

Tactical Bus Lanes Demonstration Project

Georgia Avenue (MD 97)
Public Information Meeting

Bus Priority Program
November 1, 2022

This meeting is being recorded



Safety Contact

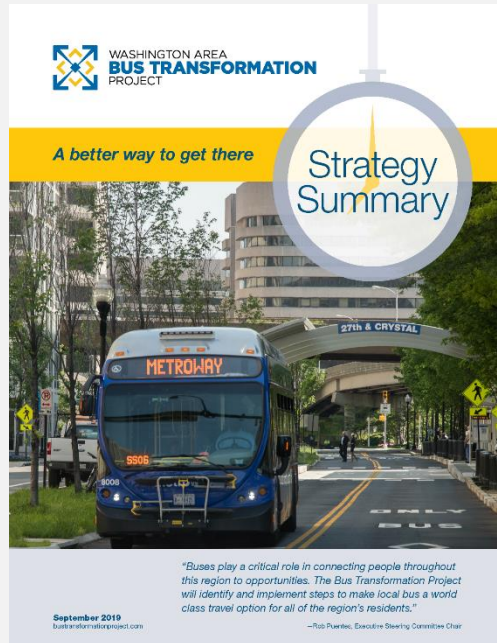


Be mindful that wet leaves are slippery, especially on sidewalks as many of your neighbors are out enjoying walks in this beautiful autumn weather.

Other Housekeeping

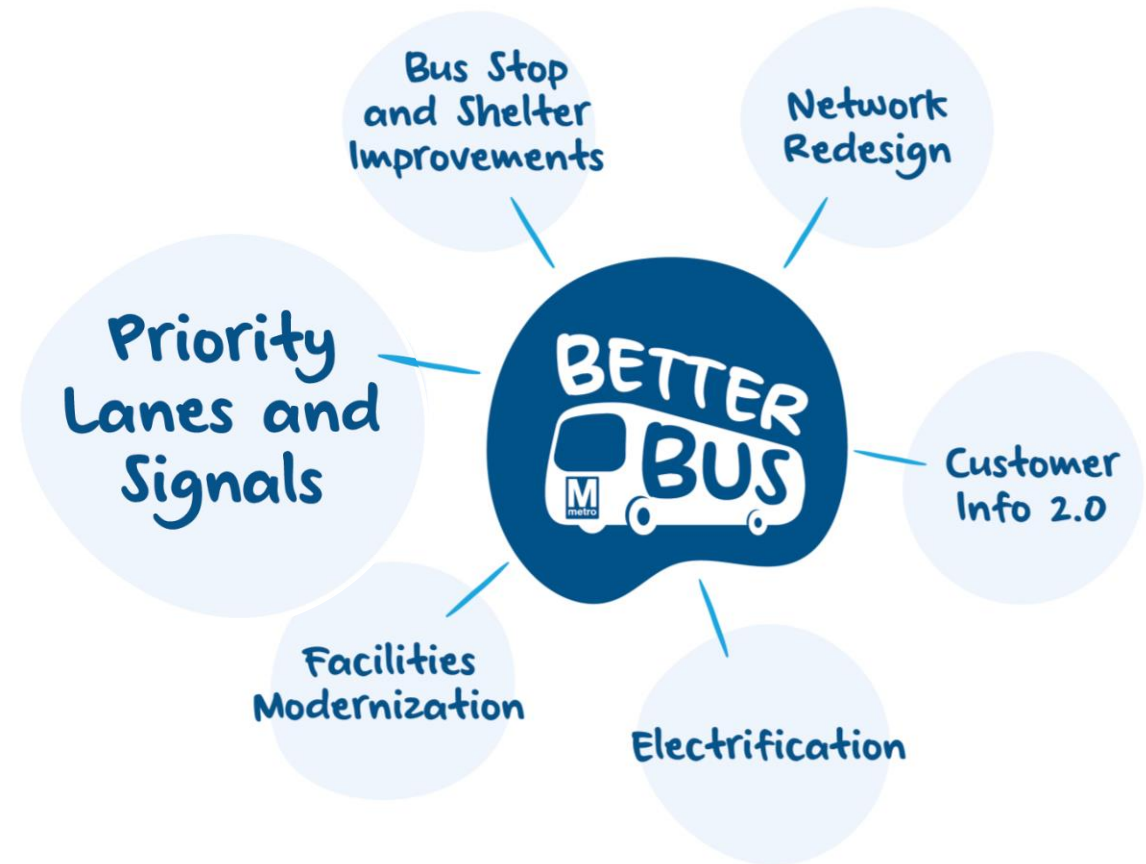
- Open www.menti.com on a browser page for an interactive meeting
- Type questions in the chat during the presentation; we will try and respond to all the questions
- Please share your email in the chat if you'd like regular updates
- Send additional questions to BusPriority@wmata.com

Better Bus Initiatives



Purpose: Transform bus into a fast, frequent, reliable, affordable system that feels unified

Outcomes: 26 recommendations + Action Plan

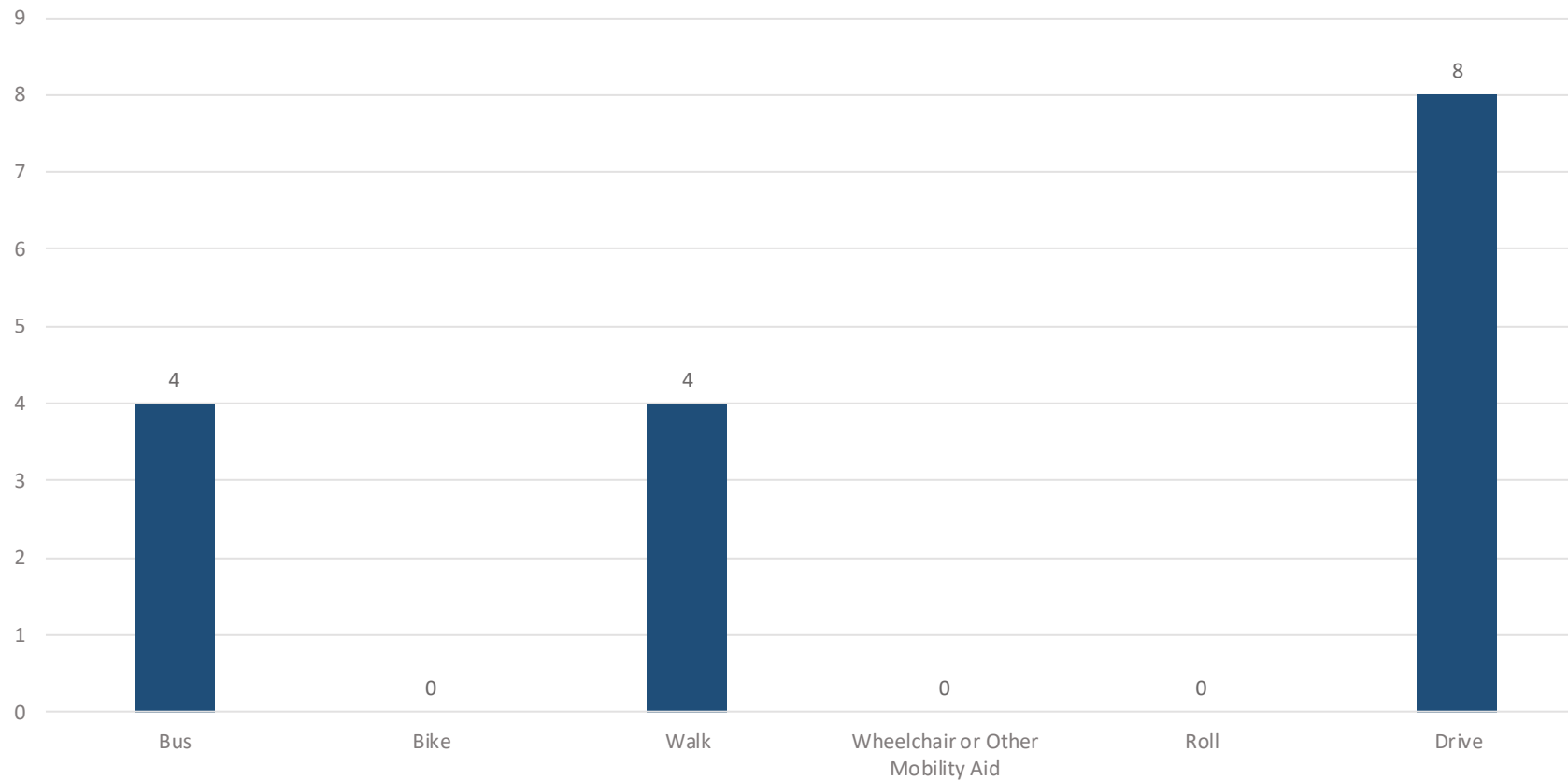


Question: What is the most common way you travel along Georgia Avenue?

- ☐ Bus
- ☐ Bike
- ☐ Walk
- ☐ Wheelchair or Other Mobility Aid
- ☐ Roll
- ☐ Drive



Question: What is the most common way you travel along Georgia Avenue?



Respondents = 16

Responses = 16

Meeting Agenda

1. Goals and Objectives
2. Project Details
3. Schedule
4. Next Steps

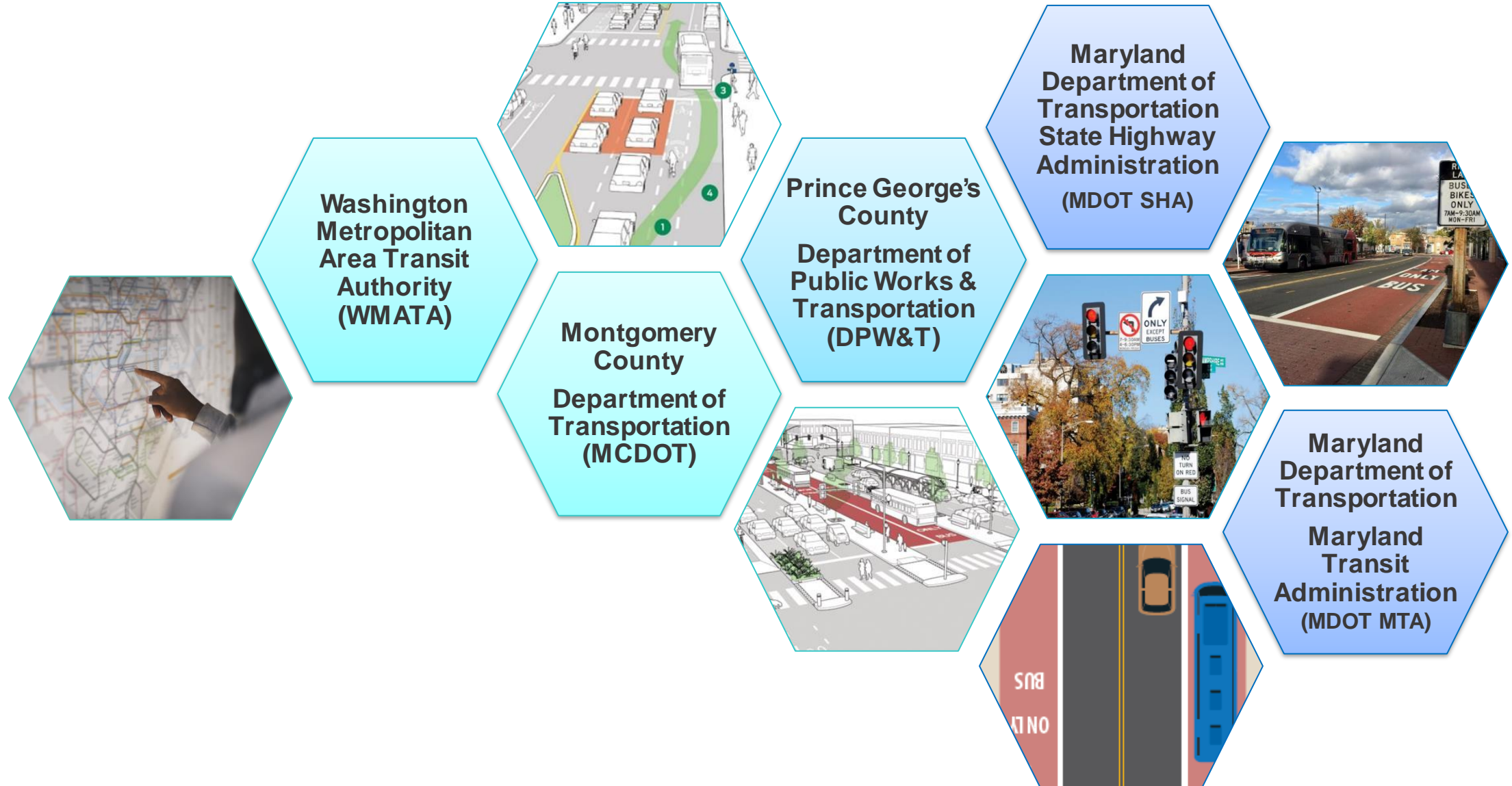


Metrobus Turning at Wayne Ave and Georgia Ave
Downtown Silver Spring, MD

Goals and Objectives

- Improve bus service reliability for riders by completing a bus lane demonstration project on a high-ridership corridor in Montgomery County
- Accelerate implementation of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridors in Montgomery County
- Foster a stronger partnership between WMATA and Maryland jurisdictions in providing frequent and reliable regional transit connections

Multi-Agency Collaborative Effort



Why Tactical Bus Lanes?

- Quick-build bus lanes using only red paint and signs
- Bus riders see benefits faster
- Demonstration projects can be modified and improved easily
- Supports Metro's Better Bus and Sustainability Initiatives and Montgomery County's Climate Action Plan



Bus lanes on Century Boulevard in Germantown, MD



Bus lanes on Wayne Avenue
Silver Spring, MD

Bus Lanes in the Region and Maryland

Demonstration projects produce faster implementation and benefits

Bus Lane Project	Length (miles)	Jurisdiction	Implementation Time
H & I Street, NW Pilot	1.6	DC	6 months
14 th Street NW	0.6	DC	2 years
16 th Street NW	2.7	DC	10+ years
Germantown Transit Center	0.3	MD	8 months
York Road Pilot	0.7	MD	6 months
North Avenue Rising	7.0	MD	5 Years

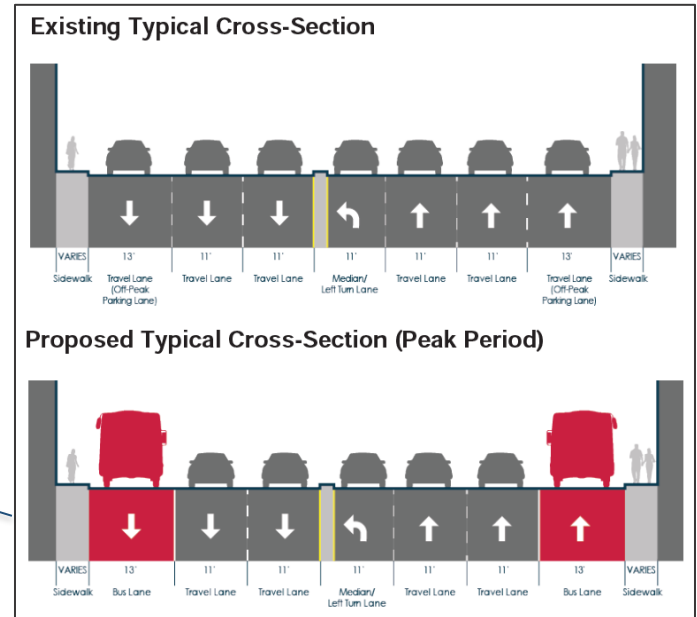
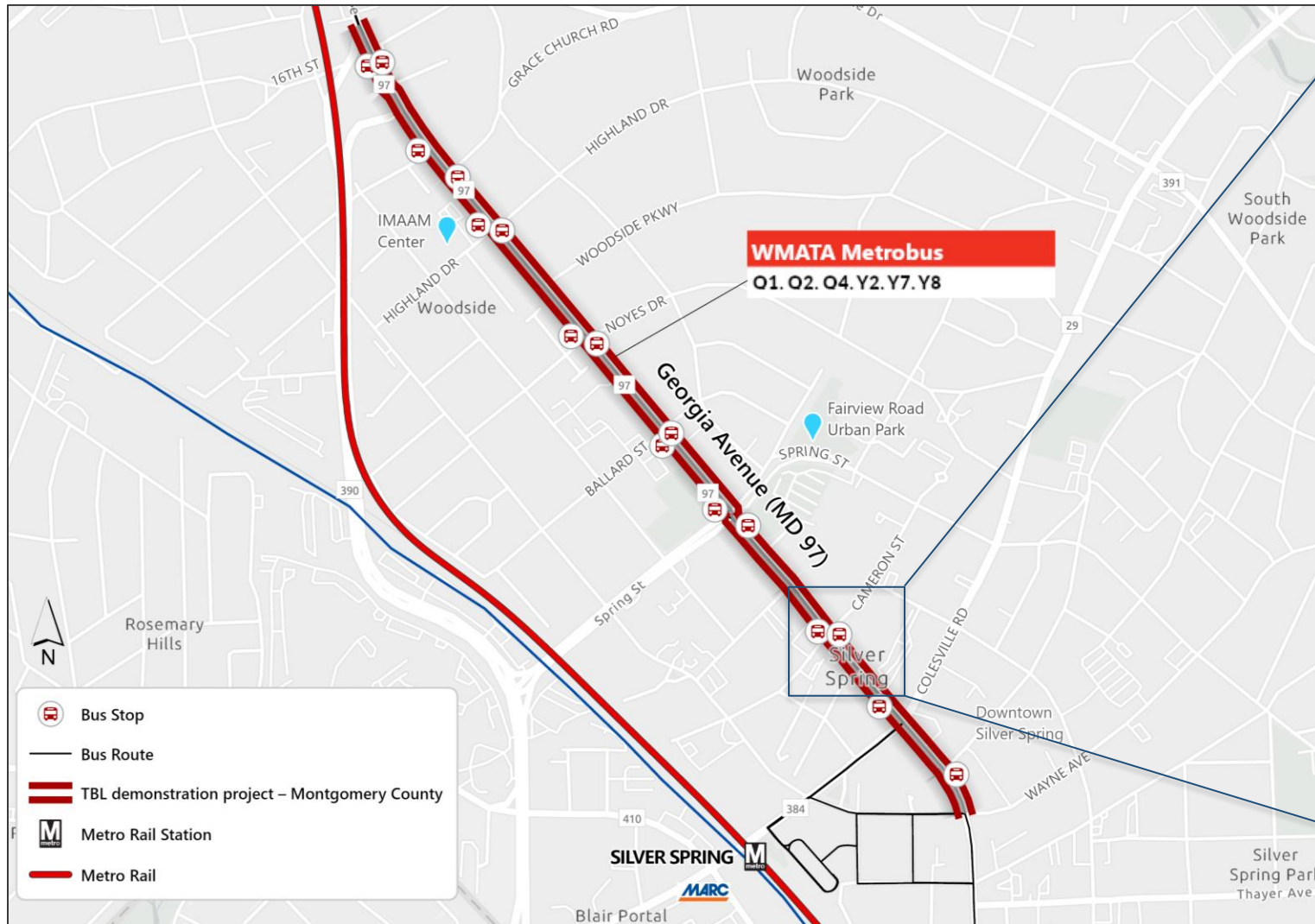
Proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Corridors in Montgomery County



The proposed Tactical Bus Lane project on Georgia Avenue (MD 97) advances one of the projects identified in the Countywide Transit Corridors Functional Masterplan.

Countywide Transit Corridors Functional Masterplan (2013)

Georgia Avenue (MD 97) Tactical Bus Lanes



Why Georgia Avenue?

Transit and Vehicle Data

Metrobus Routes	Ride On Routes	Combined Average Daily Weekday Ridership (Oct 2019)	Buses Per Hour (Jan 2022)	Metrobus Speeds (Oct 2019)	Average Vehicles Per Weekday (2019)	Number of Travel Lanes	Curb Lane Condition
Q1, Q2, Q4, Y2, YZ, Y8, F4	12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 20	16,112	12	5-9 mph	38,150	6	No Parking North of Spring St / Off Peak Parking Downtown

- High ridership corridor with multifamily residential, employment, retail, and entertainment destinations in Downtown Silver Spring
- Important regional connection to the Metrorail Red Line, Ride On, FLASH, and MARC Brunswick Line at Silver Spring Transit Center

Why Georgia Avenue?

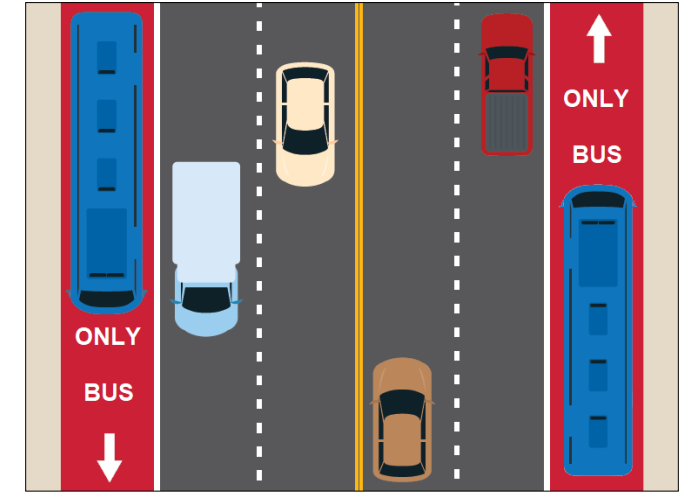
Bus ridership along the corridor is predominantly low income and people of color

Metrobus Route	Low Income	Minority	African American	Latino	Asian
Q1, Q2, Q4	58%	92%	52%	30%	13%
Y2, Y7, Y8	52%	88%	54%	30%	5%

Two Options for Bus Lanes (Weekdays)

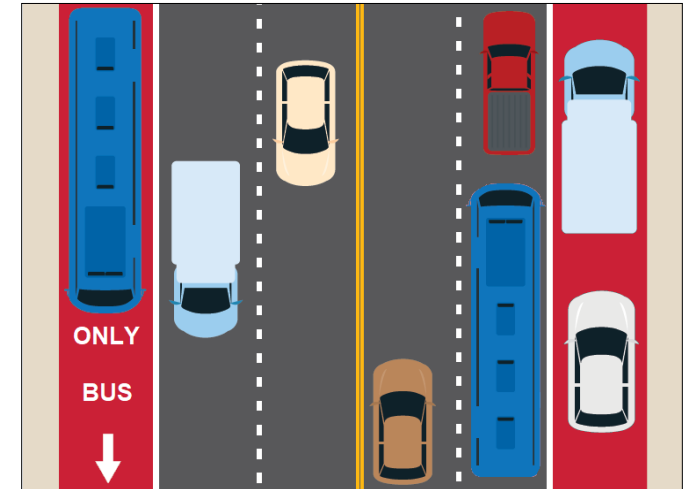
■ Option 1: Peak Period Bus Lanes in Both Directions

- 6:30-9:30 a.m. and 3:30-7:00 p.m.
- Southbound and Northbound



■ Option 2: Peak Period Bus Lanes in Peak Direction Only

- 6:30-9:30 a.m. Southbound Only
- 3:30-7:00 p.m. Northbound Only



Two Options for Bus Lanes (Weekdays)

	Option 1 – Peak Period Bus Lanes in Both Directions	Option 2 – Peak Period Bus Lanes in Peak Direction Only	
Direction	Southbound and Northbound	Southbound	Northbound
Hours of Operation	6:30-9:30 a.m. 3:30-7:00 p.m.	6:30-9:30 a.m.	3:30-7:00 p.m.
Benefits to Bus Riders	Improves bus reliability in north and south directions	Improves bus reliability in the peak direction	
Preliminary Traffic Analysis	Minimal impact on traffic flow; design includes signal timing changes to minimize impacts.	Minimal impact on traffic flow; design includes signal timing changes to minimize impacts.	
Parking and Loading Restrictions	AM Previously permitted parking in northbound direction will not be allowed (20 spaces) PM Previously permitted parking in southbound direction will not be allowed (25 spaces) Off-Peak No changes	AM, Off-Peak, PM No changes from current permitted parking and loading	

Performance Evaluation

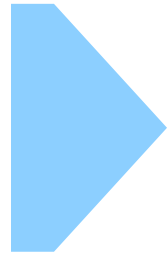
Evaluate bus reliability, speed, and traffic before and after installation

Increased speeds
for slowest buses



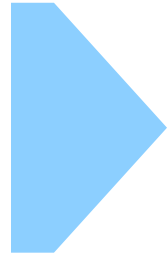
Improved **reliability** for bus riders

Increased median
bus speeds



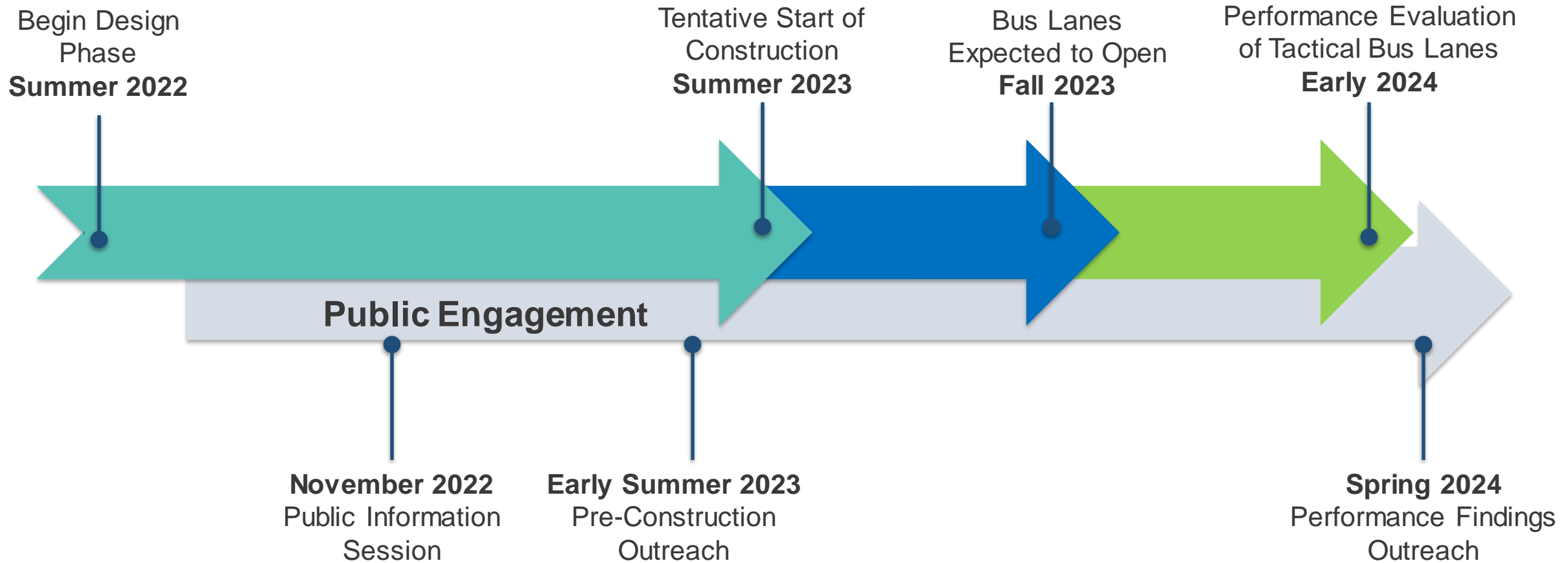
Reduces overall travel times for bus riders

Traffic Analysis



- Allows mitigation for potential concerns before installation
- Provides a baseline for evaluation and future modifications

Project Schedule



Stakeholder and Public Information Sessions



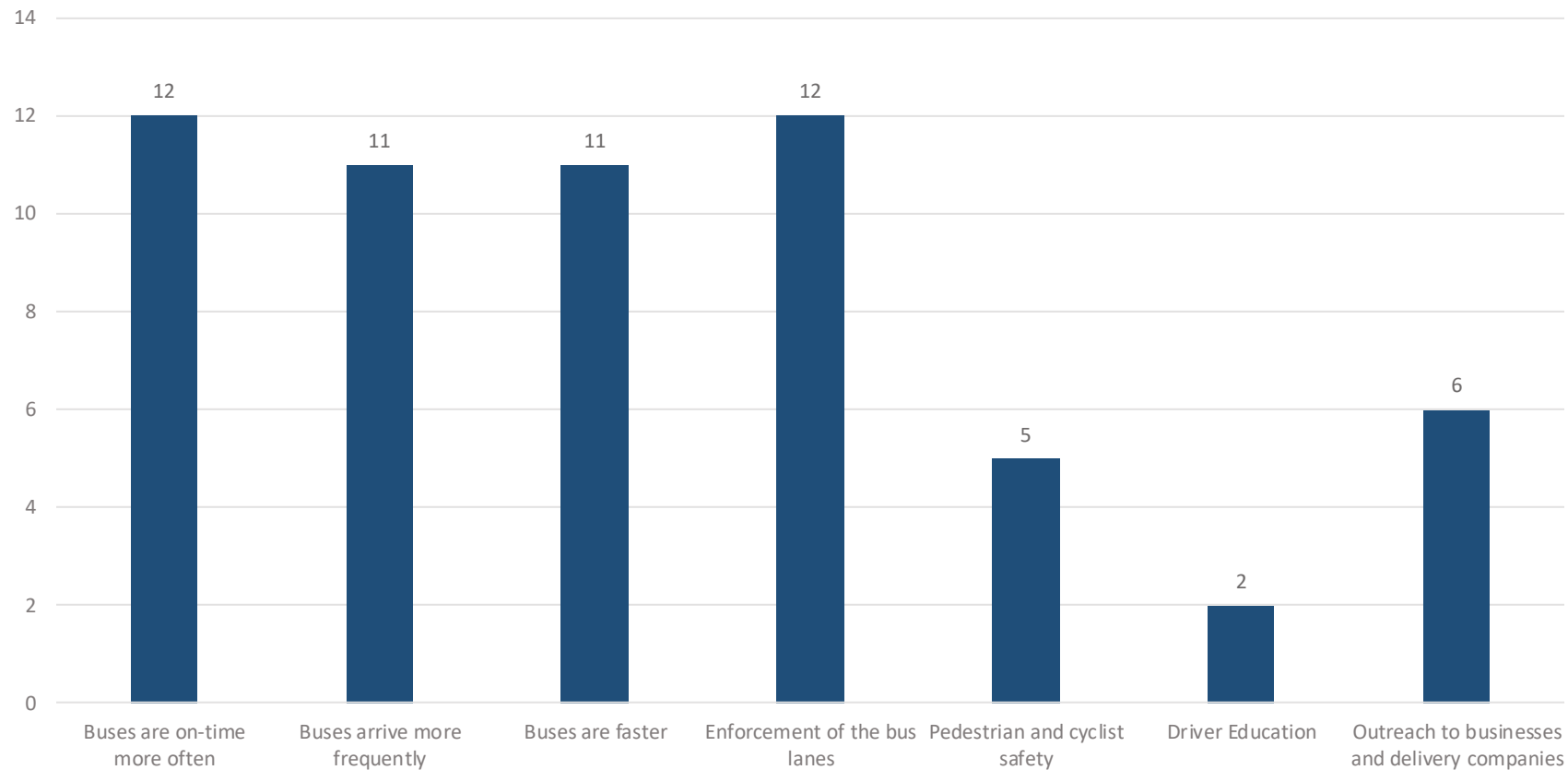
- **Ongoing – Stakeholder Meetings**
 - Silver Spring Transportation Management District (TMD) Advisory Committee - October 13, 2022
 - Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Committee - October 17, 2022
 - Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee (SSUDAC) - October 25, 2022
 - *Metro is available for additional stakeholder meetings, if requested*
- **Summer 2023 – Pre-construction Project Update**
- **Spring 2024 – Post-implementation Performance Evaluation**

Question: What items should Metro focus on to make the demonstration project successful?

- ☐ Buses are on-time more often
- ☐ Buses arrive more frequently
- ☐ Buses are faster
- ☐ Enforcement of the bus lanes
- ☐ Pedestrian and cyclist safety
- ☐ Driver education
- ☐ Outreach to businesses and delivery companies



Question: What items should Metro focus on to make the demonstration project successful?



Respondents = 21

Responses = 59

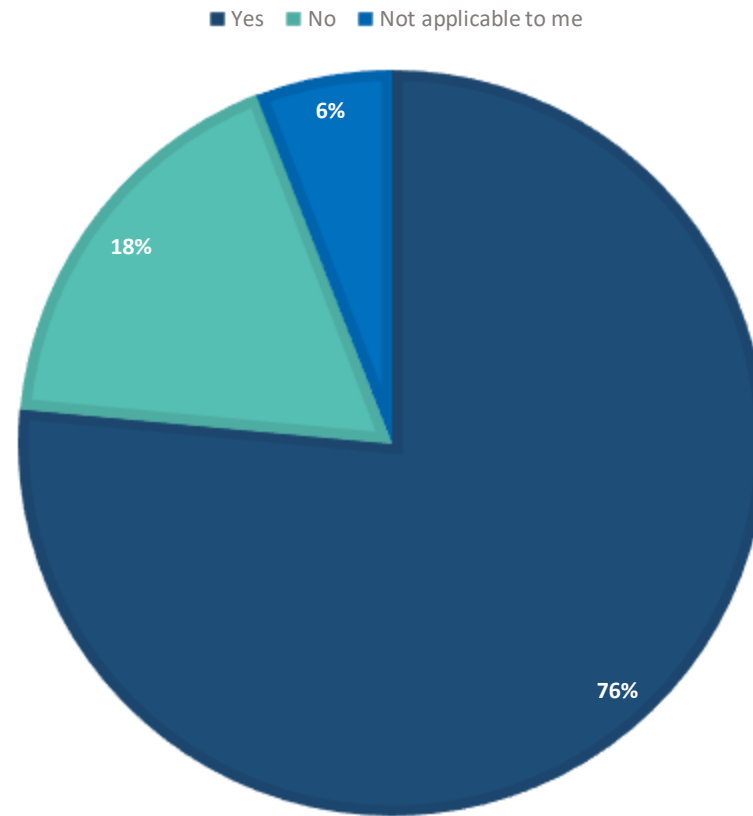
(Users had option to select more than one item)

Question: If bus service was faster and more reliable along Georgia Avenue, would you use it more?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applicable to me



Question: If bus service was faster and more reliable along Georgia Avenue, would you use it more?



Respondents = 5

Responses = 5

**For more comments and questions,
contact us at
BusPriority@wmata.com
Comment period: November 1 through 14**

**Bus Lanes Project Website:
<https://wmata.com/initiatives/strategic-plans/Bus-Lanes/>**

**Take our Network Redesign Survey:
<https://www.wmata.com/initiatives/plans/Better-Bus/index.cfm>**