County of Fairfax, Virginia



Environmental (NEPA)

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that we consider how the project will affect the community and the environment before we make decisions.

Activities To Date Include:

- Federal Transit Administration concurred with Purpose and Need Statement
- Existing conditions analysis for most disciplines complete, including natural resources fieldwork
- Historic architecture identification underway



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County of Fairfax, Virginia



Environmental Evaluation

- **Examples of resources being studied:**
 - Community facilities
 - Cultural resources
 - Natural resources
 - Minority and low income populations
 - Noise and vibration
 - Endangered Species
 - Air Quality
- **Summary reports are being finalized and should be available for public review by summer 2019**



Historic Gum Springs Signage



County of Fairfax, Virginia

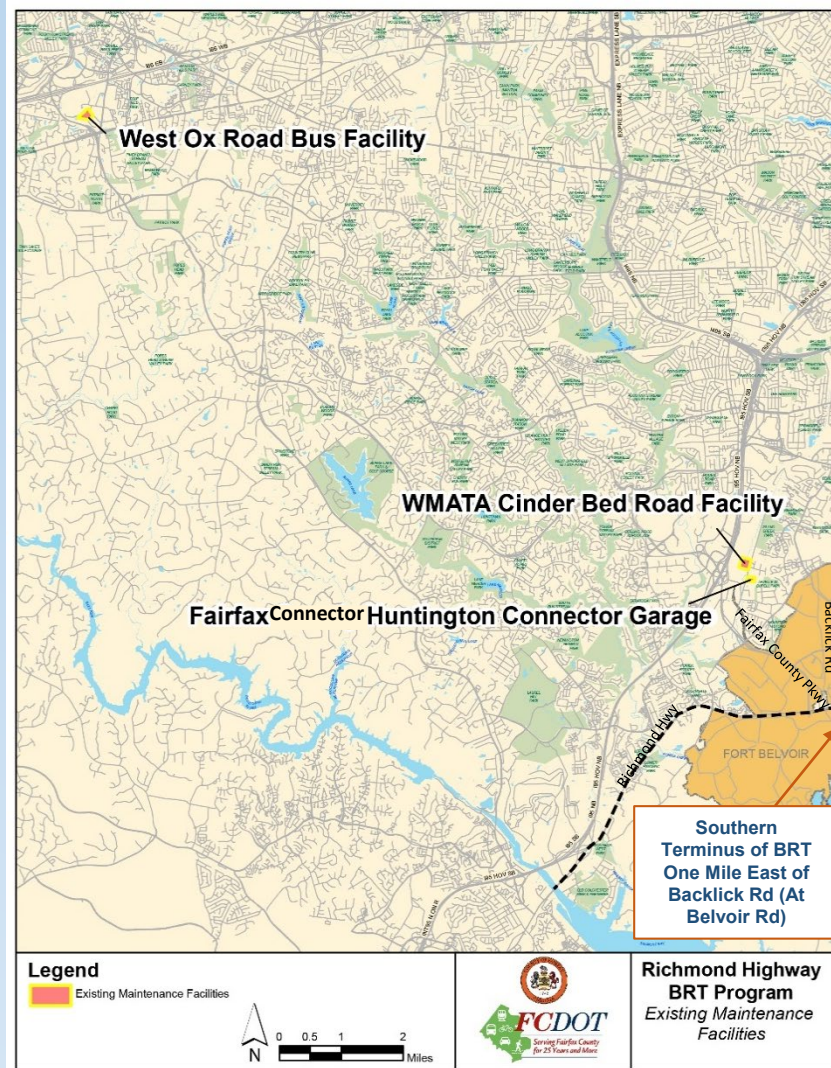


Maintenance Facility Options

Existing Facilities:

- WMATA Cinder Bed Road
- Huntington Connector Garage
- West Ox Facility

Evaluation On-Going



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Weekend Traffic

- **Data collected on Saturday, May 12, 2018 from 12 PM to 4 PM**
- **Types of data:**
 - Turning movement counts at 15 intersections
 - Travel time measurements along Richmond Highway and N Kings Highway
 - Maximum queue lengths at 7 intersections
- **Weekend traffic data was compared to weekday peak period traffic data**

Key Findings

Weekday PM has higher overall intersection volumes than the weekend



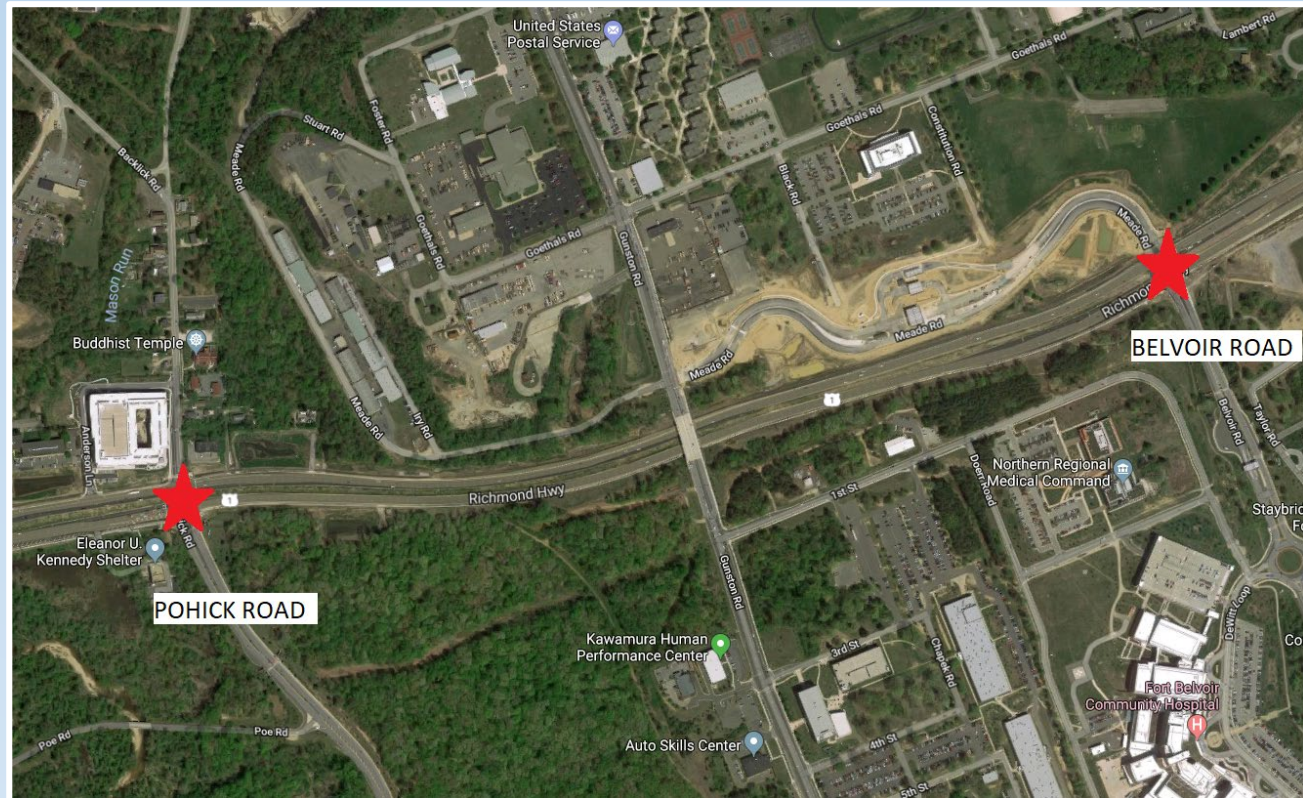
County of Fairfax, Virginia



Fort Belvoir Station Location

Two potential station locations were studied:

- **Belvoir Road**
 - 3 options
- **Pohick Road**
 - 2 Options



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Fort Belvoir Station- Location Considerations

	Belvoir Road	Pohick Road
Number of BRT Vehicles	15	16
Annual Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Cost	\$6.7M	\$7.5M
Capital Cost ¹	Lower	Higher
Environmental Impacts	Similar at both proposed station locations.	

Note: 1. Capital costs are under development, but it is anticipated that a station at Belvoir Road would be cheaper than a station at Pohick Road primarily due to the reduced transitway length.

Staff Recommendation: Belvoir Road (and preferred by Fort Belvoir)

Further Considerations to be made

- BRT Team will continue to refine station layout
- Will continue to coordinate with Fort Belvoir on details
- Will also need review and coordination with VDOT



County of Fairfax, Virginia



Station Design

- **Finalizing the Basis of Design Report**
 - Should be available for public review by summer 2019
- **Developing the Prototypical Station Layout**
 - Sizing platforms based on ridership
 - Station configuration and placement of canopies
 - Station entrance and conveyance of passengers
 - Station amenities
 - Unique design based on community input (e.g. public art)



Next Steps



Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit





Next Steps

Public Meeting #2

- January 23, 2019
(We are here!)

Public Meeting #3

- Spring/Summer 2019

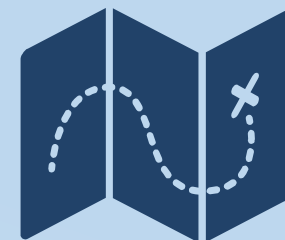
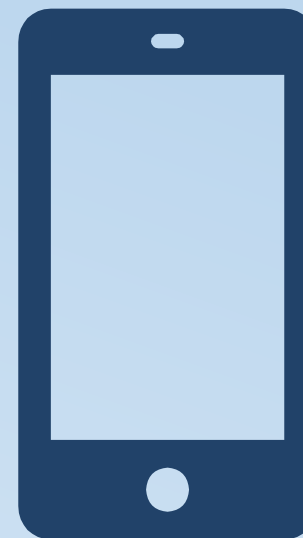
Between now and Public Meeting #3, the Team will:

- Continue to review comments from this meeting to better understand the needs in the corridor and what people would like to see at stations and in station areas
- Continue to advance the system design and identify potential property impacts
- Develop reports that describe the types of impacts that the project could have on environmental resources
- Develop draft conceptual station design
- Continue development of the BRT brand
- Continue to work on securing funding



Tonight

- **Please browse the maps and boards, speak with staff, and fill out the comment form.**
- **We have some activities and maps to share with you. We specifically want your feedback on...**
 - Preliminary limits of disturbance
 - Identified historic resources
 - Station design and amenities
 - Community Involvement





Tonight: Roll Maps of the Corridor

Please review the roll maps

- The maps contain aerial imagery of Richmond Highway, and show:
 - Station locations
 - Wetlands and waters
 - Historic Resources listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places
 - Restaurants and shopping centers
 - The area within which we think the project will be constructed (the “limits of disturbance”)
- The lines showing the area within which the project will be constructed **are preliminary** and do not take into account improvements on side streets or stormwater management. **These lines do not reflect final Right-of-Way acquisition lines.**



Tonight: BRT Station Amenities and Station Design

- **Visit Station 3 to give your input on station layout:**
 - What do you want to see?
 - What amenities or features would you like to have available at or near the station?





County of Fairfax, Virginia



Tonight: Crossing Richmond Highway

- Station 3 contains a graphic showing a **conceptual station and station area design**
- Speak with staff to learn more about **crossing Richmond Highway** and **accessing BRT**





Tonight

• FOUR WAYS TO SUBMIT COMMENTS

- Fillable form on BRT project website
- Complete comment form and place in comment box tonight
- Email comments to BRT project email address:
DOTBRT@fairfaxcounty.gov
- Mail comment sheet to: Fairfax County Department of Transportation, Richmond Highway BRT project manager, 4050 Legato Rd, Suite 400, Fairfax, VA 22033

Thank you for coming!





County of Fairfax, Virginia

Staying Involved





How to Stay Involved

- This process will be most effective with input from people who live, work, travel along, or spend time on the corridor
 - Sign up for **Fairfax Alerts!**
www.FairfaxCounty.gov/alerts (*Category: Richmond Highway BRT Project Updates*)
 - Track the project on **social media** (*County and Connector Facebook and Twitter*)
 - **Materials from the meeting will be posted** at South County Center



Website: fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation
Key words: Richmond Highway BRT

Questions

Contact Information

- **Website:** fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation (key words: “Richmond Highway BRT”)
- **Email** the Project Team: DOTBRT@fairfaxcounty.gov
- **Address** (for mailing comment sheets): Fairfax County Department of Transportation, Richmond Highway BRT Project Manager, 4050 Legato Rd, Fairfax, VA 22033.



Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit

