

Transportation Commission

April 20, 2022

7PM



Commission Members

- **Vacant** – DASH
- **Oscar Gonzalez** – Citizen East, High School Project
- **Casey Kane** – Traffic and Parking Board, Eisenhower West/ Landmark/Van Dorn Advisory Group
- **Jody Manor**- Planning Commission
- **Bruce Marsh** –Citizen East, Potomac Yard Metro Implementation Working Group
- **Jim Maslanka**– Citizen West
- **Melissa McMahon** – Planning Commission
- **Matthew McManus** – Citizen West
- **Bill Pugh** – Environmental Policy Commission, Eisenhower West/ Landmark/Van Dorn Advisory Group
- **Kirk McPike** – Council (non-voting)
- **Charles Sumpter** on behalf of **John Chapman** – Council (non-voting)



Public Comment Period

Agenda Item #1



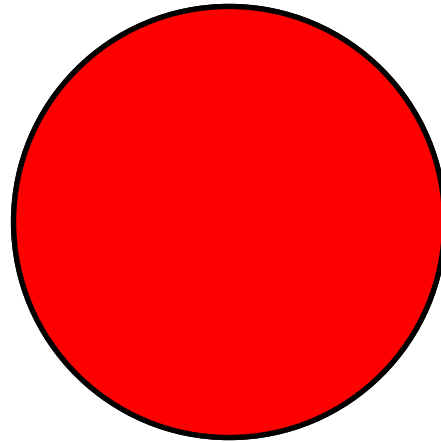
Public Comment

- For speakers not discussing items related to the public hearings.
- Raise hand or press *9
- Mute or unmute press *6
- 3 minutes per speaker



3 Minute Timer

Announcement will sound automatically when time is up



Transportation Commission Minutes: March 16, 2022

Agenda Item #2



Updates on Fare-free New Dash Network and Consideration of Endorsement of the FY 2023 Transit Development plan (TDP)

Agenda Item #3



New DASH Network Performance Update

City of Alexandria - Transportation Commission
April 20, 2022

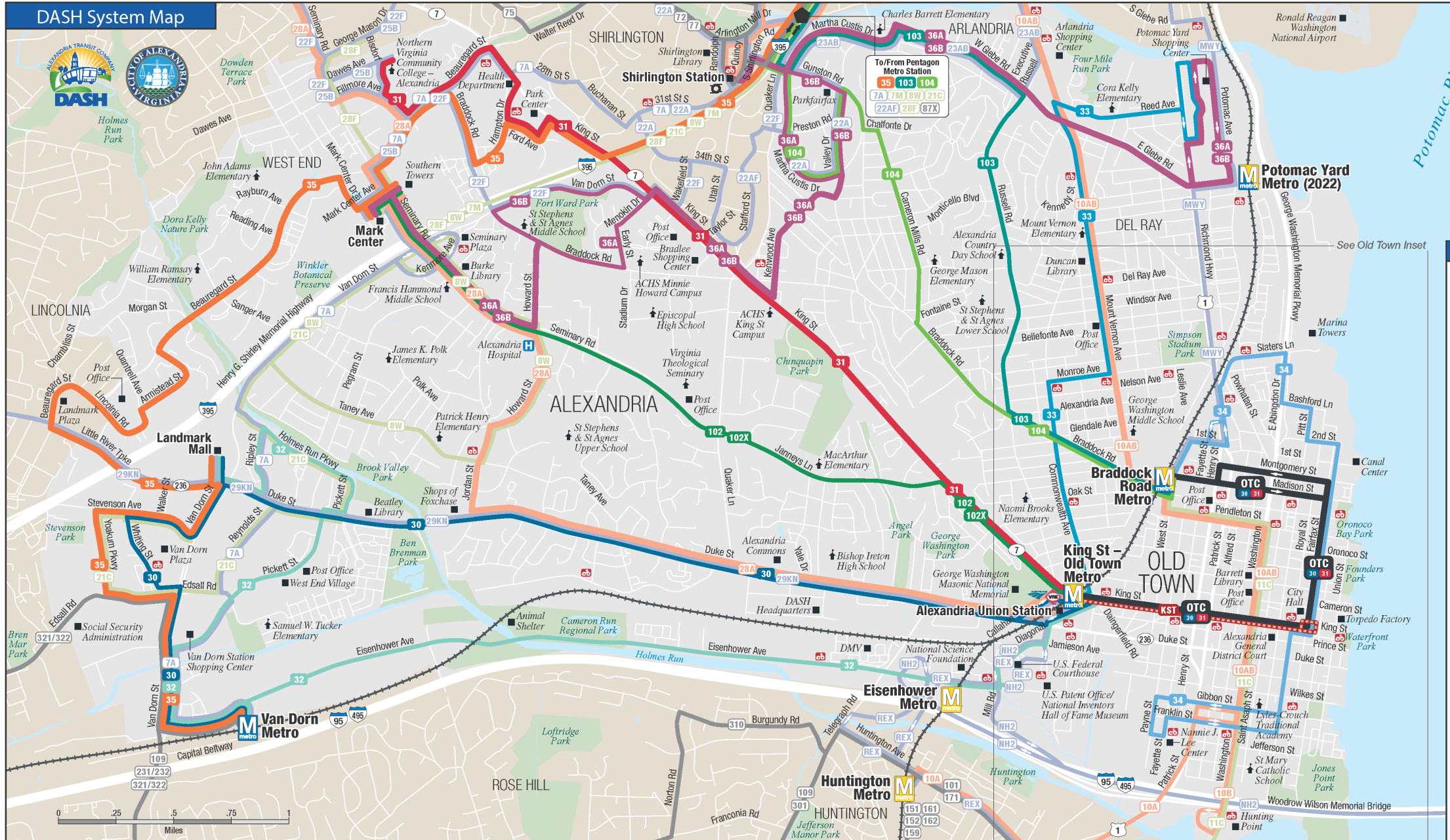


NEW NETWORK & FREE FARES

- ▶ “New DASH Network” was launched in September 2021 as the first phase of the Alexandria Transit Vision Plan.
- ▶ Complete redesign of Alexandria bus network with major changes to both DASH and Metrobus route structures.
- ▶ New Route Names (Lines 30-36, 102-104)
- ▶ Established a series of “frequent, all-day” bus lines on key transit corridors across the City.
- ▶ New network launch coincided with start of 100% fare free operations on all DASH buses.



DASH System Map



Legend

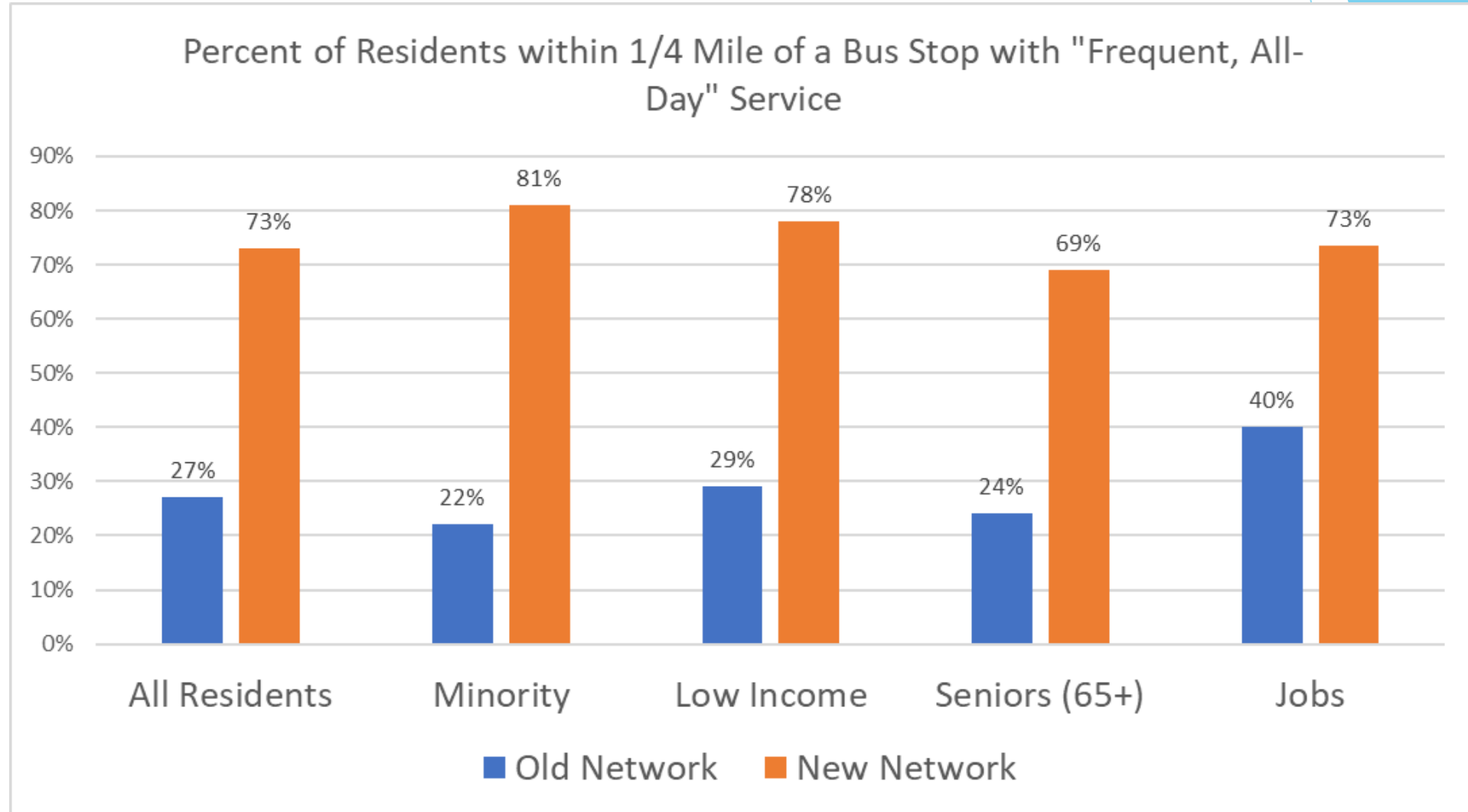
- **DASH Frequent Routes**
Every 15 minutes or better, all day, seven days per week
- **DASH 7-Day Route**
- **DASH Weekday Only**
- **Old Town Circulator**
- **King Street Trolley**
- **Metrobus Frequent Route**
- **Metrobus Route**
- **Metrobus Weekday Only**
- **ART/Fairfax Connector**
- **Metroway (MWY)**
- **Richmond Highway Express (REX)**
- M **Metrorail Station**
- M **Metrorail Line**
- VRE **Virginia Rail Express (VRE) Station**
- A **Amtrak Station**
- cb **Capital Bikeshare**
- CS **The Commuter Store**
- **Point of Interest**
- H **Hospital**
- S **School**
- 95 **Interstate**
- 1 **US Highway**
- 400 **State Highway**

KEY PERFORMANCE METRICS

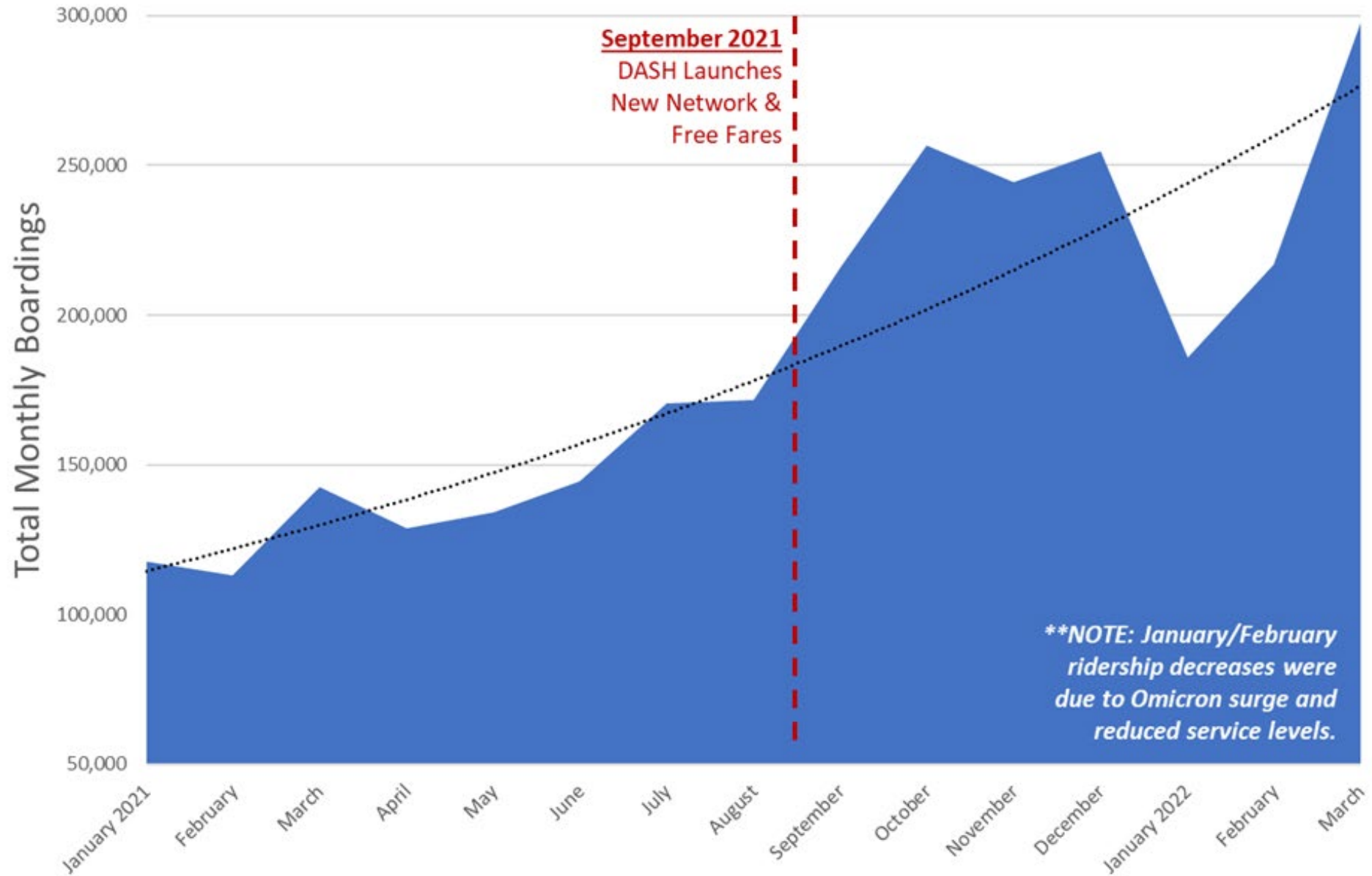
- ▶ **Service Availability** - who can use the bus routes?
- ▶ **Ridership** - how much people are using them?
- ▶ **On-Time Performance** - can customers rely on it?
- ▶ **Customer Feedback** - what do the riders think?
- ▶ **Operations Feedback** - what do the operators think?



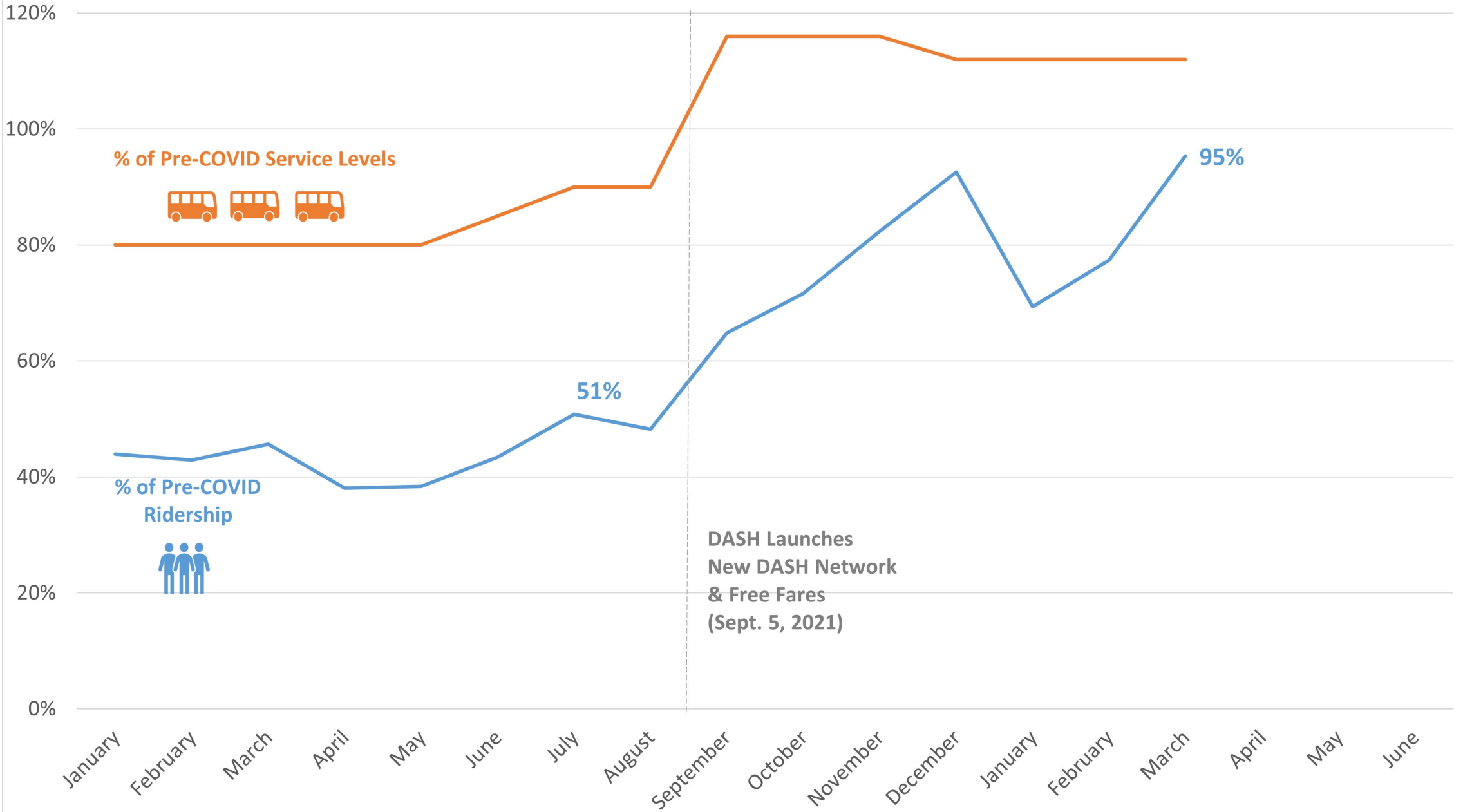
FREQUENT BUS SERVICE AVAILABILITY



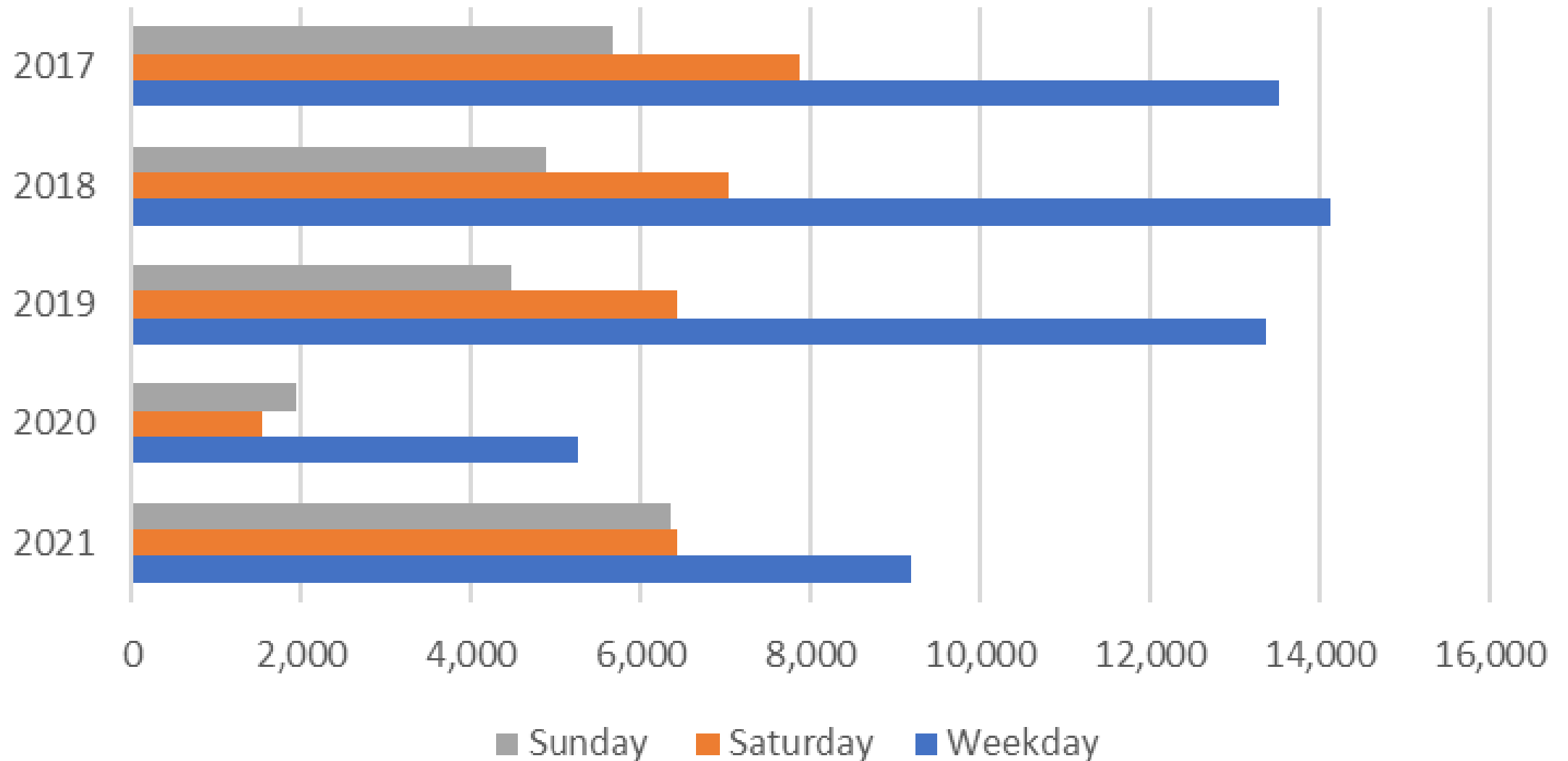
DASH Monthly Ridership (2021-2022)



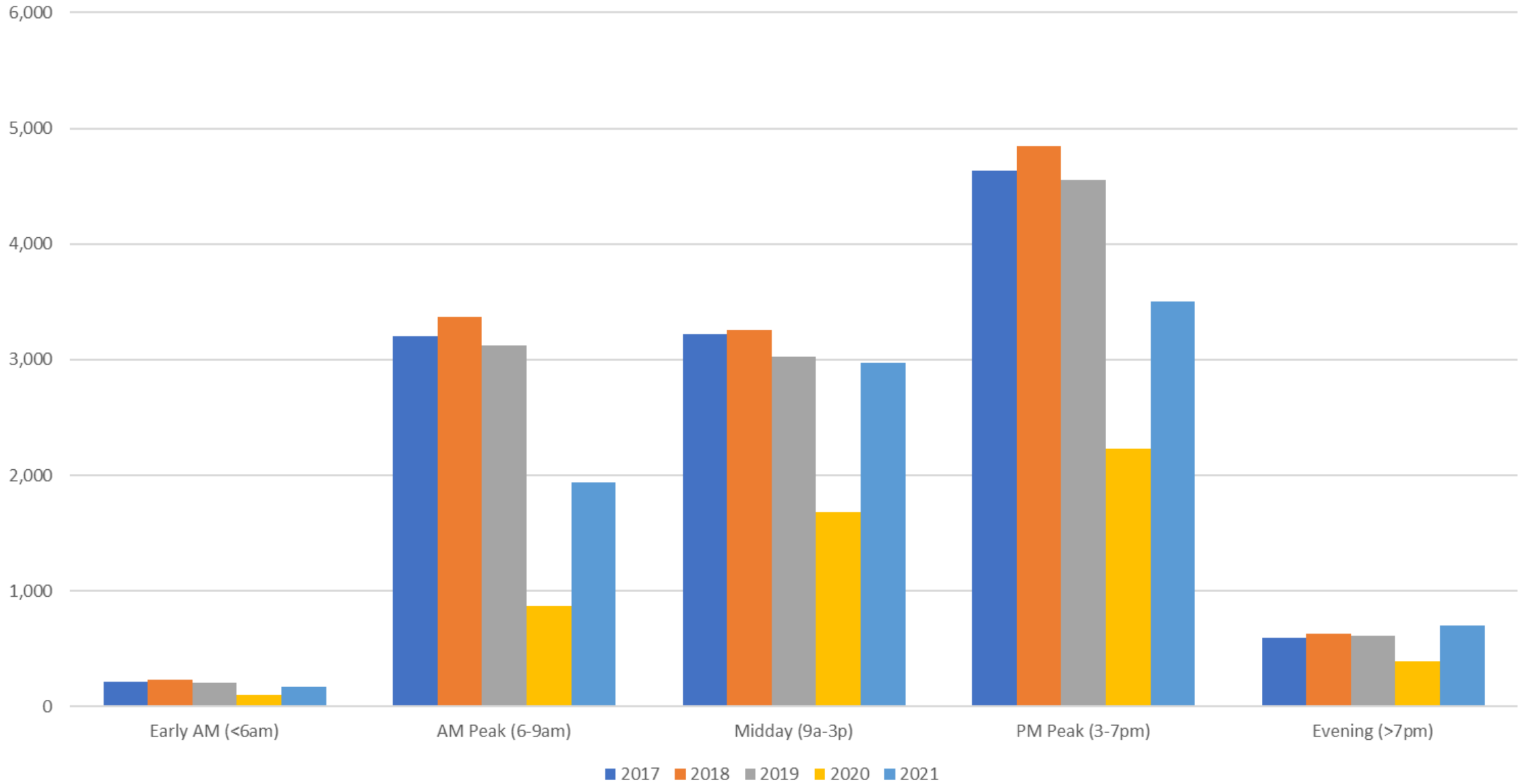
2021-2022 DASH Service & Ridership by Month vs. Pre-COVID Levels (2018/2019)



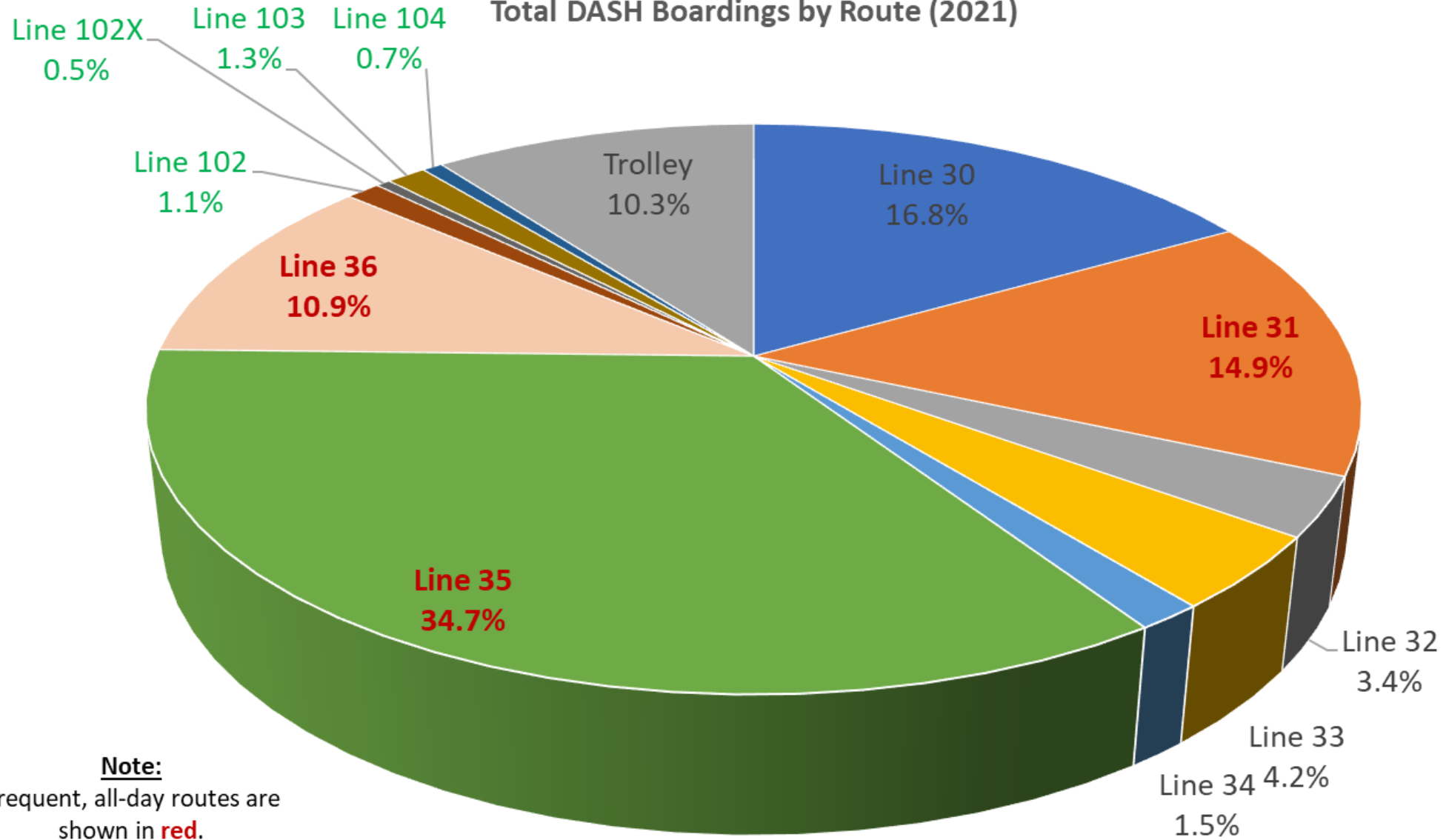
DASH October Daily Ridership by Day Type



DASH Average Daily Ridership By Time of Day (October)



Total DASH Boardings by Route (2021)



Note:

Frequent, all-day routes are shown in **red**.

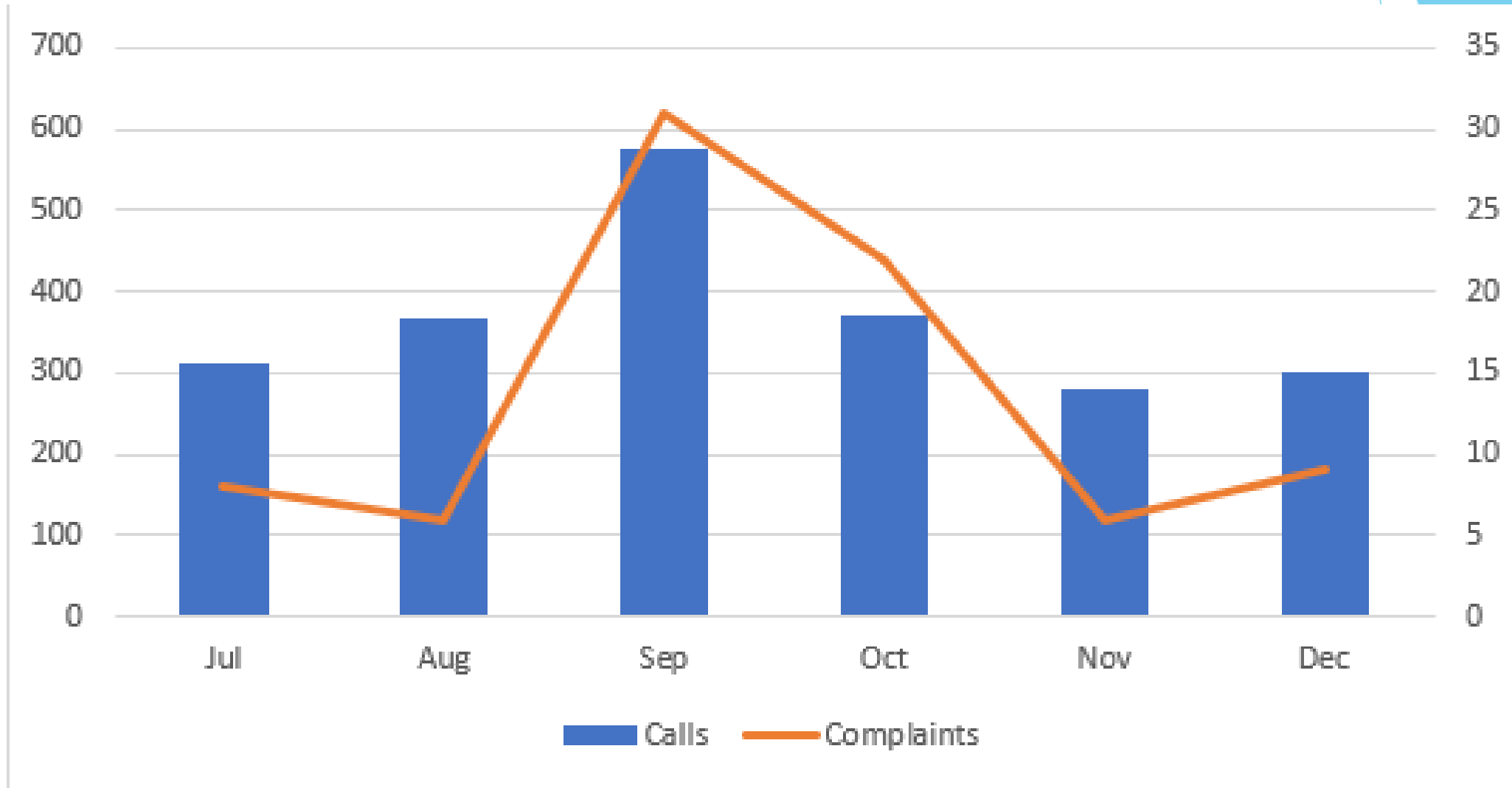
Weekday-only routes are shown in **green**.

CUSTOMER FEEDBACK

- ▶ Significant increase in customer calls in September but returned back to normal in October & November.
- ▶ 90% of inquiries were for trip planning or route numbers.
- ▶ Biggest complaints have been regarding several areas where service was reduced or significantly changed (N. Van Dorn Street, Reading/Rayburn Ave, Old Town North)
- ▶ Increased number of commendations, particularly regarding free fares and frequent, all-day routes.
- ▶ Onboard ridership survey planned for Fall 2022.



CUSTOMER CALLS & COMPLAINTS



OPERATIONS FEEDBACK

- ▶ Operators largely supportive of the new network, especially the simplified route structures.
- ▶ Free Fares have eliminated a major source of operator-customer conflict, but masks continue to be an issue.
- ▶ Transition to 24/7 Operations has been biggest challenge for Operations/Maintenance staff.
- ▶ Systemwide All-Door Boarding coming soon...



NDN HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Access to frequent, all-day service has increased dramatically with the New DASH Network launch.
- ▶ Ridership increased by 50% in the first four months, but buses still have excess capacity for additional growth.
- ▶ Customer feedback has been largely positive, especially after the first month. Lots of support for free fares.
- ▶ Operations impacts have been largely positive but some staffing/policy challenges related to 24/7 operations.





ATC FY23 TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN (TDP)

*DASH Advisory Committee Meeting
April 6, 2022*



WHAT IS THE TDP?

- ▶ TDP = Transit Development Plan
- ▶ Annual process for DASH service/fare changes
- ▶ TDP Contents
 - ▶ System Overview
 - ▶ Performance Summary
 - ▶ Service & Fare Change Proposals
 - ▶ Capital Projects
- ▶ Requires public outreach & board approval
- ▶ Full FY23 TDP - www.dashbus.com/tdp

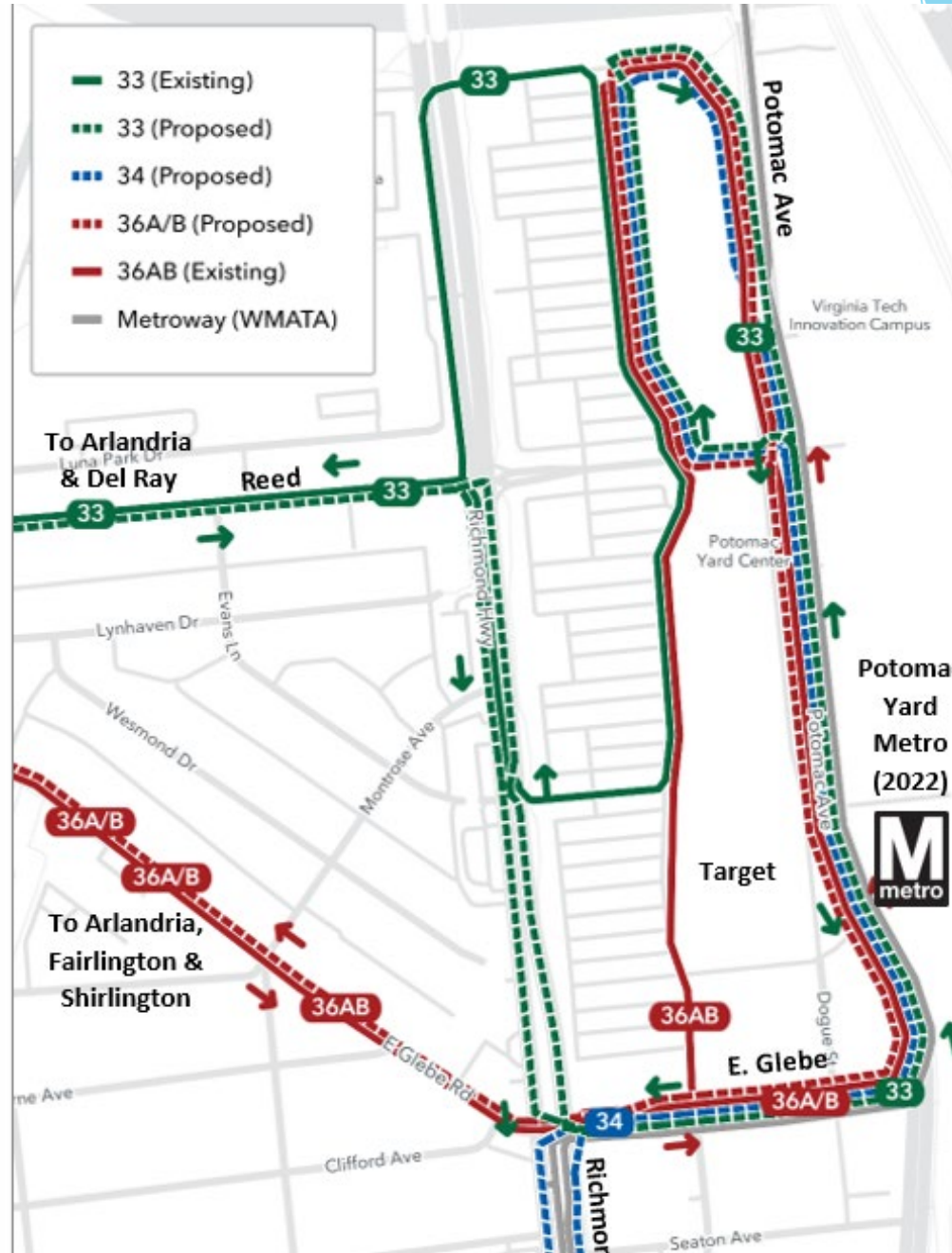


FY 2023 SERVICE PLAN SUMMARY

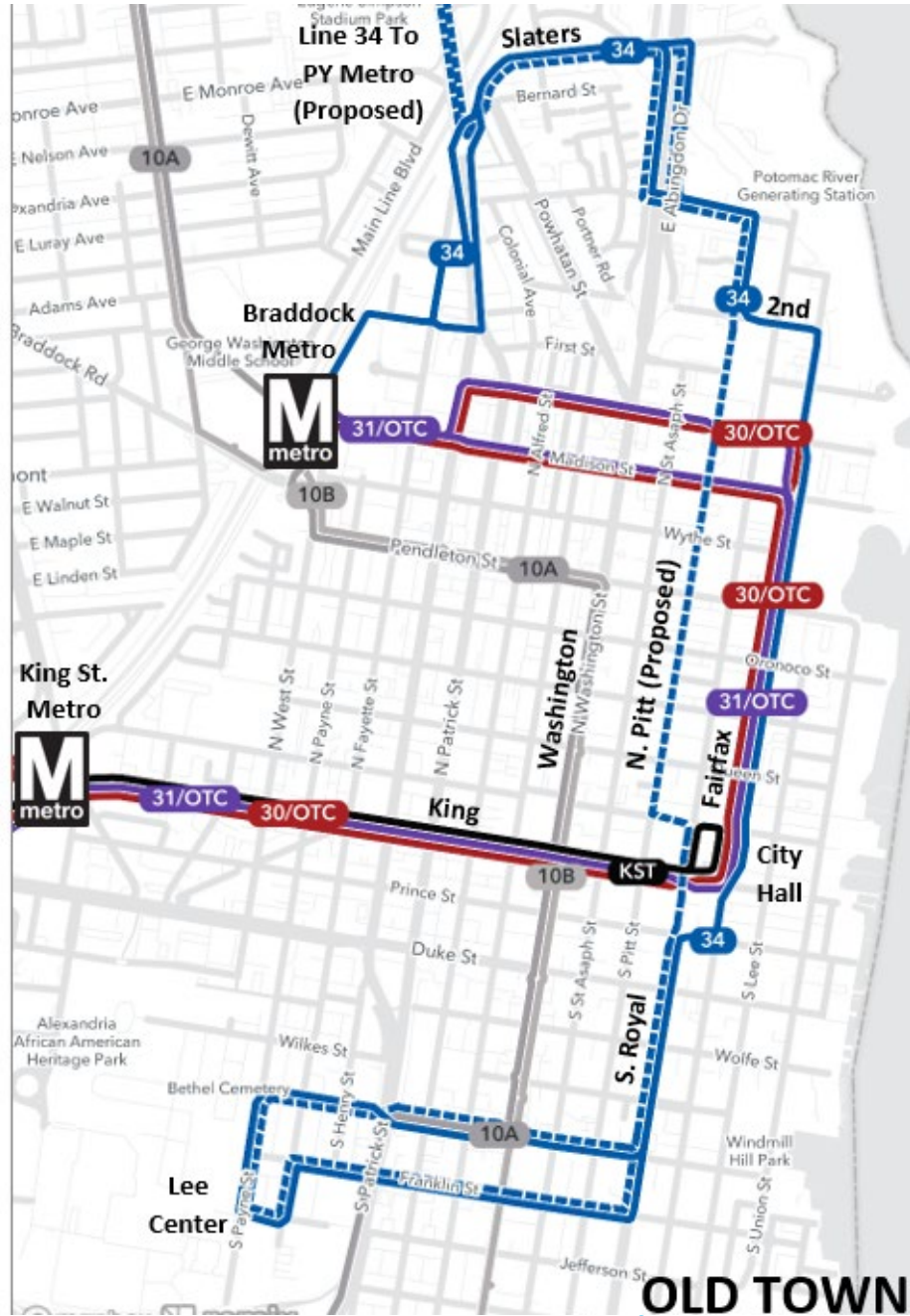
- ▶ FY23 Service Objectives
 - ▶ Bus Connections to the new Potomac Yard Metro
 - ▶ Continued Implementation of 2022 ATV Plan
 - ▶ Bus Stop Adjustments & Improvements
- ▶ Free fares expected to continue through to FY25



DASH BUS SERVICE TO POTOMAC YARD METRO



PROPOSED LINE 34 ROUTE CHANGE



UNFUNDED ATV IMPROVEMENTS (+\$2.6M)

A. Improved Bus Connectivity from West Alexandria to Old Town (+\$1.9M)

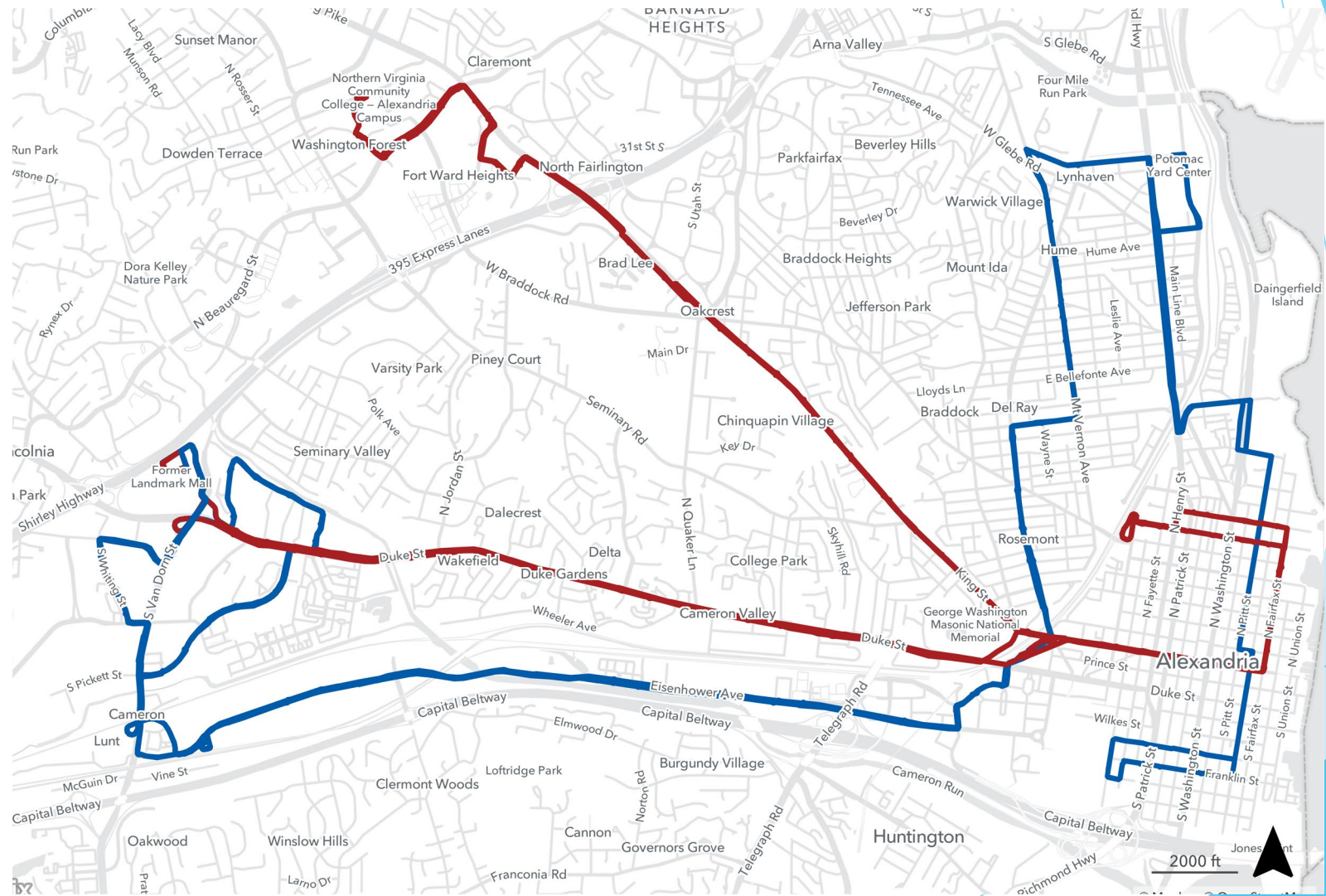
1. Line 30 - extend all peak trips from King St. Metro to Braddock Road for 10-minute peak headways in Old Town. Extend all weekend trips from Landmark Mall to Van Dorn Metro to provide 30 minutes service on that segment.
2. Line 31 - extend all off-peak trips from King St. Metro to Braddock Road for 15-minute off-peak headways in Old Town.

B. Weekend Frequency Improvements (+\$700K)

3. Line 33 - increase Sunday service from 60 minutes to 30 minutes.
4. Line 34 - increase Sunday service from 60 minutes to 30 minutes.
5. Line 32 - increase midday, evening and weekend service from every 60 minutes to every 30 minutes.



UNFUNDED ATV IMPROVEMENTS



TDP OUTREACH

- ▶ Virtual Meetings & Public Hearing
 - ▶ Tuesday (3/22) - Community Meeting #1 (5:30 - 7:00 PM)
 - ▶ Thursday (3/31) - Community Meeting #2 (7:00 - 8:30 PM)
 - ▶ Wednesday (4/13) - Public Hearing at Board Meeting (5:30 PM)
- ▶ Onboard, At-Stop & Online Engagement
- ▶ TDP Information - www.dashbus.com/tdp
- ▶ TDP Public Comment - Friday, April 15th
- ▶ Public Comments to City Council on FY23 Budget: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Budget>



QUESTIONS + DISCUSSION

Martin Barna

Director of Planning & Marketing

martin.barna@alexandriava.gov



Alex311 Process and Expectations

Item #4



Common Transportation 311s

- Maintenance Issues
 - Traffic signals
 - Bus stops
 - Parking meter equipment
 - Sidewalk and striping maintenance
 - Missing or damaged signage
- Requests for
 - Changes at traffic signals
 - Traffic control devices
 - Traffic calming devices
 - Intersection and corridor reconfigurations
 - New sidewalks, crosswalks, or infrastructure
 - Changes to signage or striping
 - Bus stops amenities
 - Bike racks
 - Parking regulation changes



Alex311 Case Numbers

96 Cases per Month - on average from 2021, received by Transportation Branch

4 requests per day - on average received by Traffic Operations

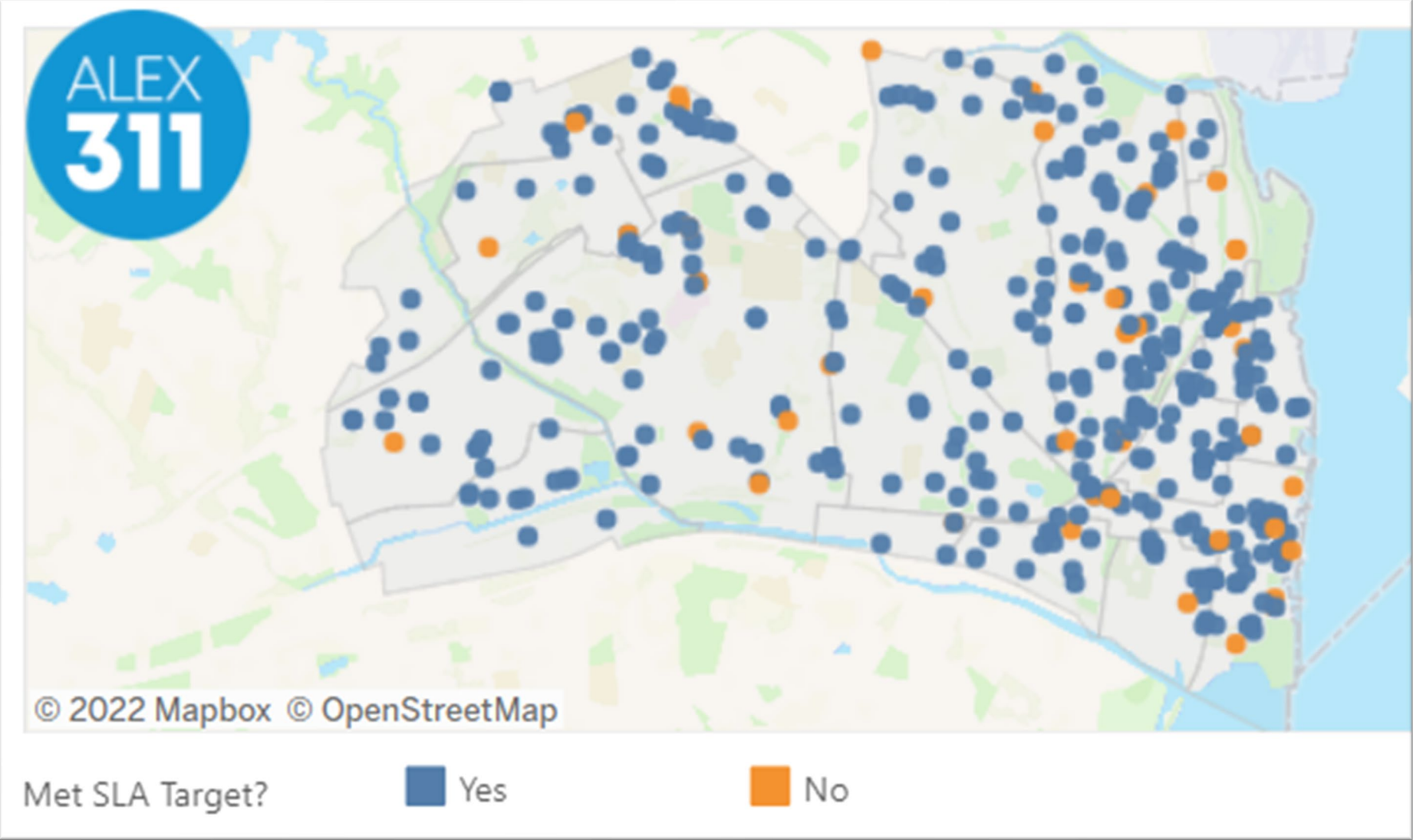


Process

- Staff aim to respond initially to give residents an idea of the timeline
 - Provide determination within service level agreement timeframe
- Address urgent problems or safety issues as soon as possible
- Accountability through responsiveness and adhering to larger plans
 - Being responsive to resident inquiries is extremely important to the City
 - Balance community requests with projects that have been identified in City adopted plans
- Community requests are not distributed equitably across Alexandrians



Map of Mobility, Access, and Traffic Safety Cases 2021



Complete Streets Approach

- Community requests collected and assessed annually
 - Feasible
 - Consistent with City policies and guidelines
 - Goal to be equitable and effective
- Staff identify top-scoring requests
 - Program budget
 - Priorities
- Following year's budget and work plan
 - Alongside planned, priority projects from Council adopted plans.



Consistency with Plans and Policies

- Some requests are **not consistent** with City policies, engineering guidelines, or plans
 - Consider **root of the issue**
 - May consider other treatments



Direction to other processes

- May direct customers to other existing processes
- Examples:
 - Residential Permit Parking changes
 - Parking Modification Form
 - Speed cushion/traffic calming requests



Questions & Discussion



2022 Long Range Plan Scoring Criteria and Project List

Item #5



Scoring

- Discussion at Retreat:
 - **Convert "Livability" into "Sustainability"** to focus on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental sustainability issues,
 - Address infrastructure **climate resilience needs** under "Infrastructure,"
 - Address neighborhood **livability** concerns (that are not addressed by Sustainability) **within the other criteria.**



2020 Scoring Criteria

- Livability
 - What is impact on livability in the affected area?
 - What is the impact on livability in Alexandria?
- Connectivity
 - What is the effect on neighborhood connectivity and the City as a whole?
 - What is the effect on regional mobility?
- Land Use
 - How well does project focus investment near existing or proposed population or employment?
 - How well does project focus investment near opportunities for economic development?
- Mode Choice
 - Does the project improve or add multimodality?
 - Does the project encourage non-SOV travel?
- Infrastructure
 - Does the project improve aging infrastructure?
- Operations and Technology
 - Does the project improve system efficiency through an appropriate use of technology?
- Safety
 - What effect will the project have on crash risks and safety?
 - What effect will the project have on perceived personal safety?
- Equity
 - What is the impact of the proposed project on equity?
 - What is the impact of the proposed project on geographic equity?



2022 Proposed Scoring Criteria

- **Sustainability**
 - **What is the impact on environmental sustainability in the affected area?**
 - **Does the project support environmental sustainability and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in Alexandria and the region?**
- Connectivity
 - What is the effect on neighborhood connectivity and the City as a whole?
 - What is the effect on regional mobility?
- Land Use, **Neighborhood Livability, & Economic Development**
 - How well does the project focus investment near existing or proposed population and employment centers?
 - **How well does this project address neighborhood livability for current and future residents and workers?**
 - How well does project focus investment near opportunities for economic development?
- Mode Choice
 - Does the project improve or add multimodality?
 - Does the project encourage non-SOV travel?
- Infrastructure
 - Does the project improve aging infrastructure?
 - **Does the project make Alexandria's transportation infrastructure more resilient to climate change?**
- Operations and Technology
 - Does the project improve system efficiency through an appropriate use of technology?
- Safety
 - What effect will the project have on crash risks and safety?
 - What effect will the project have on perceived personal safety?
- Equity
 - What is the impact of the proposed project on equity?
 - What is the impact of the proposed project on geographic equity?



Project and Study List Update

- Removed projects or studies completed, not feasible or that can be funded
- Consolidated similar related projects
- Added new projects or studies that are major, unfunded projects
 - Projects to be paid for by developers are added to a separate table and not scored



2022 Removed Projects (Funded)

- Landmark Mall Transit Hub – (2020 Rank #1)
- Interim and Permanent Pedestrian Crossing Improvements on Eisenhower Avenue at Metrorail Station (2020 Rank #5)
- S. Patrick Street Pedestrian Improvements (2020 Rank #7)



2022 Moved Projects

- Removal of Ramp Over Duke Street
 - This is being completed with Landmark/West End Town Center project – moved from unfunded project list to developer projects



2022 Adjusted Projects

- I-395 Ramps at Duke Street
 - 2020 project - direct access from I-395 ramps to West End Town Center (Landmark),
 - Determined to be infeasible after coordination with VDOT
 - Updated to reflect the newly planned modifications
 - I-395 ramps at Duke Street
 - Facilitate safer and more efficient access to the Landmark site



2022 Removed Studies

- Eisenhower Valley Metro Station Feasibility Study (S-2)
 - Recommended in the 2008 Transportation Master Plan
 - No longer considered in the Eisenhower East or West Small Area Plan updates or the Alexandria Mobility Plan
 - Removed from the studies list



2022 New Studies

- Mt. Vernon Avenue and Glebe Road Corridor Analyses (Arlandria-Chirilagua SAP)

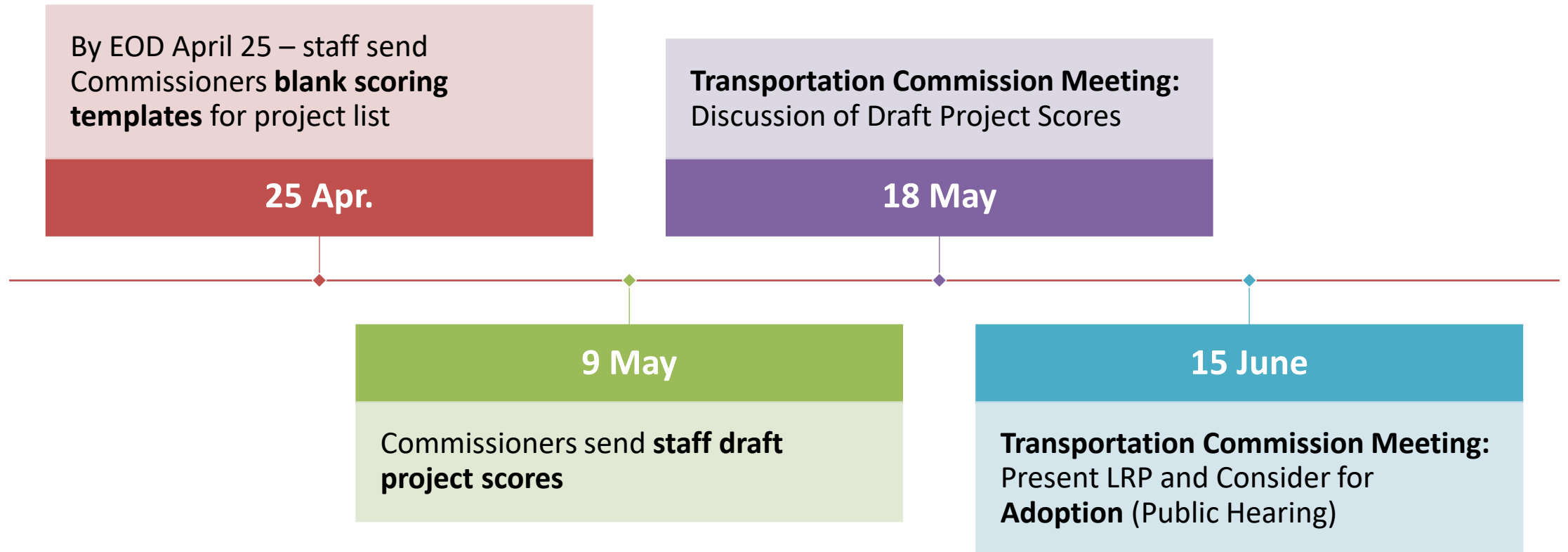


2022 LRP New Projects

- Union Street Pedestrian and Safety Enhancements (Union Street Corridor Study)



Next Steps



LRP Project/Studies List Discussion



Recommendation

- That the Transportation Commission approve the proposed updated scoring criteria and updated Project, Developer Project, and Studies lists for the LRP.



Commissioner Updates

Agenda Item #6



Commission Members

- **Oscar Gonzalez** – Citizen East, High School Project
- **Casey Kane** – Traffic and Parking Board, Eisenhower West/ Landmark/Van Dorn Advisory Group
- **Jody Manor**- Planning Commission
- **Bruce Marsh** –Citizen East, Potomac Yard Metro Implementation Working Group
- **Jim Maslanka**– Citizen West
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- **Kirk McPike** – Council (non-voting)
- **Charles Sumpter** on behalf of **John Chapman** – Council (non-voting)
- **Vacant** – DASH



Items for Consent

Agenda Item #7



Other Business

- TPB Visualize 2045 Plan – Public Comment Opportunity
 - <https://visualize2045.org/plan-update/draft-plan/>
- 495 Southside Express Lanes – Public Meetings



Adjourn Transportation Commission Meeting

Next meeting: May 18, 2022

