

Dockless Vehicles and Emerging Mobility in Baltimore

Baltimore City Department of Transportation



Transit Choices
December 2021

Dockless Vehicles

Dockless Vehicles are small vehicles, such as scooter, bikes, and e-bikes, available for rent to get you where you need to go. “Dockless” Vehicles do not need to be parked in a bike rack or any other designated location (the dock). They are equipped with GPS technology and can be parked nearly anywhere- just remember to ride and park courteously!

Current operators permitted in Baltimore City are Lime, Link, and Spin.





Emerging Mobility

- **Dockless Goals:**
 - Improve Transportation Equity
 - Support Complete Streets and increase active transportation
- **Process:**
 - Transparent management
 - Data - driven decisions
- **The Latest:**
 - 2021 Permits
 - Dockless program Support
 - Progress towards goals
 - Emerging modes

Process: Dockless Vehicle History

August 2018: Dockless E-scooter and Bike Pilot launched to replace Baltimore Bike Share



May 2019: Ordinance defining vehicle and establishing dockless permit passed



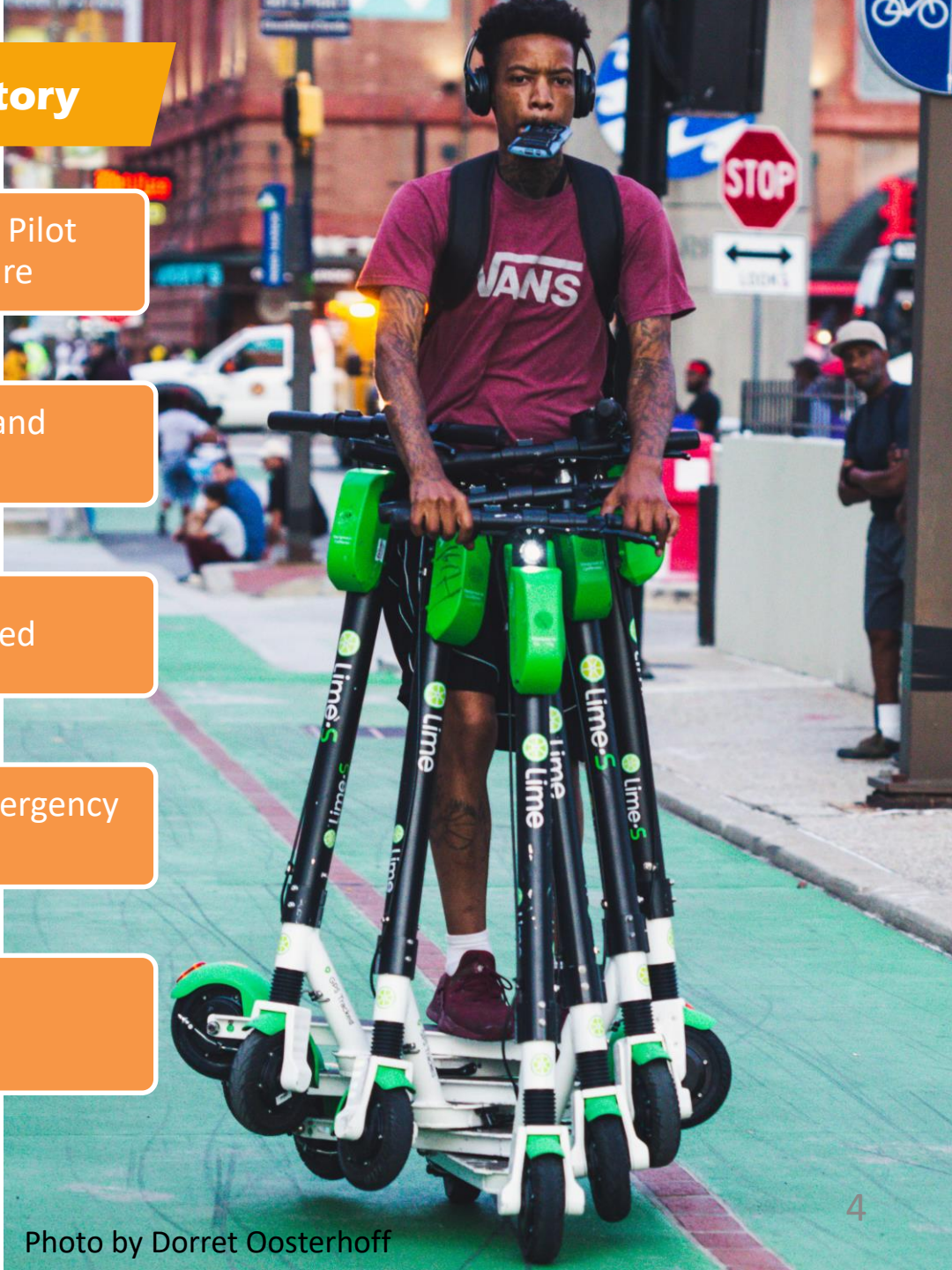
August 2019: First Annual Permits issued



May 2020: Permits extended by State of Emergency Executive Order



July 1, 2021: New Permits issued



Process: Annual Rules and Regulations

- Fleet Size – maximum and minimum vehicle numbers
- Parking & Distribution – morning deployment, avoiding over-concentration, parking checks
- Education & Engagement – required in app, on vehicles, and in person
- Equity of Access – required equity plans and access by non-users
- Safety & Vehicle Standards – vehicle specifications, no-ride and slow-ride zones, vehicle inspections
- Data Reporting & Privacy – trip data, monthly reports, and user protection
- Fees – fees for DOT to administer the program, towing, and performance bond amount

Process: DOT Program Support

DOT program support comes from Permit Fees charged to the for-hire companies and the \$.10 per ride tax. Program support includes:

- Staffing & Data Management - consultant, data storage, evaluation
- Infrastructure Improvements – Bike facility repairs & upgrades, parking corrals
- Community Education & Engagement – PSA, cards for distribution, safety events, restorative response to vandalism





Process: Lessons

- Initial Pilot was essential to assess a new mode on City streets
- Quantitative and qualitative data are needed to shape regulations and update regulations regularly
- Working with tech requires flexibility, working in 2020+ requires flexibility!

The Latest: Permits Holders

Lime

- 1,100 vehicles with 75 bikes, 2,000 with 150 bikes
- New vehicles with larger wheels by Jan 1, 2022
- New \$1 incentives for parking in corrals
- Lime Access 70% off, 50% off automatically in EZ
- Approved to launch adaptive vehicles in 2022



Link

- 1,100 New proprietary e-scooters
- Lower \$1 +.25/min pricing
- Link Access 70% off
- Approved to launch adaptive vehicles in 2022



Spin

- 1,700 e-scooters
- Piloting Parking and Sidewalk detection AI
- Continued Preferred Parking \$1 incentives
- Spin Access 50% off, 25% off automatically in EZ



The Latest: Program Support

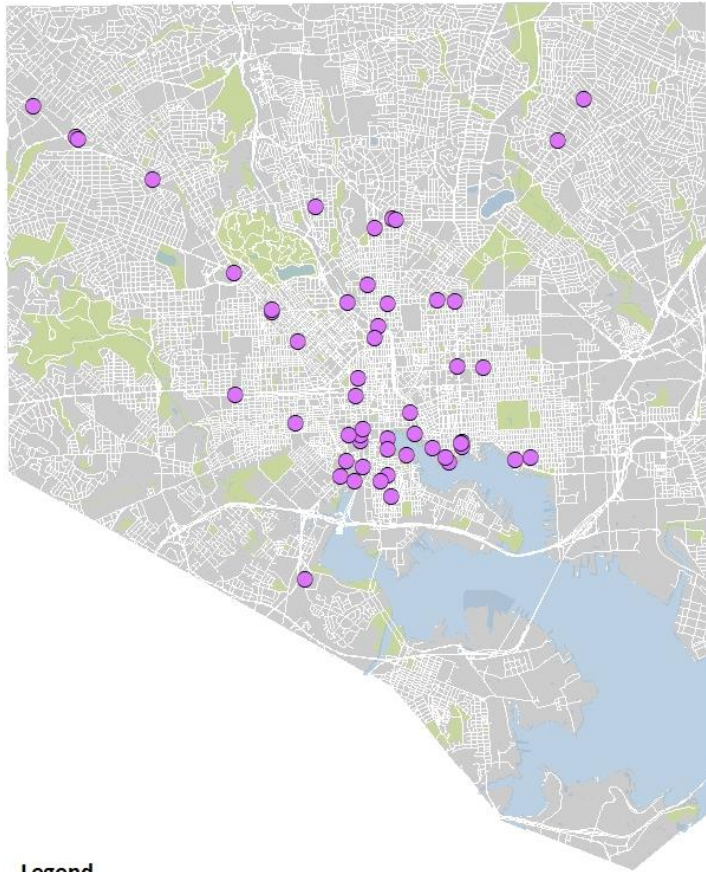


The Latest: Parking Corrals

Corral Installation: 60+ to date

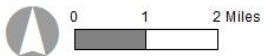
Priorities Locations: Reduce vandalism, cover popular trip destinations, connect to transit

Transit Connection: Parking at all rail stations, NAR parking, and launching a station survey to report issues and request vehicles or parking



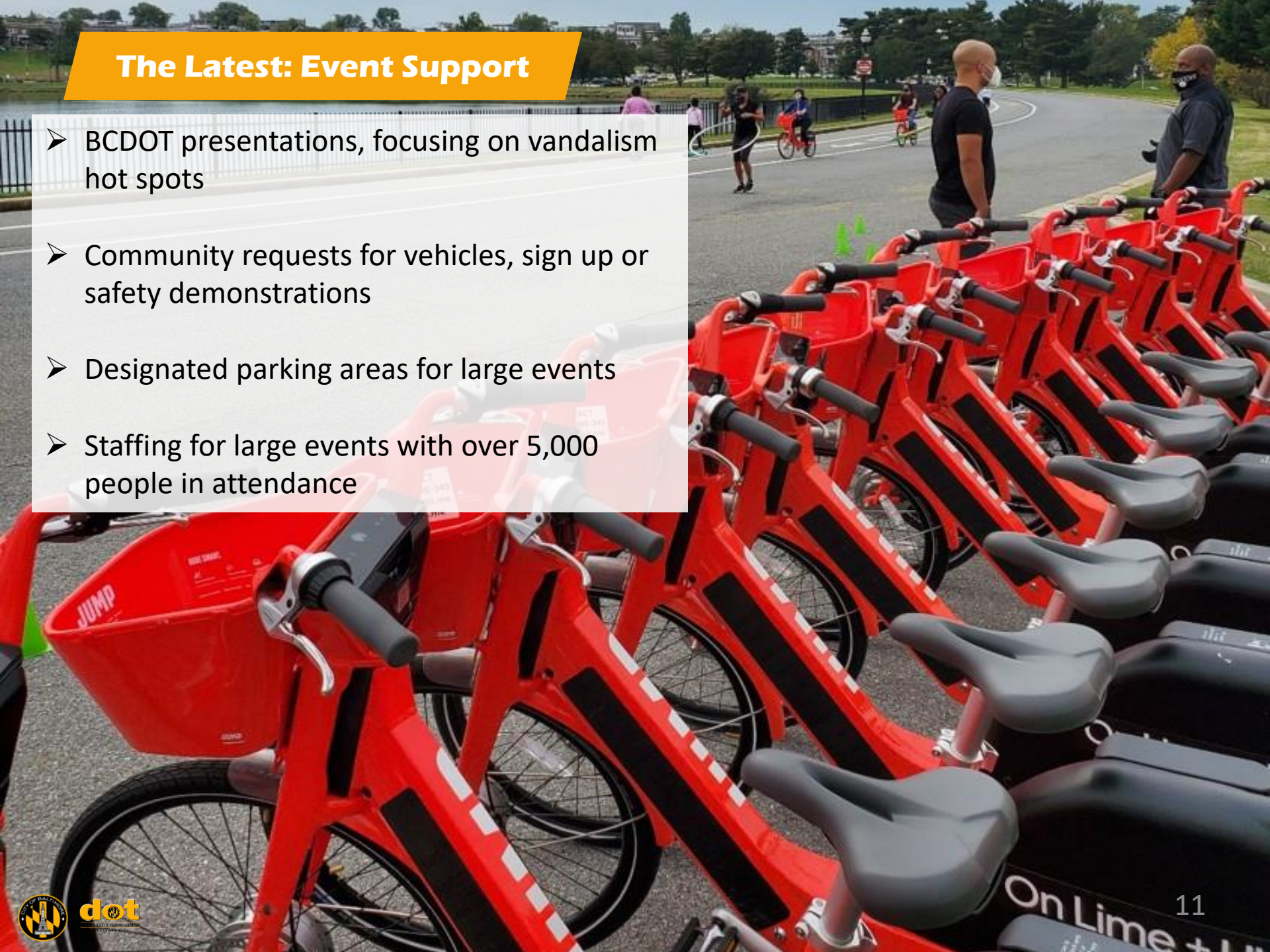
Legend

● Scooter corrals installed as of September 2021



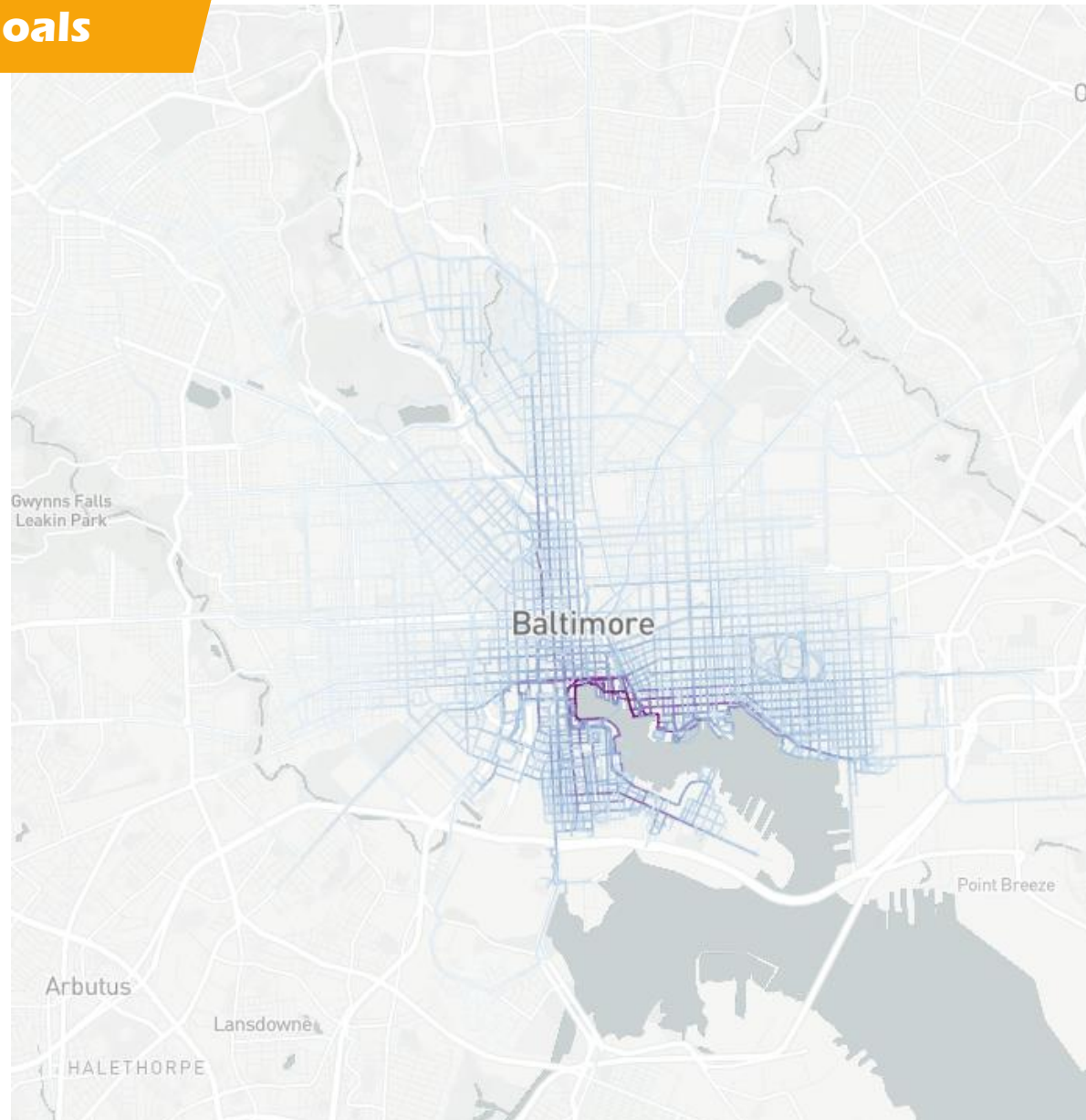
The Latest: Event Support

- BCDOT presentations, focusing on vandalism hot spots
- Community requests for vehicles, sign up or safety demonstrations
- Designated parking areas for large events
- Staffing for large events with over 5,000 people in attendance



The Latest: Dockless Goals

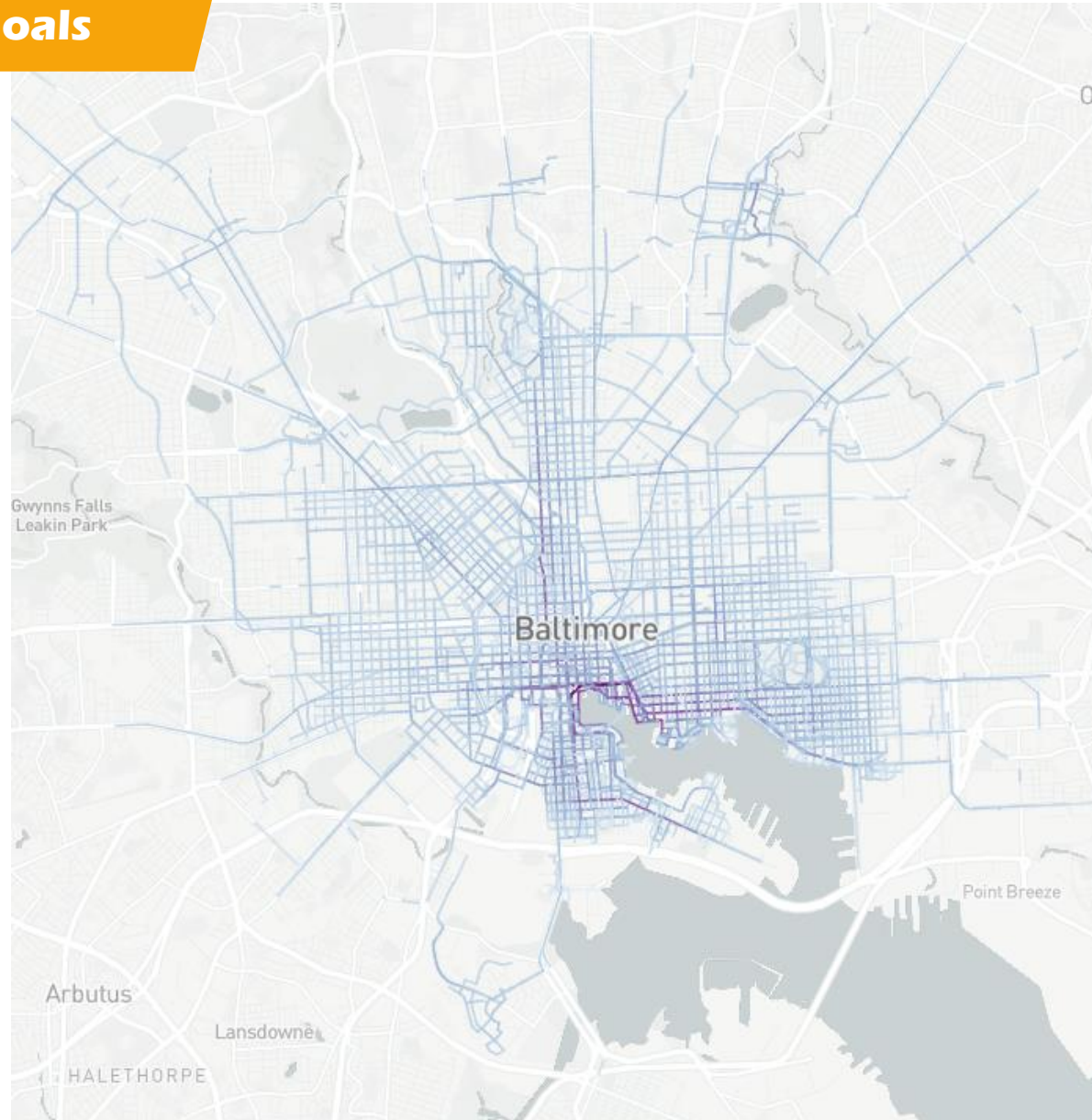
- Equity of Access
 - Vehicle available for rent in all parts of the city through deployment districts and designated Equity Zones
 - Alternative to smart phone rentals through cash plans, text-to-unlock, and discounted memberships for low-income riders



Streets with 3+ daily Dockless Vehicle Trips
May & June 2019

The Latest: Dockless Goals

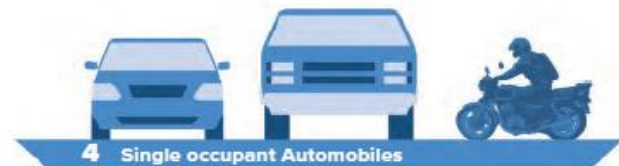
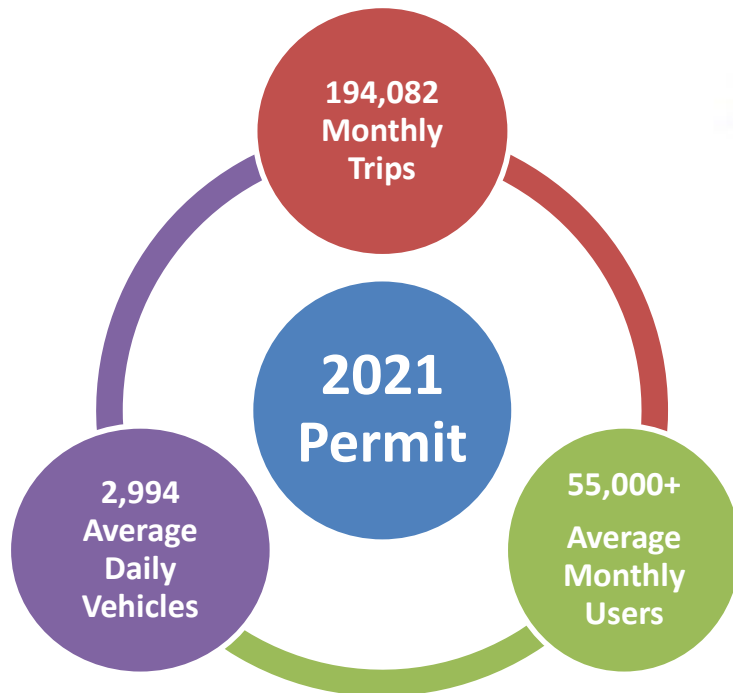
- Equity of Access lessons
 - City must be the one to push for equity
 - Vehicles and plans must be paired with outreach
 - There can be iterations: 2020 observations in Equity Zones and JHU Consultation Grant in progress



Streets with 3+ daily Dockless Vehicle Trips
October & November 2021

The Latest: Dockless Goals

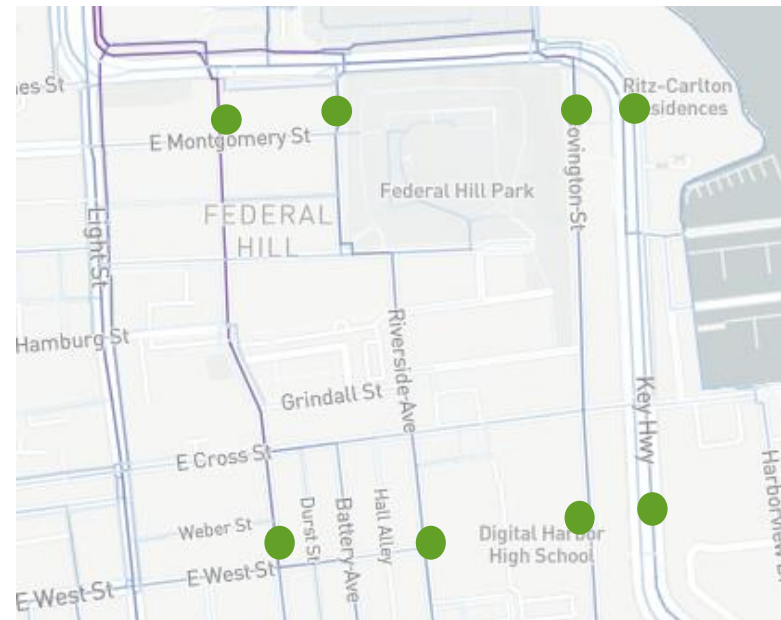
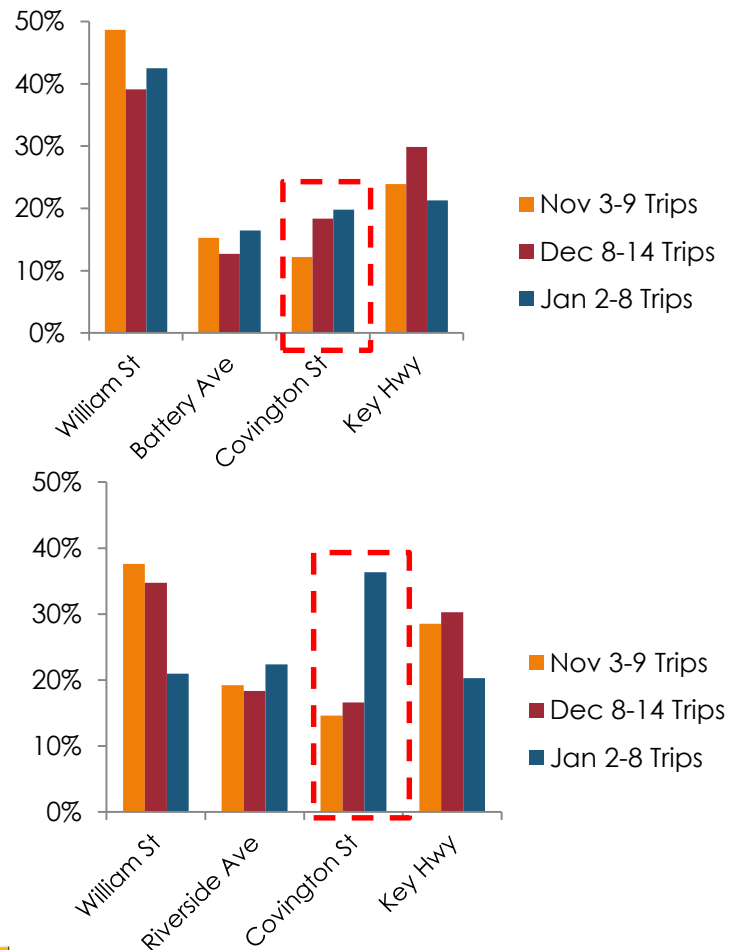
- Support Complete Streets and increase active transportation
 - Grow ridership
 - Use data and permit fees to support safe bicycle facilities



The Latest: Dockless Goals

E-scooter trip data: Covington Street Case Study

In November 2019, Covington Street in Federal Hill became a low stress bike connection. Dockless data shows use growing on Covington street and reduced on adjacent Key Highway.

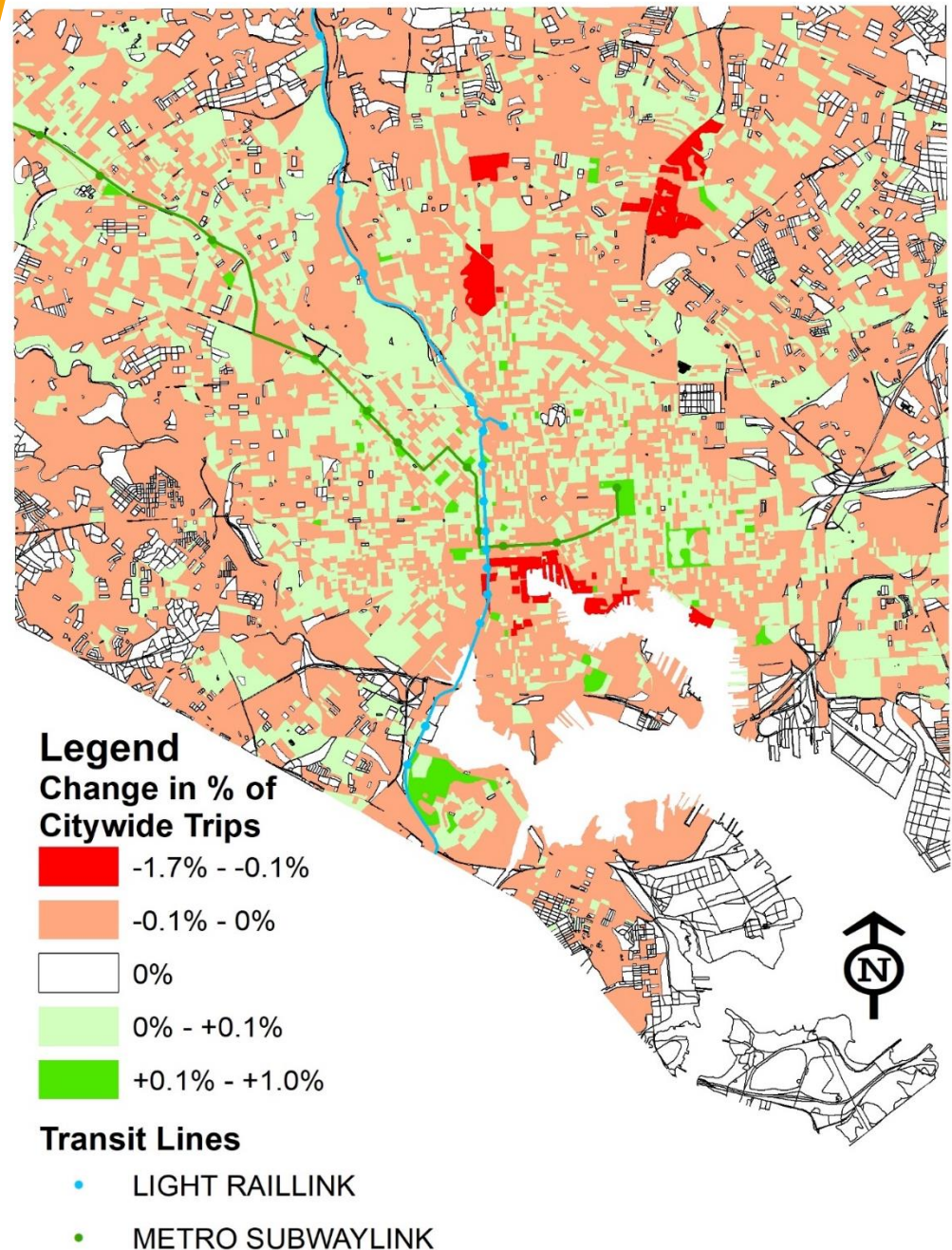


The Latest: COVID 19 Effect

We interrupt the regularly scheduled evaluation to bring you....

COVID 19 Trip Impacts:

- Distinct time periods:
 - March- May 2020 (mapped)
 - June 2020 – May 2021
 - June 2021- Present
- Equity Zones account for higher percentage of rides than ever before
- Few blocks with net increase in rides, predominately near rail transit lines in West/NW





The Latest: Emerging Mobility

- Existing modes which are undergoing tech and regulation shifts:
 - E-bikes and Moped Scooters
 - Rideshare
 - Curb Management (dining, ROW art)
- New modes:
 - Personal Delivery Devices: Pilot at the State level, municipalities can set regulations

What are your top concerns?

Mentimeter Poll: Menti.com

Code: **3398 6122**

Down the Road....

- Report once-off issues to companies
- Join policy conversations at the quarterly Dockless Vehicle Committee meetings
- Report on-going issues to Baltimore City DOT
- Contact Baltimore City DOT with any questions or requests for: deployment, parking corrals, event support

dot-community@baltimorecity.gov



dot
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Photo by Graham Projects