

DUKE STREET *IN MOTION*

Advisory Group Meeting #9

March 16, 2023



alexandriava.gov/DukeInMotion

This project is funded with Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) regional revenues.

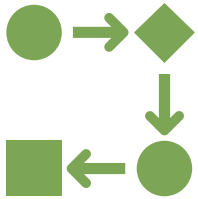


Welcome!



Introductions & Meeting Background

Public Comment



Design Updates

Draft AG Council Recommendation Template



Spring Engagement Plan Summary

Next Steps



Approval of Meeting Minutes #8

AG Roles and Responsibilities

- ✓ Relay information
- ✓ Participate
- ✓ Provide feedback
- ✓ Respect each other
- ✓ Represent groups
- ✓ Build on decisions



Meeting Goals



Understand how and why busway designs have evolved



Review more detailed expectation for type of content in recommendation to Council









Begin to flesh out *preliminary* recommendation on curb features based on information provided to date and discussion at February meeting



Understand plan for engagement, how AG members can support engagement, and provide input on how to make sure engagement summary is as useful as possible

Project Guiding Principles

	Convenient	Make bus travel more predictable, frequent, and comfortable
	Efficient	Improve mobility for all Duke Street travelers
	Equitable	Use enhanced bus transit to support equitable access for a diversity of people and places
	Safe	Ensure safety and accessibility for those connecting to and riding the bus, as well as other travelers
	Vibrant	Create and enhance thriving and future corridor destinations that improve resident quality of life and boost the local economy
	Sustainable	Contribute positively to the environment, now and in the future



Public Comment

Written Public Comment



Comment/question themes (1+ tag given to each written comment)

Top Themes Overall (Since June)

- **28 comments:** Support for biking and/or walking improvements
- **20:** Community process
- **18:** General concept or concept evaluation comments/questions
- **17:** Support for dedicated bus lanes
- **11:** Congestion or cut-through traffic
- **11:** Safety



Top Themes for Feb.-March 2023

- **8 comments:** Support for biking and/or walking improvements
- **5:** Preference for bidirectional lane
- **5:** Congestion or cut-through traffic
- **5:** Safety
- **5:** General concept or concept evaluation comments/questions



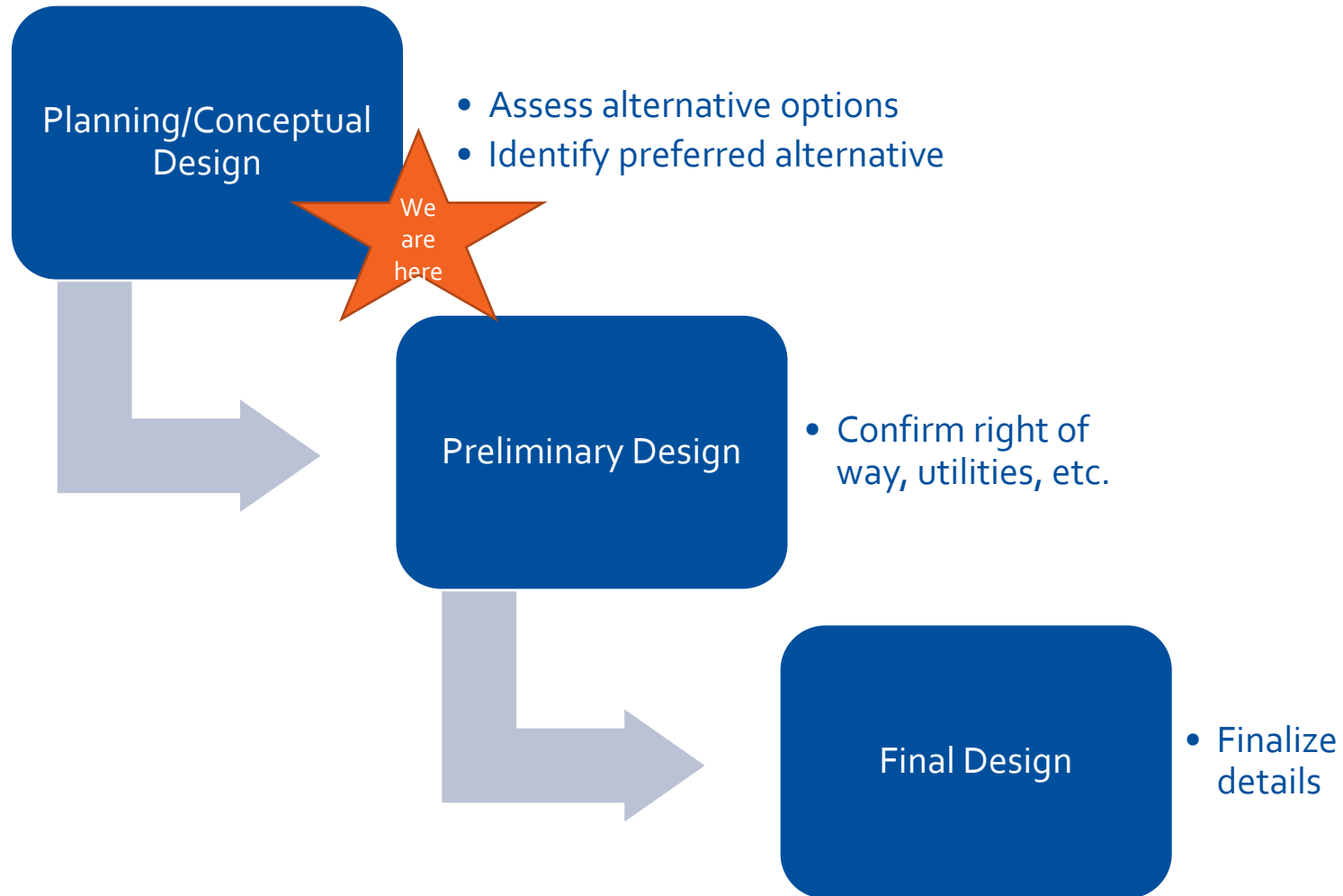
- 2 minutes to speak
- Virtual attendees can raise hand in Zoom or press *9 on your phone
- If you have questions or comments after this public comment period, please reach out to Jennifer.Monaco@alexandriava.gov
- Written comments will be shared with the Advisory Group





Design Update

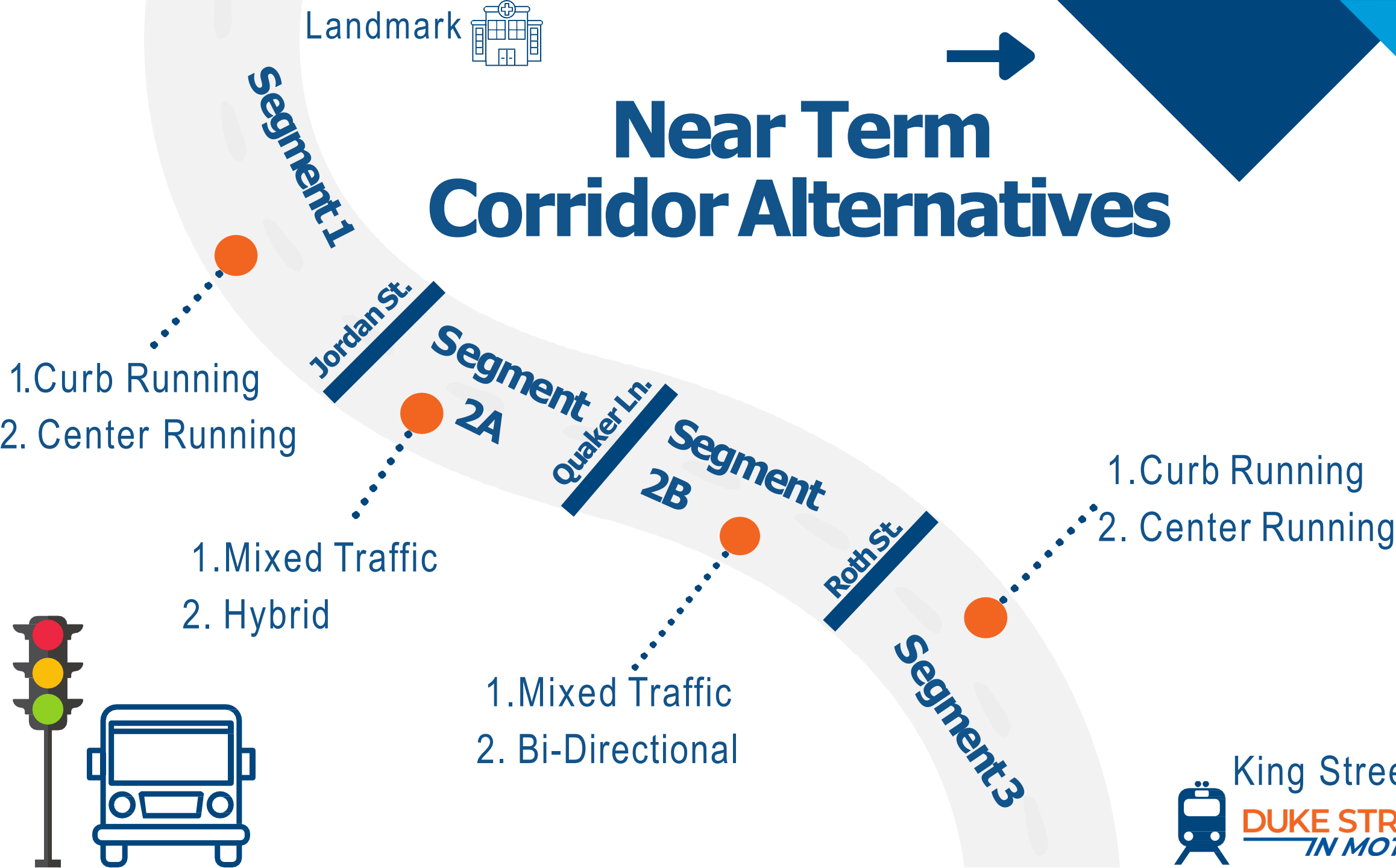
Design Process



Landmark 



Near Term Corridor Alternatives



King Street Metro
DUKE STREET
IN MOTION

Corridor Concept A

as of March 2023

SEGMENT 1 - West End Alexandria to Jordan

SEGMENT 2A – Jordan to Wheeler

SEGMENT 2B
Wheeler to Roth

SEGMENT 3 - Roth to King St Metro Station



- Between Wheeler and Roth – Eastbound Center Transit Only Lane, Westbound Mixed Traffic
- Between Witter and Telegraph – Eastbound Mixed Traffic, Westbound Center Transit Only Lane
- Design May Continue to Evolve

Corridor Concept B

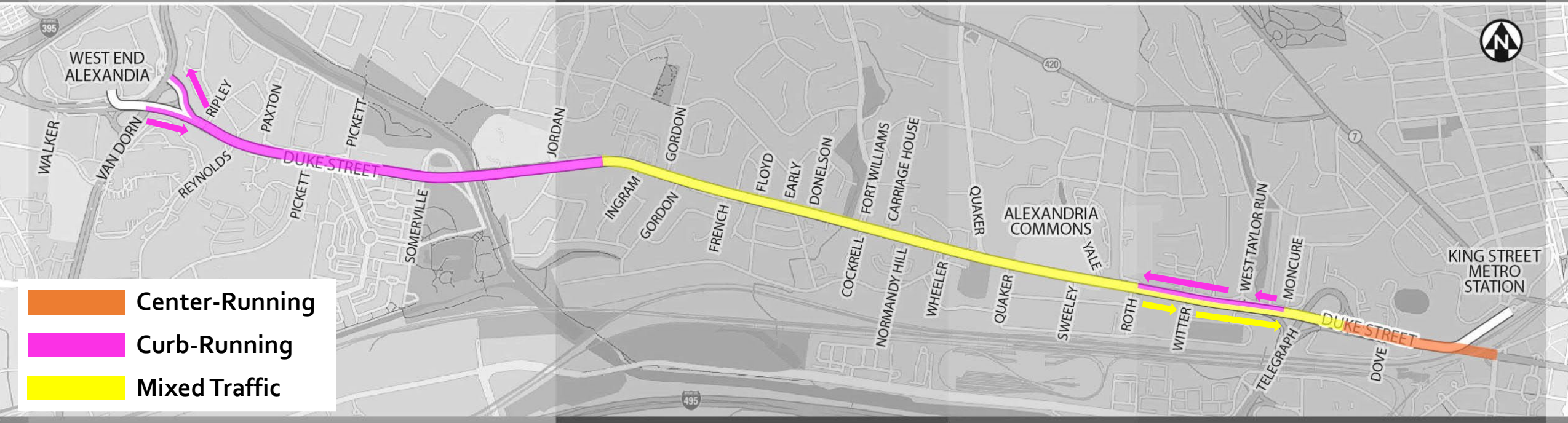
as of March 2023

SEGMENT 1 - West End Alexandria to Jordan

SEGMENT 2A – Jordan to Wheeler

SEGMENT 2B
Wheeler to Roth

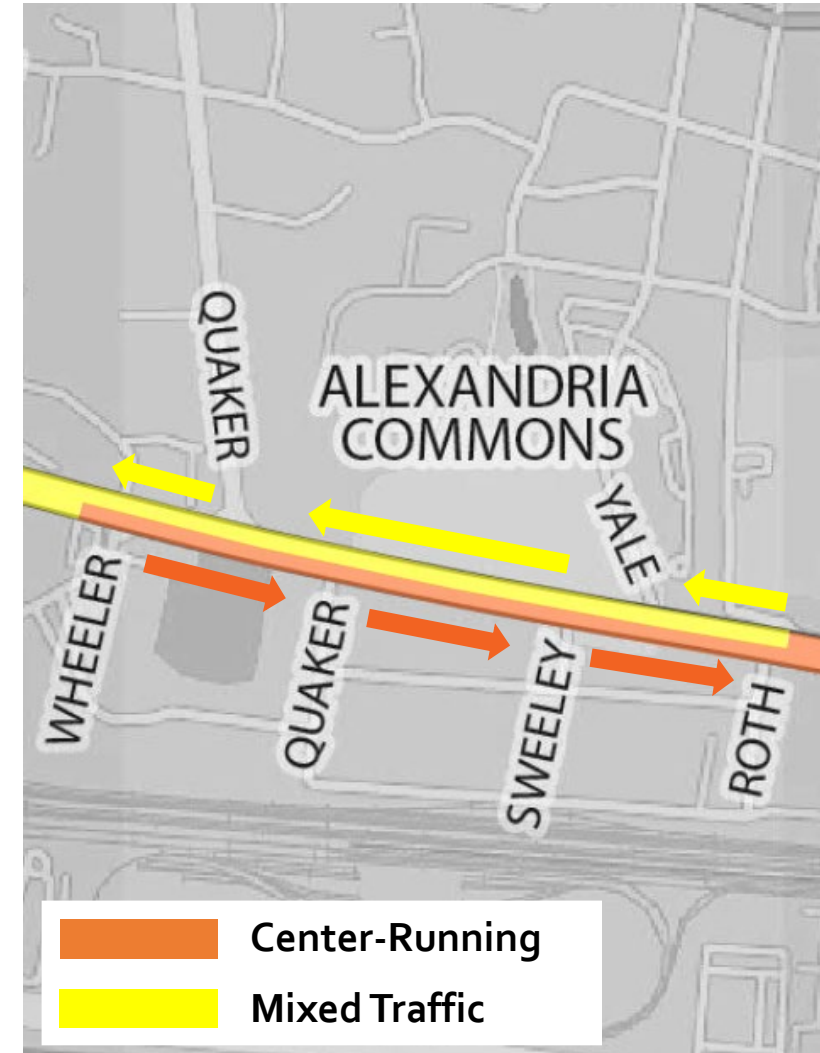
SEGMENT 3 - Roth to King St Metro Station



- Between Wheeler and Roth – Mixed Traffic in Both Directions
- Between Roth and Telegraph – Eastbound Mixed Traffic, Westbound Curb Transit Lane
- Design May Continue to Evolve

Corridor Concept A: Segment 2B

- **Why Single Center Transit Lane?**
 - Challenges with Bi-Directional
 - Required significant widening at Sweeley for BRT station
 - Operational concerns with existing mix of service
- **Why Eastbound?**
 - Direction of most delay
 - Helps bus avoid Telegraph queuing
 - More future ready for development



Corridor Concept A: Segment 3

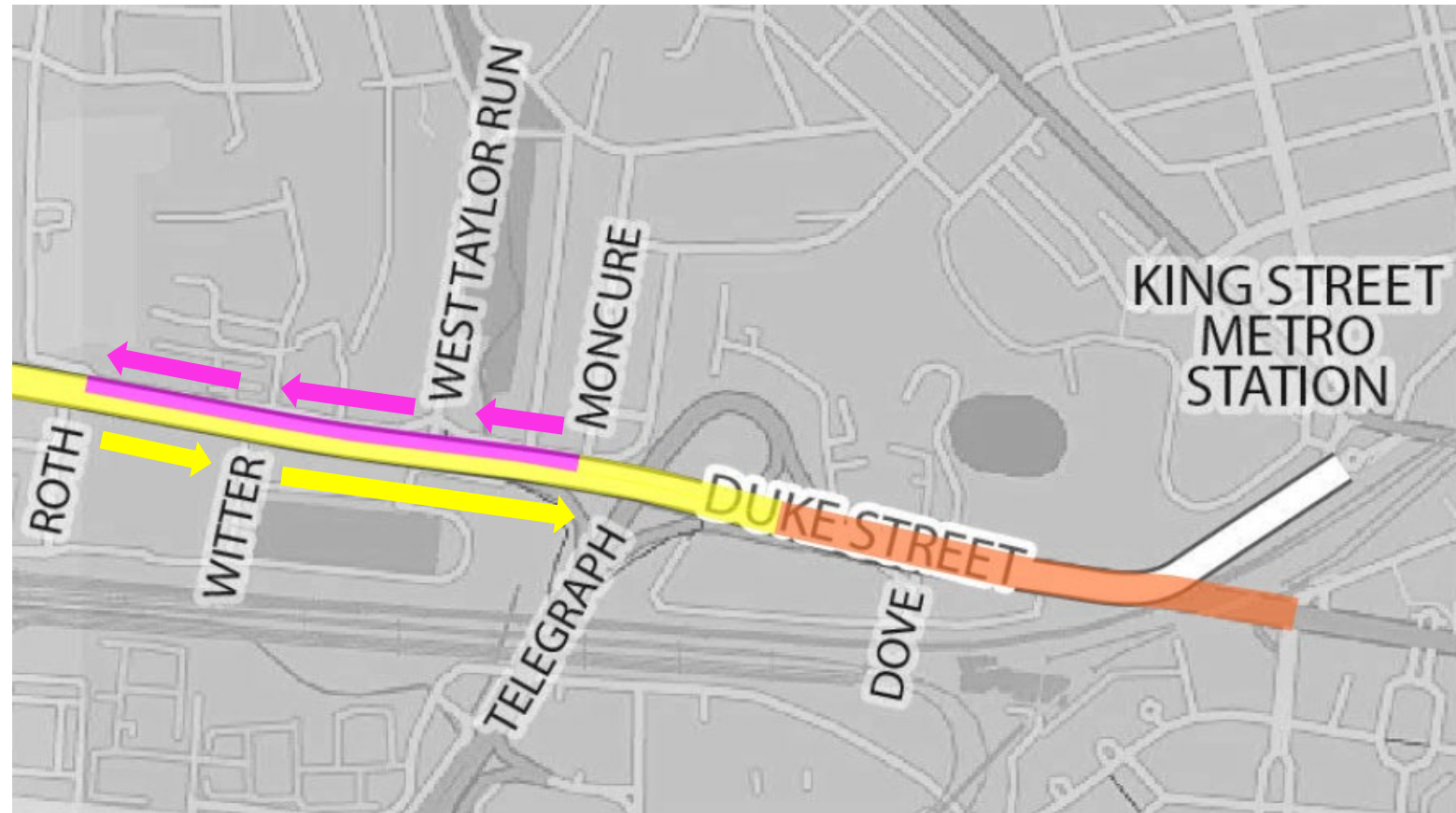
- Eastbound Mixed Traffic to balance most important improvements to buses while maintaining traffic flow



- Center-Running
- Mixed Traffic

Corridor Concept B: Segment 3

- Why not all Curb Transit Lanes?
 - Preliminary presentation highlighted challenges with ramp traffic in Eastbound
 - Center supports Eastbound King Street Metro access



- Center-Running
- Curb-Running
- Mixed Traffic

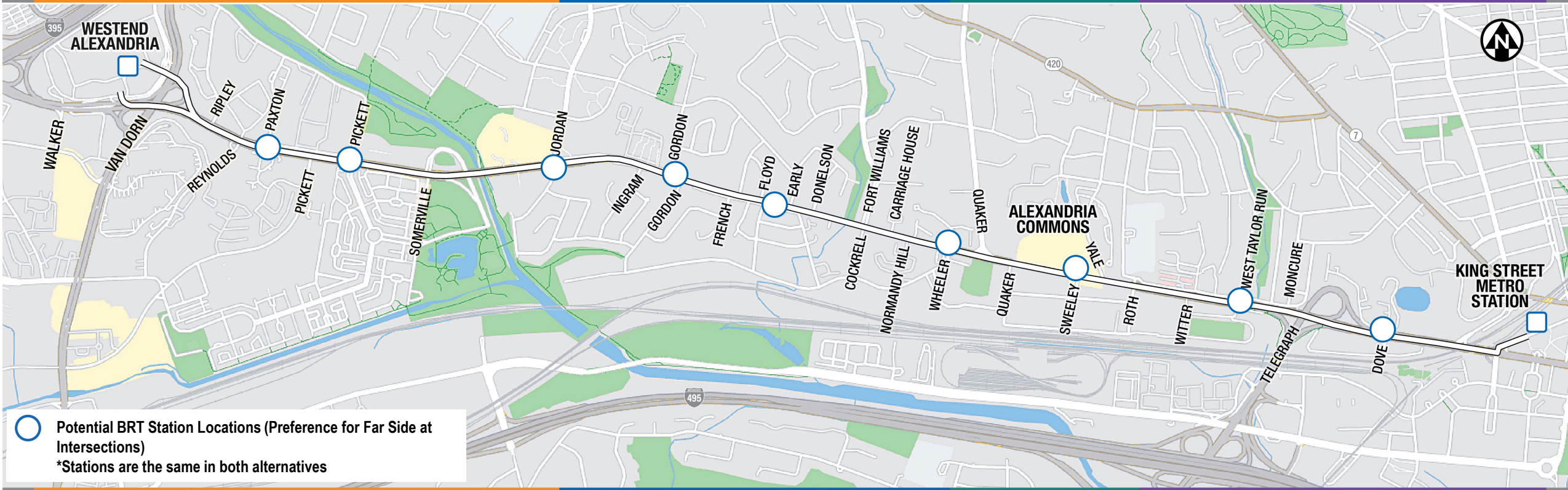
Corridor Stations

SEGMENT 1 - Landmark Mall to Jordan

SEGMENT 2A – Jordan to Wheeler

SEGMENT 2B
Wheeler to Roth

SEGMENT 3 - Roth to King St Metro Station



- Adjustments to balance right of way constraints, activity centers, and logical stop spacing
- Maximum spacing 0.5 miles, minimum spacing 0.25 miles, average spacing 0.4 miles
- .4 miles ~ 4 min max walk to a stop if on Duke Street

Discussion



Any questions or clarifications about the design changes?



Any concerns about the design changes?



AG Recommendation to Council Working Session

Near Term vs Long Term

- Near Term

- Must be feasible with existing funding
- Feasibility to be determined through design process
- Able to be constructed within the next 3-5 years
- Any needed slivers of property would need to be accessed through negotiated agreements

- Future Vision

- Pending redevelopment or significant change in nature of corridor
- Can be assessed further as part of future planning efforts
- Can reserve additional right-of-way as redevelopment occurs
- Curb features may be able to be improved piecemeal
- Busway improvements would likely require longer stretches of redevelopment + additional funding

AG Recommendation Components

1. **Future vision** for bus facilities and curb features
2. **Near term elements** (priorities given existing resources):
 - Type and location of bus lanes
 - Station locations spacing and considerations
 - Curb features facilities and priorities in constrained space
 - Can include preferred intersection treatments

Preliminary Recommendation: Curb Features

- Pull up Word doc



Spring Public Engagement

Engagement Highlights through July

Through early April:

Project updates, targeted outreach, "Hello Duke Street" chat-based feedback

June:

Share the preferred concept with Boards & Commissions

Mid April – May:

Community comment period, after which AG endorses a preferred concept

July 5:

Public hearing & Council vote on the near and long term concept

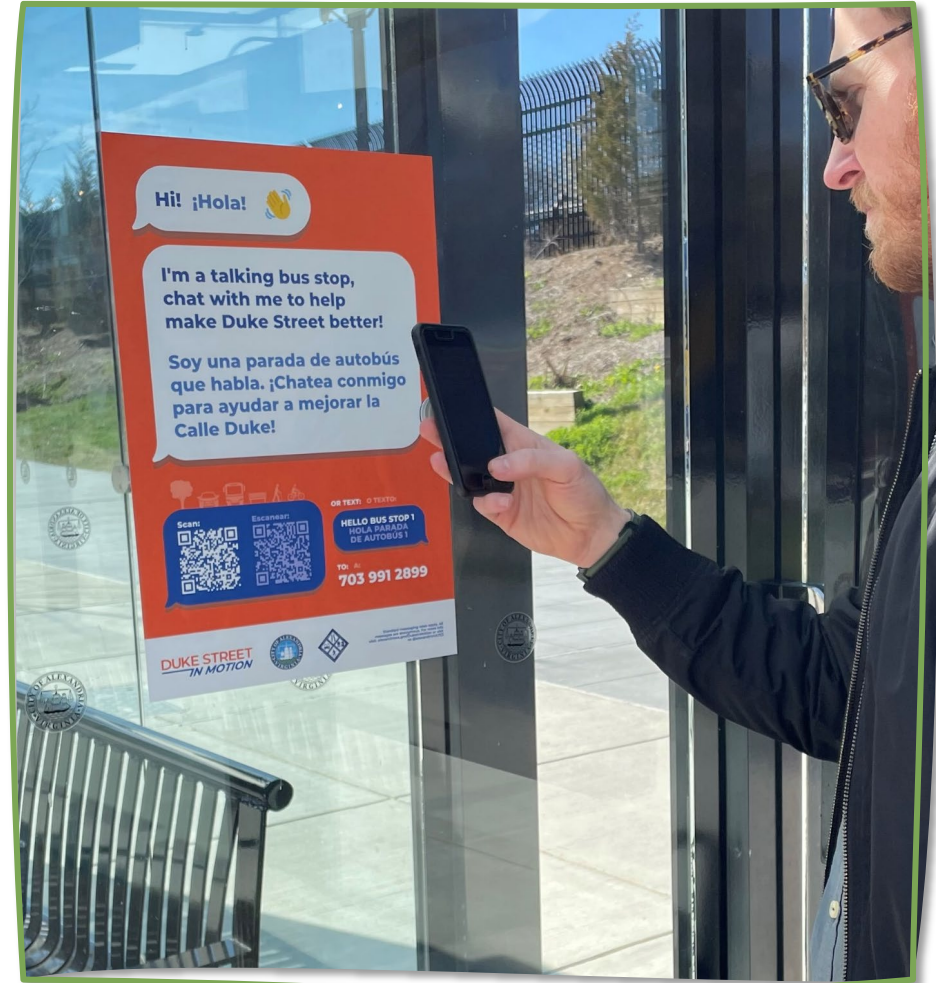
Recent & Upcoming Activities

- Business drop-ins
- Neighborhood meetings
- Discussion with high school class
- Business Roundtable
- Upcoming:
 - Direct business outreach
 - Additional neighborhood meetings



Ongoing Activities

- “Hello Duke Street” signage
 - Interactive chat conversation via text
 - Signage posting is ongoing
 - Conversation will be updated in April



Mid-April – May Schedule Details



April 13 AG Meeting

Topic:
Present detailed analysis for the two concepts.



**April 13 through April 30:
Community Comment Period**



Provide more information about two busway concepts, including curb features and more detailed analyses.



Collect feedback to inform:

- The Advisory Group's recommendation to Council.
- Areas to consider as the concept advances into further design.



May 25 AG Meeting

Topic:
Discuss community feedback & select a preferred alternative.

Community Comment Period Activities



Public notices
Ads, emails, signs



Targeted outreach



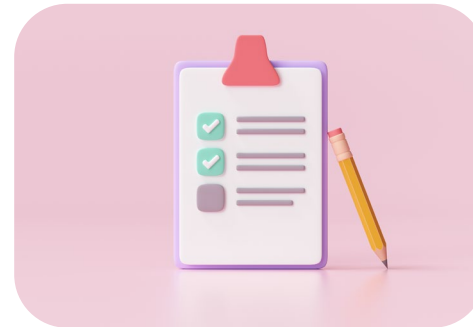
**Pop-ups & on-bus
conversations
w/polls**



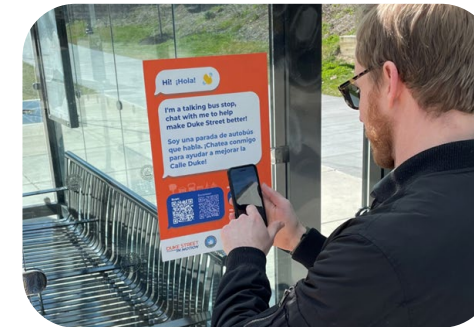
Recorded webinar



Open house
April 20, Bishop
Ireton Cafeteria



**Web-based
feedback form**



**Text message input-
gathering through
"Hello Duke Street"**

Feedback Approach

Type of question	Purpose
Demographic questions	Representativeness of feedback; Understand patterns
Which segment are you most interested in?	Understand segment preference versus overall
Tradeoff questions	Enable someone to answer who hasn't spent much time on the Corridor concepts
What aspects do you like / not like? Why?	Understand core values that can be addressed in a variety of ways
How do the corridor concepts perform against each guiding principle? Which guiding principle is most important to you (rank)?	Relate public feedback to guiding principles; Build on earlier feedback
Curb feature priorities	Get more specific feedback based on updated designs
Open ended feedback	Make sure we gather everything people want to share; can help inform design as it progresses

AG Outreach Toolkit

- **We plan to include:**
 - Flyers – digital, with paper copies available if requested
 - Social media graphics
 - Draft talking points
 - Updated FAQs
- **So you can:**
 - Share on social media
 - Email your contacts
 - Present at meetings

DUKE STREET IN MOTION Community Input in October 2022

Let's work together to make Duke Street better

Through October 28, the City is hosting a variety of events and activities to share **draft design concepts** for Duke Street. Share your input to help narrow down the concepts for further study!

alexandriava.gov/DukeInMotion

Funded by Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

Let's work together to make Duke Street better

DUKE STREET IN MOTION

We are reimagining Duke Street to make it a premier transit corridor while making it safer, greener, and more comfortable for everyone traveling between West End Alexandria and King Street Metro Station.

We need your input on priorities and tradeoffs to help narrow down transitway design concepts for further study.

Learn more & share your input by October 28

Watch a recorded webinar to learn more, or attend an upcoming event.

October Event Schedule						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

■ Comment Period (Start Oct 1 / End Oct 28)
 ■ Meetings
 ■ Open House
 ■ Pop-up Events

More information:
Scan the code or visit alexandriava.gov/DukeInMotion

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Discussion



- Any questions about the engagement plan?



- How can we improve the Toolkit?

- For the feedback summary:

- How can we make feedback summary more helpful?
- What breakdowns do you want to see in terms of demographics or otherwise?





Status Update & Next Steps

Next Steps

April 13

- Review Detailed Analysis
- Start of Public Engagement

May 25

- Provide Recommendation of Preferred Alternative

July 5

- Take Preferred Alternatives to City Council



Approval of Meeting Minutes from February

The image shows three DASH buses on a city street. The bus in the foreground is white with 'DASH' written on the front. The bus in the middle is also white with 'DASH' on the side. The bus in the background is white with 'DASH' on the front. The text 'Thank you!' is overlaid in the center in a large, orange font. Below it is the URL 'alexandriava.gov/DukeInMotion' in a blue font with a blue underline. The background is a faded, orange-tinted photograph of a city street with trees and buildings.

Thank you!

alexandriava.gov/DukeInMotion