

# I-495 American Legion Bridge Transit and TDM Study Update

*North Bethesda Transportation Management District*

*July 21, 2021*

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# Study Context and Focus

- **Fall 2019:** Governors Northam and Hogan announce Capital Beltway Accord to Rebuild American Legion Bridge and Connect Interstate Highway System
- **Complements** Virginia's I-495 NEXT and Maryland's Managed Lanes Study
- Funded and managed jointly by DRPT and MDOT-MTA, and is separate from improvement projects in the corridor.
- **This study's focus:** develop and prioritize transit options and travel demand management for bistate travel across the bridge



## Study Team



## Stakeholder Team



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority  
*The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia*



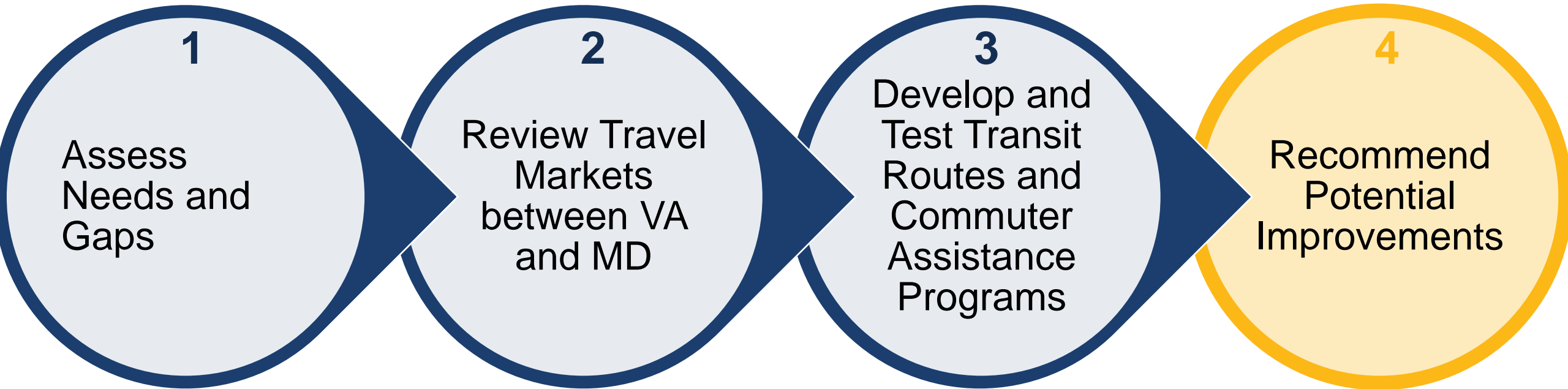
# Input Related to Multimodal Travel

## Themes

- Support for analyzing multimodal solutions
- Importance of air quality and emissions goals
- Provide affordable and equitable choices
- Request for dedicated funding to expand transit
- Consider the effect of COVID-19 and potential increase in teleworking
- Developing transit options for near-term investment

## Sources of Input

- Public comment on ongoing I-495 Virginia and Maryland projects
- Transit/TDM Public Survey #1
- Stakeholder coordination meetings
- Transit/TDM Public Survey #2
- Public Meetings



**1**  
Assess  
Needs and  
Gaps

**2**  
Review Travel  
Markets  
between VA  
and MD

**3**  
Develop and  
Test Transit  
Routes and  
Commuter  
Assistance  
Programs

**4**  
Recommend  
Potential  
Improvements

- Why is transit needed?
- What transit is there today?
- What transit is planned in the future?

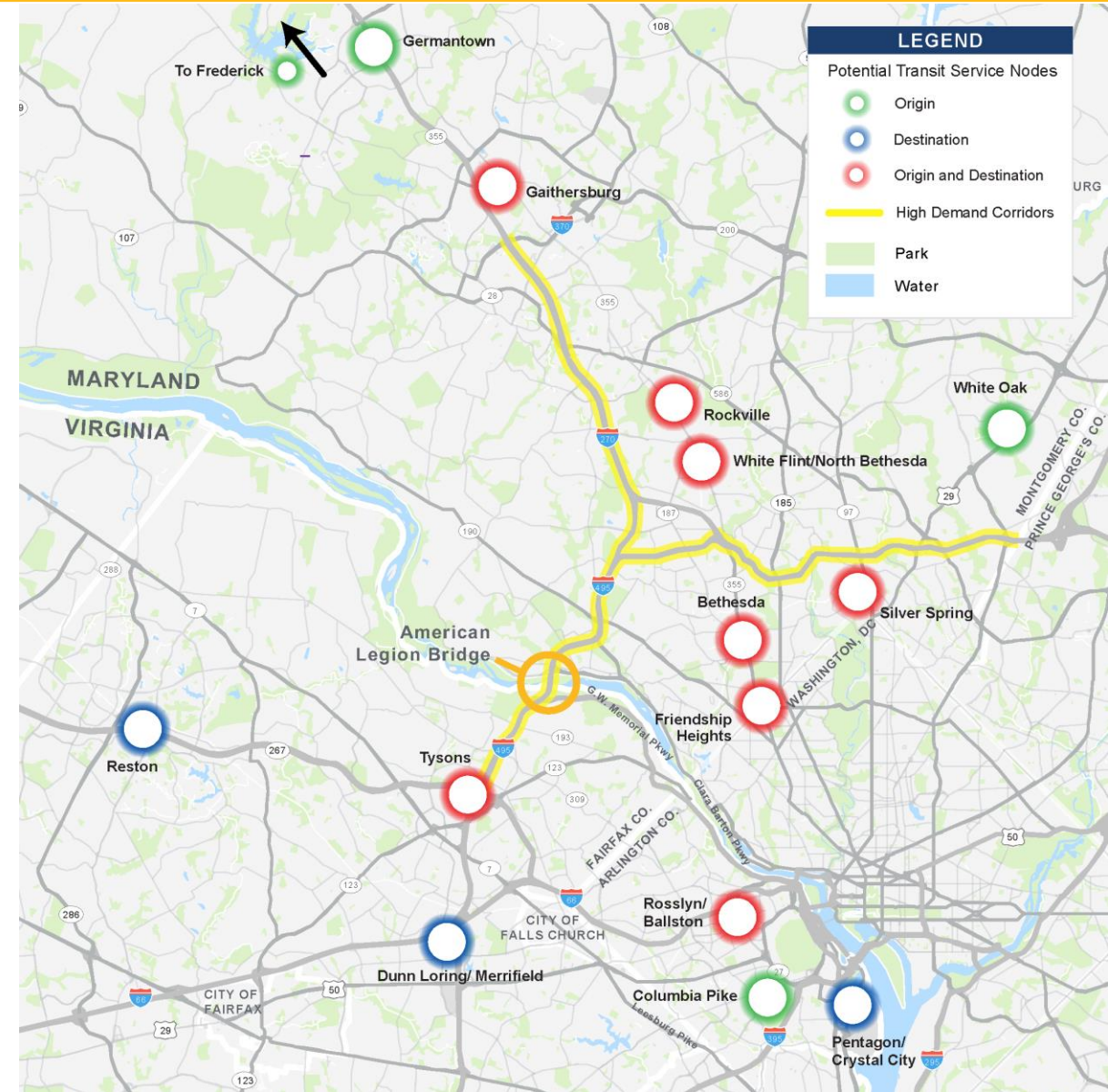
- Where are trips over the bridge coming from and going to?
- Which of those markets could be served by transit?

- Where and how often should the route stop?
- Where can transit use managed lanes?
- How can technology improve the transit experience?
- How will people get to and from the transit service?

- What is the overall forecasted affect on reducing congestion?
- How many people and jobs will be connected by new transit?
- How much will it cost to implement?

# Travel Demand

- High demand
  - MD 355 Corridor and Silver Spring in MD to Tysons, Dunn Loring, and VA 7 corridor
- Moderate demand
  - Fairfax and Arlington in VA to Bethesda and Friendship Heights in MD
- Corridor segments with highest number of trips:
  - I-270/I-270 spur from I-495 to I-370 (MD)
  - I-495 from the Bridge to Dulles Corridor (VA)
  - I-495 from the I-270 spur junction to Prince George's County line (MD)
  - I-495 from the Bridge to the I-270 spur junction (MD)



# Prioritization Methodology

- Potential routes scored relative to each other based on three categories



**Productivity** – Maximizing ridership for the lowest cost



**Equity** – Serving areas with high concentrations of low-income and minority individuals



**Connectivity** – Providing access to the most jobs and people

## Routes Retained:

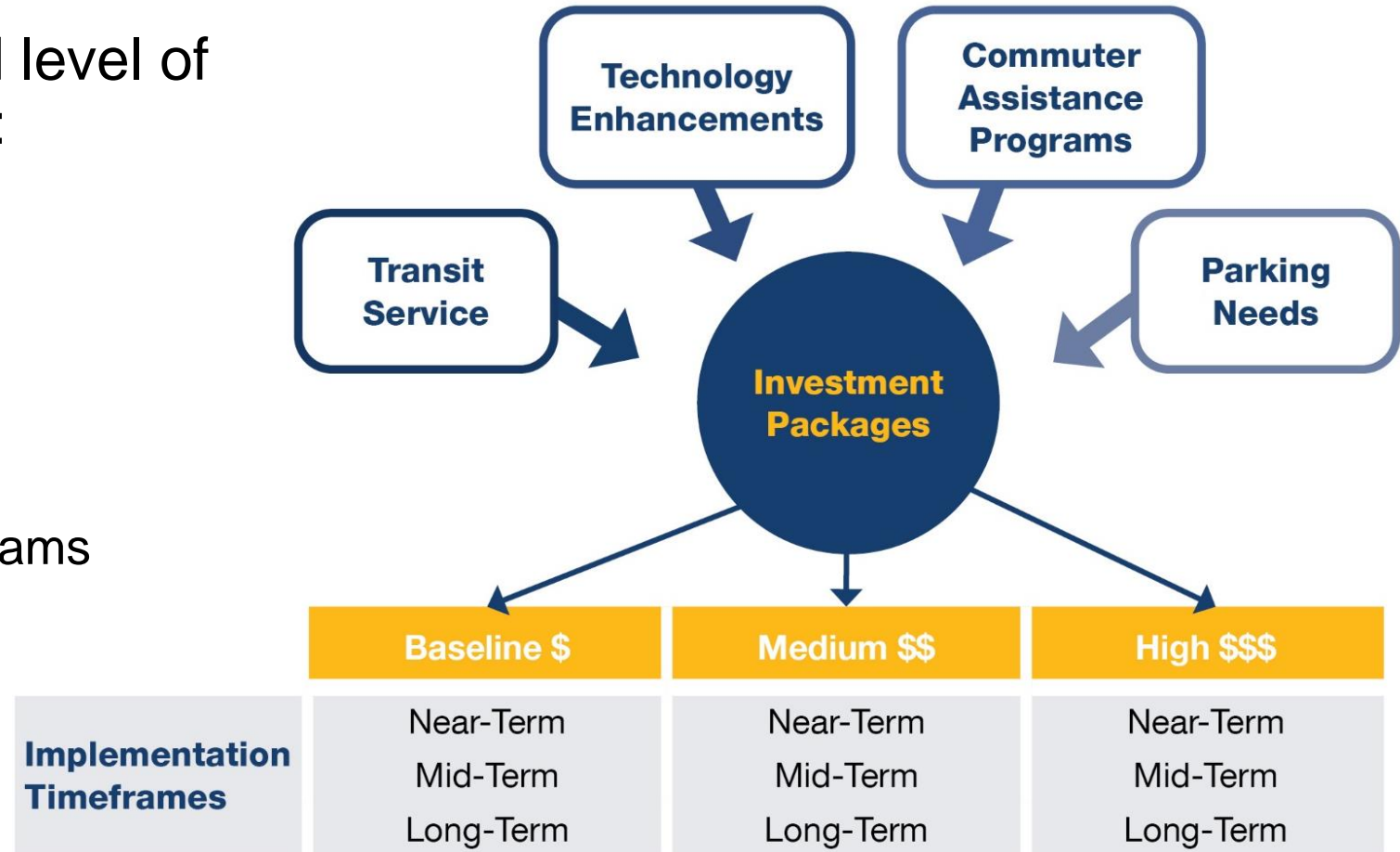
- Bethesda – Tysons
- Germantown – Tysons
- Silver Spring – Tysons
- Gaithersburg – Tysons
- Frederick – Tysons
- Bethesda – Dulles/Reston
- Bethesda – Dunn Loring
- Frederick – Arlington

## SCORING KEY

HIGH ● ● ●  
MEDIUM ● ●  
LOW ●

# Implementation Framework

- Each package built around level of transit service and vary by:
  - Markets served
  - Frequency
  - Span (time of day)
- Transit supported by:
  - Technology enhancements
  - Commuter assistance programs
  - Parking needs





# Investment Packages

## Baseline

- Foundational peak-period service
- Connects three markets identified in previous planning efforts

## Medium





- Robust network of primarily peak-period service
- Connects five key markets in Maryland with Tysons and Arlington

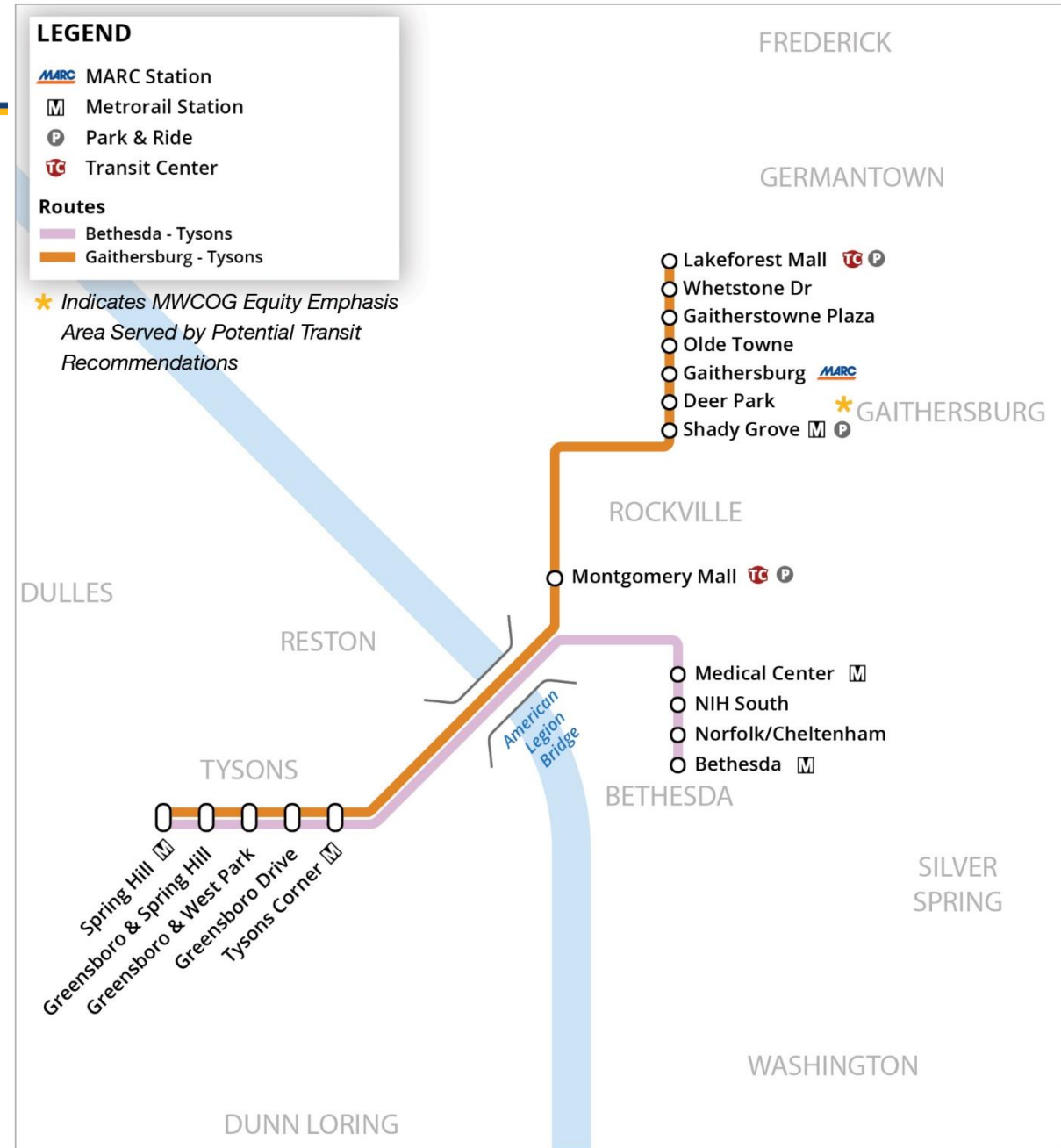
## High

- Comprehensive all-day bus service
- Maximizes potential ridership
- Serves additional destinations

# Baseline Package

## – Transit Service





	<b>Markets</b>	Bethesda, Tysons, Gaithersburg
	<b>Trips (peak hour)</b>	6 trips per hour
	<b>Total Forecasted Daily Riders over ALB</b>	1,000 riders
	<b>Off-Peak/ Mid-Day Service</b>	None

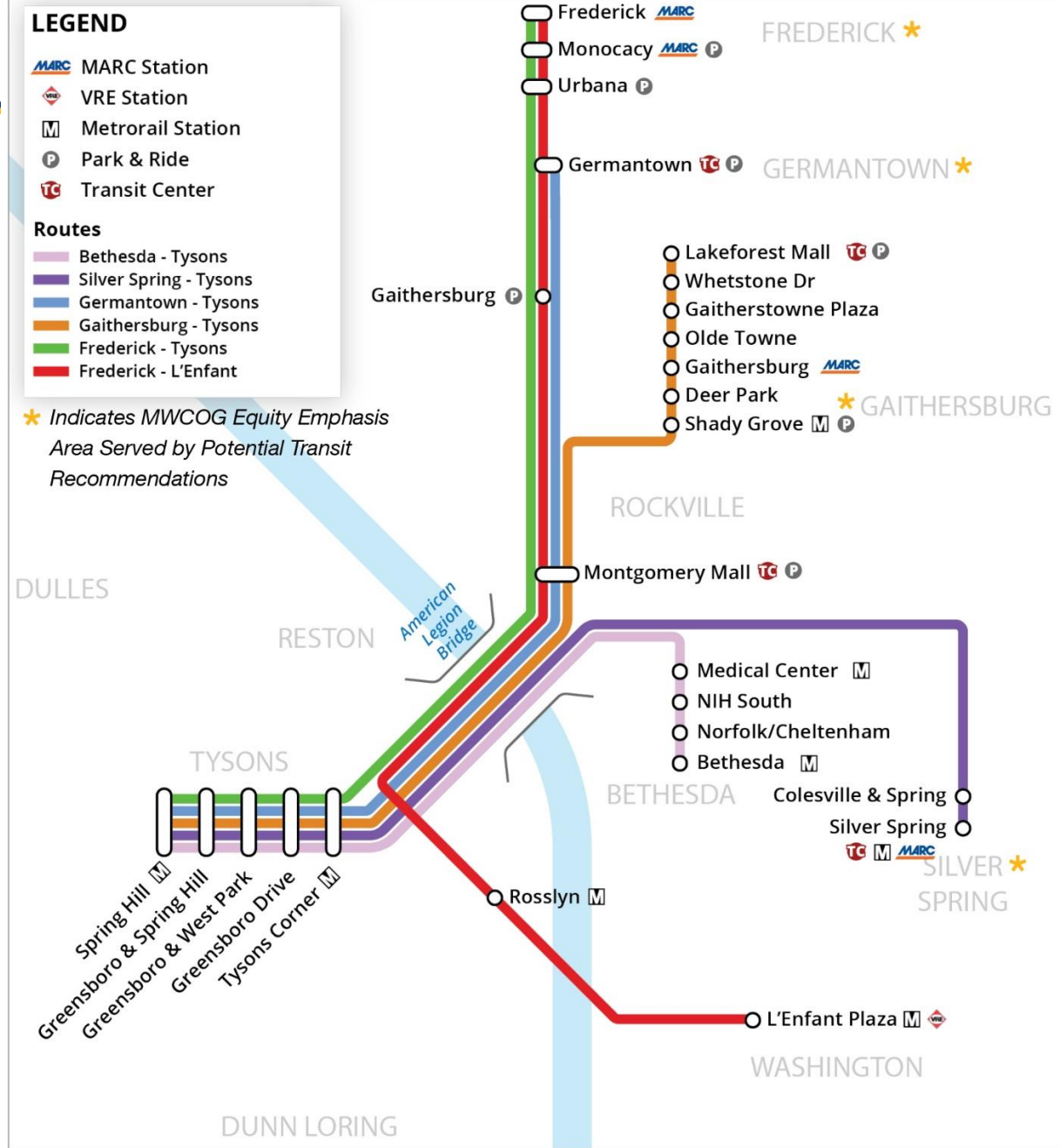


\* Maintenance facility or expansion may be needed to advance potential recommendations regardless of operator.  
\* The Bethesda - Tysons Transit Route could be advanced as part of the Near-Term timeframe

# Medium Package

## – Transit Service

 <b>Markets</b>	Bethesda, Tysons, Gaithersburg, Silver Spring, Germantown, Frederick, L'Enfant, Arlington
 <b>Trips (peak hour)</b>	16 trips per hour
 <b>Total Forecasted Daily Riders over ALB</b>	3,700 riders
 <b>Off-Peak/ Mid-Day Service</b>	Limited (Bethesda – Tysons only)

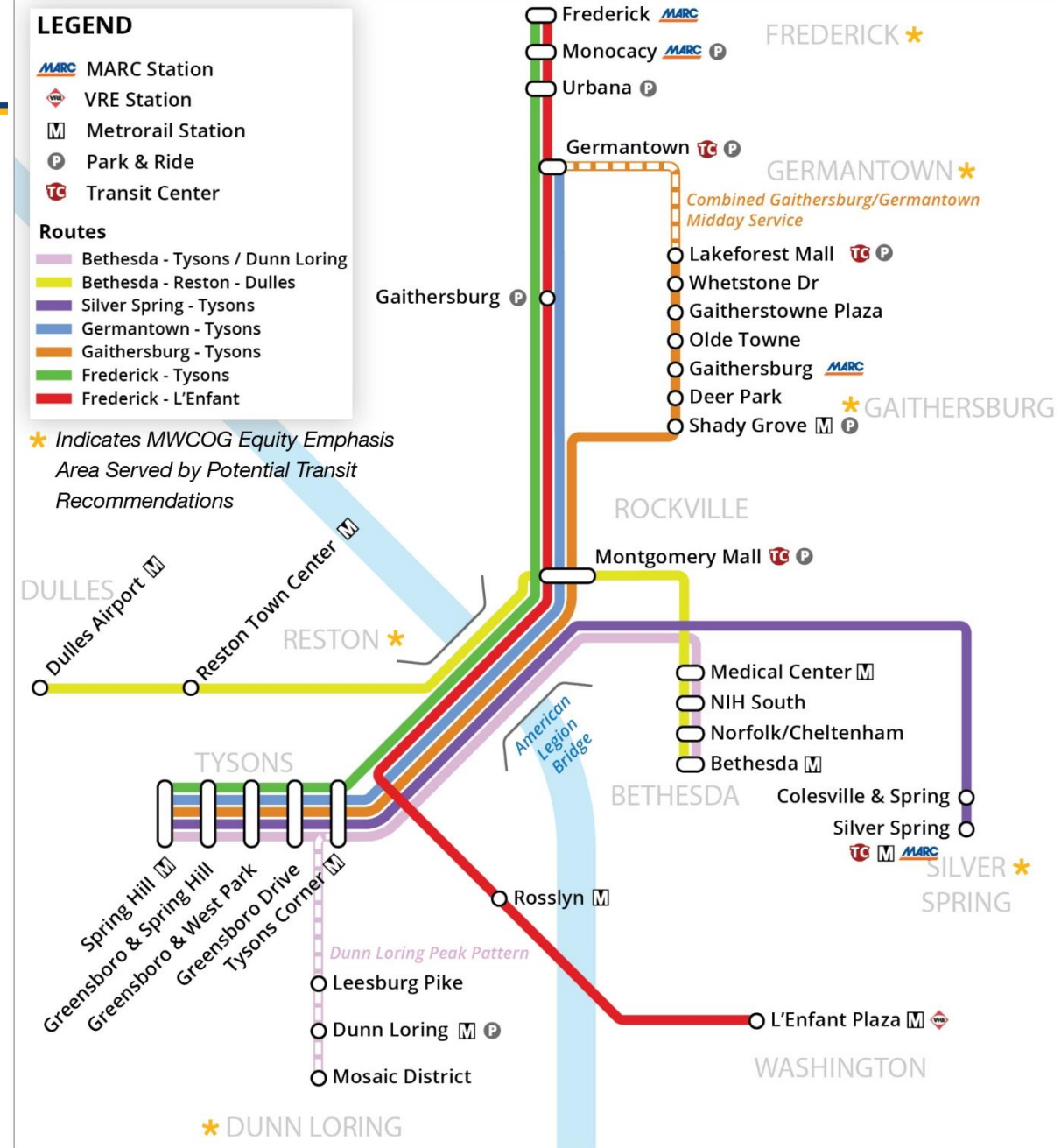


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# High Package

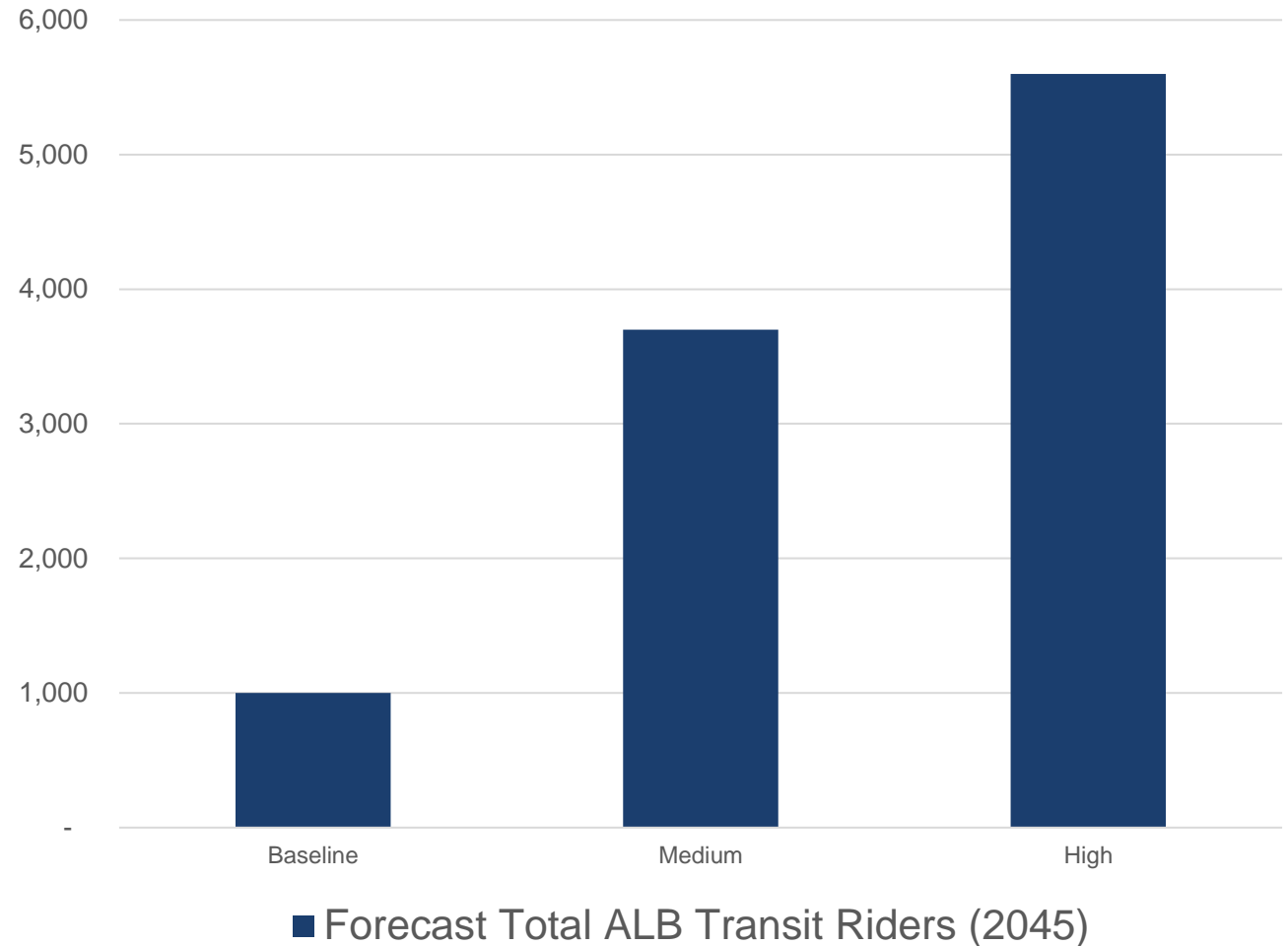
## – Transit Service

 <p><b>Markets</b></p>	<p>Bethesda, Tysons, Gaithersburg, Silver Spring, Germantown, Frederick, L'Enfant, Dunn Loring, Reston, Dulles, Arlington</p>
 <p><b>Trips (peak hour)</b></p>	<p>30 trips per hour</p>
 <p><b>Total Forecasted Daily Riders over ALB</b></p>	<p>5,600 riders</p>
 <p><b>Off-Peak/ Mid-Day Service</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>



# Moving More People With Fewer Vehicles

- There is no existing transit service over the Bridge
- High Package Benefits:
  - Over **180** bus trips per day
  - Forecast increase of **5,600** daily transit riders



# Transit Connections – Existing and Planned



Tysons ●●○  
 Reston ○  
 Dulles ○  
 Dunn Loring ○  
 Bethesda ●●○  
 Silver Spring ●○  
 Shady Grove ●●○  
 Rosslyn ●○  
 L'Enfant Plaza ●○



Silver Spring ●○  
 Gaithersburg ●●○  
 Monocacy ●○  
 Frederick ●○



Silver Spring ●○  
 Bethesda ●●○

**County  
BRT**

Tysons ●●○  
 Bethesda ●●○  
 Silver Spring ●○  
 Westfield  
 Montgomery Mall  
 Transit Center ●●○  
 Gaithersburg ●●○  
 Germantown ●○

**Local  
Bus**

*All stops* ●●○

Notes:

*Italicized stops are serviced by  
planned transit connections*

- Denotes stops on routes included in the baseline package
- Denotes stops on routes included in the medium package
- Denotes stops on routes included in the high package

# Technology and Commuter Assistance Program Options

**Commuter Parking  
Information System**

**Vanpool Formation and  
Expansion Program**

**Real-Time Toll and  
Transit Information**

**Carpool Promotion Programs**

**Real-Time Arrival Information**

**Corridor-Specific Mobility  
Options Marketing Campaign**

**Real-Time Passenger  
Load Information**

**Targeted Residential Outreach**

**Transit Signal Priority**

**Targeted Employer Outreach**

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