

# MARC Expansion Projects

## BRTB June Meeting

MTA Office of Planning & Capital Programming  
June 27th, 2023



MARYLAND TRANSIT  
ADMINISTRATION



# Agenda

Ridership Updates

Service Expansion

Discussion







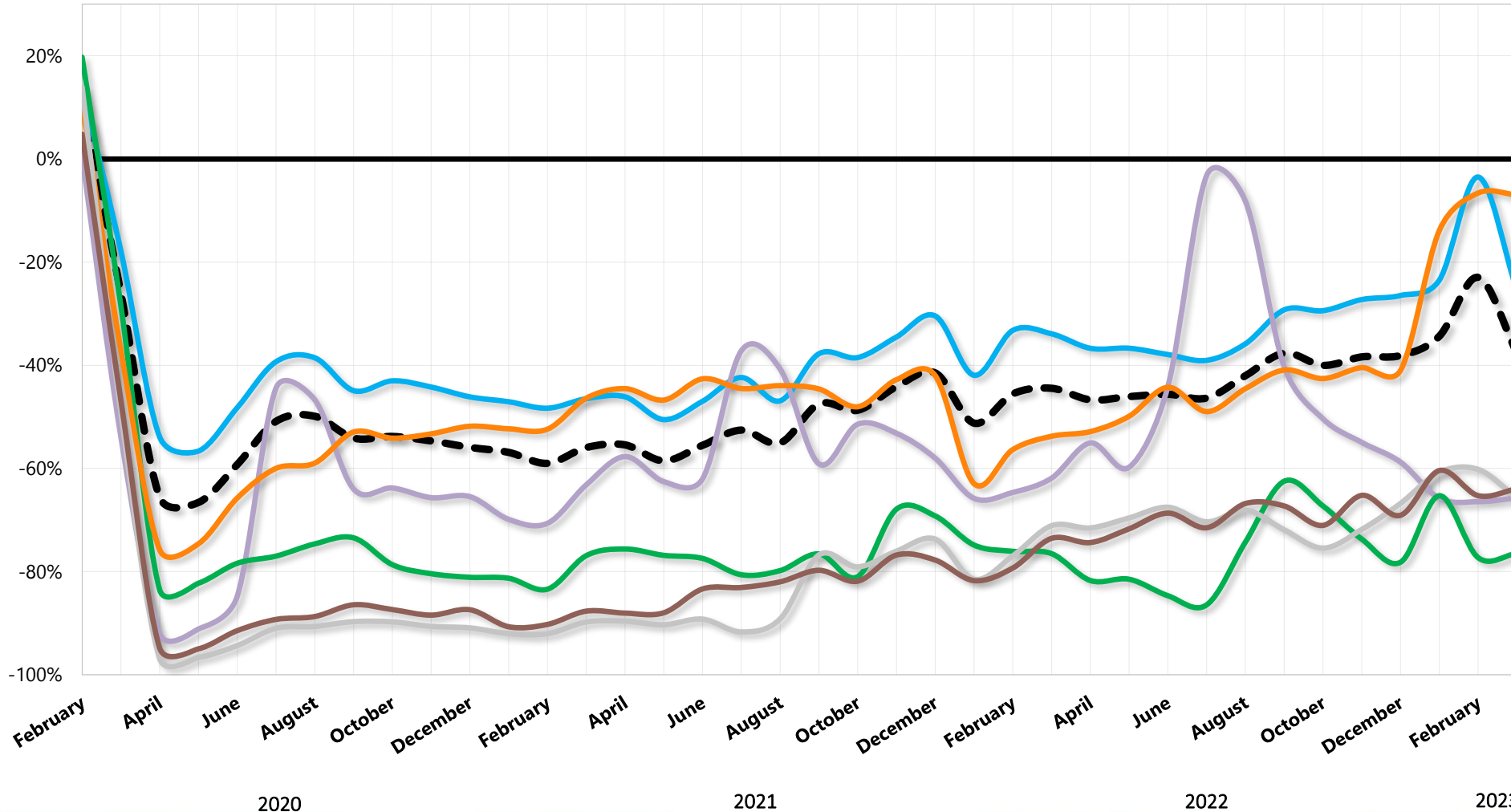
# Ridership Updates

**MDOT** MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

# MTA Ridership by Service Mode

Monthly Ridership Compared to 2019

— 2019 Level    - - MTA Total    — Core Bus    — Light Rail    — Metro    — Mobility    — MARC    — Commuter Bus



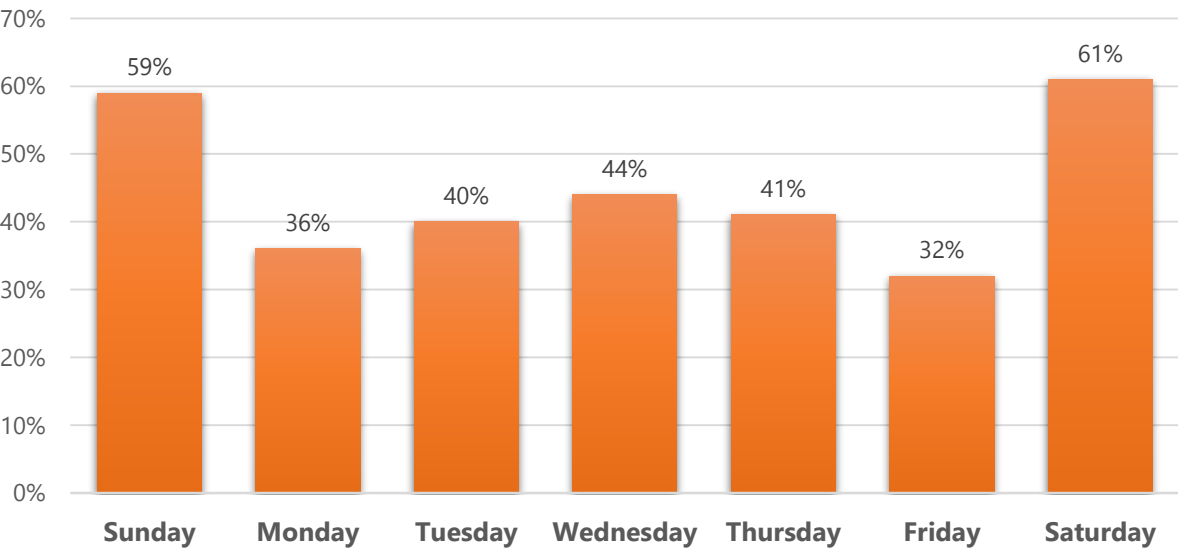
- Ridership generally trending upward
- Through 2023 so far, total ridership is about 70% of pre-pandemic levels
  - Mobility at over 90%
  - Core Bus at over 80%
  - MARC and Commuter Bus at nearly 40%
  - Light Rail at 35%
  - Metro at 30%



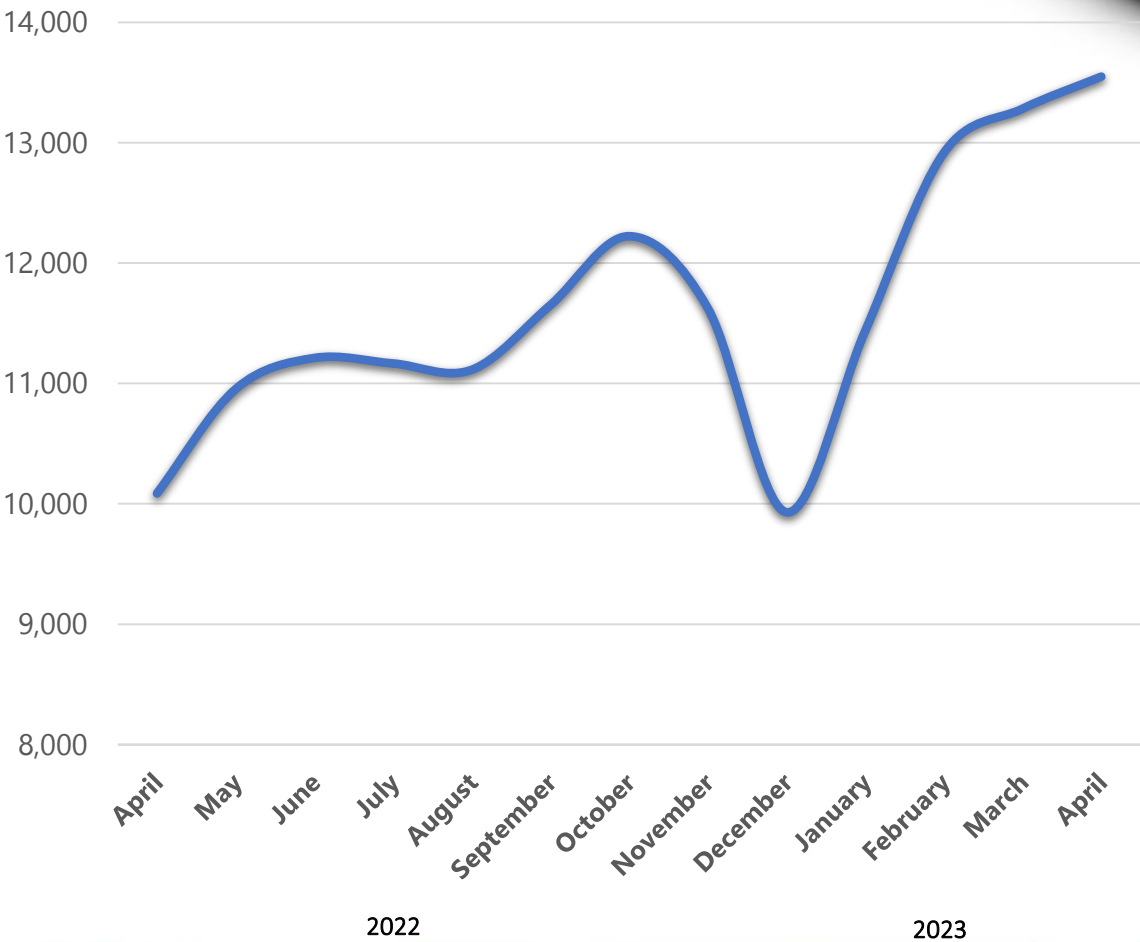
# MARC Ridership

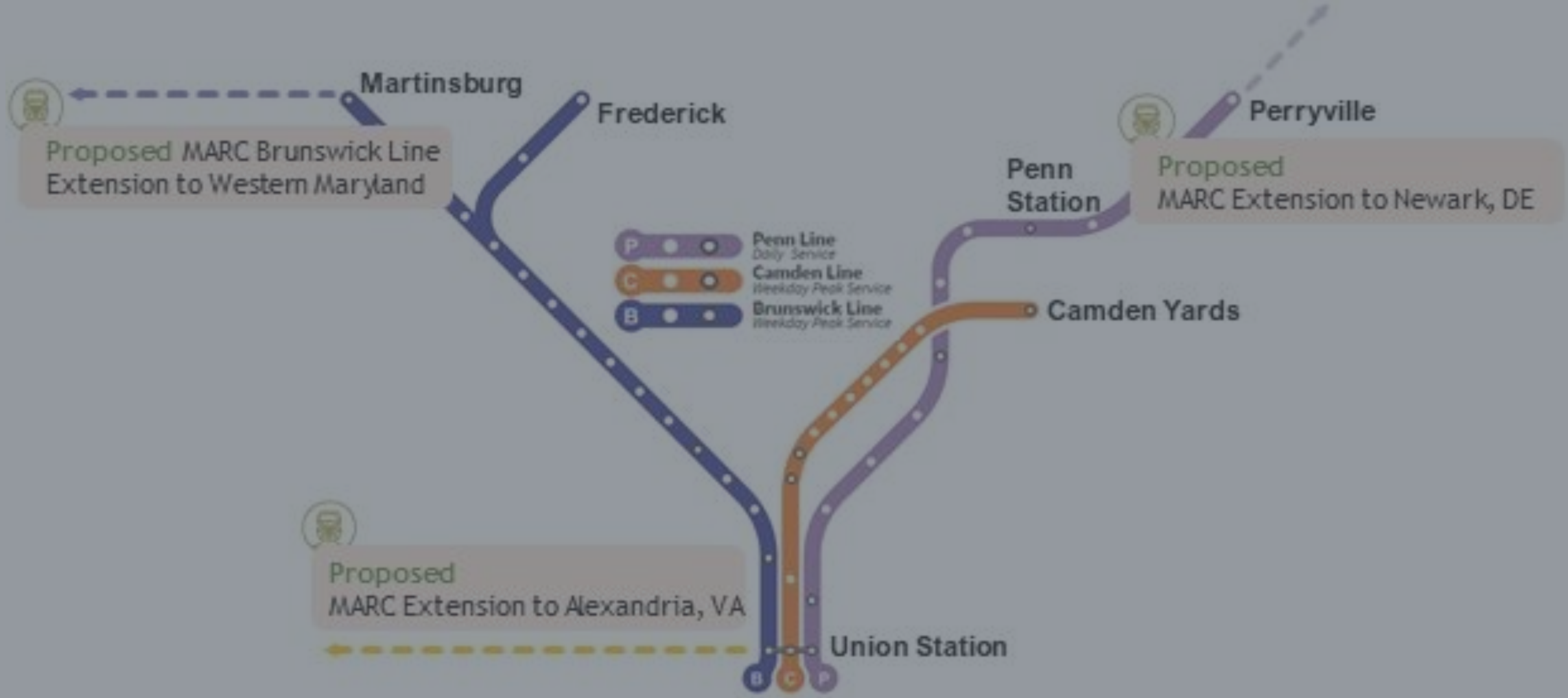
- In March, average weekday ridership passed 13,000 for the first time, the highest level post-COVID
  - April improved on that record to over 13,500
  - On target to break record again in May
- Recent pattern of weekday ridership being higher mid-week
  - Currently peaking on Wednesdays at 45% of pre-pandemic ridership
  - Friday ridership is the lowest at 30%
- Weekend ridership continues to outperform weekday commuter ridership, consistently reaching or exceeding 60% of pre-pandemic levels
  - Sunday, March 26th had the highest ridership of any single weekend day since 2019 at 5,809 (Cherry Blossom peak bloom)

Ridership Recovery by Day of Week



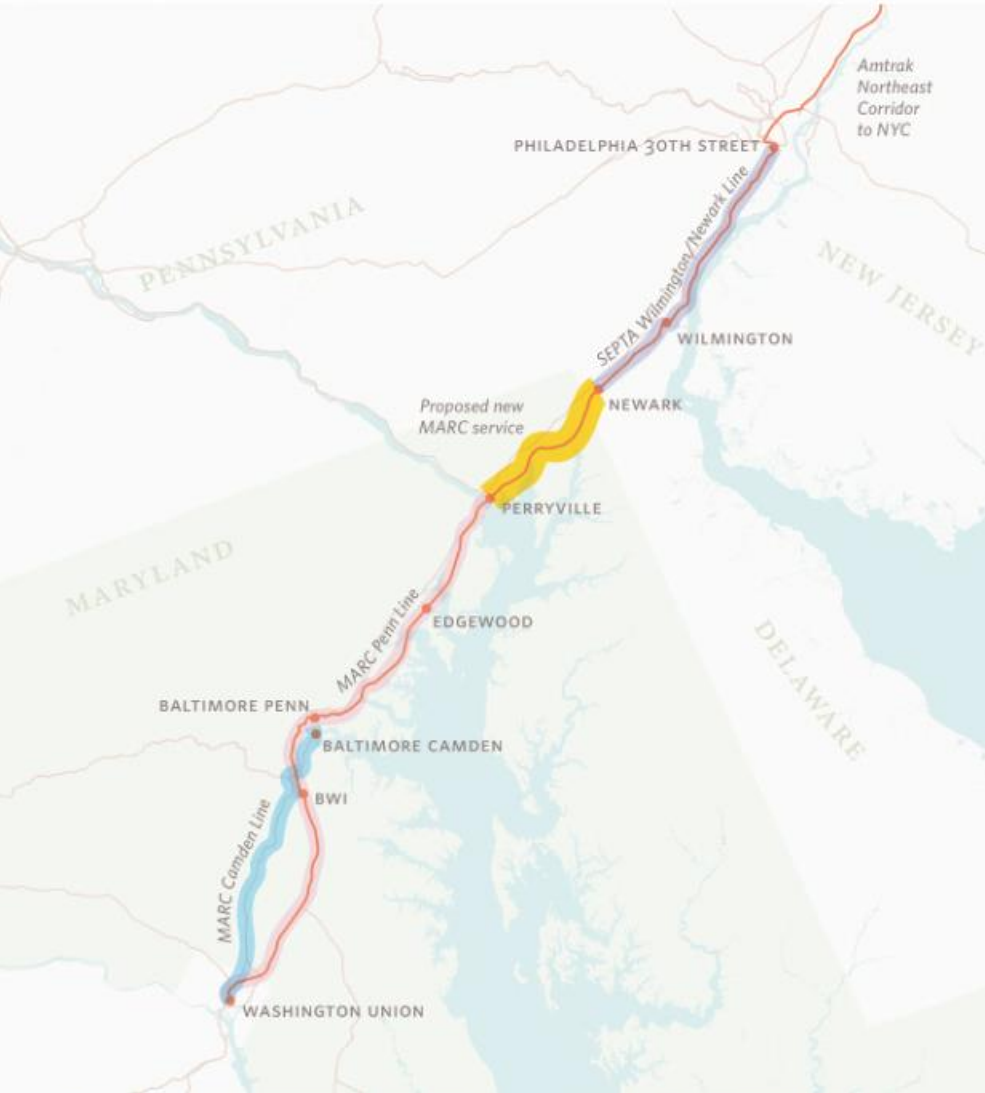
Average Weekday Ridership – MARC System





# Advancing MARC Service Expansion

# North – Closing the MARC-SEPTA Gap



- Goal of extending MARC service from Perryville, MD to Newark, DE or Wilmington, DE
  - Completes connection of one of the most economically and socially important transit corridors in the US
- MOU with Delaware Transit Corporation finalized
  - Roles and responsibilities for pilot service
  - Proposed pilot of 2 AM and 2 PM trains from Perryville to Newark
    - Current service is one midday trip and no weekend service
- Investments at Martin State Airport to increase train storage and support additional service north
- Ongoing coordination with WILMAPCO, DVRPC, BMC, DeIDOT, and SEPTA, and other key stakeholders
  - Newark Regional Transit Center

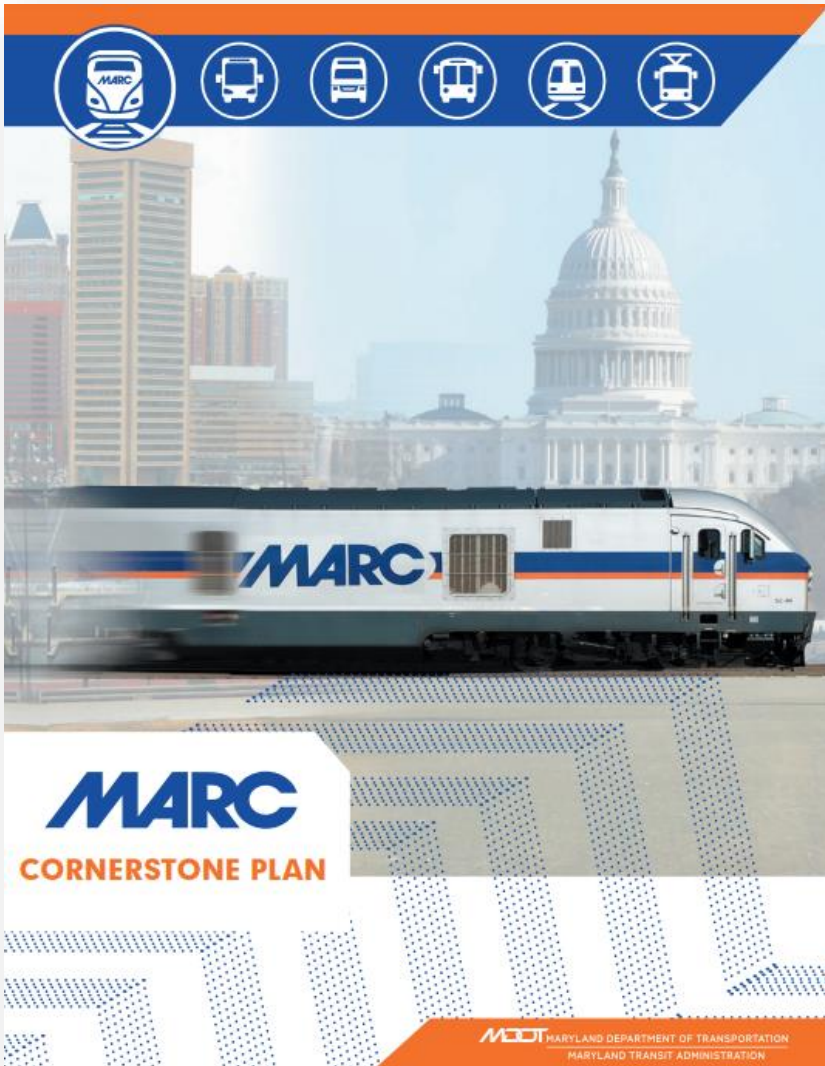
# South – Run-Through Service to Virginia

- Goal of extending MARC service from Union Station in Washington, DC to Alexandria, VA
  - One-seat ride from Baltimore to Northern Virginia
  - Improved reliability and convenience for interstate/regional rail travel
- MOU with VRPA finalized
  - Roles and responsibilities for pilot service
  - Proposed pilot of 2 AM and 2 PM trains into Alexandria, VA
  - Infrastructure requirements, including Union Station sub-basement, L'Enfant 4th track and Long Bridge
- Pursuing cross-honoring and improved schedule alignment with VRE
- Ongoing coordination with Amtrak, VRPA, VRE, CSX, and other key stakeholders





# MARC Cornerstone Plan Update



- Update to MARC Cornerstone Plan underway
  - Will include vision and goals, equity assessment, service objectives, modeling, and 5-year capital investment program
  - A vision that reflects current travel patterns, critical needs, and available federal funding opportunities
- Roadmap for working with host railroads on service opportunities
- Outline of major investments needed to reach desired MARC service levels
- Engagement with the public, elected officials, host railroads, and other stakeholders
- Will establish six investment programs as outline in Maryland legislation
  - Brunswick Line
  - Camden Line
  - Penn Line
  - New regional service between Perryville, MD, and Newark, DE
  - New regional run-through rail service to Alexandria, Virginia
  - Extending the Brunswick Line to better serve Western MD

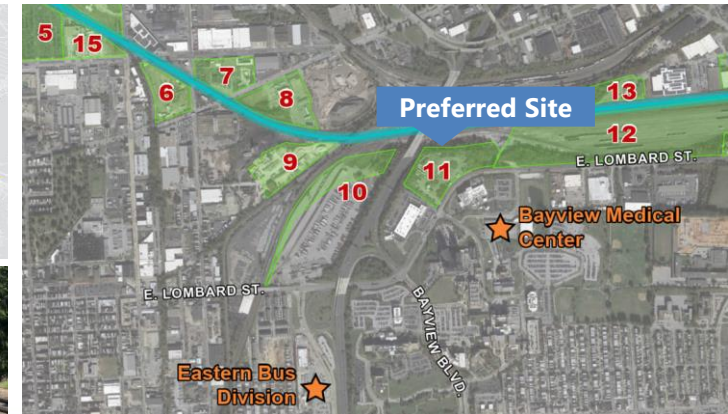
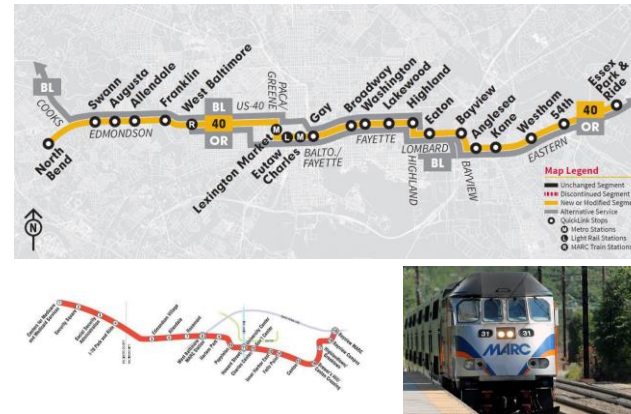
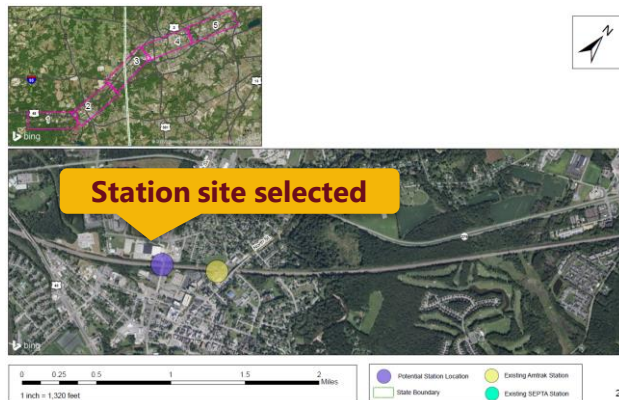
# Infill Stations

## Elkton

- Downtown location selected for the new Elkton Station
  - Preferred location is adjacent to existing medical center with parking and available space along Amtrak ROW for platforms
  - Stakeholders consulted: Amtrak, Town of Elkton, WILMAPCO
- 30% design underway
- Estimate 30 to 50 daily boardings for 2 AM and 2 PM trains

## Bayview

- Study conducted to confirm location and property availability
- 30% design underway
  - Design is considering future multi-modal transit integration, including options in East-West Corridor Study
  - Coordinating details of maintenance tracks, platform lengths and locations, parking areas, etc.
- Johns Hopkins will be key stakeholder





# Q&A and Discussion

**Stephen Miller**

Strategic Planner, Office of Planning

[smiller6@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:smiller6@mdot.maryland.gov)