

MD 355 Flash Project Update

MD 355 Corridor Advisory Committee Meeting #15
(North, Central, & South Corridor)
February 3, 2022

Welcome!

Welcome to this virtual Corridor Advisory Committee meeting

- We will cover some basic controls as a refresher to using the Zoom meeting format before we start the presentation.
- **Please note this meeting is being recorded.**
 - It is being recorded on video and audio and will be posted on our website.
 - If you do not wish to have your voice or likeness recorded, please turn your video camera off, and refrain from asking questions using the audio option. Instead, you can send your questions via the chat.

Using Zoom

Muting

- You can unmute yourself, but we ask that everyone stay on mute to cut down on background noise.
- To request to speak, we ask that you use the **raise hand** feature (instructions in just a minute). Once you have been recognized, you can unmute and ask your question or share your comment.
- If you have called in by telephone, you can unmute yourself by dialing ***6** once you have been recognized.

Using Zoom

Welcome to the virtual community meeting!

Let's get you oriented to the Zoom meeting.

- Ask a question (Text)
 - If you have a question during the presentation, send it via **chat**.

To send a chat:

- Click “chat” in the bottom menu
- A new window will appear.
- Type your question and send it.



Using Zoom

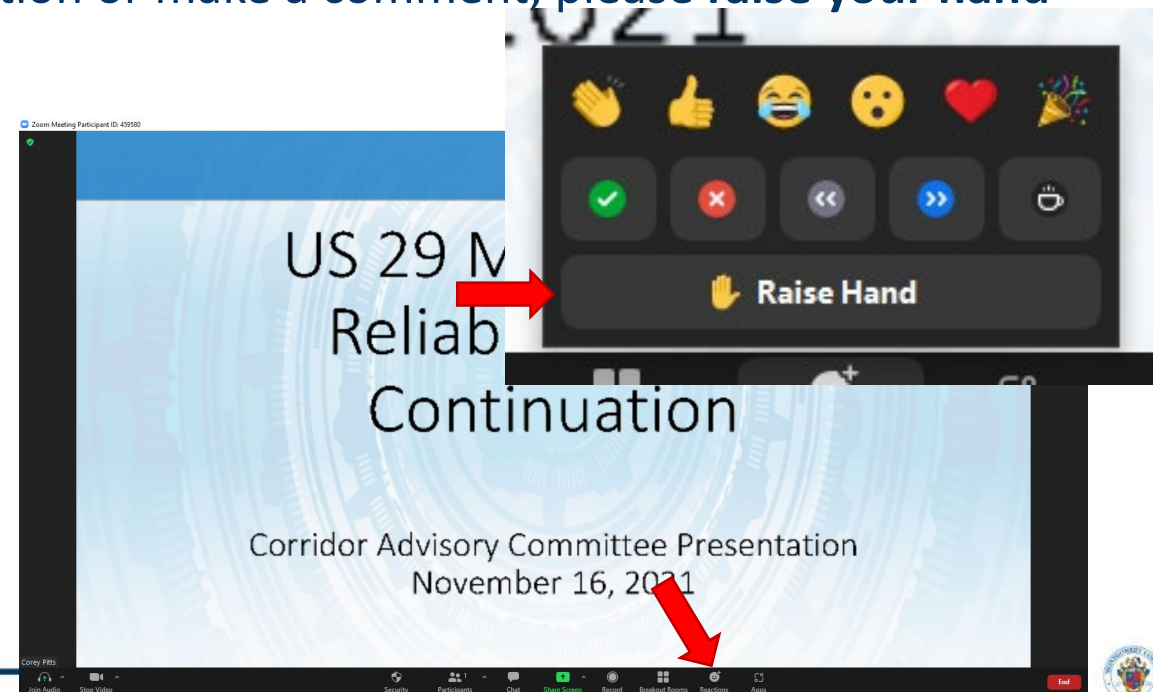
Welcome to the virtual community meeting!

Let's get you oriented to the Zoom meeting.

- Raise your hand
 - If you'd like to speak to ask a question or make a comment, please **raise your hand**

To raise your hand

- Click "Reactions" in the bottom menu
- A new window will appear. Click the "raise hand button" at the bottom.
- If you've dialed in by phone, dial *9.



#1 – Introductions

Project Team Participants

Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT)

- Corey Pitts
- Darcy Buckley
- Joana Conklin
- Sandra Marks
- Denny Finnerin

Preliminary Engineering Consultant Design Team

- Mike Chamberland, Stantec
- Lori Adgate, Stantec
- Randy Knapick, IBI Group
- Andrew Pease, IBI Group

#2 – Meeting Objectives and Agenda Review

Meeting Objectives

- Update CAC members on the status of the MD 355 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project, including the BRT elements of the County Executive's proposed budget.
- Review corridor engineering and design updates since CAC meeting #14 in April 2021.
- Provide CAC members with an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback

Agenda

- #1 - Introductions
- #2 – Meeting Objectives & Agenda Review
- #3 – Project Update
- #4 – Budget Update
- #5 – BRT Runningway & Lane Repurposing Analysis
- #6 – Next Steps



#3 – Project Update

MD 355 BRT Project Purpose

The purpose of the project is to provide a new transit service with greater travel speed and frequency along MD 355 between Bethesda and Clarksburg that will help accomplish the following:

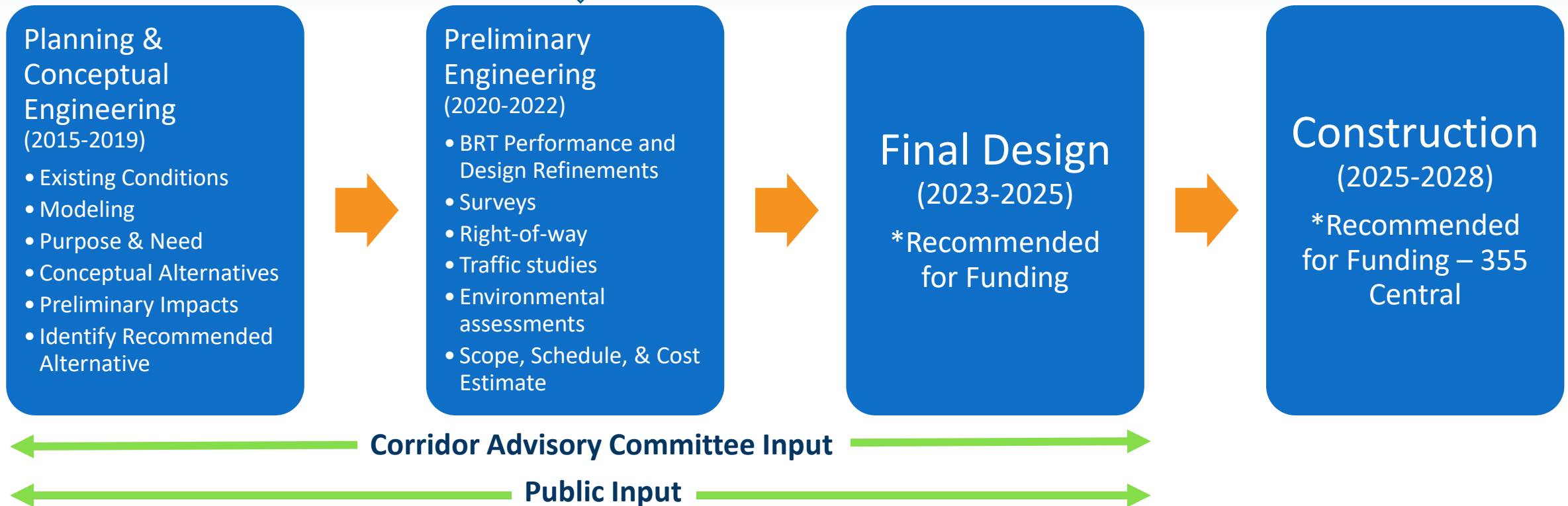
- Enhance transit **connectivity** and multimodal **integration**
- Improve bus **mobility**
- Address current and future bus **ridership** demands
- Attract **new** riders and provide improved service for **existing** riders
- Support approved Master Planned **growth**
- Improve transit **access** to major employment and activity centers
- Achieve Master Planned non-auto driver **modal share**
- Provide a **sustainable** and **cost-effective** transit service
- Improve **safety** for all

Current Project Status

- The MD 355 BRT is in the Preliminary Engineering phase, approaching 25% design.
- With Alternative B Modified as the basis of design, refinements to alignments, segmenting, and the service plan have been made to enhance performance and reduce costs/impacts.
- The County's budgeting process is currently considering funding for planning, design, and construction of BRT corridors throughout the County, including MD 355.

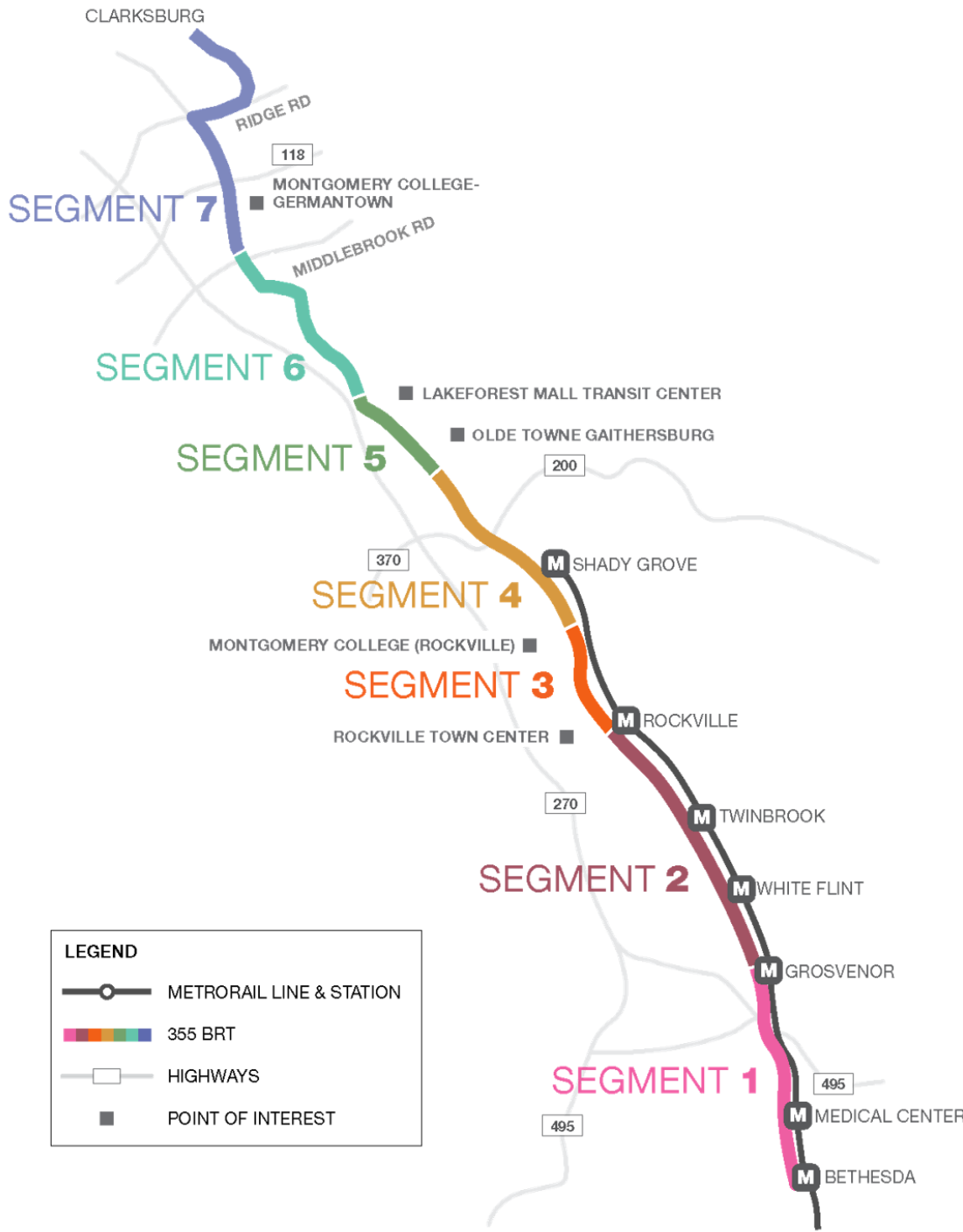
MD 355 BRT Project Process

We are here



Project Design Segment Extents & Refinements

Segment	Geographic Description
7	Clarksburg to Middlebrook Road
6	Middlebrook Road to MD 124/Mont. Vlg. Avenue
5	MD 124/Mont. Vlg. Avenue to Summit Avenue
4	Summit Avenue to College Parkway
3	College Parkway to Dodge Street
2	Dodge Street to Grosvenor Metrorail
1	Grosvenor Metrorail to Bethesda Metrorail



Activities Since Previous CAC Meeting (#14)

- Completion of the 15% design phase in July 2021
- Began 25% design development, to be completed in April 2022
- Conducted multiple technical studies to refine transit service and infrastructure design
- Conducted ongoing coordination with project partner agencies, including:
 - Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
 - MDOT State Highway Administration (SHA)
 - Cities of Rockville and Gaithersburg
 - Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)
 - WMATA
 - Montgomery College
 - Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)

#4 – Budget Presentation

#5 – BRT Preliminary Design Runningway and Lane Repurposing Analysis (Preliminary Findings)

A. Preliminary Design Runningway - Describe the BRT segment configuration.

B. Lane Repurposing Analysis - Explore engineering feasibility and project performance impacts of lane repurposing along the MD 355 corridor.

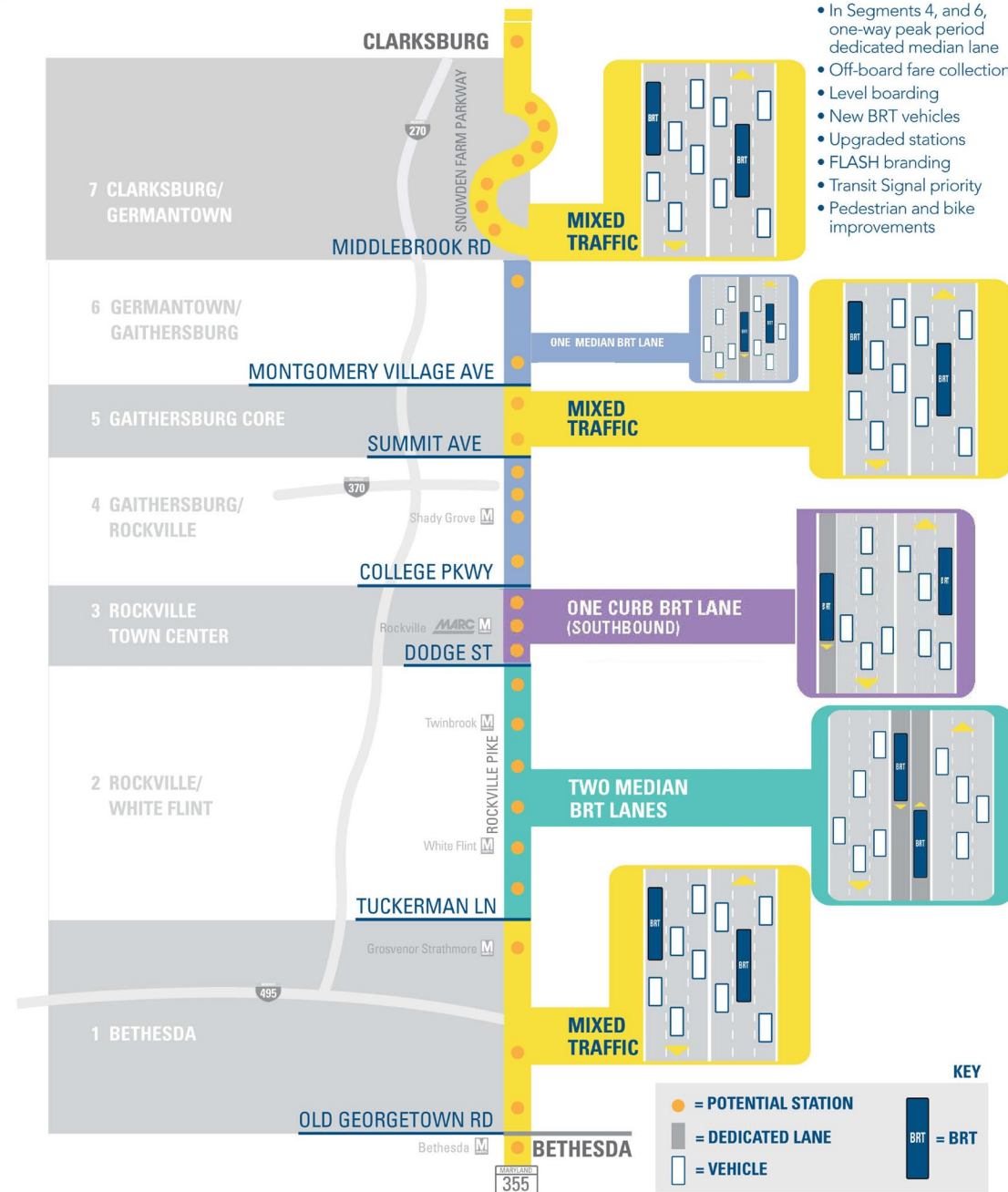
- Reduce impacts to adjacent properties
- Address mobility and roadway design objectives of local jurisdictions, Planning Board, and Council
- Understand operational impacts
- Quantify potential construction cost reductions



Preliminary Design Alternative

- Segment 7 – Mixed Traffic
- Segment 6 – One Reversible Median BRT Lane
- Segment 5 – Mixed Traffic
- Segment 4 – One Reversible Median BRT Lane
- Segment 3 – Southbound BRT Curb Lane
- Segment 2 – Dual Median BRT Lanes
- Segment 1 – Mixed Traffic

Alternative B Modified



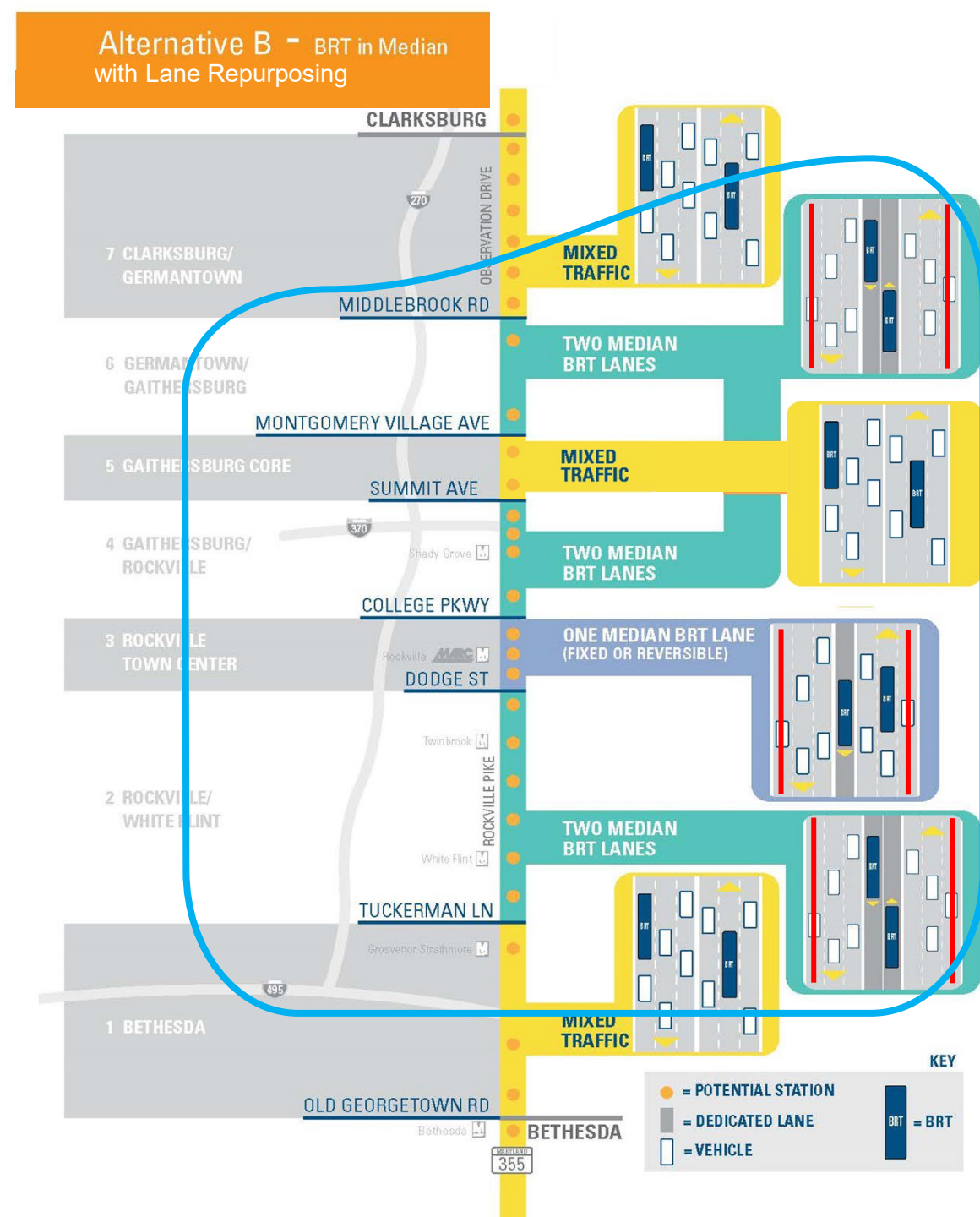
Lane Repurposing Investigation

Modeled BRT Configuration:

- Two existing traffic lanes in Segments 2, 3, 4, and 6 repurposed for BRT
- Mixed Traffic Segments 1, 5, and 7
- Dual Median BRT Segments 2, 4 and 6

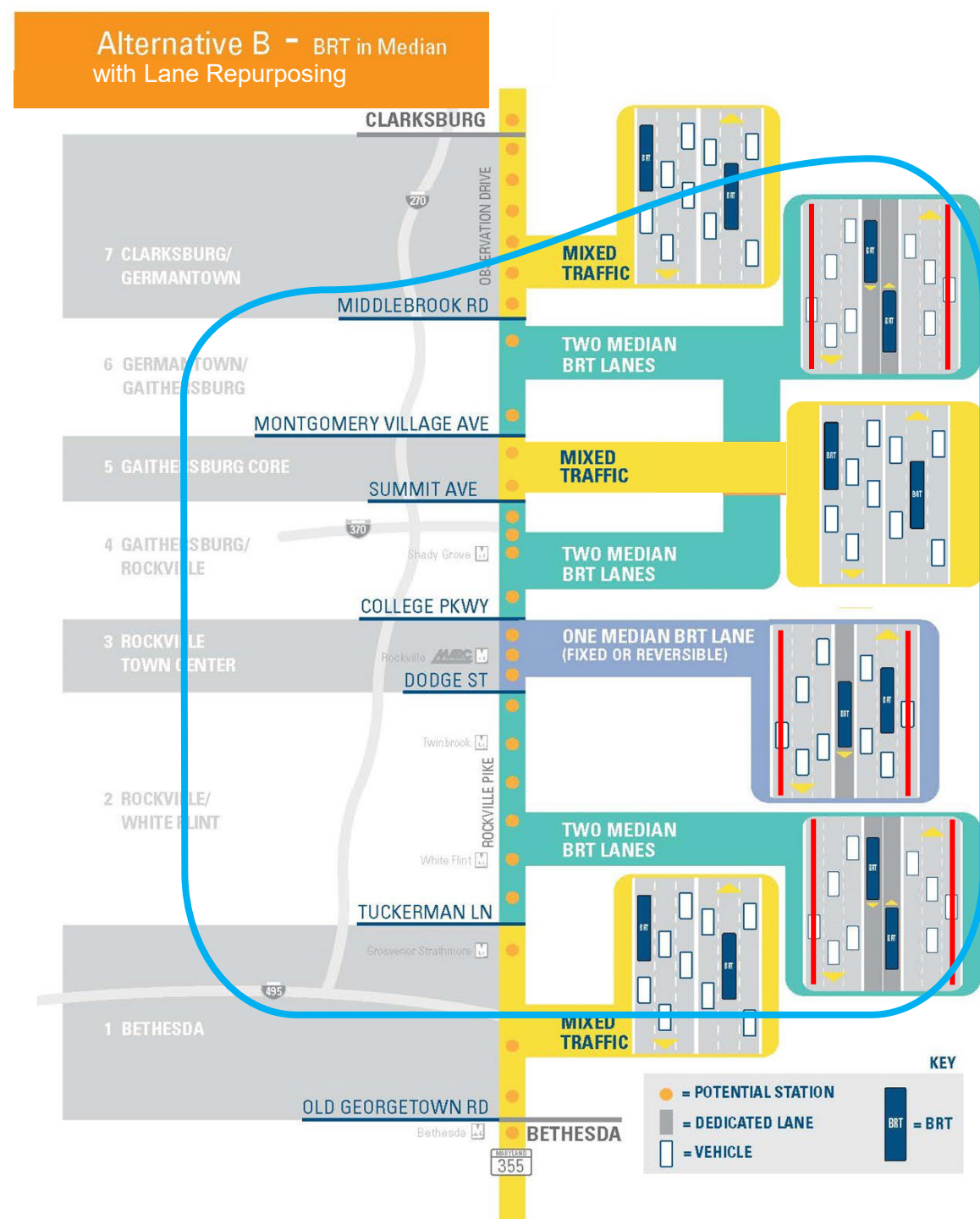
Preliminary Results:

- Segment 2 reduced ROW impacts and construction cost.
- Remaining Segments - Less Savings
- ~50% Intersections – Delay > Allowable



Lane Repurposing Investigation

- Continuing Investigation
 - Investigating Mode Shift - Shifts in travel mode (auto, transit, walking, bike)
 - Investigating Average Trip Delays - Changes in travel time based on typical length of trips along MD 355 as a commuting and community/business access corridor
 - Evaluating Traffic Diversion - Potential diversion of traffic from MD 355 to other corridors (like I-270)



Next Steps

Next Steps

- Capital Budget and CIP Public Hearings (February 8-9, 2022)
- Complete 25% Design Milestone (April 2022)
- MD 355 BRT Public Outreach & Open House (late May 2022)
- **Next CAC Touchpoint: Spring 2022**

Contact the Project Team

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MD 355 BRT Project Website:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte/projects/MD355BRT/>