



Worksession: Proposed Public Hearing Draft Countywide Transit Corridors Functional Master Plan

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Description

The Countywide Transit Corridors Functional Master Plan amends the MPOH to provide a network of transit corridors to serve planned growth with a minimum of adverse effects on the quality of life for those who live, work, and patronize the businesses along our major roadways.

The staff recommends that the Planning Board approve the attached Proposed Public Hearing Draft as the final Public Hearing Draft and set a Public Hearing for May 16, 2013.

The Countywide Transit Corridors Functional Master Plan is intended to:

- enhance mobility and accessibility
- support economic development
- improve the environment
- provide an efficient transportation system

To achieve these goals, the Proposed Public Hearing Draft of the Plan makes recommendations on the following topics:

Major topic

Corridors where dedicated lanes are needed to support BRT service

Other topics:

- Transit station locations on the recommended corridors
- Phasing for implementation of the recommended transit network.
- Addition of a third track to the Brunswick Line to expand MARC service.
- Designation of Bicycle-Pedestrian Priority Areas (BPPAs) to ensure that adequate access is provided in the area around major proposed stations.

The recommendations for additional transit corridors are based on transportation modeling results for the 2040 forecast year using “no-build” option and “build” options for transit networks of different sizes and treatments measured against standard and modified ridership thresholds for different levels of corridor treatments and the likely impacts of a combination of treatments on the transit network as a whole.

Overview of Changes from the Staff Draft

The April 4, 2013 discussion is a continuation of the Board’s review on March 18, 2013. As directed at that meeting, staff has made the following changes to the Staff Draft:

- Modified language regarding the relative priority of transit and general traffic and added references on this topic from the General Plan
- Added more explanatory text to the six graphics for the various BRT treatment cross-sections
- Included in the Plan a series of maps showing the impacts on vehicle-miles traveled and vehicle-hours-traveled for the three BRT scenarios that were modeled (Appendix A)
- Included in the Plan additional explanatory language as to how decisions were made on treatments for individual corridor segments (Appendix B)
- Included in the Plan two maps showing the relationship between the recommended transit corridor network and 2040 forecast employment and housing (Appendix C)

Schedule

Our current schedule is as follows:

- **April 15, 2013:** Advertise Public Hearing Draft
- **May 16, 2013:** Public Hearing
- **June-July 2013:** Worksessions
- **July 25, 2013:** Transmit Planning Board Draft to County Council