

Transit Choices July 2021 Meeting

Holly Arnold, Acting Administrator
July 22, 2021



MARYLAND TRANSIT
ADMINISTRATION

Agenda

Transit Ridership Update

MTA Strategic Plan & Return to Full Service

The Year Ahead: Rider-Focused Initiatives





Holly Arnold

- Acting Administrator of MTA since June 5th
 - With agency for over 10 years
 - Previous roles include Manager of Capital Programming, Director of Planning, and Deputy Administrator
- 2017 graduate of Leadership APTA
- 2018 Mass Transit Magazine 40 Under 40
- BA from Duquesne University, MPA from University of Pittsburgh
- Transit rider





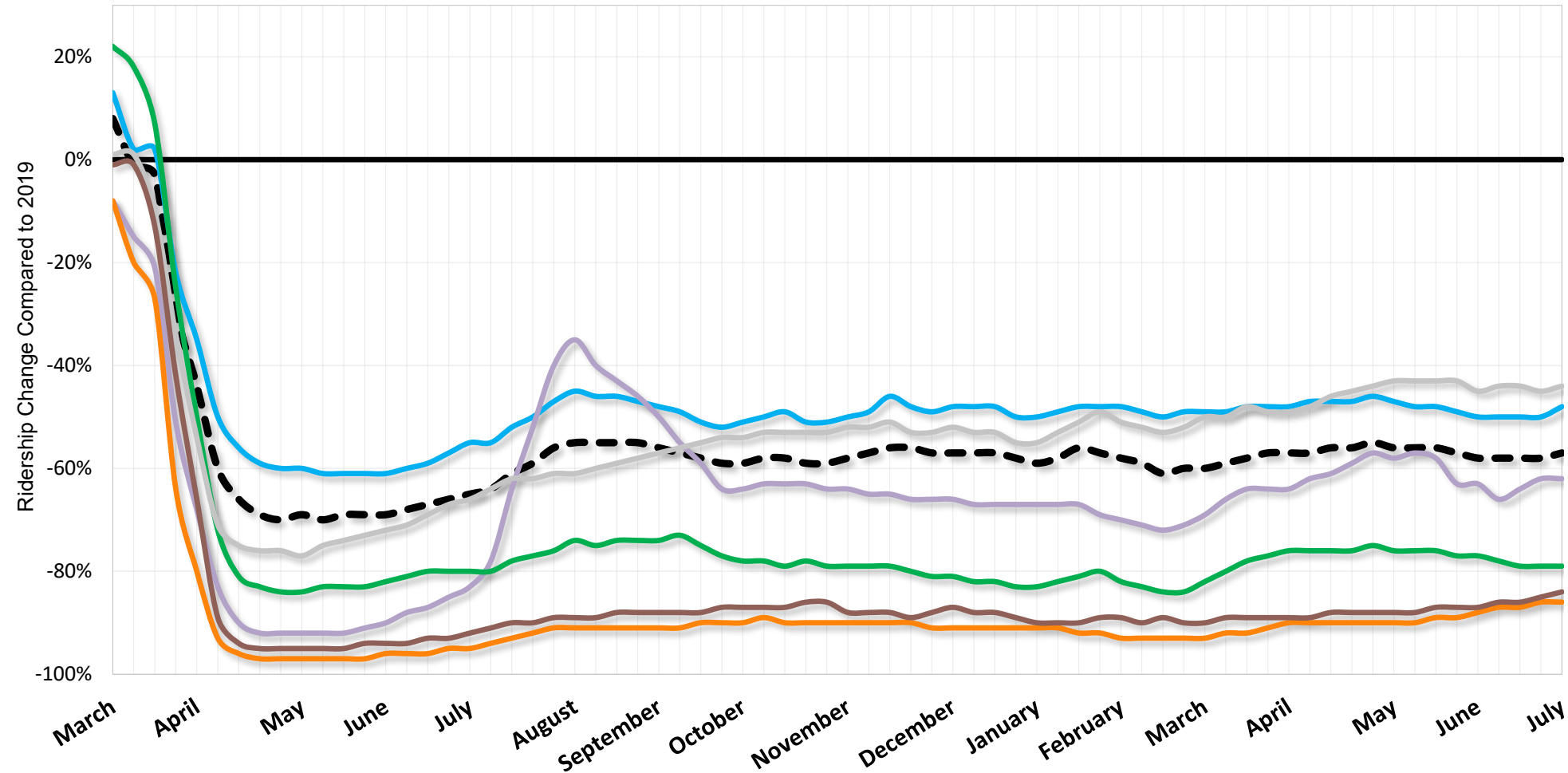
Transit Ridership Update

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Ridership by Service Mode

Ridership Compared to 2019 (Rolling 4-Week Averages)

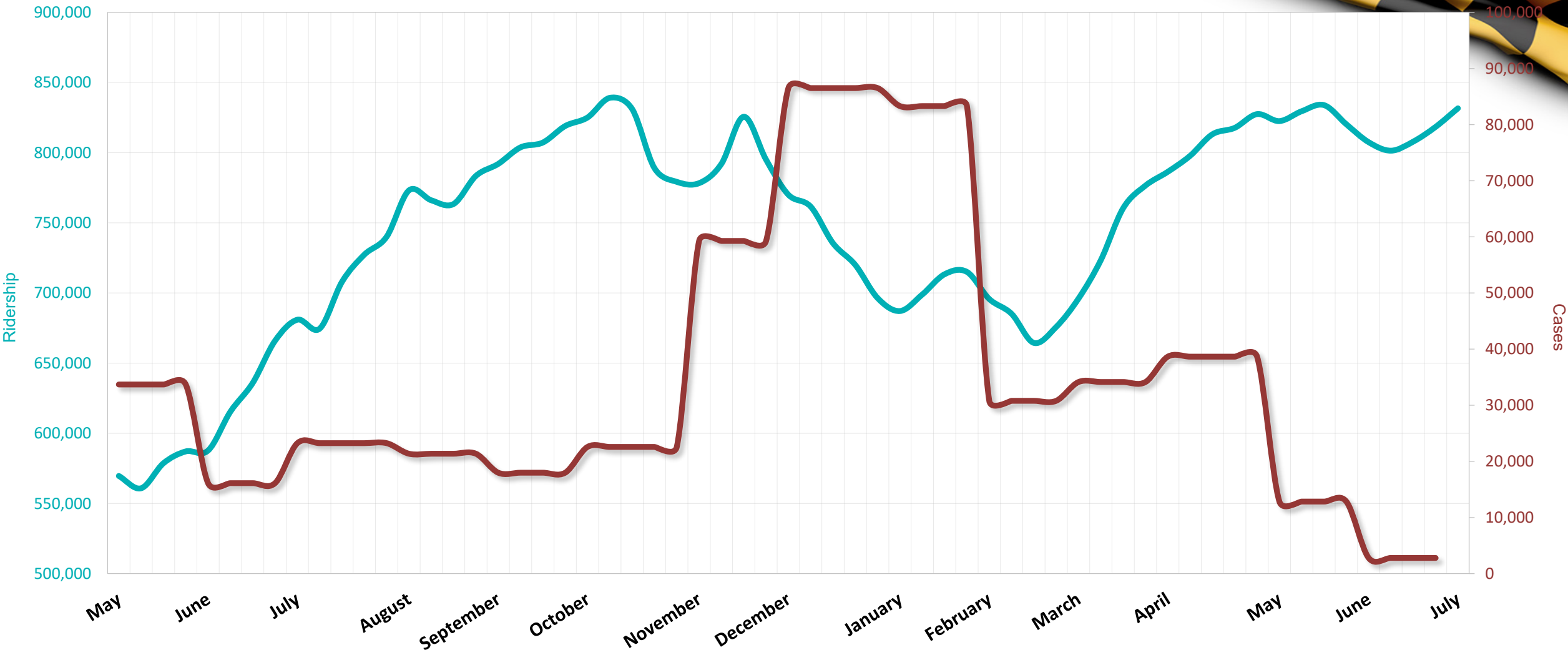
— 2019 Level - - MTA Total — Core Bus — Light Rail — Metro — MARC — Mobility — Commuter Bus



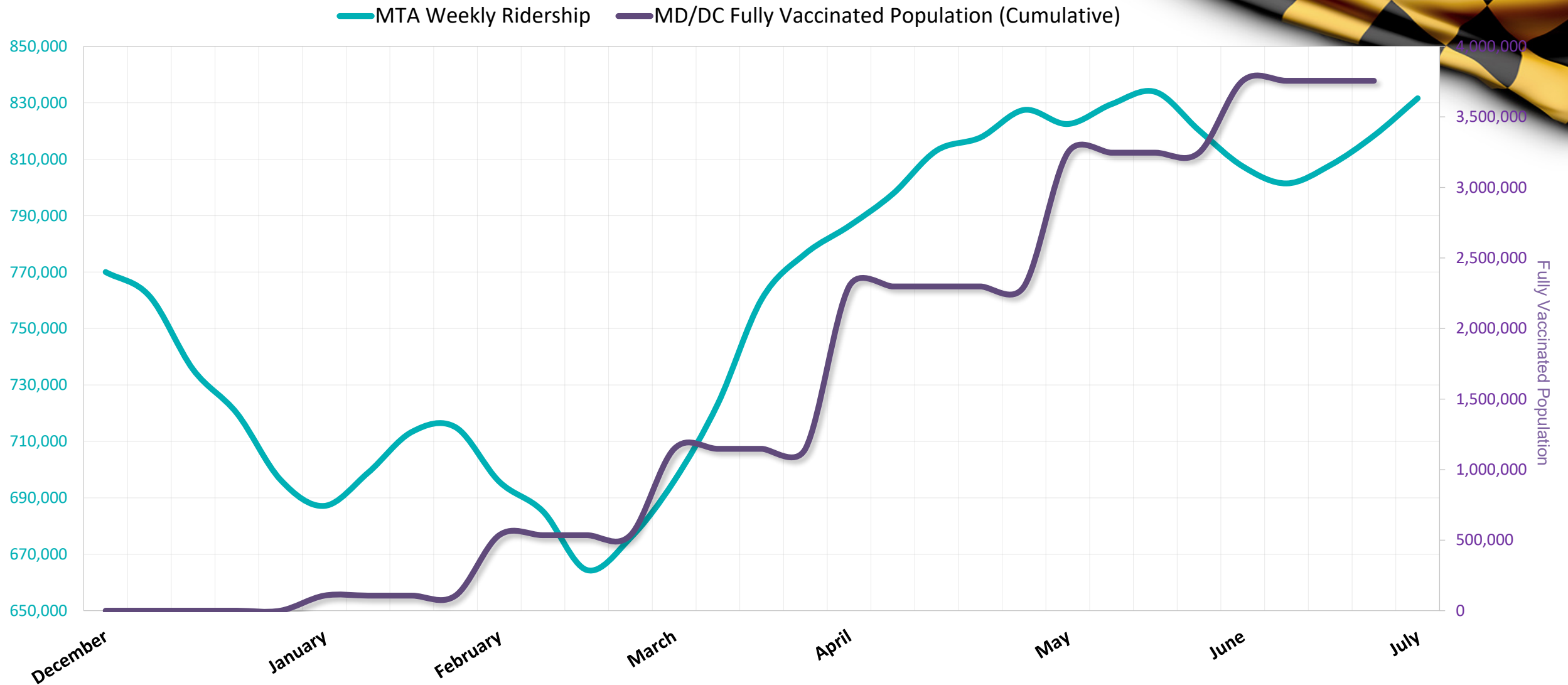
- Overall ridership is down ~55% as of mid-July
 - Core Bus down 45%
 - Mobility down 45%
 - Light Rail down 60%
 - Metro down 80%
 - Commuter Bus down 85%
 - MARC down 85%
- Ridership in Q2 2021 up 20% compared to Q2 2020

Ridership and COVID-19 Cases

MTA Weekly Ridership MD/DC COVID-19 Cases (Monthly)



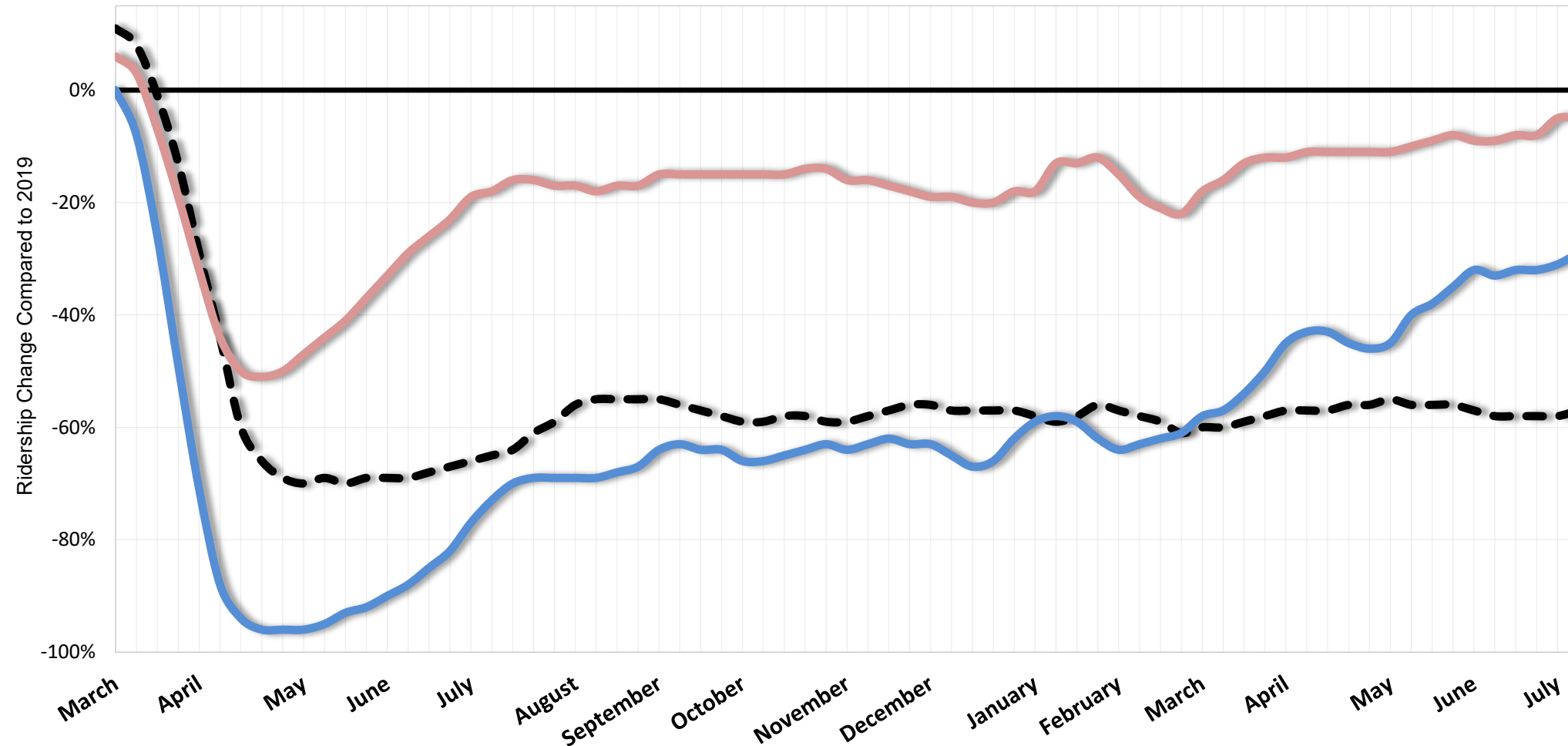
Ridership and COVID-19 Vaccinations



Transit vs Other Transportation Modes

Ridership/Traffic Compared to 2019 (Rolling 4-Week Averages)

— 2019 Level - - MTA Ridership - Statewide Traffic Volume (SHA) - BWI Passenger Traffic



Statewide traffic volume and BWI passenger traffic have recovered faster than transit ridership

- Statewide traffic currently around 95% of pre-pandemic levels compared to 45% for transit
- BWI currently at 70%



Strategic Plan and Return to Full Service

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MTA Strategic Plan



Centering Equity

Equity must continue to be a focus of everything we do. Our work to rebuild better will center around providing full and equitable transportation for Marylanders of diverse races, ethnicities, ages, genders, abilities, and incomes.



Addressing Safety and Security

Keeping our employees and customers safe and secure throughout their complete trip.



Providing Reliable, Efficient Transit Service

Providing transportation that our customers can count on and being prepared to adapt to changes beyond our control.



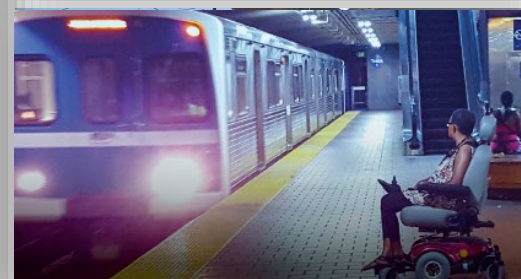
Communicating with Our Stakeholders

Ensuring riders and employees receive the information they need to build a more trusting relationship.



Planning for a Sustainable Future

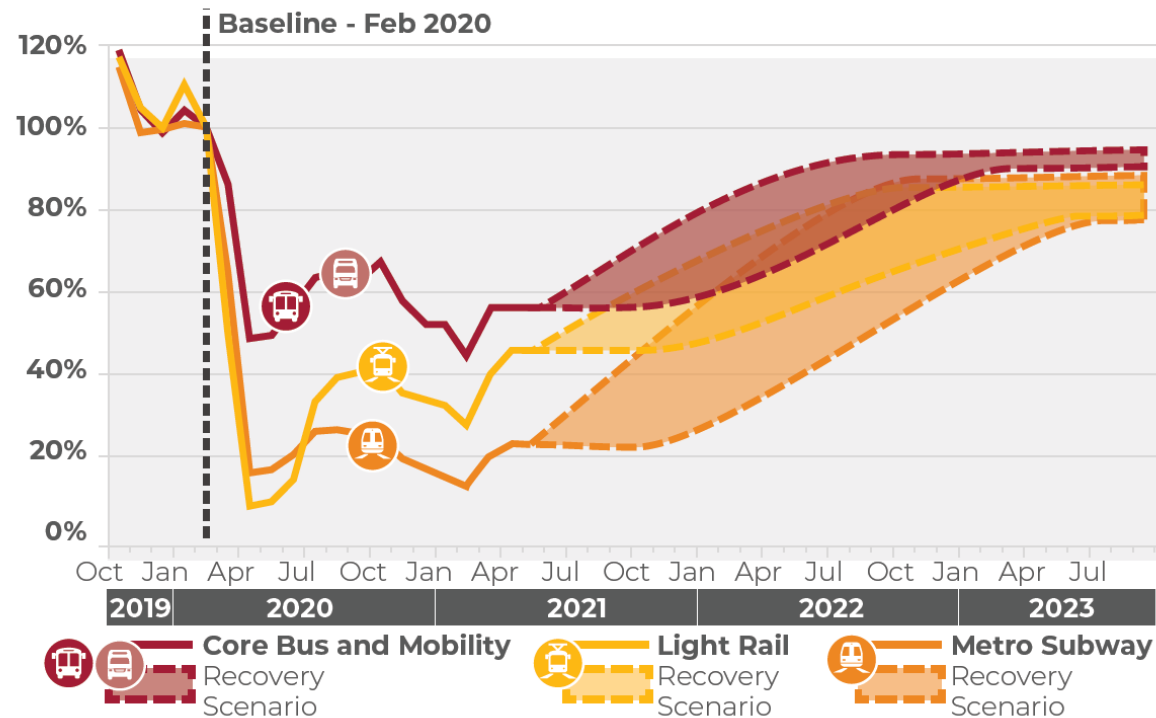
Balancing the needs of people, planet, and prosperity with the financial resources available to MDOT MTA.



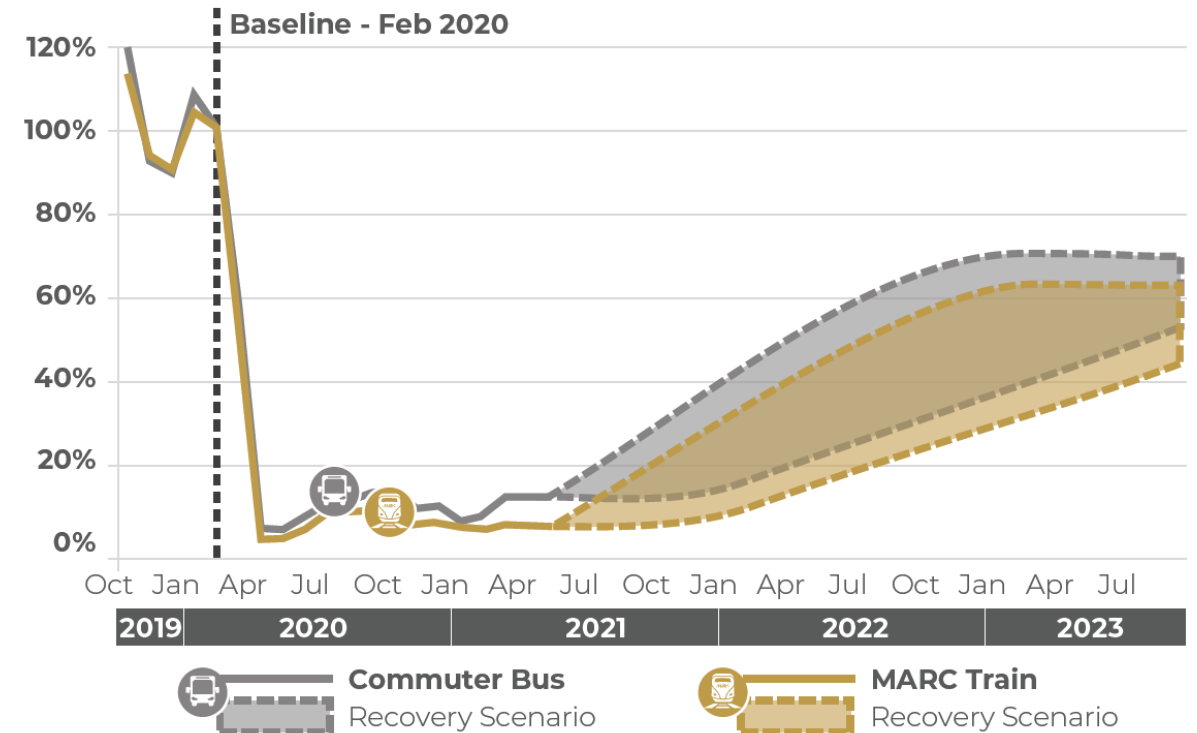
The Future of Transit Ridership

- Likely will take several years for ridership to recover to pre-pandemic levels
- Core Bus and Mobility likely to recover fastest
- MARC and Commuter Bus may experience long-term ridership loss

Core Services and Mobility Ridership Recovery Scenarios

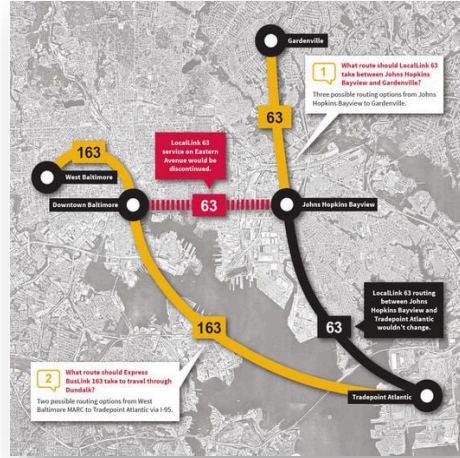


MARC Train and Commuter Bus Ridership Recovery Scenarios



Bringing Back Riders

Returning to Full Service



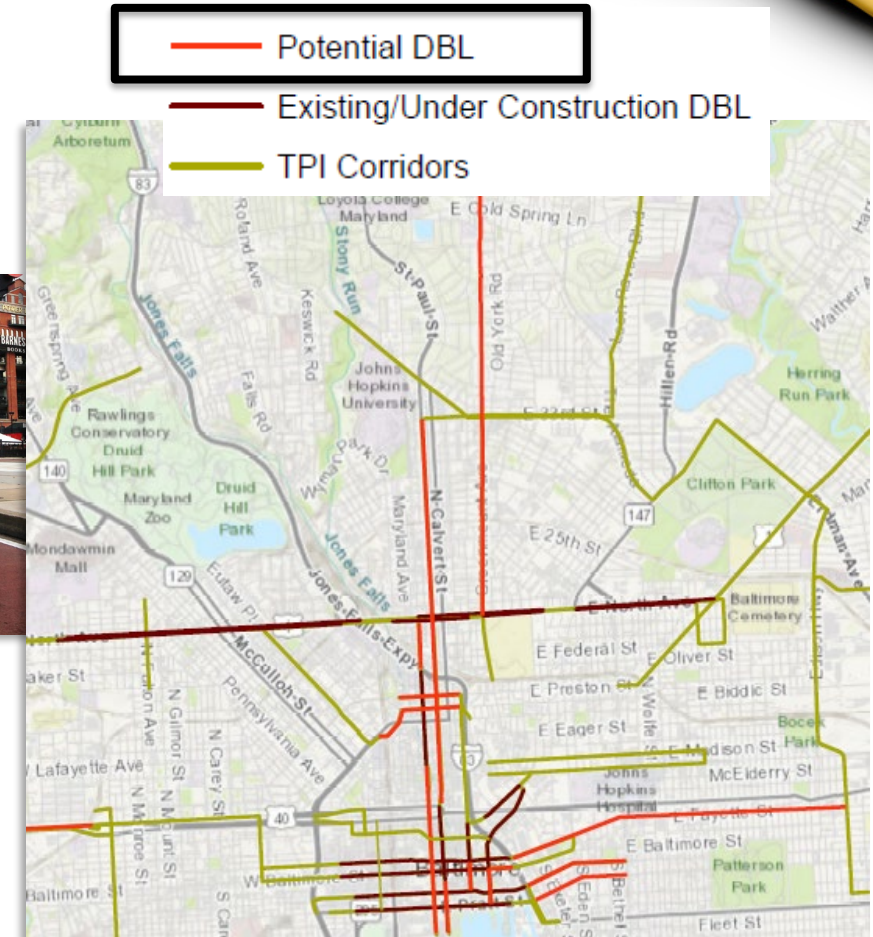
- MARC and Commuter Bus will resume full scheduled service on Monday, August 30
- Fall Service Change in effect August 29
 - Express bus service resumes
 - Final changes will be announced on July 23
- Fare policy changes
 - **Elimination of Express surcharge**
 - ARPA funds used to keep core service fares at \$1.90
- New fare products
 - **3-day and 10-day passes** available through CharmPass valid for up to a year
 - **Usable on non-consecutive days**
 - Discounted 15% percent from a single day pass: 3-day will be \$11.20 and 10-day will be \$37.40
- Coordination with schools and employers
- Ridership campaigns and messaging



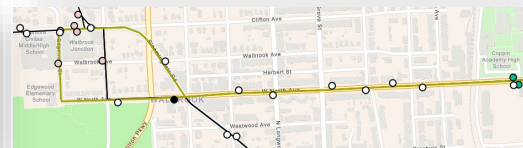
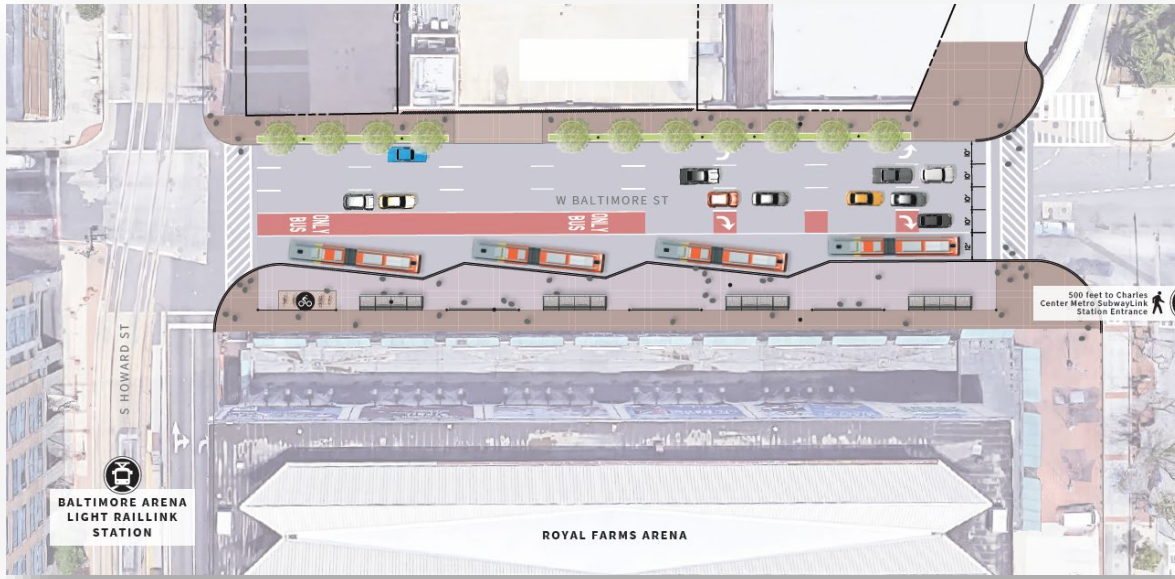
The Year Ahead: Rider-Focused Initiatives

Dedicated Bus Lanes

- RTP goal of **increasing DBL miles from 5.8 to 18 by 2025**
- Downtown repainting to start as soon as supply issues resolved
 - Texas ice storm severely damaged paint supplier plant
- North Avenue Rising scheduled to be completed by end of October
 - Possible extension due to supply issues
- Coordinating with BCDOT on priorities
 - Charles/St. Paul
 - Preston/Biddle
 - Fayette
 - York Road
- Working to identify additional corridors with frequent bus service and travel time delays
 - Use before/after data to measure success
 - Explore alternative construction methods such as pilots



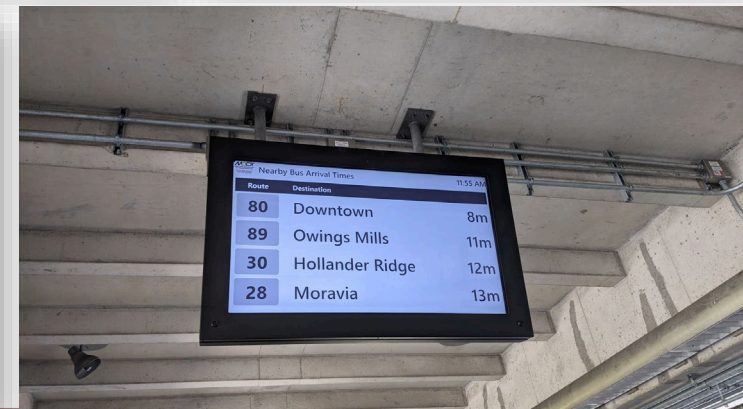
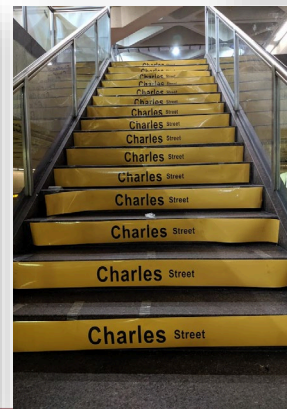
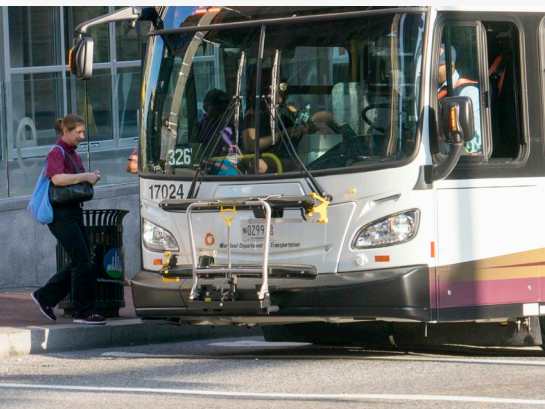
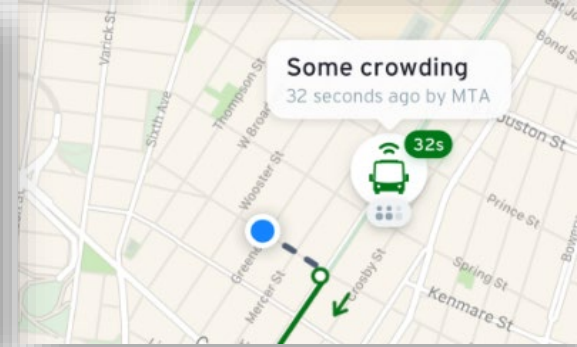
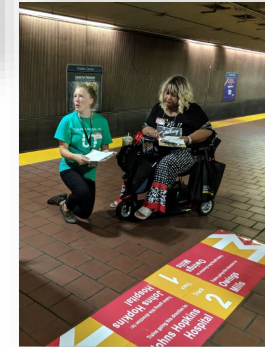
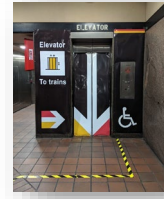
Bus Stops & Transit Hubs



- New bus shelters
 - RTP goal of **adding 100 bus shelters to low-income areas by 2025** and 282 by 2045
 - 54 installed, 44 planned for installation in FY22, and 16 currently under construction
 - Shelter locations prioritized based on ridership, service frequency, and equity criteria
 - Also working with Downtown Partnership and Central Baltimore Partnership on adding more artistic bus stops
- Baltimore Arena Transit Hub
 - Safer and more comfortable transfers
 - 3 bus bays, pedestrian improvements, real-time signage
 - Construction schedule being coordinated with BDC
- Towson and Walbrook Junction Hubs
 - Public outreach, rider surveying, and analysis of alternatives ongoing through 2021
 - Transition to advanced design and engineering happening in early 2022
 - Take the Towson Hub survey at <https://www.mta.maryland.gov/towson-hub>
- Pedestrian safety
 - Received \$624K grant for final design of Patapsco Pedestrian & Bicycle connection
- ADA & accessibility upgrades
 - RTP goal of **increasing ADA accessible stops from 19% to 30% by 2025** and 100% by 2045
 - Currently working on priority scoring methodology
 - Design to begin this fall followed by construction next year

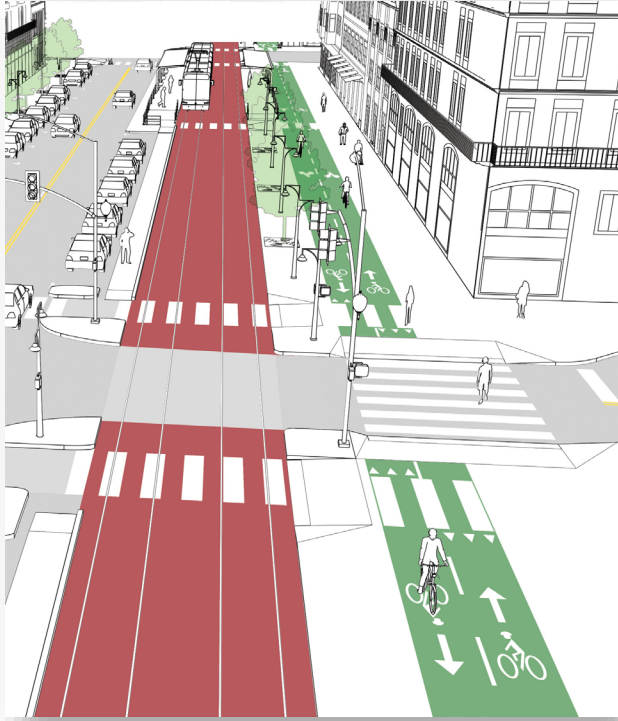
Wayfinding & The Rider Experience

- Focused on improving rider communications
- Signage & station improvements
 - Light Rail upgrades
 - Accessible signage pilot at Charles Center Metro
- Real-time bus crowding information
 - Final testing in early August
- Pilot program of real-time digital signage
 - Three locations: Mondawmin and Rogers Avenue Metro stations and the Patapsco Light Rail stop
 - Part of \$3.5 million Beyond the Bus Stop grant from FTA



Nearby Bus Arrival Times		
Route	Destination	Time
80	Downtown	8m
89	Owings Mills	11m
30	Hollander Ridge	12m
28	Moravia	13m

Bikes & Shared Mobility



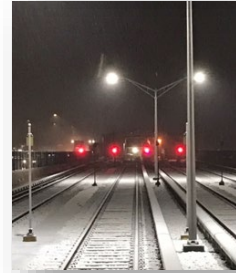
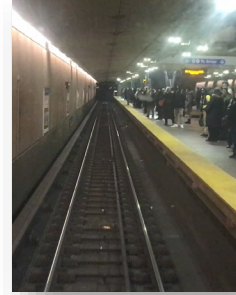
The New York Times

If You Build It, They Will Bike: Pop-Up Lanes Increased Cycling During Pandemic

- Multimodalism
 - Growth of bicycling during the pandemic
 - Importance of multimodal connections and our service
- MARC Bike Cars!
- North Avenue Rising
 - Bike improvements scheduled to be complete during fall 2021
 - Bike boulevards on 20th & Baker
 - Two-way cycletrack from Maryland to Mt. Royal
 - Shared mobility corrals
- Near-term goals:
 - Bike racks at all MARC stations (currently 80%)
 - Coordination with BCDOT on shared mobility corrals at rail stations in Baltimore City

State of Good Repair

- Major SGR investments over the coming years
- \$800m+ Vehicle investment
 - Metro Railcar and Train Control Replacement
 - Light Rail Mid-Life Overhaul
 - Dual-mode MARC locomotives
 - MARC III Overhaul
 - Bus Replacements
 - Zero Emission Buses
- \$280m for rehabilitation of Metro and Light Rail tracks, stations, and systems
- SGR Communications Plan



Closing Thoughts

- Exciting time for MTA
- Region is well positioned for federal funds
- Customer focused improvements
- Continued dialogue & feedback