

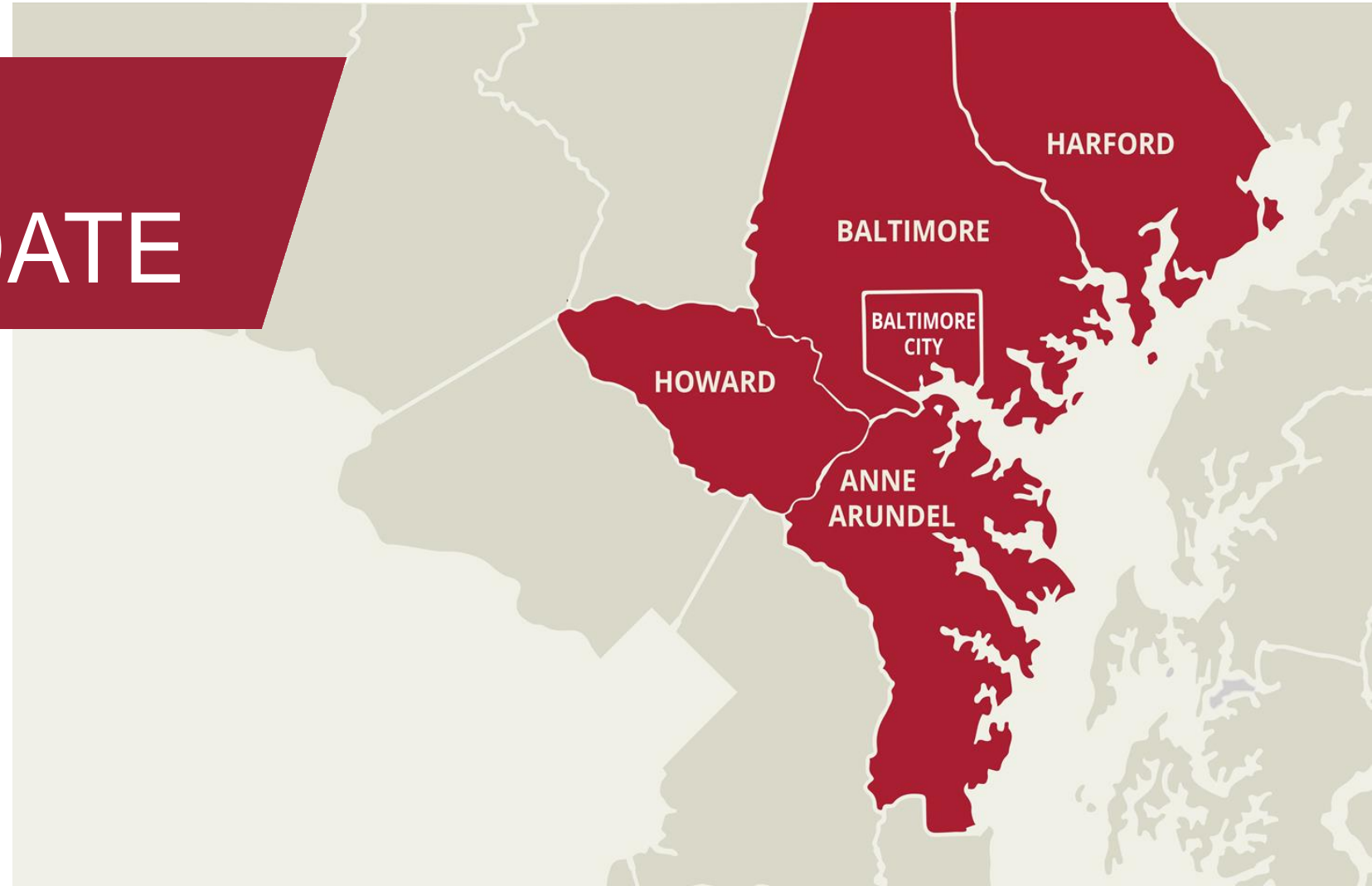


# Connecting Our Future

A Regional Transit Plan for Central Maryland

## PROJECT UPDATE

August 27, 2019





# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- RTP Background & Approach
- Transit in the Region Today
- The Changing Region
- Draft Goals
- Identifying Transit Needs
- Public Outreach Approach
- Looking Ahead





# RTP BACKGROUND & APPROACH

# Purpose & Approach

## PURPOSE

- Develop a new Regional Transit Plan (RTP) for Central Maryland that will define public transportation goals over the next 25 years

## VISION

- Address traditional transit (buses and trains) as well as explore new mobility options and technology

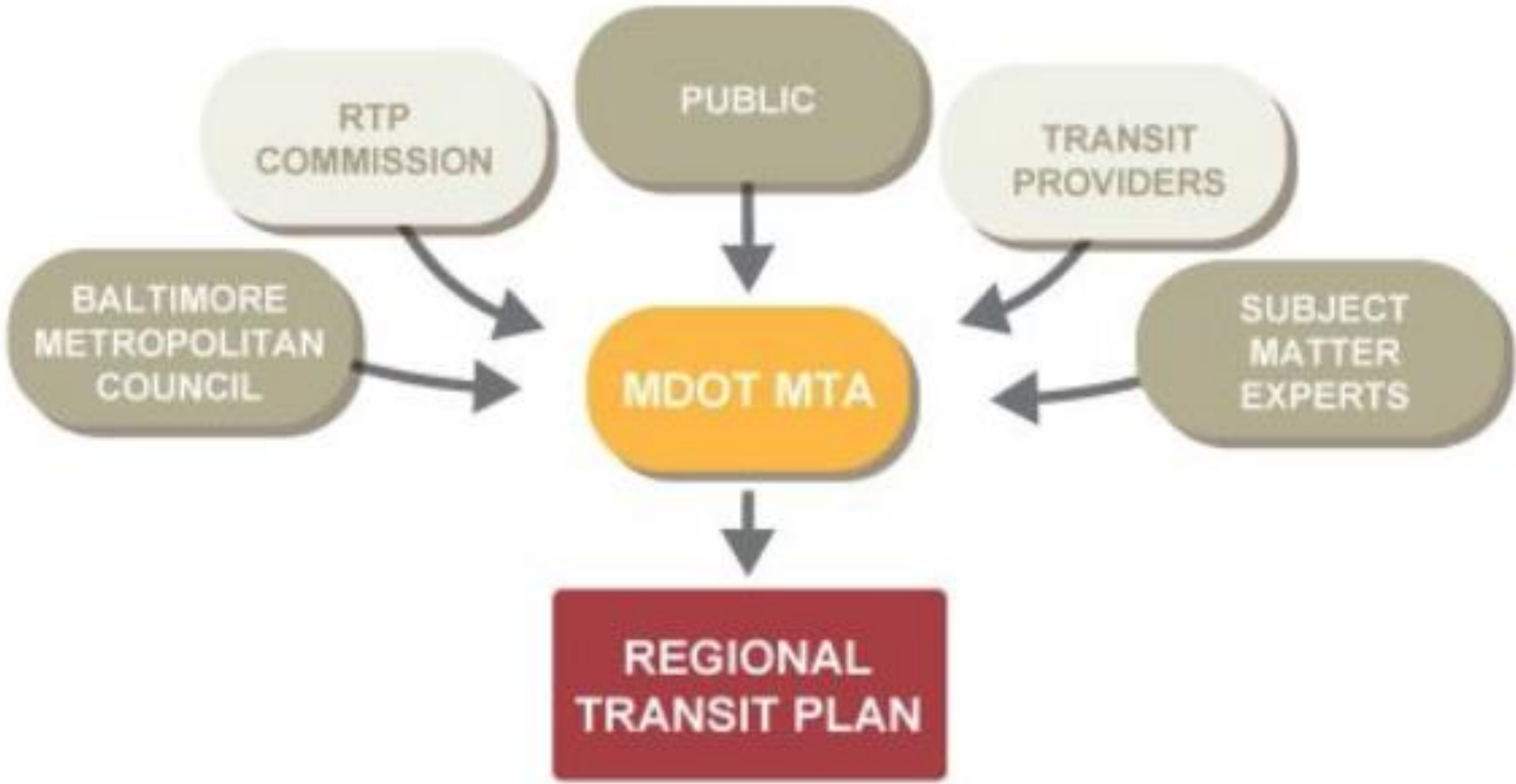


MDOT MTA is developing this 25-year plan to meet the transit needs of the Core Service Area, guided by Maryland Chapter 352 (2018).

The Project Team is exploring seven topics to better understand what transit resources exist today and explore opportunities to improve mobility in the future

- Service Quality and Integration
- Funding
- State of Good Repair
- Access
- Corridors of Opportunity
- The Customer Experience
- New Mobility

# Project Partners





# Project Schedule



## ANALYZE

Review the current system; identify opportunities for improvement.



**March 2019**  
Transit 101

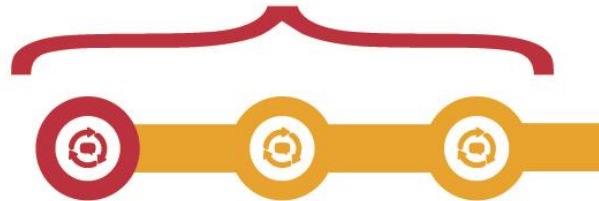
**April 2019**  
Overview of Trends and Benchmarks; Draft Goals

**June 2019**  
Review State of Good Repair, Funding, and New Mobility



## PROPOSE

Review system performance and propose improvements.



**September 2019**  
Address Service Gaps and Corridors of Need

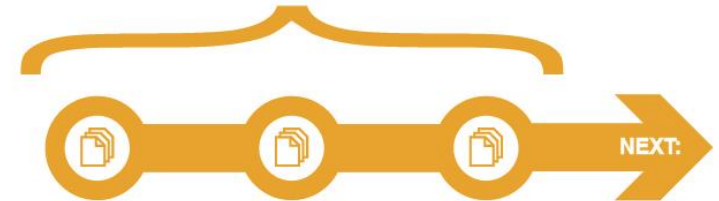
**October 2019**  
Understand the Rider Perspective

**December 2019**  
Review Goals and Prioritize Strategies



## PUBLISH

Present findings and recommendations.



**April 2020**  
Review Draft Plan

**June 2020**  
Update Draft Plan Based on Feedback

**September 2020**  
Review and Publish Final Plan



- Current Task
- Upcoming Task
- Completed Task



**Connecting Our Future**

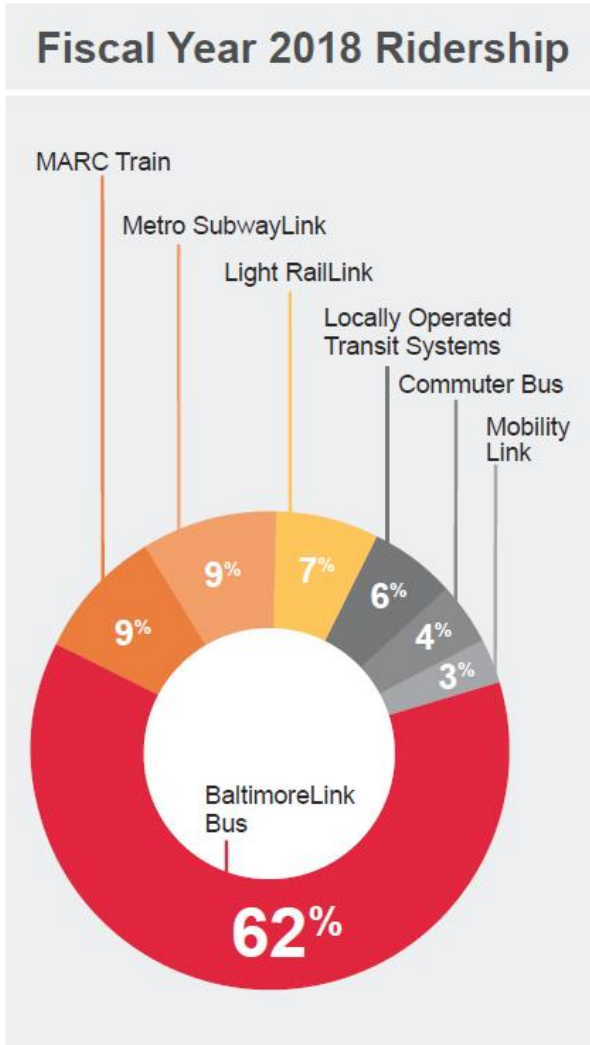
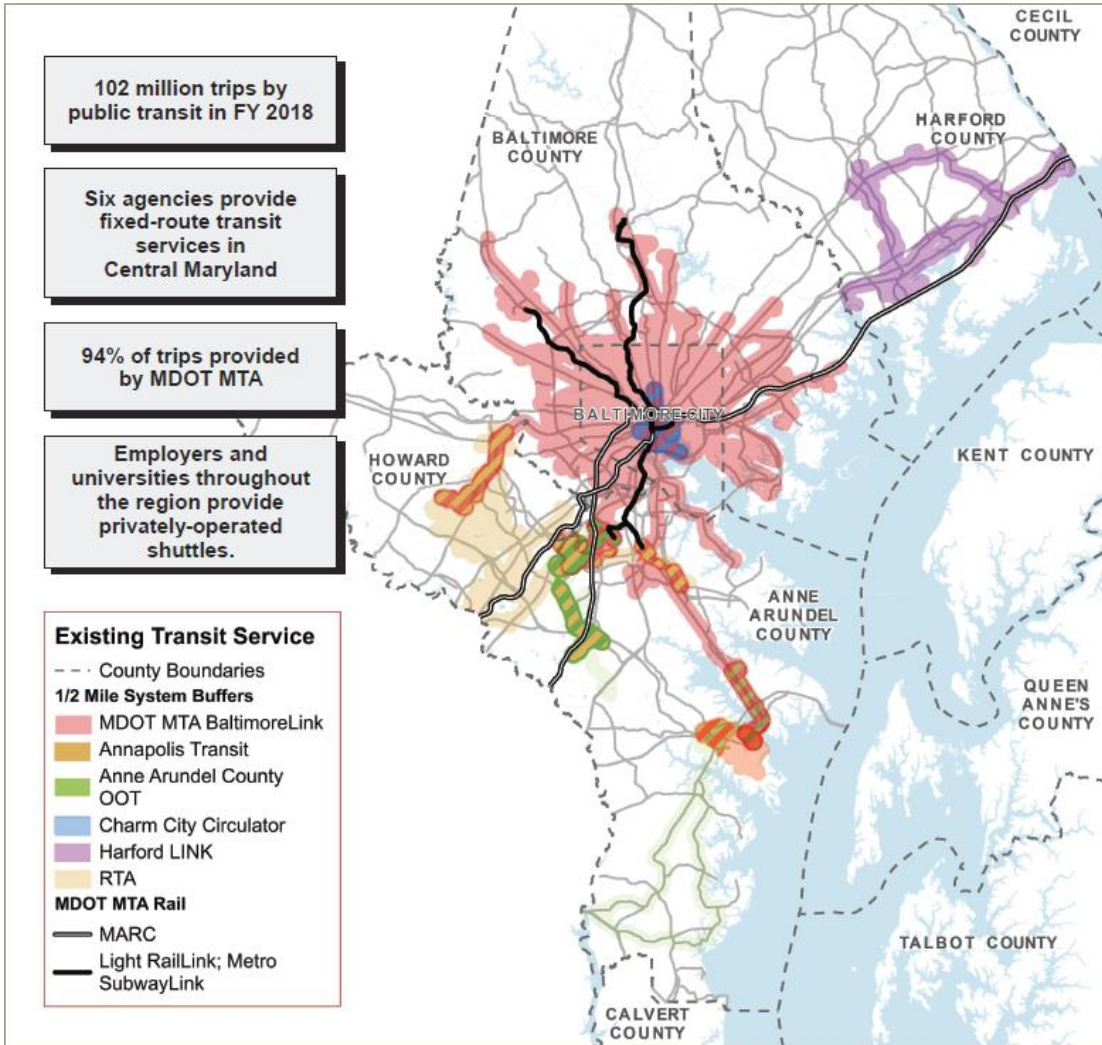
A Regional Transit Plan for Central Maryland



# TRANSIT IN THE REGION TODAY



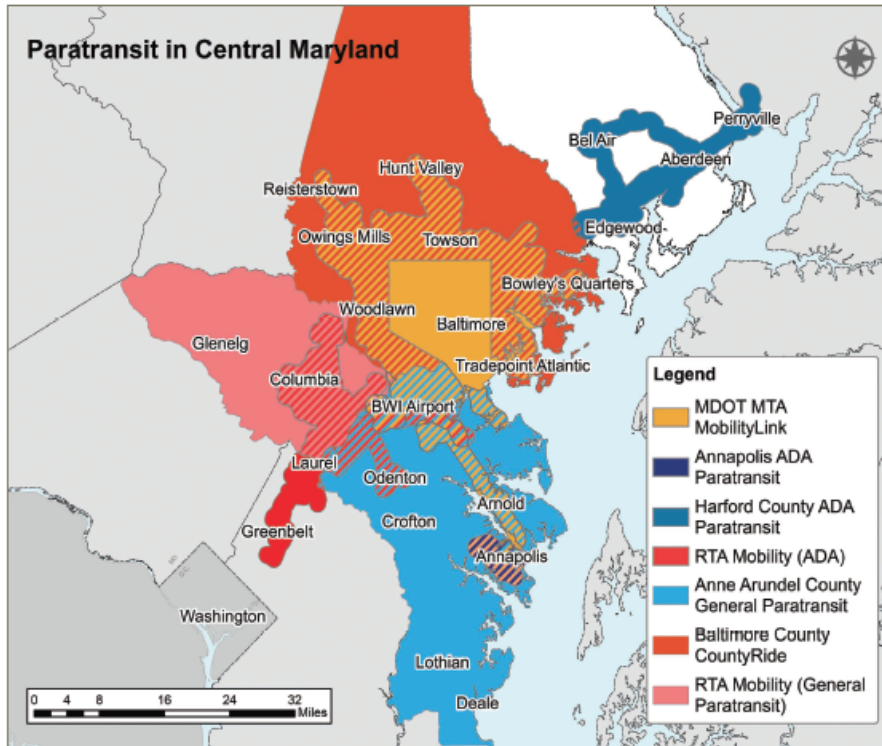
# Public Transit Ridership in Central Maryland



# Paratransit in the Region

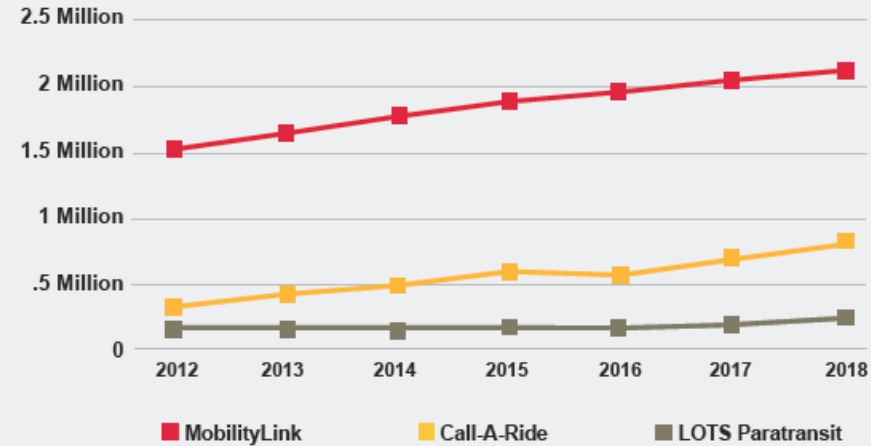


Paratransit services provide curb-to-curb or door-to-door transit for people with disabilities. In fiscal year 2017, Central Maryland transit agencies provided 3 million paratransit trips.

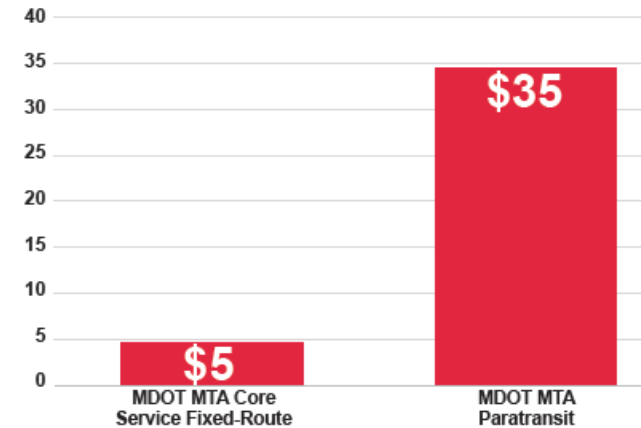


## Trends in Regional Paratransit Ridership

↑ Paratransit ridership has been trending steadily upward.



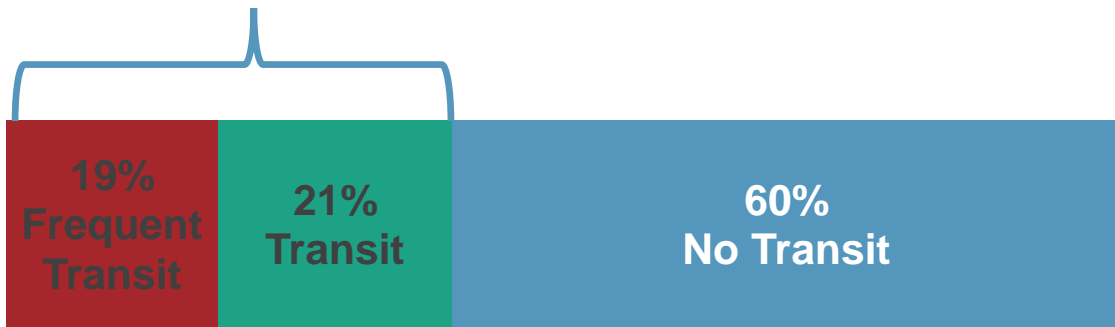
## Average Cost Per Trip: Fixed-Route vs. Paratransit



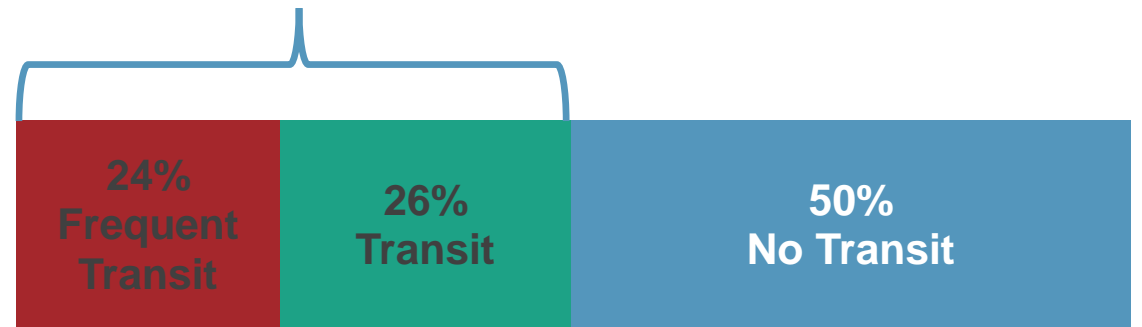
# Access to Transit



**40%** of the region's residents (1.02 million) have access to a bus stop within  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile walk of their home or a rail station within  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile walk



**50%** of the region's jobs (616,000) are accessible by bus within  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile walk or by rail within  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile walk



*Notes: Frequent Transit is defined as every 15 minutes or better weekdays 7AM–7PM. Access is measured as  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from rail stations and  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from bus stops.*



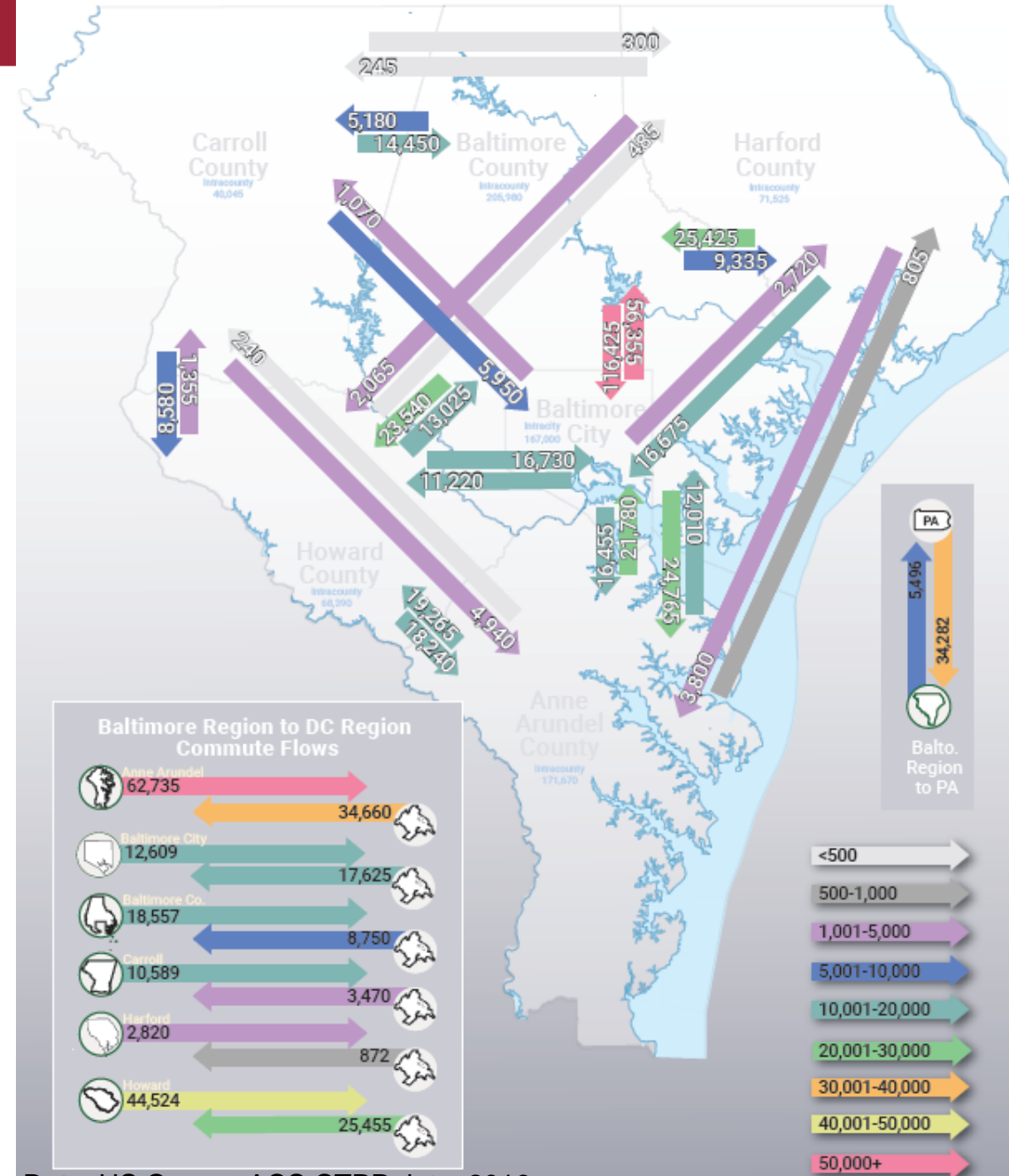
# Service & Travel Flow Analysis: Regional Commute Travel Flows

Percent of Commuter Trips from County to County

		From County					
		Howard	Carroll	Anne Arundel	Baltimore City	Baltimore County	Harford
To County	Howard	42%	10%	7%	4%	6%	2%
	Carroll	1%	47%	0%	0%	1%	0%
	Anne Arundel	11%	6%	60%	6%	6%	3%
	Baltimore City	10%	7%	8%	62%	29%	14%
	Baltimore County	8%	17%	4%	21%	51%	21%
	Harford	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	58%
	DC Region	27%	12%	22%	5%	5%	2%

- Highest percent of commute trips are within each county's boundaries.
- Harford and Baltimore County orient strongest to Baltimore County/City while Anne Arundel and Howard County orient more to the DC Region

## County-to-County Commuting Flows in the Baltimore Region



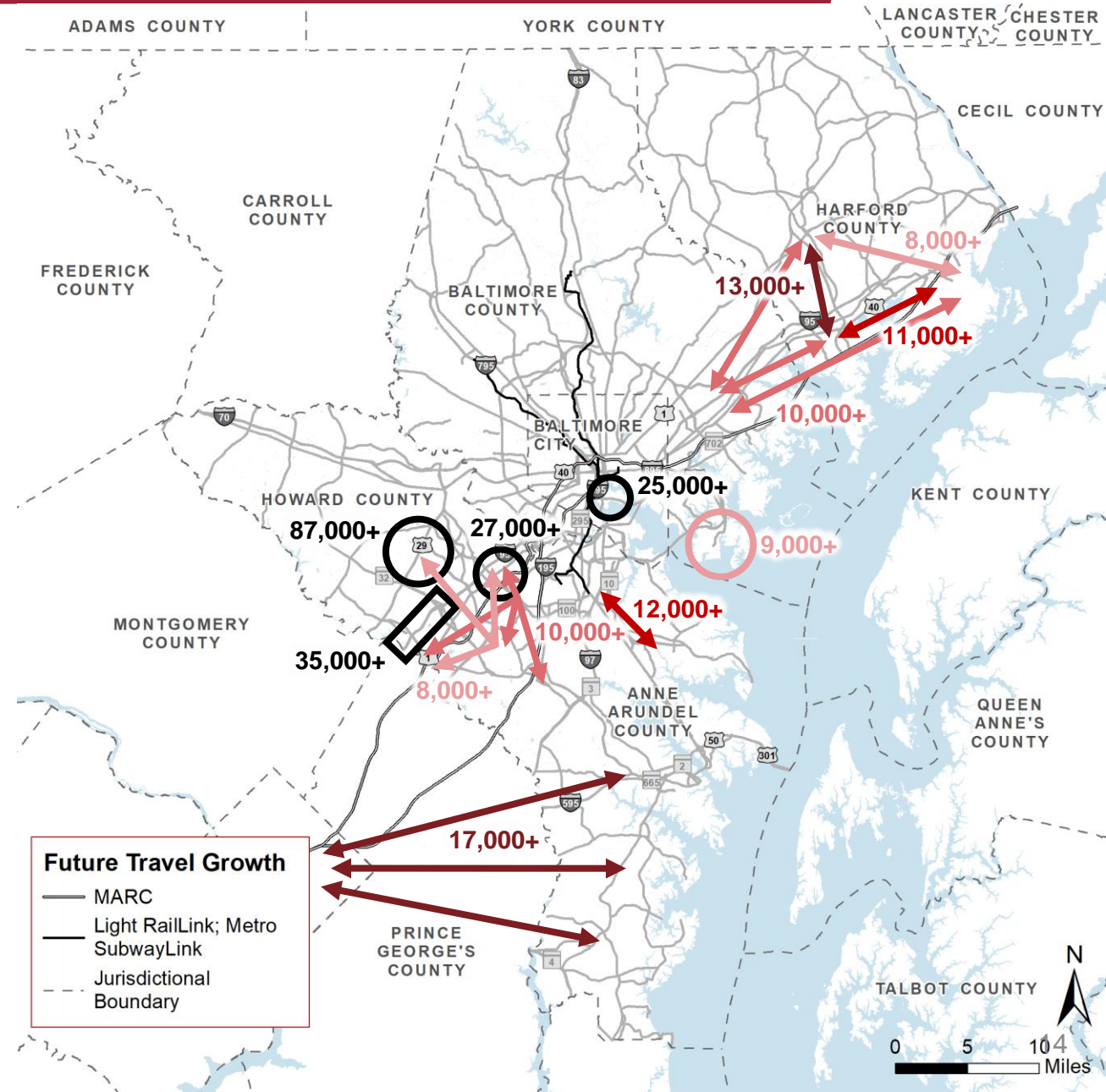


# THE CHANGING REGION



# The Central Maryland Region is Growing

- Our region is forecast to grow by nearly 300,000 people and 440,000 jobs by 2045
- The decisions we make today about **how** and **where** this growth occurs will impact who has access to transit and what type of service is appropriate

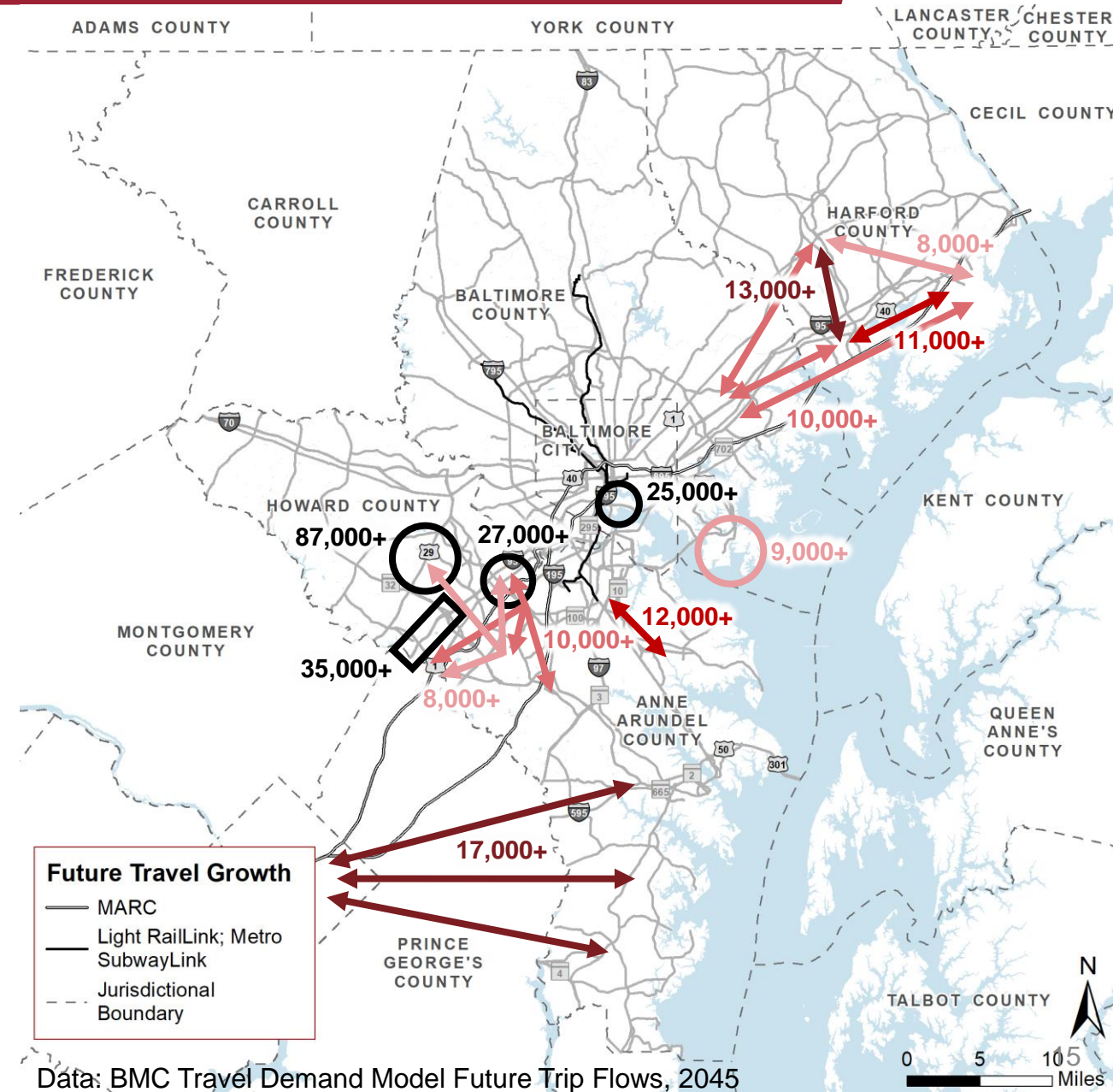




# Service & Travel Flow Analysis: Regional Commute Travel Flows

## Significant Travel Growth (2045 Forecasted Change above 25%)

	To/From	To/From	Increased Trips
Harford	Bel Air	Aberdeen	8,000+
	Bel Air	Edgewood	13,000+
	Aberdeen	Edgewood	11,000+
	Perry Hall/White Marsh	Bel Air, Edgewood, Aberdeen	10,000+
Anne Arundel	Pasadena	Glen Burnie	12,000+
	Arundel Mills	Elkridge, Laurel, Fort Meade, Odenton	10,000+
	Fort Meade	Elkridge, Columbia, Laurel	8,000+
	South Anne Arundel County	District of Columbia	17,000+
Howard	Columbia	Columbia and other Howard County	87,000+
	Elkridge	Ellicott City, Columbia, Laurel, Jessup, Arundel Mills, BWI	27,000+
	Laurel/Savage/Jessup	Elkridge, Columbia	35,000+
Baltimore City/County	Tradepoint Atlantic, Edgemere	Dundalk, Essex, Canton	9,000+
	Port Covington, Riverside, Federal Hill, Locust Point	Downtown Baltimore, Brooklyn, Glen Burnie, Ellicott City, Columbia	25,000+



NEXT  
STOP 2045



# DRAFT GOALS



## **IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY AND THE SEAMLESSNESS OF TRANSIT SERVICES**

*Connecting Our Future should...*

- Respond to regional gaps in current transit services
- Prioritize connection to economic opportunities and services
- Prioritize existing and emerging transit-supportive corridors and nodes for new or enhanced services
- Increase regional collaboration



## **OPTIMIZE THE QUALITY AND SAFETY OF EXISTING TRANSIT SERVICES**

### *Connecting Our Future should...*

- Advance equitable and affordable access to services
- Promote travel choice, reduced delay, and improved air quality
- Improve service quality, customer experience, and safety on existing services
- Streamline integration of innovation methods



*Connecting Our Future should...*

- Identify transit needs
- Identify funding and financing opportunities and innovations
- Improve cost efficiency of transit services
- Maintain assets at defined condition targets



# IDENTIFYING TRANSIT NEEDS



# Identifying Transit Needs: Methodology

## What analysis goes into transit planning?

### Market Analysis:

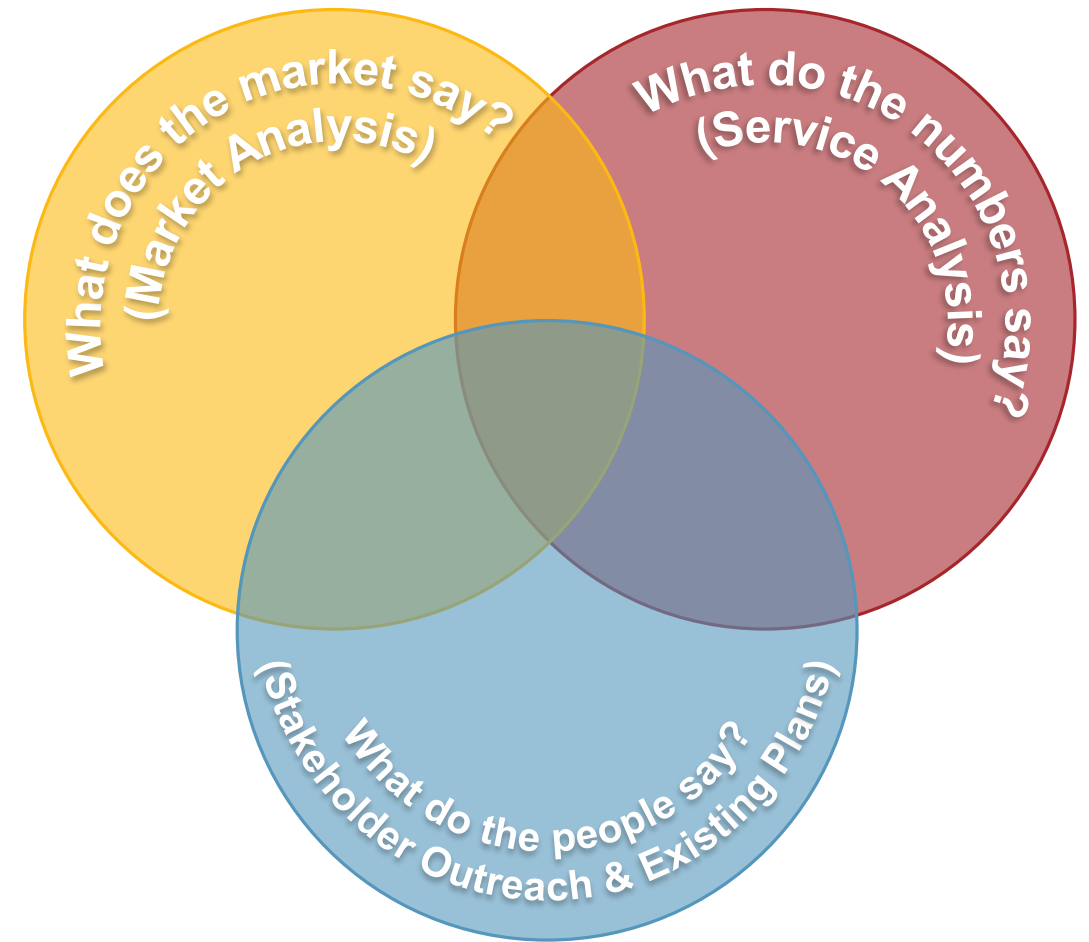
- Where is there demand for transit service?
- How much demand is there?
- What time of day is the demand?
- Where do people want to go?

### Service & Travel Flow Analysis:

- Where and when do people have access to transit service?
- What quality of service is provided (span, frequency)?
- Where are the linkages?
- How does it perform (ridership, reliability)?
- What is the cost of service?

### Stakeholder Outreach & Existing Plans

- Where do people want to go?
- What issues or gaps have the public and stakeholders identified?
- What service qualities are important?
- How and where should investment take place?
- Where have regional plans identified as priorities?





# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

# Public Involvement Methods



## **MAKE IT EASY**

Meet people where they are



## **MAKE IT INTERACTIVE**

Create experiences where people can connect directly with RTP staff



## **MAKE IT COMPREHENSIVE**

Use both high-tech and low-tech resources to share all relevant information



**Connecting Our Future**

A Regional Transit Plan for Central Maryland



# Key Themes We've Heard So Far

- Regional connectivity
- Service frequency and reliability
- Bus stop amenities (e.g., shelters, benches)
- Personal safety and security
- Cleanliness and condition of facilities matter
- Access challenges for senior and minority customers
- Customer service
- Access to more real-time data
- More fare payment options
- Expanding off-peak service across the region to connect to jobs

## October Locations:

- **10/21 Howard County**  
Elkridge Recreation & Community Center 4-6 PM
- **10/22 Baltimore County**  
Towson Library 4-6 PM
- **10/24 Baltimore City**  
Mondawmin Station 4-6 PM
- **10/28 Harford County**  
Edgewood Library 5-7 PM
- **10/29 Anne Arundel County**  
Severna Park Community Center 4-6 PM