Alexandria Transit Company Board of Directors Meeting

Zoom Webinar/Facebook Live
May 12, 2021

Those wishing to speak during the Public Comment period may pre-register at www.dashbus.com/0414ATC and join via Zoom. Alternatively, attendees may use the "RAISE HAND ✋ " feature to be recognized for comment.

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Electronic Meeting Notice

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency, this meeting of the Alexandria Transit Company Board of Directors is being held electronically pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.2(A)(3), the Continuity of Government ordinance adopted by the Alexandria City Council on June 20, 2020 or Section 4-0.01(g) in HB29 and HB30, as enacted by the 2020 Virginia General Assembly (Virginia Acts of Assembly Ch. 1283 and 1289), to undertake essential business.

All of the members of the Board and staff are participating from remote locations through a Zoom meeting. This meeting continues to be held electronically, unless a determination is made that it is safe enough to be held in person at the Alexandria Transit Company Board Room, 3000 Business Center Drive, Alexandria, VA. Electronic access will be provided in either event.

The meeting can be accessed live via Zoom and Facebook, and recordings are posted on YouTube and the DASH website. Public comment will be accepted via Zoom. A Zoom registration link is available on the DASH website, alternatively requests for public comment can be made during the public comment period by utilizing the raise hand feature.

This meeting is being recorded.

Calling of the Role

Alexandria Transit Company Board Members

- David Kaplan, Chairman
- Steve Klejst, Vice-Chairman
- Linda Bailey
- Jeff Bennett
- Lawrence Chambers
- Brandi Collins
- Ian Greaves
- Matt Harris
- Jim Kapsis
- Hillary Orr
- Ajashu Thomas

REMINDER!
Public Meeting Laws:

- **Board member video must be on** while deliberating topics, hearing public comment, and always when "present" during the meeting.
  - Members with muted video are considered away from the meeting (i.e. restroom break) and cannot participate in deliberations during such time.

- All **comments are recorded** and made a part of public record.

- Attendees are unable to interact with Board Members outside of the designated Public Comment Periods; however, **feedback, compliments, complaints or any comments are welcome anytime at:** DASHBus@alexandriava.gov

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Public Comment Period

Those wishing to speak during the Public Comment Period *may pre-register at www.dashbus.com/0414ATC and join via Zoom. Alternatively, attendees may use the "RAISE HAND" feature to be recognized for comment.*

3 minutes
Speak Now

Time is Up
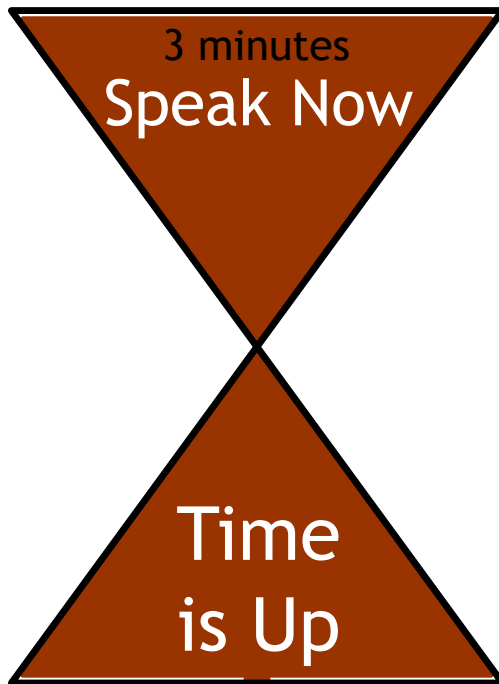
- All speakers must connect via Zoom

- You may click "RAISE HAND ✋" to request to speak, please leave your hand up until called upon.

- Timer will automatically announce when 3 minutes have expired.

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Review and Consideration of Approval: Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2021 Minutes

Chairman's Report

David Kaplan, Chairman

T&ES Report

ATC Board Update – May 12, 2021

Commuter Choice Program

In January, DASH submitted two applications for the Commuter Choice Program to increase service to levels recommended in the Alexandria Transit Vision plan on lines 35 and 36 (currently roughly the AT1+ and the AT9). At the May NVTC meeting, staff presented their recommendation, supported by the Policy and Programming Committee to fund all projects.

Public comment on the 13 proposals under consideration for funding opened on April 16 and remains open through May 17. At the Commissions' (NVTC and PRTC) June 3 meetings, staff will share the public comments received and seek the Commissions' approval of a Program of Projects, followed by the CTB's approval in mid-June.

T&ES Report

ATC Board Update – May 12, 2021

WMATA

On April 22, the WMATA board adopted its FY 2022 operating budget and capital Budget and 2022-2027 Capital Improvement Plan. The operating budget includes the planned service improvements for calendar year 2022 extended through the full fiscal year. Originally, before the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act was passed, service was going to be significantly restricted in calendar year 2022. Beginning in June, modified peak period service will resume in Alexandria, including the 11C (a modified 11Y to Braddock) and the 21C (a modified 21A and 8Z). These services can be more fully restored as ridership warrants. Additional service will be restored in September. The board discussed the potential for making amendments to the budget to further incorporate fare or service changes that are enabled with additional ARP funds.

T&ES Report

ATC Board Update – May 12, 2021

Capital Bikeshare Expansion:

For the West End Bikeshare Expansion Project, a total of 7 stations are planned for installation this winter and spring. Three stations have been installed to date, two are scheduled for the end of April, and the remaining two are expected to be installed in May. At the completion of this expansion project, there will be a total of 44 Capital Bikeshare stations in the City of Alexandria.

Location	Status
South Whiting Street at Lane Drive	Installed in February
North Hampton Drive at Ford Avenue	Installed in February
Taney Avenue at North Howard Street	Installed in March
Kenmore Avenue at Seminary Road	Approved by Traffic & Parking Board in February. Installation scheduled for end of April.
Fillmore Avenue at Bisdorf Drive, southeast corner (on-street)	Approved by Traffic & Parking Board in February. Installation scheduled for end of April.
North Howard Street at North Imboden Street (on-street)	Approved by Traffic & Parking Board in February. Installation expected in May.
Virginia Theological Seminary	Location approved, City finalizing agreements with the property owner. Installation expected in May

Alexandria Mobility Plan
Draft Plan Release

Alexandria Transit Company Board Meeting

May 12, 2021

What is the AMP?

A **strategic update** to the 2008 *Transportation Master Plan* **focused on improving mobility choices**

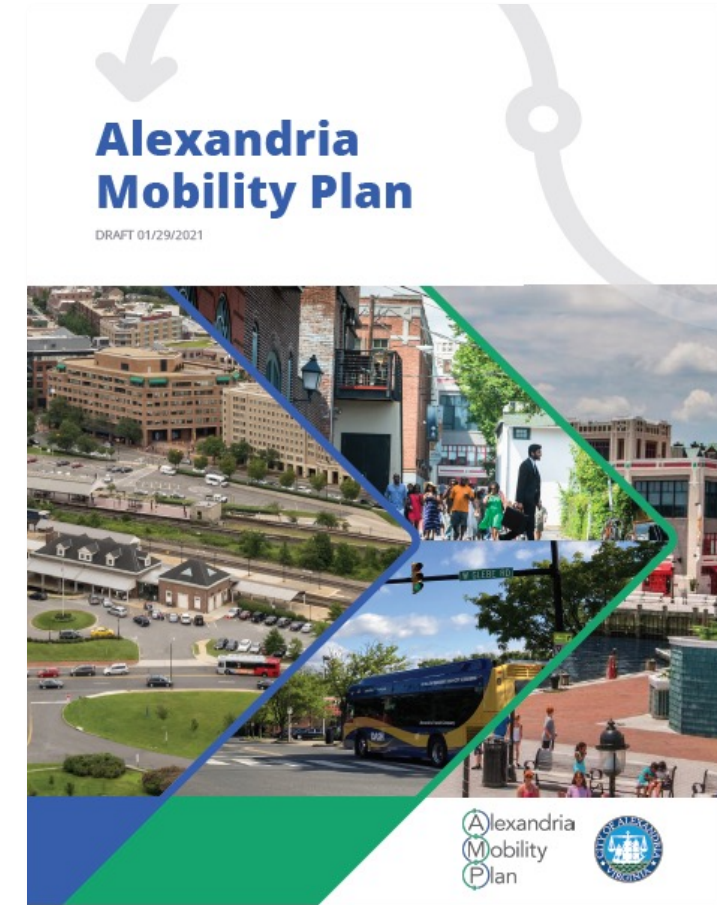Serves as a **workplan to outline priorities and guide transportation decision-making**

Promotes **flexibility to adapt** to new ideas, technologies, and trends

Provides a **foundation for securing funding** to advance existing plans and new projects

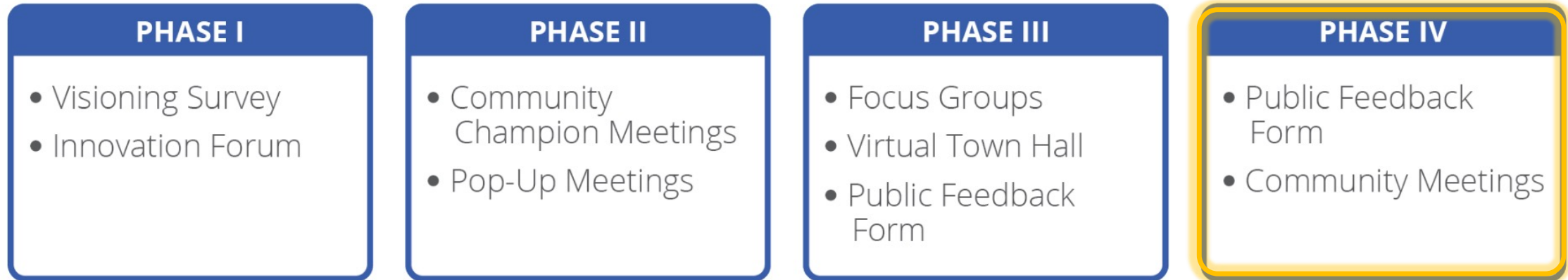Encourages **public and private partnerships to** leverage City resources

Alexandria Mobility Plan
DRAFT 01/29/2021

Alexandria Mobility Plan

Planning Process

AMP

We Are Here

| Vision and Guiding Principles | → | Establish Priorities | → | Develop Policy and Strategy | → | Draft Plan |

Public Outreach and Engagement Activities

PHASE I	PHASE II	PHASE III	PHASE IV
• Visioning Survey • Innovation Forum	• Community Champion Meetings • Pop-Up Meetings	• Focus Groups • Virtual Town Hall • Public Feedback Form	• Public Feedback Form • Community Meetings

Advisory Committee Meetings

Plan and Chapter Components

Alexandria Mobility Plan

Vision
What we want for Alexandria

Guiding Principles
Broad outcomes that we hope to achieve

Key Performance Indicator
Specific measures of our guiding principles

Overarching Policies
Methods to guide decision-making

Chapters

Transit

Supporting Travel Options

Smart Mobility

Curb Space and Parking

Streets

Pedestrian & Bicycle (2016)

Policies
Method to guide decision-making

Strategies
Specific and achievable initiative and/or project

Actions
Trackable step toward implementing a straegy

Metrics
Specific measures of our strategies

Plan Inputs

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Vision

Safe, seamless, and connected mobility options foster a thriving Alexandria for all

Guiding Principles

ACCESS Alexandria

Accessible — Alexandria will work to make its transportation network **easily accessible for users of ages and abilities**.

Connected — Alexandria's transportation system will take you where you want to go seamlessly by **leveraging technology and integrating transportation and land use**.

Convenient — Alexandria will provide a transportation system with high-quality mobility options that **reliable**, **frequent**, **proximate**, and **comfortable**.

Equitable — Alexandria acknowledges that there are disparities in neighborhoods and populations City that have been historically underserved. Alexandria will be **targeted**, **inclusive**, and **intentional in addressing gaps in mobility options** available, their quality, and safety.

Safe — Alexandria will **eliminate all traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2028**.

Sustainable — Alexandria will **prioritize low-carbon mobility options** and **reduce automobile dependency**.

Addressing Community Concerns

- Key community concerns
  - Desire for **more and better travel choices, particularly transit**
  - Concern about **cut-through traffic** and **congestion** on local streets
  - Need for **transportation equity**

Transit Policies

A. *Make transit greener and more useful:* Build out a fast and reliable all-day transit network with frequent service that runs on electric buses and serves the entire city, with a focus on areas that will benefit the most Alexandrians, businesses, employees, customers and visitors.

B. *Make transit easier to use:* Increase transportation choices by reducing or eliminating barriers to taking transit.

Transit Strategies

1. Build out the city's priority transitway corridors and an all-day transit network with frequent service using electric buses

2. Identify improvements on congested, high-ridership corridors to make buses faster and more reliable

3. Improve the rider experience

4. Make paying for the bus easier and more equitable

5. Support a better-connected regional transit network

6. Modernize the paratransit program for the city's aging population

Plan Outcomes

Measurable progress towards achieving Guiding Principles

Accessible
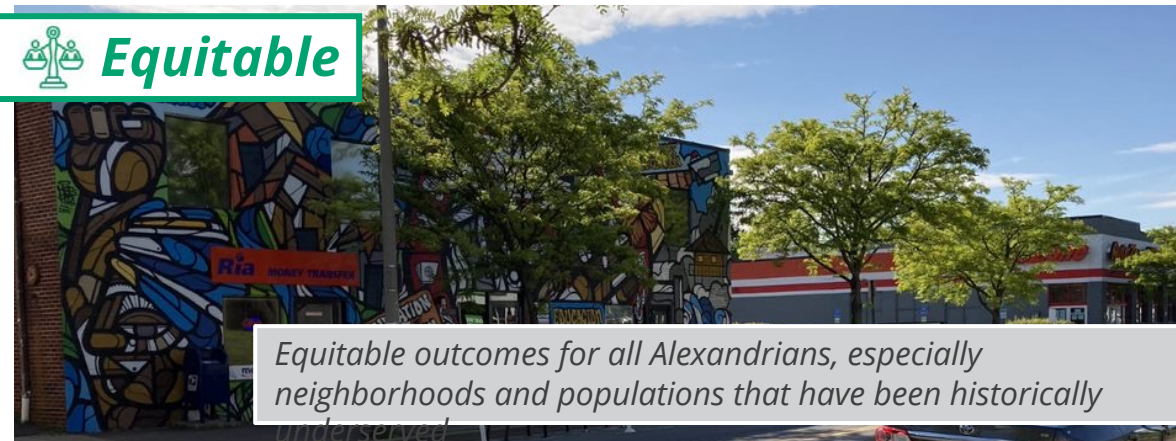Increased access to high-quality transportation choices for all Alexandrians

Convenient
Better overall experience getting around the City

Equitable
Equitable outcomes for all Alexandrians, especially neighborhoods and populations that have been historically underserved

Connected
More and easier connections to jobs, opportunities, and community destinations

Safe
Reduced number and severity of crashes

Sustainable
Increase in non-single occupant vehicle commuting
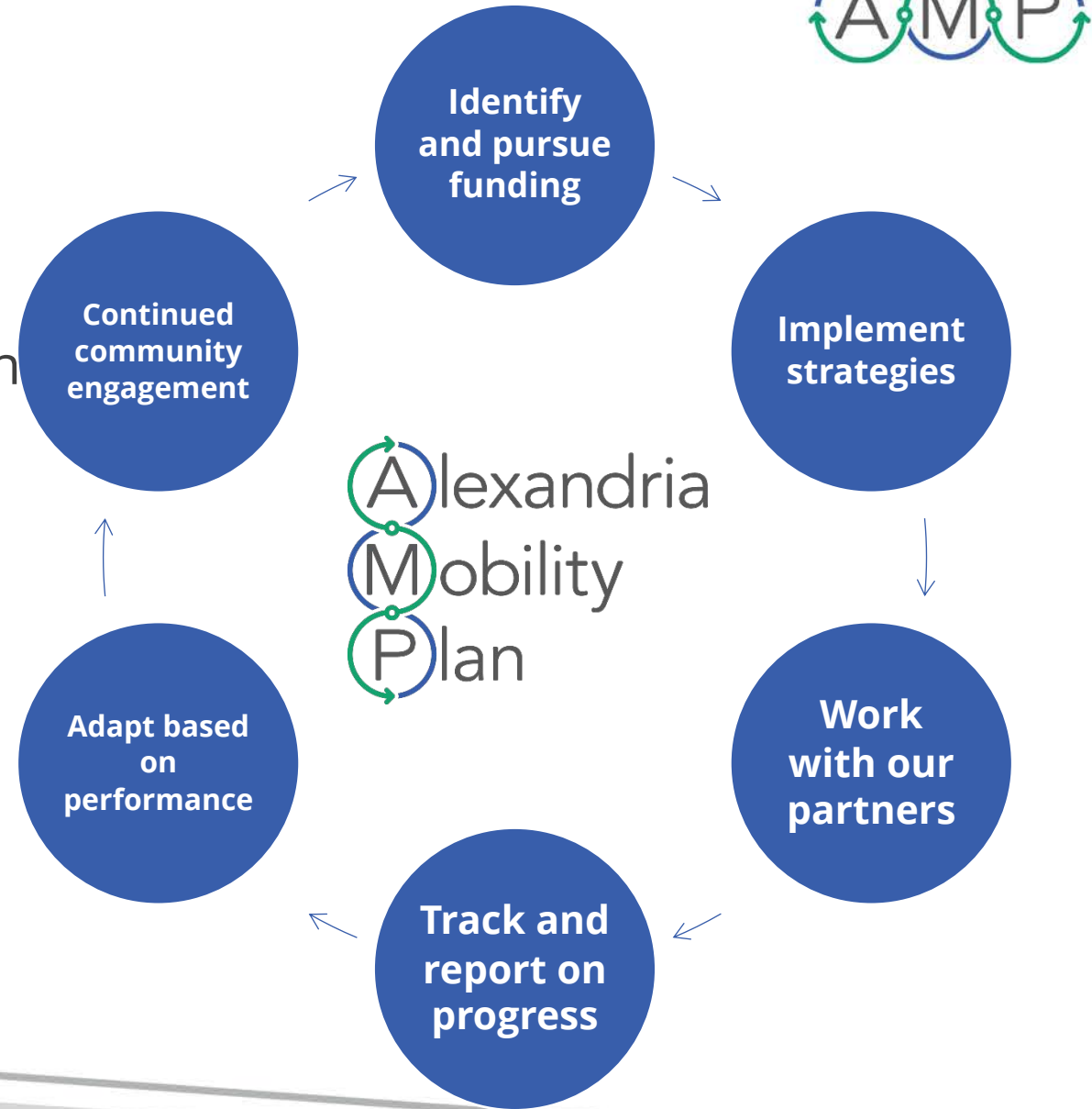
Transit Specific Metrics

- Percent of residents within ¼ mile of 15 minute or better service
- Percent of low-income, people of color, and senior residents within ¼ mile of 15 minute or better service
- Percent of residents who say it is easy to get around by transit
- Percent of people taking transit to work (mode share)
- Annual transit ridership
- DASH on-time performance

Next Steps:

- AMP Advisory Committee meeting (May 26)
- Commission endorsements and Planning Commission hearing (September)
- City Council consideration (Fall)

Next Steps: Begin Implementation

- Pursue actions identified for each strategy
- Identify capital projects consistent with AMP
- Identify funding sources
- Coordinate with our partners to achieve shared goals
- Track and report on progress
- Adapt based on performance
- Continued engagement with the community, stakeholders, and elected officials

Identify and pursue funding

Implement strategies

Continued community engagement

Alexandria Mobility Plan

Work with our partners

Adapt based on performance

Track and report on progress

Other Board Member Announcements & Reports
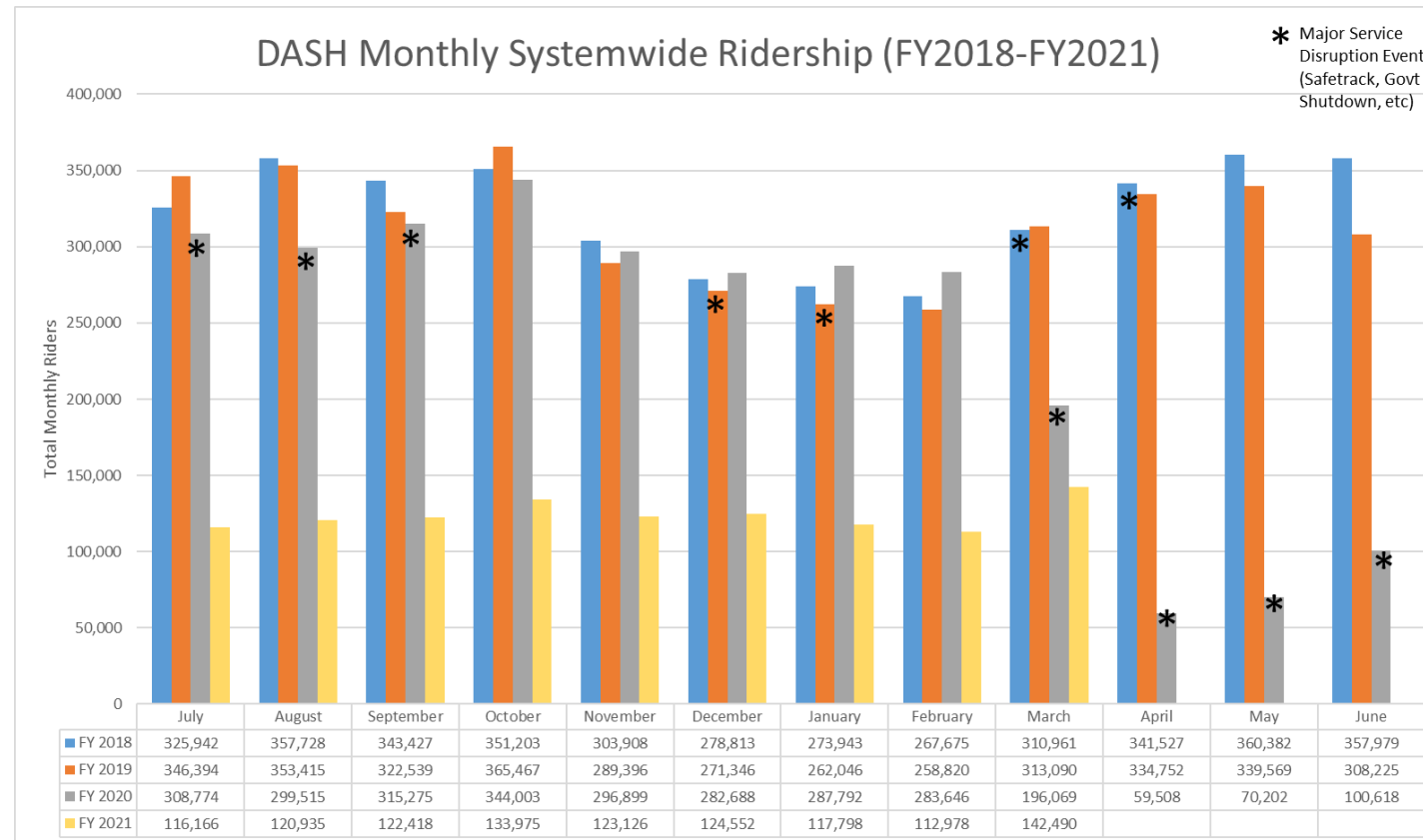
General Manager's Reports

Josh Baker, General Manager

a)   COVID-19 Operational Status Briefing
b)   Fare Free Framework (Concept)
c)   Federal Funding (Low-No Grant & Future Capital Projects)
d)   Advertising Policy (Action Item)

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General Manager's Reports

COVID-19 Service Update

DASH continues to encourage staff to seek vaccinations with a portion of the workforce already fully vaccinated. We have modified our facility entry procedures in accordance with the guidance of the Governor's office and continue to require mask usage and adherence to social distancing. Efforts are underway to incentivize vaccinations among those who have not yet received it, as well as additional survey efforts to understand any lingering vaccine hesitancy. Since the last Board meeting there have been zero new positive cases reported in the workforce.

DASH Monthly Systemwide Ridership (FY2018-FY2021)

* Major Service Disruption Event (Safetrack, Govt Shutdown, etc)

	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
FY 2018	325,942	357,728	343,427	351,203	303,908	278,813	273,943	267,675	310,961	341,527	360,382	357,979
FY 2019	346,394	353,415	322,539	365,467	289,396	271,346	262,046	258,820	313,090	334,752	339,569	308,225
FY 2020	308,774	299,515	315,275	344,003	296,899	282,688	287,792	283,646	196,069	59,508	70,202	100,618
FY 2021	116,166	120,935	122,418	133,975	123,126	124,552	117,798	112,978	142,490			

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General Manager's Reports

Fare Free Framework

In lieu of identifying the transition from fares to a fare free service as a "Pilot", the General Manager is proposing that the Board consider instead adopting a "Fare Free Framework" which can serve as a guiding document for the program. Further, it can serve as a way for the Board to set fundamental principles and guidance as to the conditions which must be met for the program to continue in successive years.

Staff have considered the following parts for such a framework draft:
1. Program Goals
2. Program Conditions
3. Program Equipment
4. Program Outreach
5. Program Analysis
6. Additional Considerations

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General Manager's Reports

Federal Funds – Low-No/Capital Projects

The Low-No Program helps eligible project sponsors purchase or lease low- or no-emission vehicles and supports facilities that use advanced technologies to provide cleaner, more energy efficient transit operations in communities across the country.

Eligible applicants for Low-No funding include public transit agencies, state transportation departments and Indian Tribes. Projects will be evaluated by criteria defined in Federal law and in the (NOFO), including the applicant's demonstration of need, the project's benefits, project implementation strategy, and capacity for implementing the project.

General Manager's Reports

Advertising Policy

- Please refer to Pages 12-15 of the Board Packet
- Final Draft is included, previous Board member comments have been incorporated and final document reviewed by ATC Legal Counsel.
  - Board Action: consideration of adopting policy.

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Financial Reports

Evan Davis, Director of Finance

FY 2021 Budget Projection

- **ATC will finish the year on track with budget.**

  - All CARES Act funds are now transferred, remainder will be reclassified as deferred revenue at year end for use in FY22.

  - Projected remainder of $1.5 million at present.

  - April passenger revenue expected to exceed projection as in March.

FY 2022 Final Proposed Budget:
Key Impacts

1. City Council is funding fare-free DASH service beginning in coordination with the launch of the cost-neutral New DASH Network on September 5, 2021.

2. King Street Trolley will also resume on Sept. 5.

3. If both Lines 35 and 36 are funded by the I-395 Commuter Choice program (likely), **three frequent, all-day routes in the 2022 Alexandria Transit Vision Plan will be implemented in FY22.**

FY 2022 Final Proposed Budget:
Key Impacts

4. City's General Fund subsidy will increase only by the amount added by City Council to cover ten months of fare-free service and the overall budget increase is being funded by the remainder of CARES and CRRSSA.

5. Regular compensation increases per CBA are funded.

6. DASH will accept commercial advertising placements for the first time. Contract award expected very soon.
    See Final Proposed Advertising Policy.
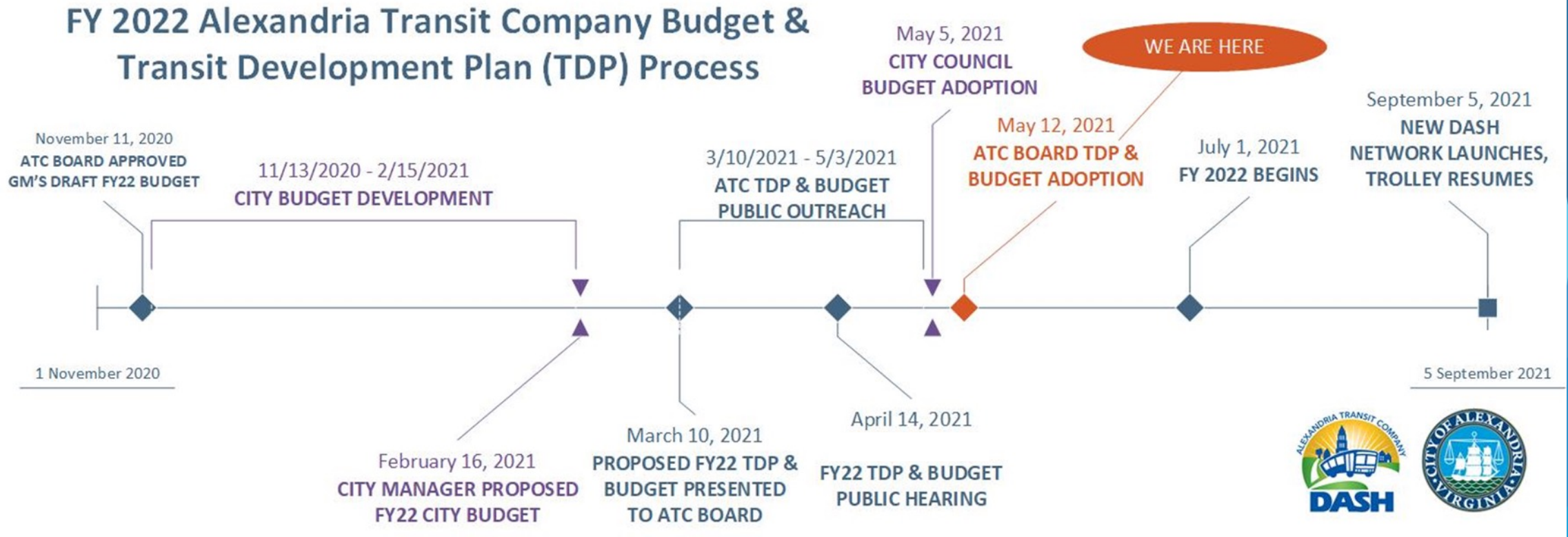
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FY 2022 Proposed Budget (Final)

EXPENDITURES	FY 2022 Budget		FY 2021 Budget		Change	% Change
Personnel	18,742,200	79.2%	17,932,150	79.0%	810,050	4.5%
Non-Personnel	4,731,770	20.0%	4,574,050	20.2%	157,720	3.4%
Capital Outlay	190,000	0.8%	190,000	0.8%	-	0.0%
TOTAL	23,663,970		22,696,200		967,770	4.3%

REVENUES	FY 2022 Budget		FY 2021 Budget		Change	% Change
City Contribution Operating	18,156,497	76.7%	16,686,497	73.5%	1,470,000	8.8%
City Contribution Trolley	899,672	3.8%	1,037,185	4.6%	(137,513)	-13.3%
CARES Transit Funds	1,600,000	6.8%	-	0.0%	1,600,000	n/a
CRRSAA Transit Funds	1,292,277	5.5%	-	0.0%	1,292,277	n/a
Passenger Revenue	562,000	2.4%	4,024,000	17.7%	(3,462,000)	-86.0%
102X Mark Center Express	858,524	3.6%	833,518	3.7%	25,006	3.0%
Charters	60,000	0.3%	60,000	0.3%	-	0.0%
Advertising	180,000	0.8%	-	0.0%	180,000	n/a
Miscellaneous Revenue	55,000	0.2%	55,000	0.2%	-	0.0%
TOTAL	23,663,970		22,696,200		967,770	4.3%

See full budget on p. 22 of Board Packet

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FY 2022 Budget & TDP Timeline (Final)

FY 2022 Alexandria Transit Company Budget &
Transit Development Plan (TDP) Process

May 5, 2021
CITY COUNCIL
BUDGET ADOPTION

WE ARE HERE

September 5, 2021
NEW DASH
NETWORK LAUNCHES,
TROLLEY RESUMES

November 11, 2020
ATC BOARD APPROVED
GM'S DRAFT FY22 BUDGET

11/13/2020 - 2/15/2021
CITY BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

3/10/2021 - 5/3/2021
ATC TDP & BUDGET
PUBLIC OUTREACH

May 12, 2021
ATC BOARD TDP &
BUDGET ADOPTION

July 1, 2021
FY 2022 BEGINS

1 November 2020

5 September 2021

February 16, 2021
CITY MANAGER PROPOSED
FY22 CITY BUDGET

March 10, 2021
PROPOSED FY22 TDP &
BUDGET PRESENTED
TO ATC BOARD

April 14, 2021
FY22 TDP & BUDGET
PUBLIC HEARING

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Planning Reports

Martin Barna, Director of Planning & Marketing

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FY22 ATC Transit Development Plan
Presentation of Final Draft for Board Adoption

ATC Board of Directors Meeting

May 12, 2021

FY 2022 NEW DASH NETWORK

▶ **New DASH Network launches September 5, 2021,** *contingent on Board adoption of FY22 TDP/Budget.*

▶ First phase of 2022 ATV Plan (Reduced Version)

▶ Modern network that expands access to <u>frequent</u>, <u>all-day</u> bus service and improves overall mobility.

▶ Made possible by I-95/395 Commuter Choice program

▶ NDN Website – www.dashbus.com/newnetwork

▶ Metrobus Changes – www.wmata.com

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New DASH Network (FY22)
www.dashbus.com/newnetwork
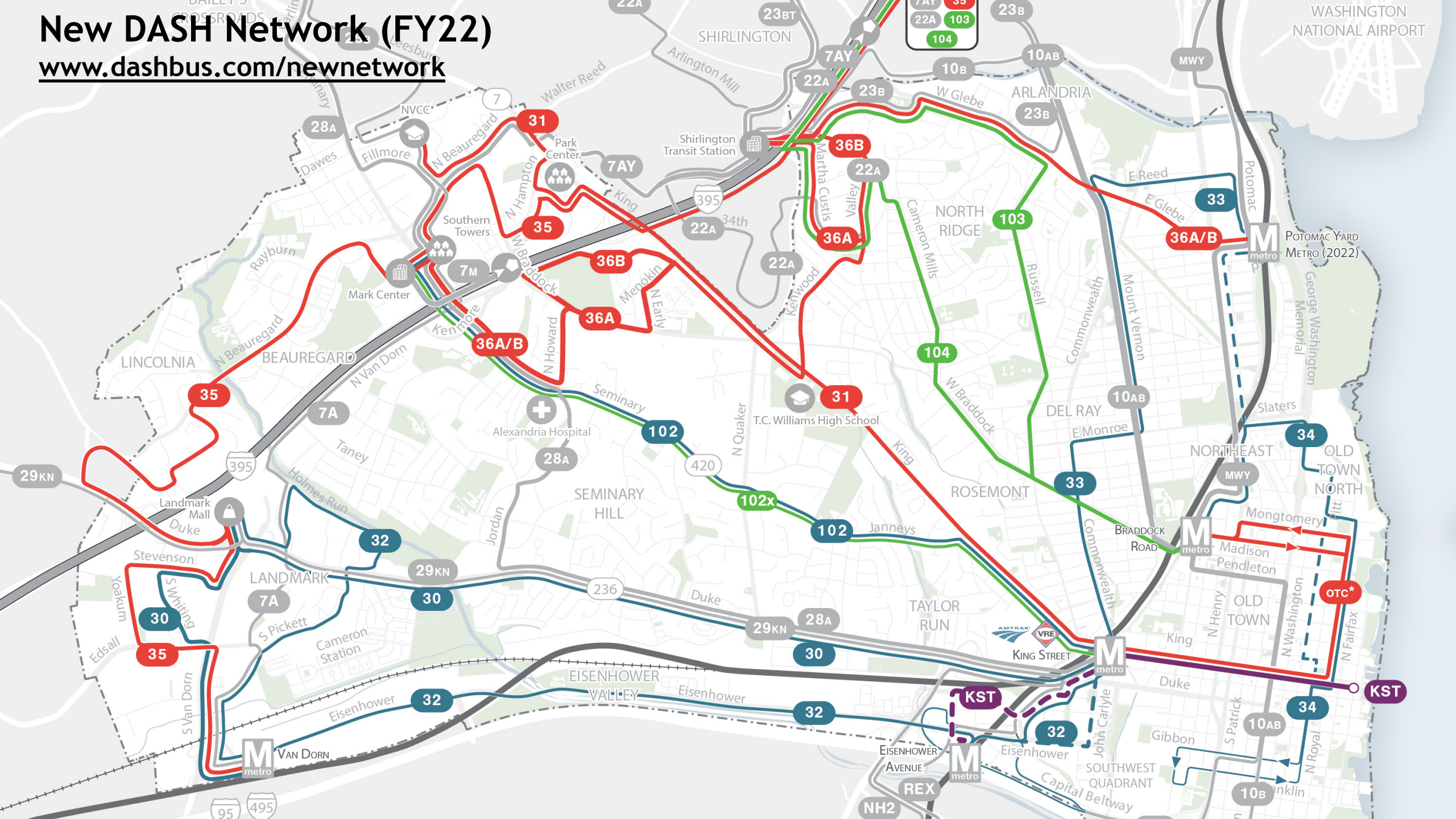
OLD TOWN "NEW DASH NETWORK" (PROPOSED)

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BENEFITS OF NEW DASH NETWORK

▶ Introduces new **frequent, all-day bus network** on major corridors across the City of Alexandria.

▶ Major increases in access to frequent, all-day bus service:

	Existing	FY22 Network	2030 ATV Plan
All Residents	**27%**	**66%**	**83%**
Low Income	29%	73%	89%
Minority	22%	70%	87%
Seniors	23%	62%	78%
Jobs	**40%**	**66%**	**81%**

▶ Maintains bus service for 99.5% of existing DASH bus boardings

▶ Expected to increase ridership, reduce traffic congestion, improve climate outcomes, lessen pollution, and strengthen economy.
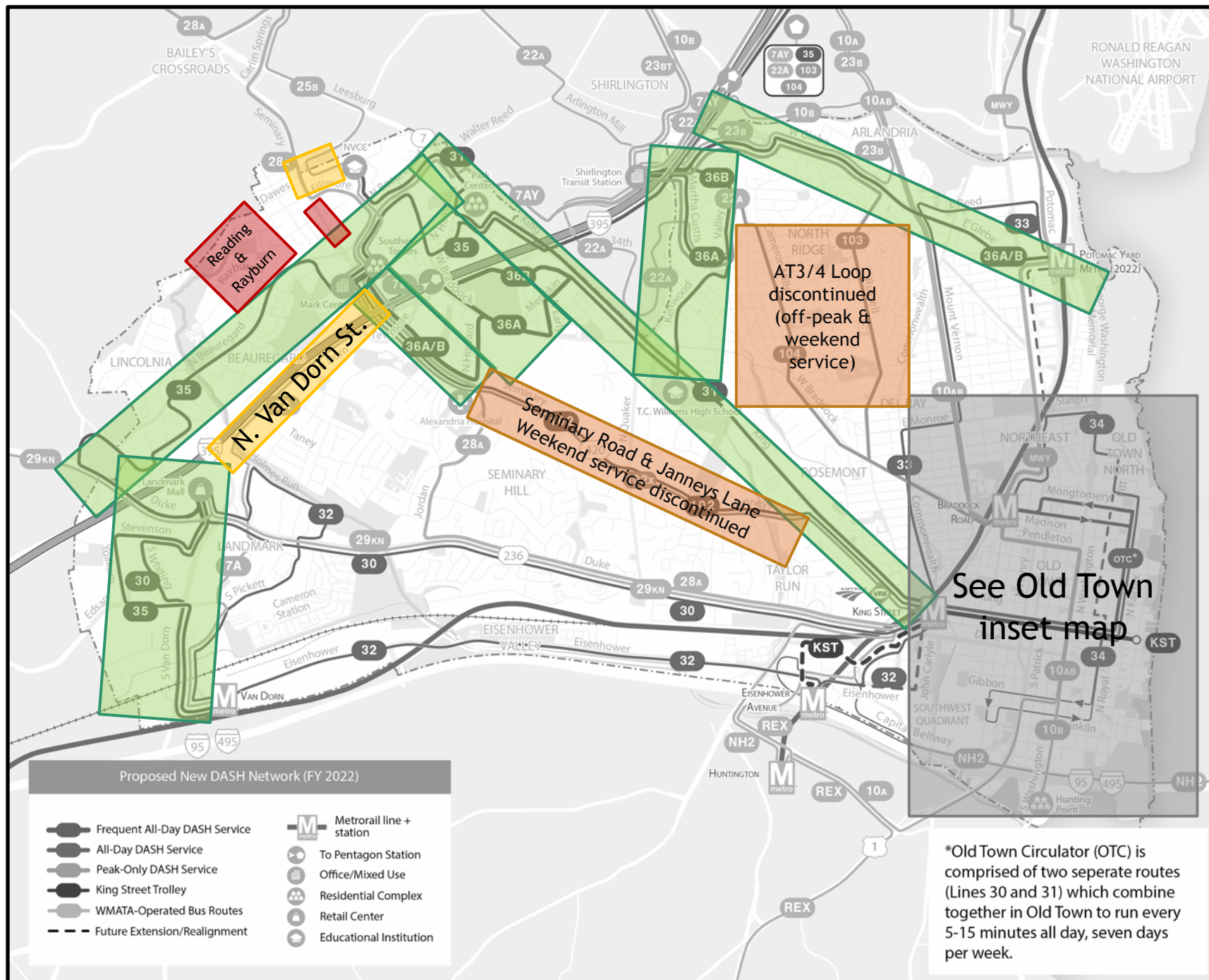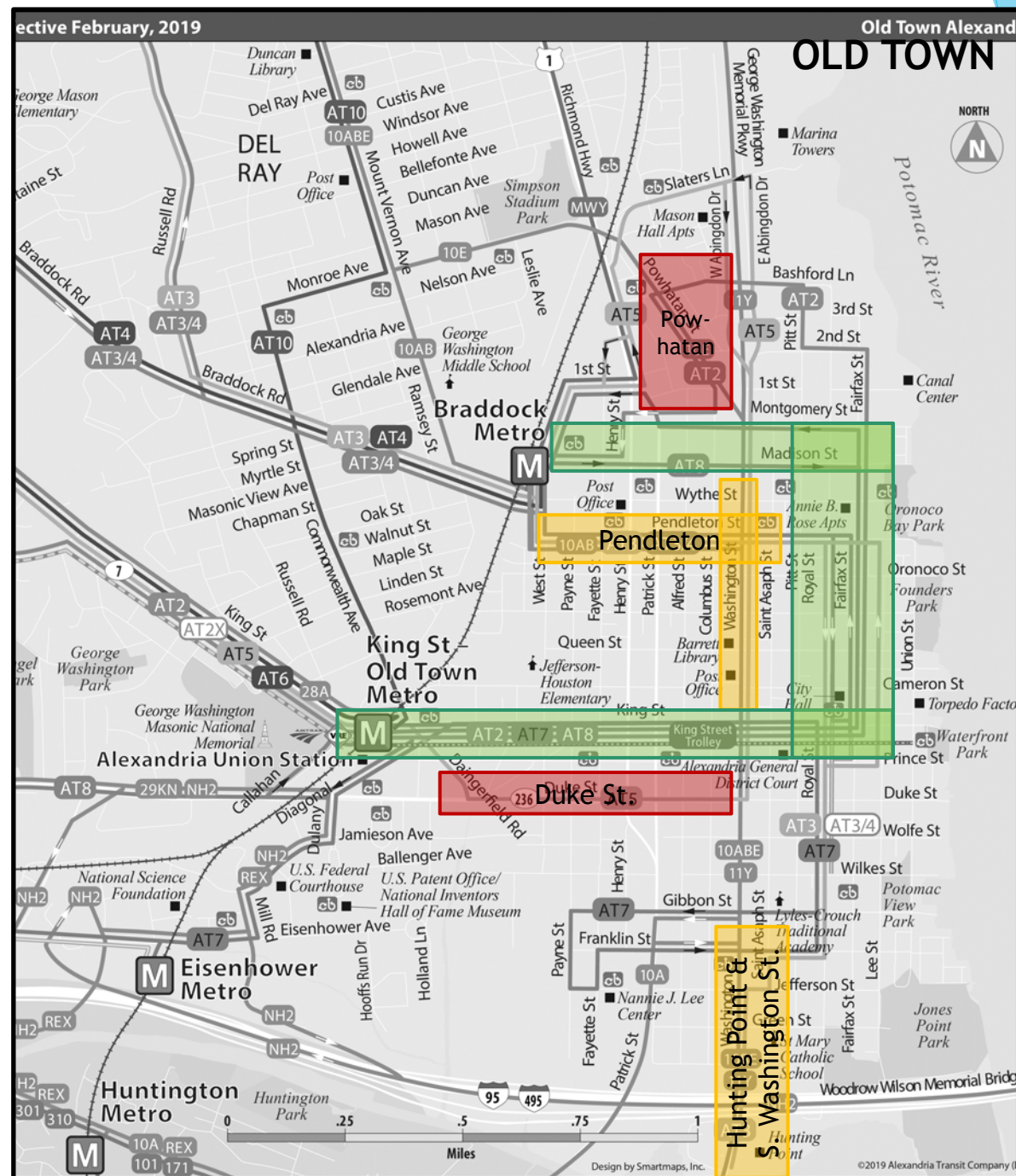
PROPOSED CHANGES IN OLD TOWN (FY22)

DASH Service Improvement

DASH service removed but Metrobus service maintained.
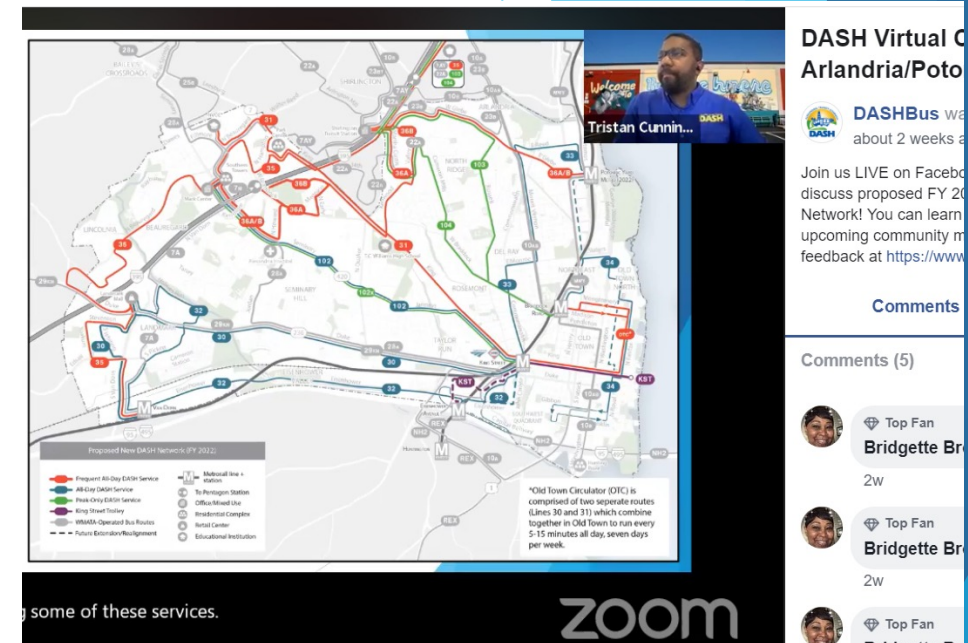
DASH service removed, no Metrobus alternative.

OLD TOWN

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OUTREACH EFFORTS

▶ Four Virtual Community Meetings + Public Hearing

▶ Bus Stop Flyers at key stops that could lose service

▶ Onboard Bus Posters & Announcements

▶ DASH Email Updates & Social Media Posts

▶ Paid Advertising (Facebook, Zebra Print/Website)

▶ NDN Website: www.dashbus.com/newnetwork

   ▶ Promotional Video

   ▶ Neighborhood-specific service change information

   ▶ Route-by-Route Summary Pages & Maps

   ▶ Route Comparison Table (Existing vs. New Network)

   ▶ Spanish/Amharic Translations

▶ Direct outreach to reps from stakeholder orgs.
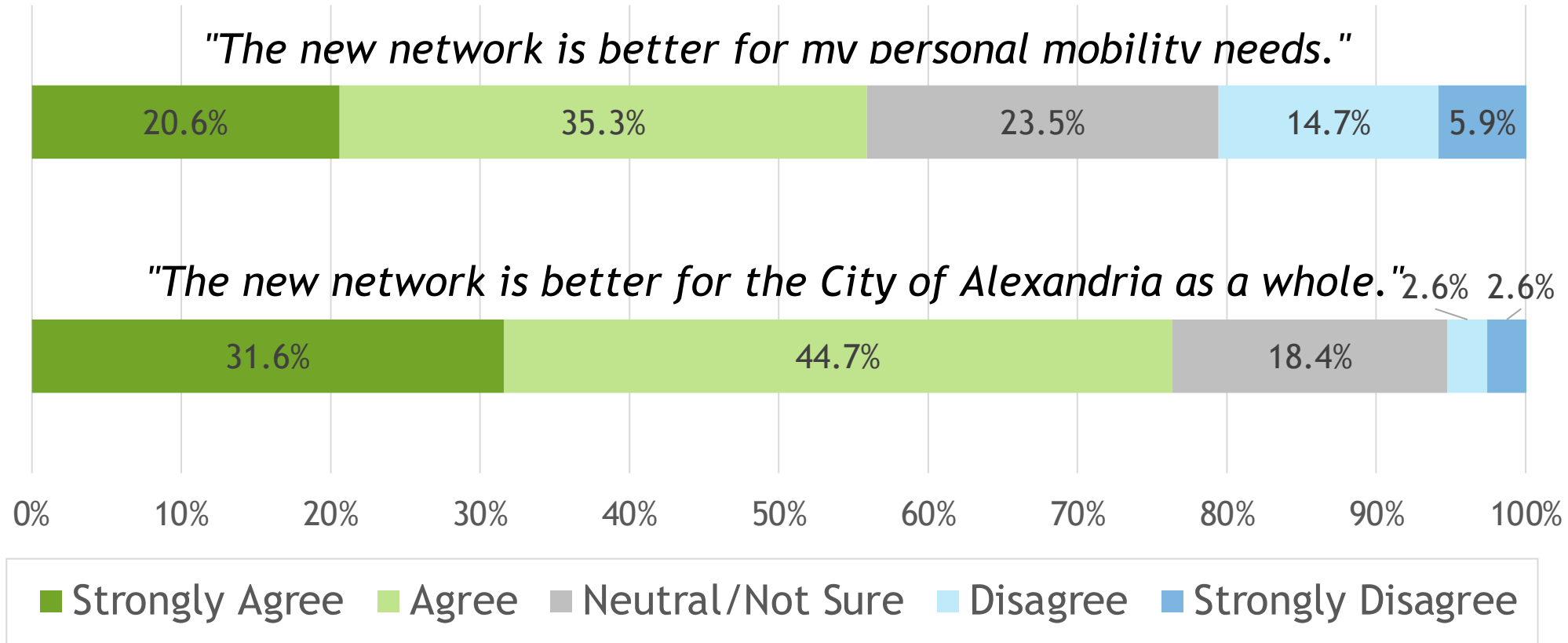
▶ Presentations at community org. meetings

OUTREACH STATS

- Four (4) Virtual Community Meetings
  - 75 total live participants/attendees
  - 89 total comments/questions
  - 359 total Facebook views (as of 4/8/21)
- 22 email comments (10 positive/8 negative)
- 84 bus stop flyers at stops losing service
- 8 DASH email updates (6,000+ reads)
- 2,000+ visits to NDN Website
- 33 social media posts (85 likes, 66 shares & 489 engagements)
- Individualized outreach to reps from 30+ CBO's; 4 CBO meetings
- **5 Letters from community organizations (All supporting NDN)**

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Interactive Polling Results from Community Meetings

"The new network is better for my personal mobility needs."

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral/Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
20.6%	35.3%	23.5%	14.7%	5.9%

"The new network is better for the City of Alexandria as a whole." 2.6% 2.6%

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral/Not Sure
31.6%	44.7%	18.4%

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree ■ Neutral/Not Sure ■ Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree

Note: Above results reflect combined totals from four different meetings with 72 total votes.

FEEDBACK RECEIVED

POSITIVE FEEDBACK

▶ **Overall Support.** General support for new network, and the frequent, all-day routes, and improvements for low income & minority areas (7 comments).

▶ **Free/Reduced Fares.** Support for free/reduced fares, especially for low-income riders (4 comments)

▶ **AT2 (Seminary/Janneys).** Appreciation for DASH keeping local AT2 service on Seminary/Janneys (2 comments)

▶ **Park Place.** Support for new Line 36B alignment for Park Place residents. (2 comments)

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FEEDBACK RECEIVED

ISSUES/CONCERNS

▶ **Duke St. Corridor.** Accelerate proposed improvements to establish frequent, all-day service earlier than FY 2024.

▶ **N. Van Dorn Street.** AT5 riders have Metrobus 7A, but must transfer for Bradlee Shopping Center (3 comments)

▶ **AT2 in Old Town.** Two comments about loss of service on Columbus/Bashford, and longer walk to OTC or Line 34

▶ **AT3/4 Loop.** Two comments opposed to discontinuation.

▶ **AT5 in Old Town.** Service loss on Duke St. (1 comment)

▶ **Line 35 to Shirlington; Line 36A/B to Braddock Metro**

FINAL TDP PROPOSALS

▶ **No changes to FY 2022 TDP service proposals.**

   ▶ Previous changes to 36A/B are included in the final draft.

   ▶ Duke Street improvements are included for FY 2023 – 2024.

   ▶ Full 2022 ATV Plan implemented by FY 2023.

▶ **DASH to implement Free Fare program on September 5, 2021**

▶ DASH to enact the following changes for July 1 – September 4, 2021

   ▶ DASH to remove $0.65 upcharge for Senior 7-Day Regional Pass

   ▶ DASH to provide free rides to City of Alexandria employees

   ▶ No changes to SmarTrip DASH Pass (i.e. no 31-Day DASH Pass)

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Questions/Discussion

For more New DASH Network info, please visit:
www.dashbus.com/newnetwork

Wrap-Up
&
Consideration of Adjournment

Next ATC Board of Directors Meeting:
Wednesday, May 12, 2021 @ 5:30pm