

BMORE BUS



Better Buses



Better Baltimore

Transit Choices | July 18, 2024

Agenda

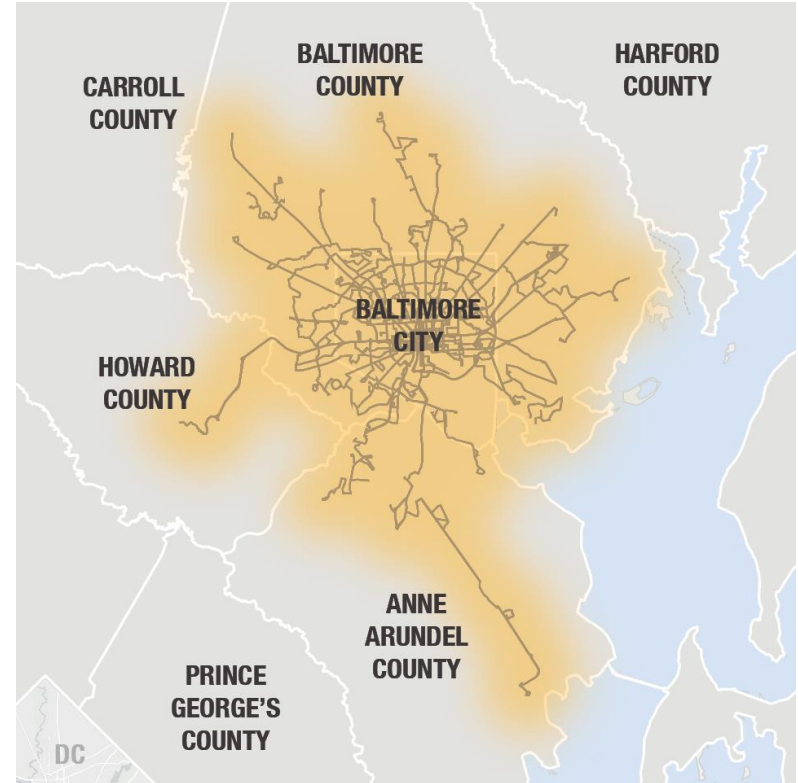
- Overview
- Study Timeline
- Existing Conditions Highlights
- Public Engagement
- Basics of Bus Service Planning & Survey
- Learn More & Stay Engaged

Overview








Plan Basics

- Short-range transit plan (5-10 years)
- Will recommend bus improvements based on public priorities and travel data
- Will inform MTA's Annual Service Planning and will identify improvements that could be possible with additional resources
- Focuses on core bus service area plus connections to broader Central Maryland region



Overview

What improvements is MTA considering?

-  More frequent service
-  Longer hours of operation
-  New or modified routes to serve new destinations and connections
-  New services like limited-stop routes and on-demand transit
-  And more!

Study Timeline

SPRING 2024

VISIONING

- » Conduct existing conditions analyses
- » Introduce the BMORE BUS study to the public and collect feedback on priorities for bus service

SUMMER 2024

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Develop draft route-level recommendations
- » Collect feedback from the public to refine and prioritize route-level recommendations

FALL 2024

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Release the final recommendations in the BMORE BUS Transit Plan

Once complete, the BMORE BUS plan will inform the annual updates that MTA makes to bus service each fall.

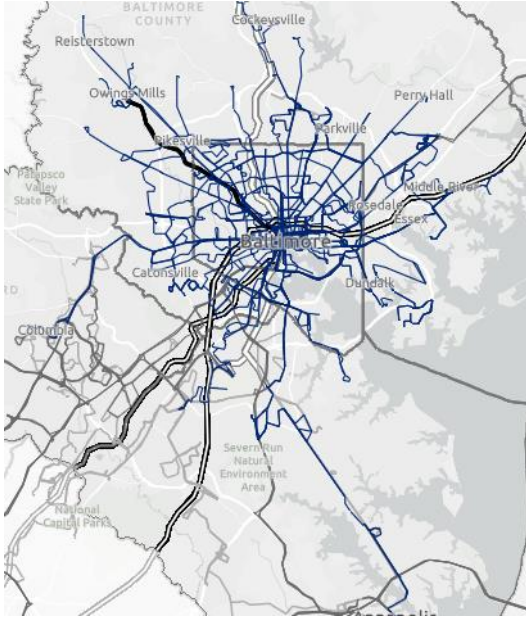
Existing Conditions

Interactive Online Storymap

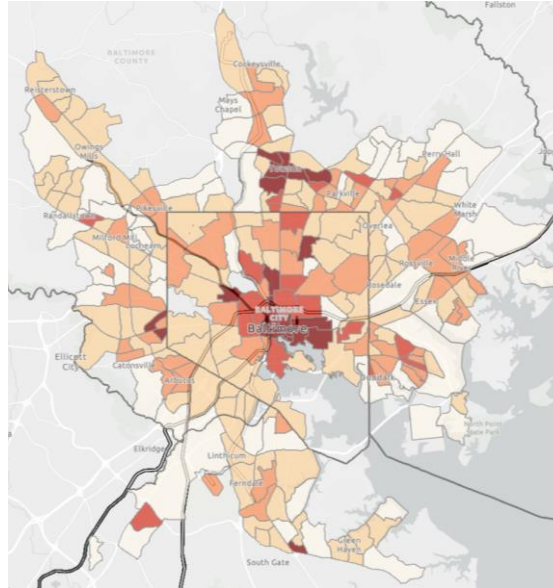


Existing Conditions

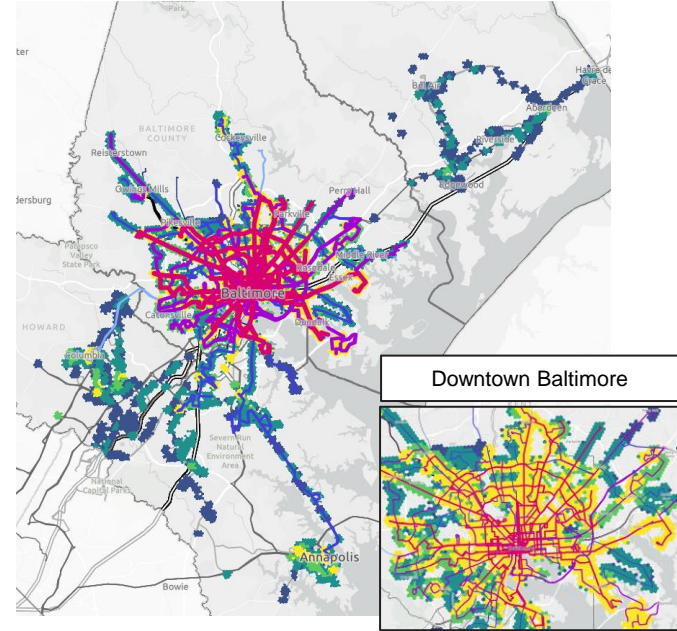
Existing MTA Bus Service



Where do people travel today?



How often do buses come?



Public Engagement

Phase 1 Outreach Conducted

Launch

- Website
- Press release
- Elected officials notified
- E-blasts
- Flyers posted to high-ridership bus stops
- Onboard announcement/digital displays/car cards
- Print and digital ad campaigns
- Social media

Presentations

- BOPS, OAC
- CAC, CACAT, YTC, BRTC
- Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Anne Arundel County

Pop-ups

- Towsontown Spring Festival
- Bike-to-Work Day – Annapolis
- Bike-to-Work Day – Columbia
- Mondawmin transit hub
- BCPS Multilingual Families – Facilitated Discussion



Phase 1 Outreach Materials: Basics of Bus Service Planning & Survey

Public Survey

Priority Ranking

- _____ **Improve and Expand the Frequent Transit Network:** Increase the frequency of routes in the frequent transit network and/or add more routes to the frequent transit network (on weekdays from 6:00am to 6:00pm).
- _____ **Increase Frequency in the Off-Peak Periods:** Increase the number of buses during the evening, late at night, and on weekends.
- _____ **Increase Limited-Stop Service:** Increase the number routes with limited stops and quicker travel times, even if some local bus stops get skipped.
- _____ **Add More Routes in the Existing Core Bus Service Area:** Add more routes to create new connections and increase service in MTA's core bus network.
- _____ **Add New Service to New Areas:** Add new bus routes to new destinations not currently within MTA's service area.

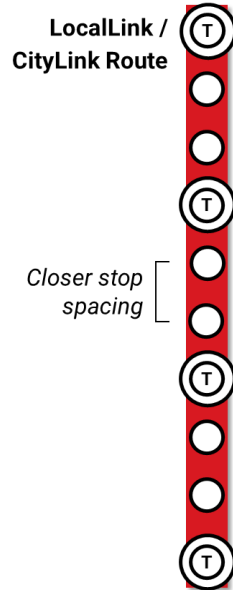


Basics of Bus Service Planning

Service Types: Local vs. Limited-Stop

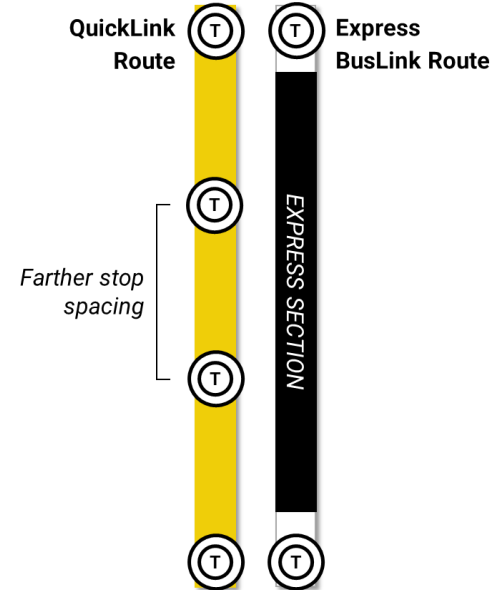
Local Service

- i.e. LocalLink & CityLink routes
- More bus stops that are closer together
- Minimizes walking distance to/from bus stops
- Better for shorter, neighborhood-to-neighborhood trips



Limited-Stop Service

- i.e. QuickLink and Express BusLink routes
- Fewer and farther-spaced bus stops
- Typically requires walking further to bus stop or transfer routes to access
- Moves riders quickly between job centers and further away destinations



Basics of Bus Service Planning

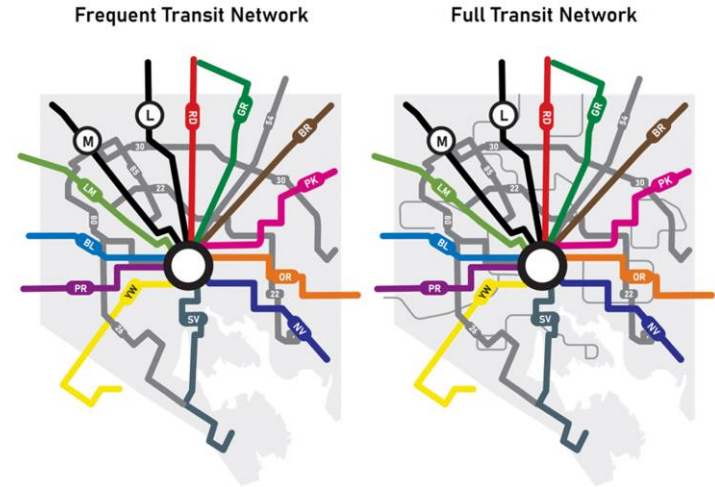
Service Frequency

The Frequent Transit Network

- Subset of routes with service-at least every 15 minutes on weekdays during the day and early evening
- Includes all CityLink routes and select LocalLink routes (LocalLink 22, 26, 30, 54, and 85)
- Provides frequent and convenient routes that serve major destinations

Off-Peak (Evening, Late Night, and Weekend) Service

- Weekday service that runs outside of the 6:00am to 6:00pm timeframe
- Weekend service



Basics of Bus Service Planning

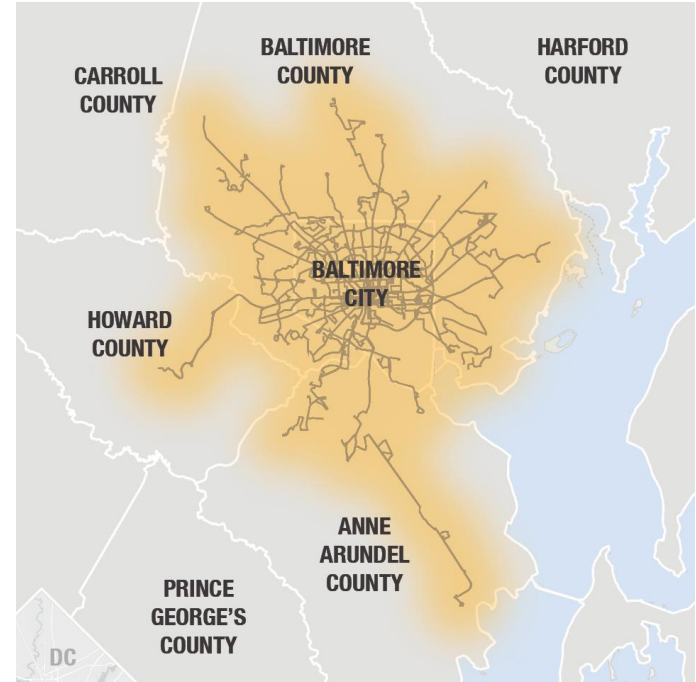
Service Areas

MTA's Existing Service Area

- Includes Baltimore City and portions of Baltimore, Howard, and Anne Arundel Counties

Potential New Service to New Areas

- Locations within the Central Maryland region that existing core bus network does not cover



Learn More and Get Involved

Planned Phase 2 Engagement

- **Subjects covered:** Phase 2 outreach will present options/approaches to distributing additional bus resources, informed by data and the results of outreach phase 1. This comment period will allow for feedback to be taken into account before the plan is finalized.
- **Comment period:** September through early October
- **Outreach methods planned:**
 - Stakeholders presentations
 - Community Organization Outreach
 - Material Distribution
 - Pop-ups at events and high ridership stops
 - Open Houses

Help Us Shape the BMORE BUS Plan

Visit mta.maryland.gov/bmorebus to:

- Learn more about the study

Questions? Email bmorebus@mta.maryland.gov

We'll reach back out for engagement phase 2, and you can help us spread to word!