



# Connecting Our Future

A Regional Transit Plan for Central Maryland

## Regional Transit Plan BRTC

March 7, 2025



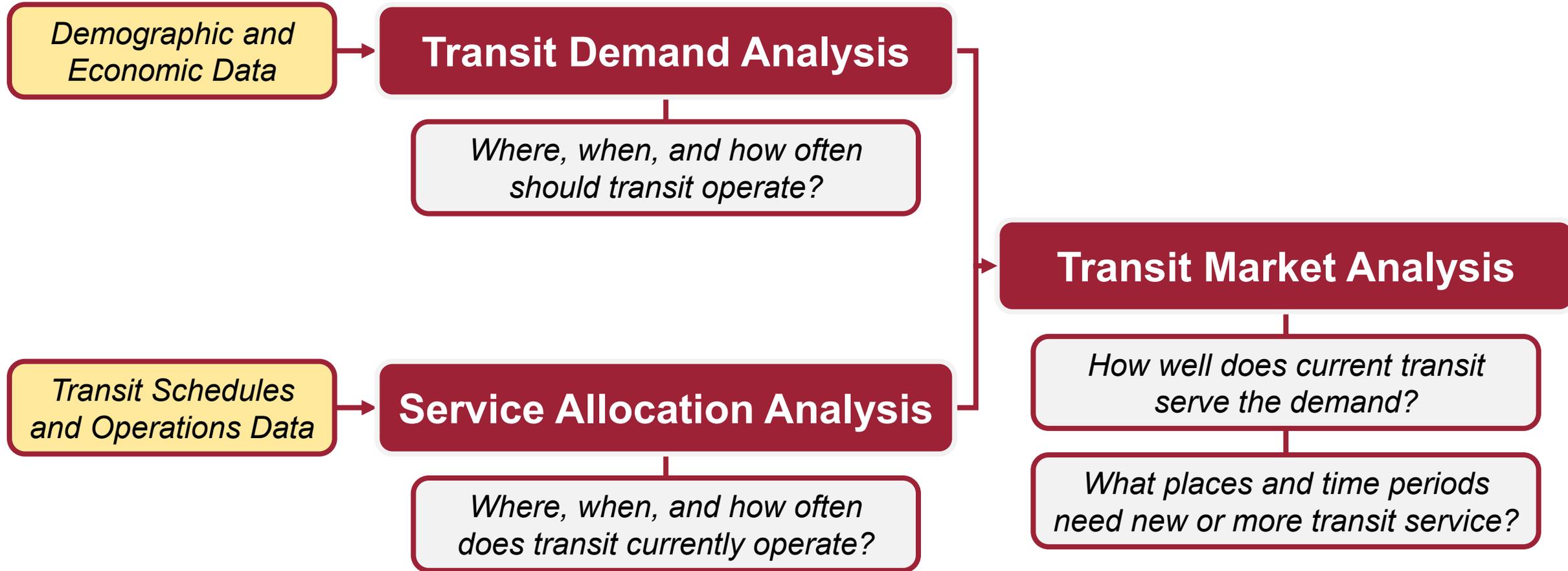
# Today's Meeting

- Update Commission on Market and Demand Analysis:
  - Analysis Key Takeaways
- Introduce Next Project Phases:
  - Corridor Confirmation and Prioritization
  - Mode Suitability Assessment
- Schedule Update

# Market and Demand Analysis



# Market and Demand Analysis



# Market and Demand Analysis

## Nine Key Takeaways from the Market and Demand Analysis:

### WHAT

1. Transit ridership dropped significantly during the pandemic but has steadily increased since its FY21 low

2. Growth of non-work trips exceeds growth of work-related trips

### WHEN

3. Trips are more dispersed throughout the day than five years ago, with less pronounced peak periods

### WHERE

4. Regional travel flows are growing despite the perception of a steep drop in commuting

5. Almost all travel growth has taken place along RTP corridors, in inner and outer suburbs and in urban areas.

6. Employment growth is expected to continue, including in Baltimore City

7. Work trips have increased despite post-Covid increase in teleworking

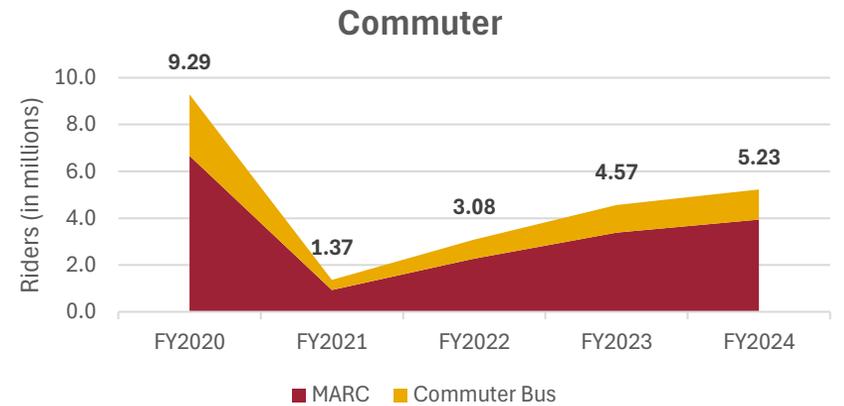
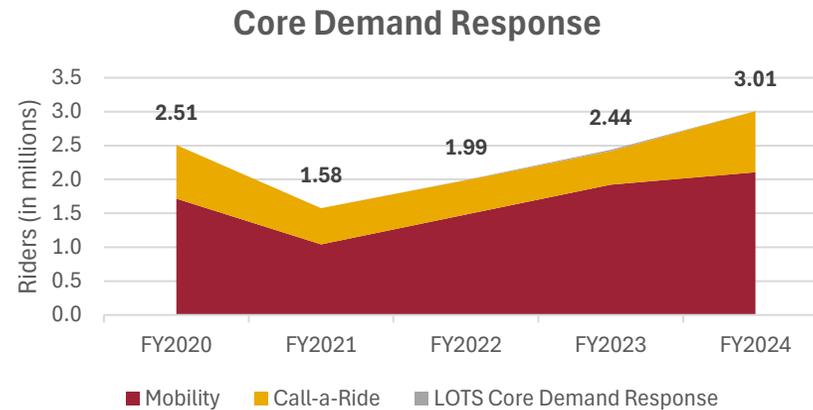
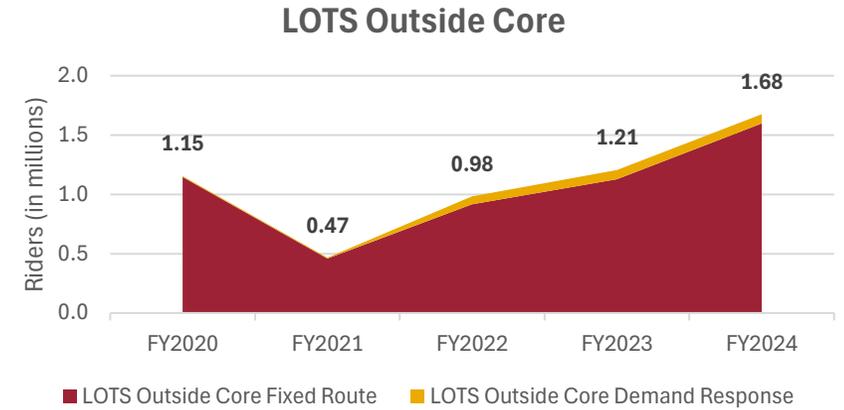
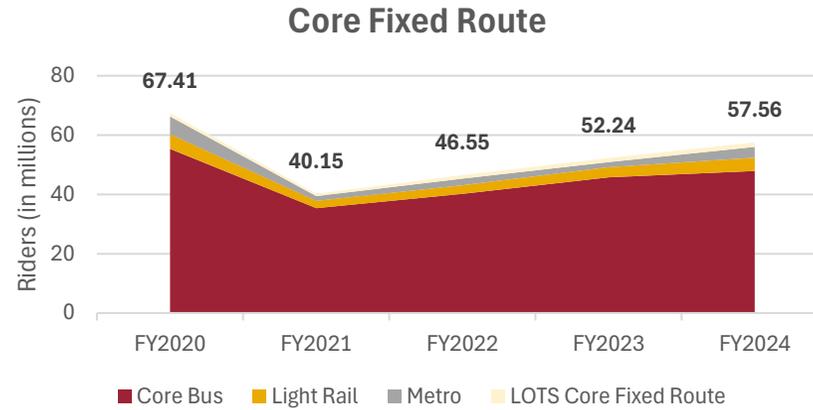
8. Travel growth is diverging between the region's core and suburban corridors

9. Limited growth in transit coverage has occurred over the past five years

# Market and Demand Analysis – “What”

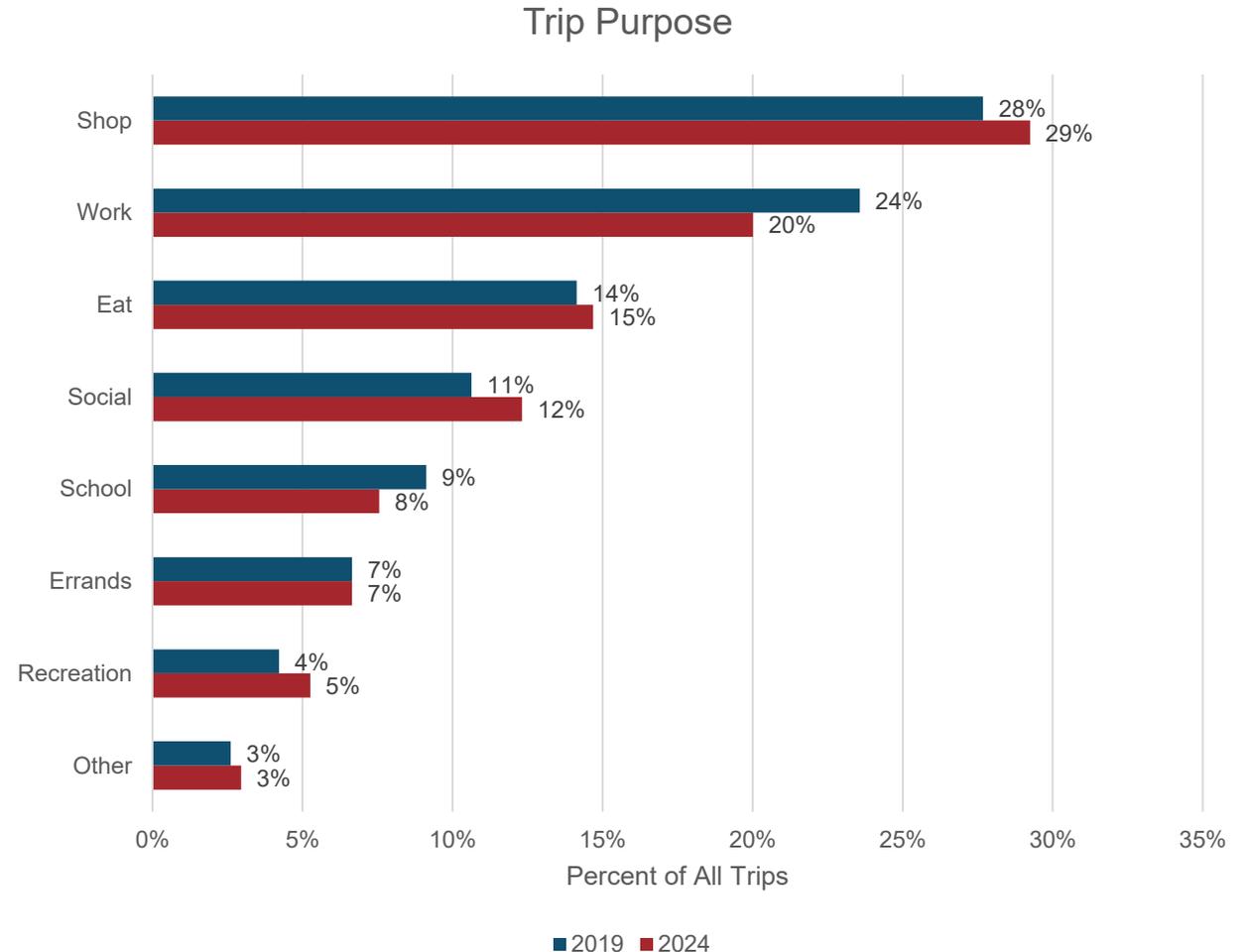
## 1. Transit ridership dropped significantly during the pandemic but has steadily increased since its FY21 low

- Steady growth across all modes since 2021
- Core Demand Response and Outside Core LOTS Ridership are now exceeding pre-pandemic levels



## 2. Growth of non-work trips exceeds growth of work-related trips

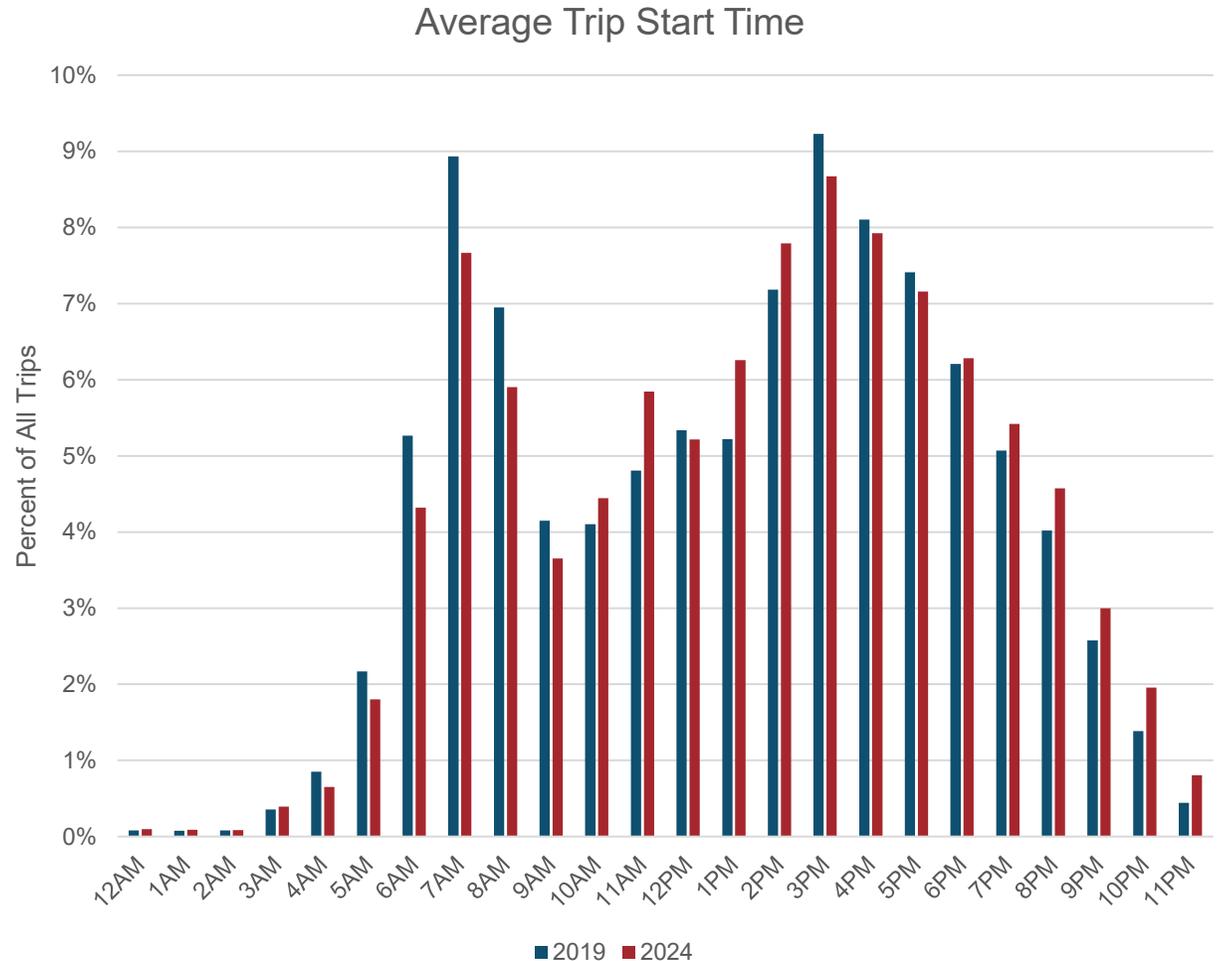
- Proportion of work trips in the region has declined 4% relative to all trips
- Trips related to recreational activities have seen increases



# Market and Demand Analysis – “When”

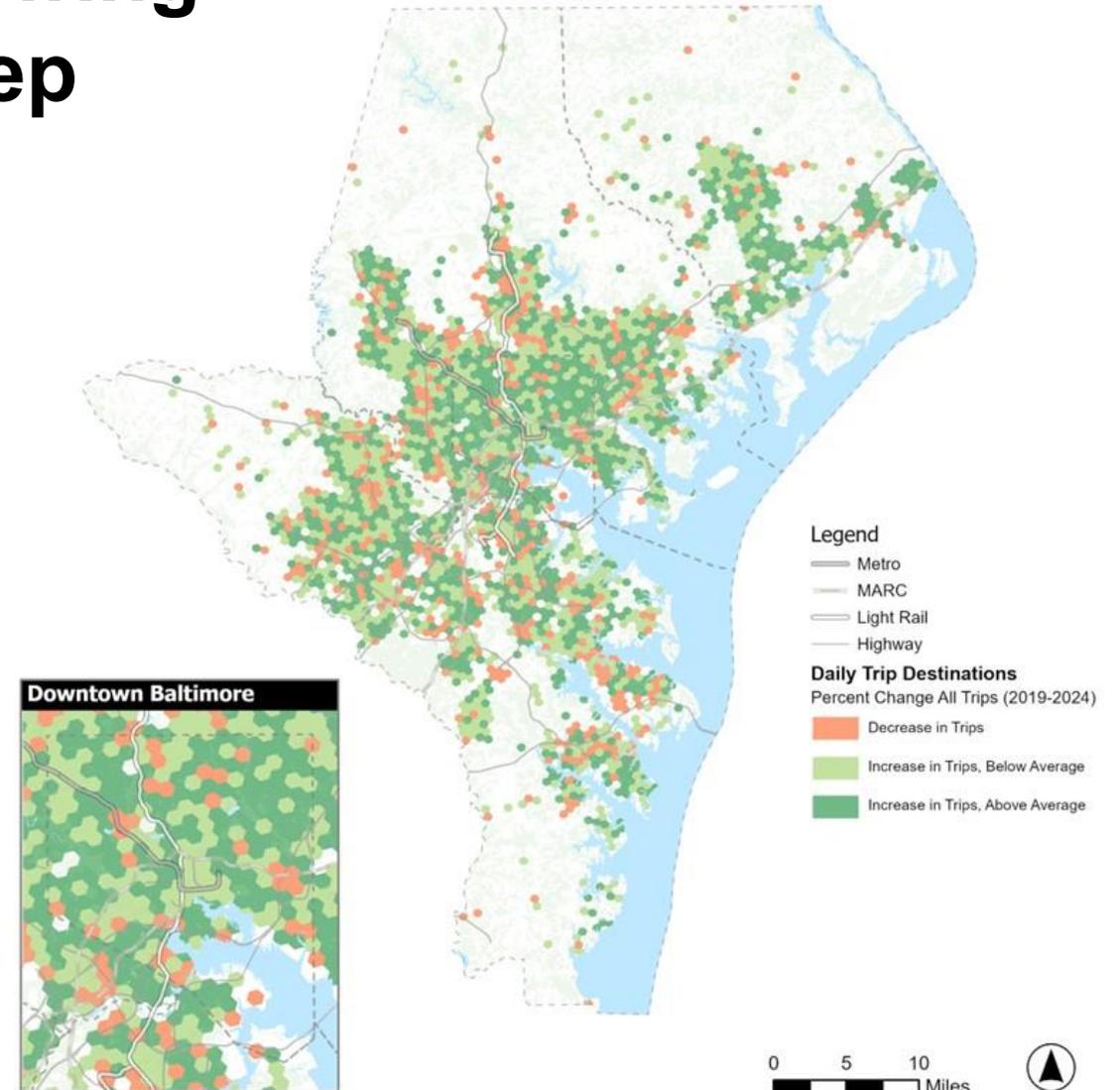
## 3. Trips are more dispersed throughout the day than five years ago, with less pronounced peak periods

- AM peak has seen larger declines than PM Peak
- Some travel flows have retained more pronounced peak periods



## 4. Regional travel flows are growing despite the perception of a steep drop in commuting

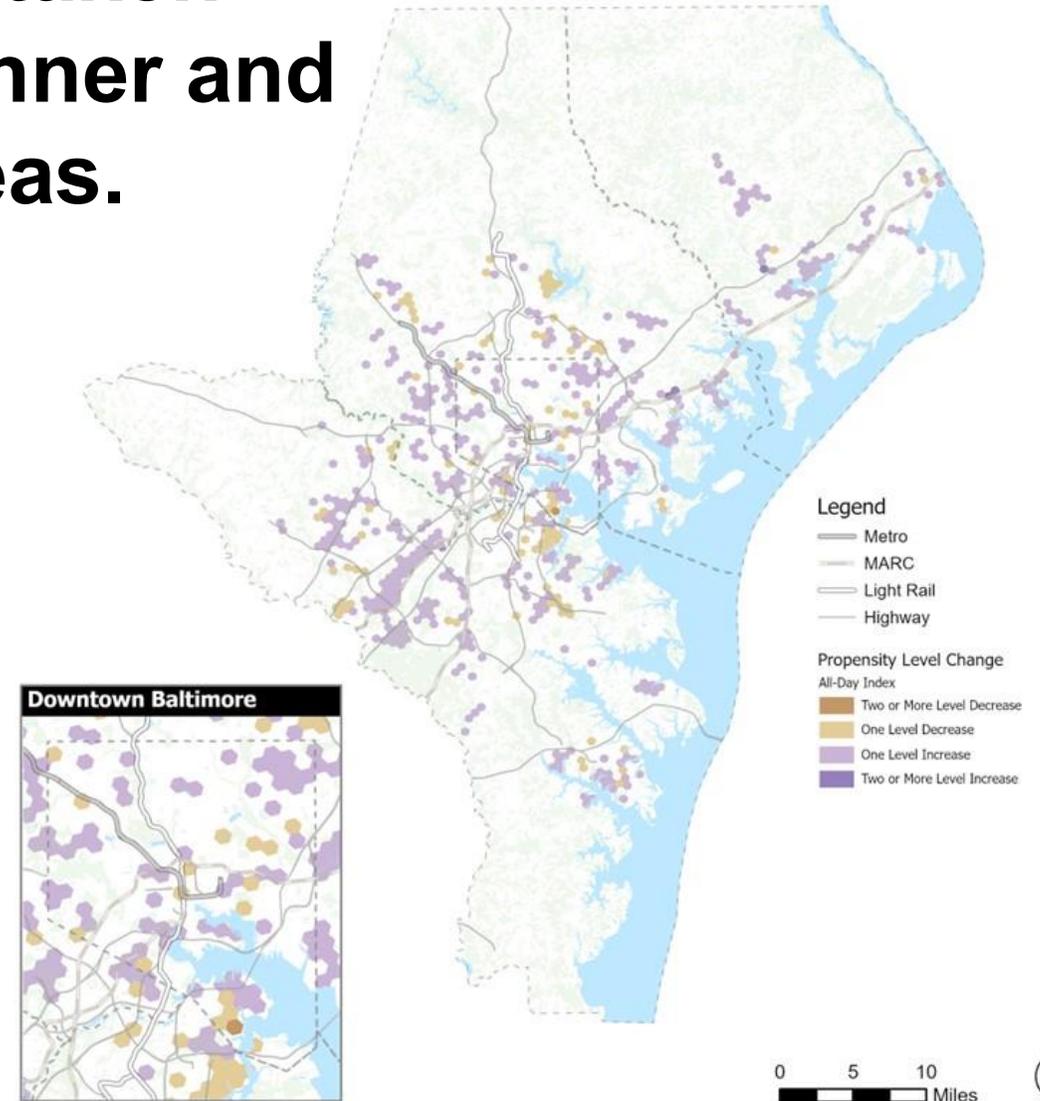
- Demand for travel regionally has grown significantly
  - Up 25% in past 5 years
- Travel pattern changes resulting from the pandemic have not decreased overall demand
- Growth has occurred broadly in urban areas and inner suburbs as well as outer suburbs



# Market and Demand Analysis – “Where”

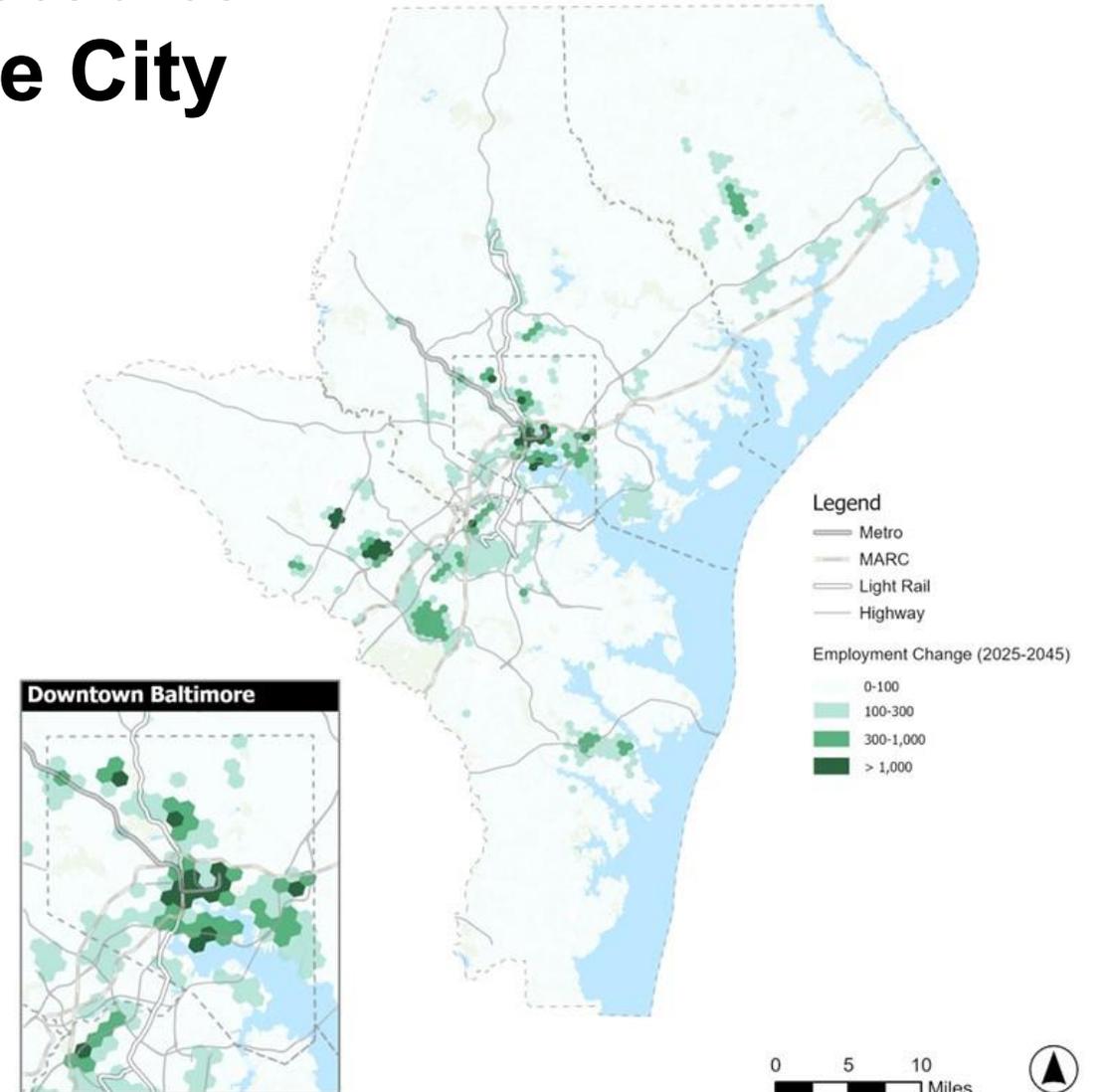
## 5. Almost all travel growth has taken place along RTP corridors, in inner and outer suburbs and in urban areas.

- Growth in transit propensity has concentrated along the original RTP corridors since 2019



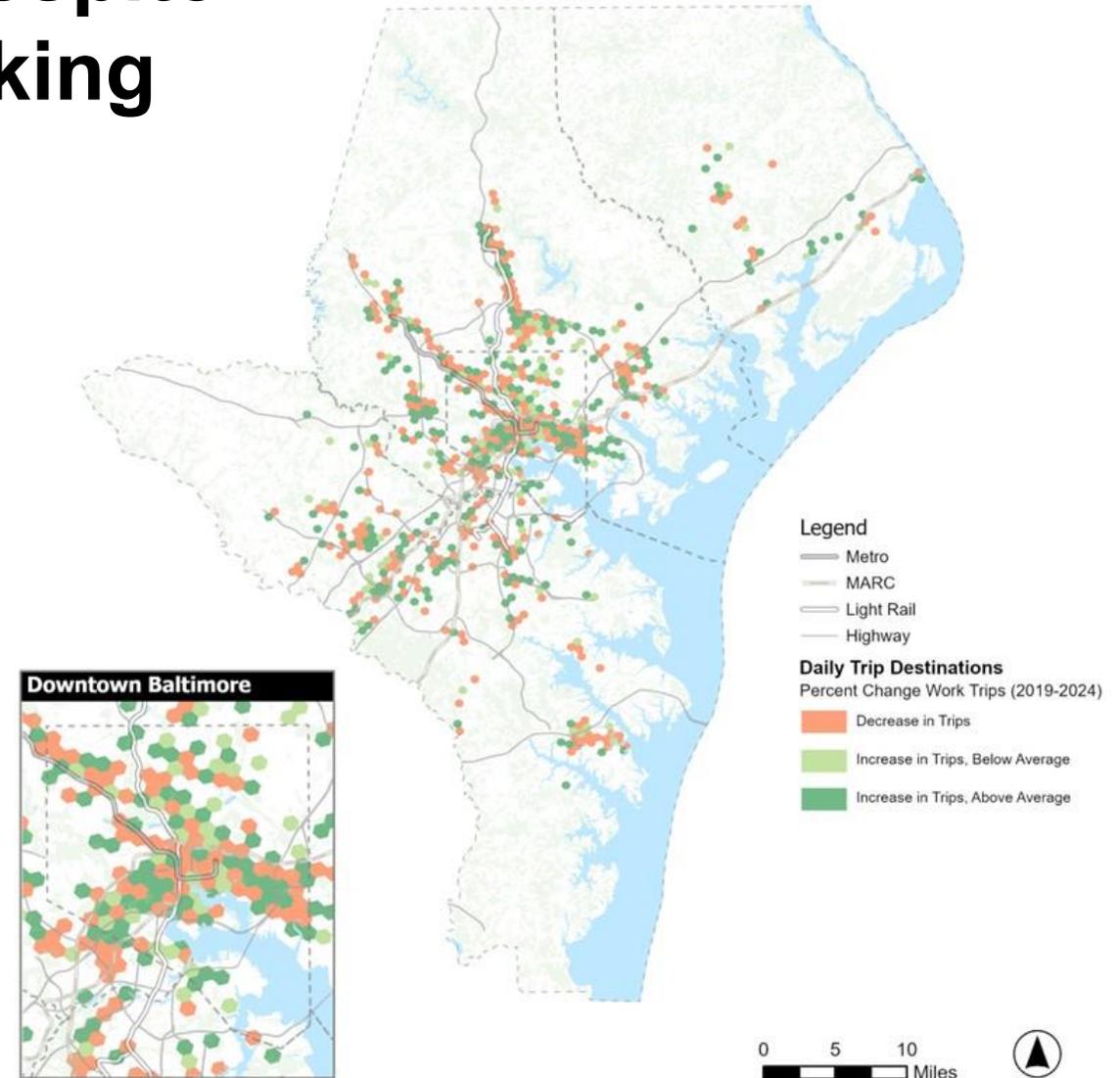
## 6. Employment growth is expected to continue, including in Baltimore City

- Growth in employment is forecast across the region
- Concentrations of job growth are expected in:
  - Downtown Baltimore City
  - Columbia
  - Annapolis
  - Fort Meade
  - BWI Business District
  - Bayview
  - Bel Air



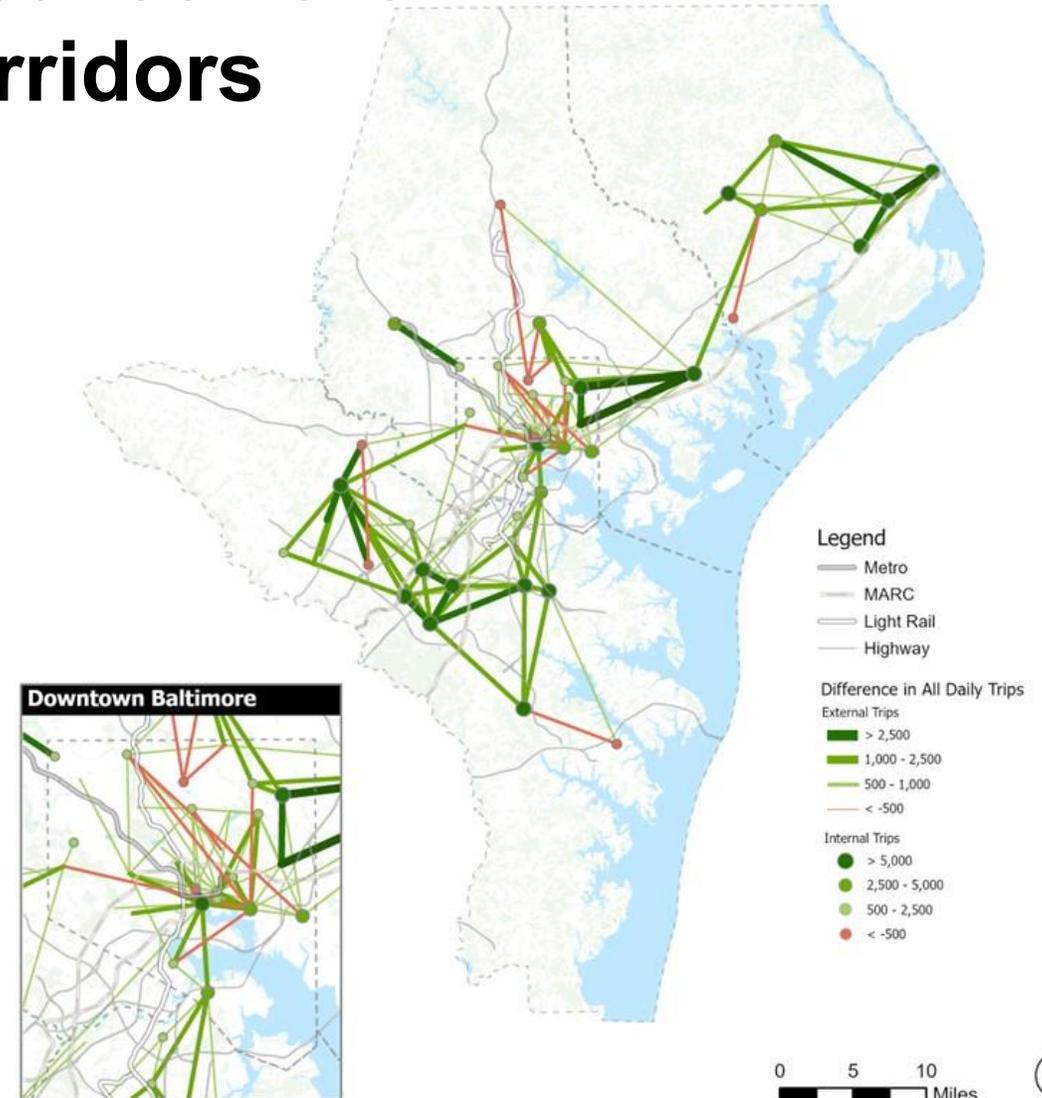
## 7. Work trips have increased despite post-Covid increase in teleworking

- Despite increased work-from-home, work trips have increased regionally by 10%
- Areas with increases and decreases in work trips are mixed and distributed across the region



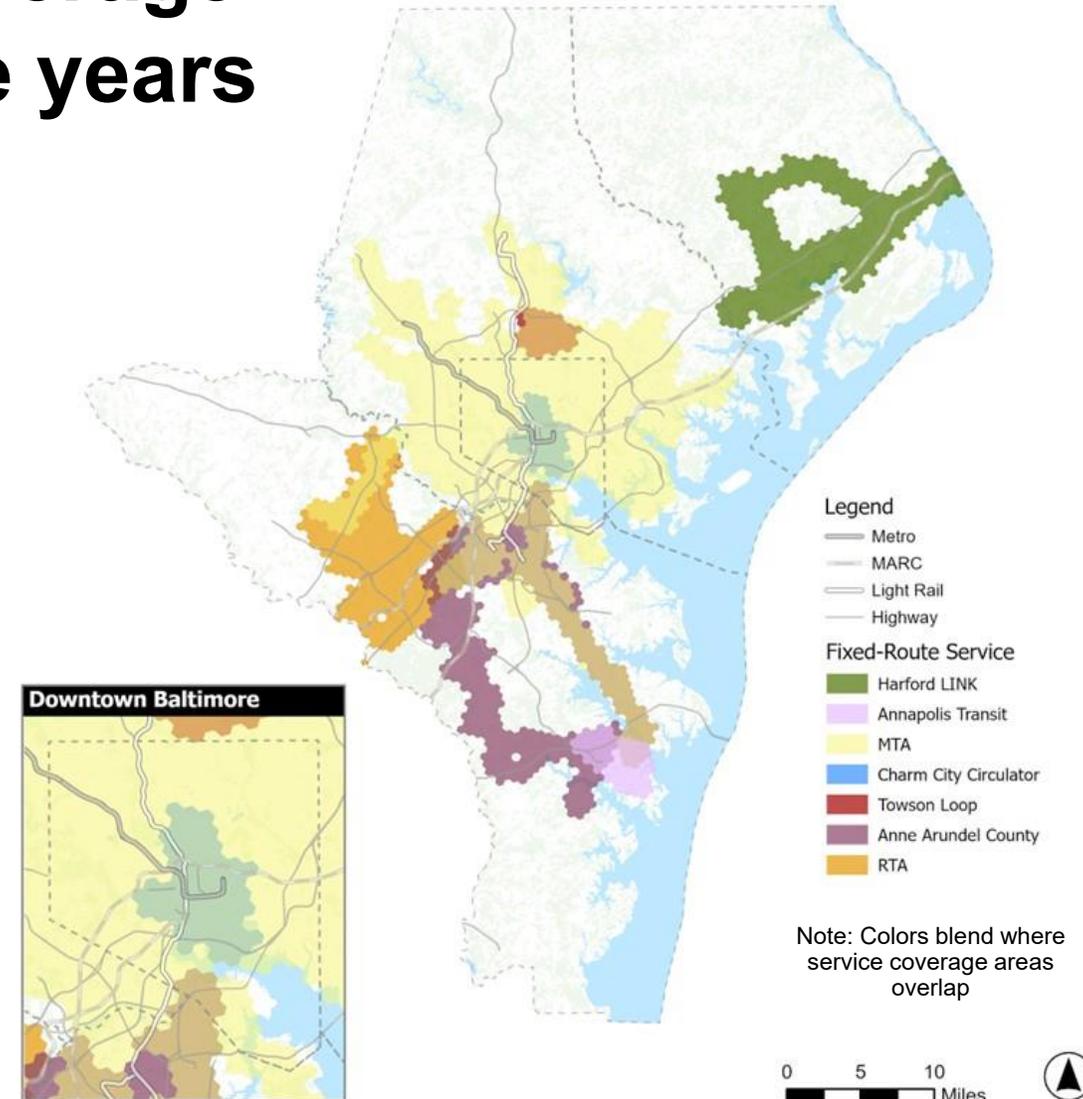
## 8. Travel growth is diverging between the region’s core and suburban corridors

- Strong travel growth within the Howard/Anne Arundel corridor and within Harford County
- Strong growth between Baltimore City and Baltimore County
- Weaker growth between the City/County and adjacent counties



## 9. Limited growth in transit coverage has occurred over the past five years

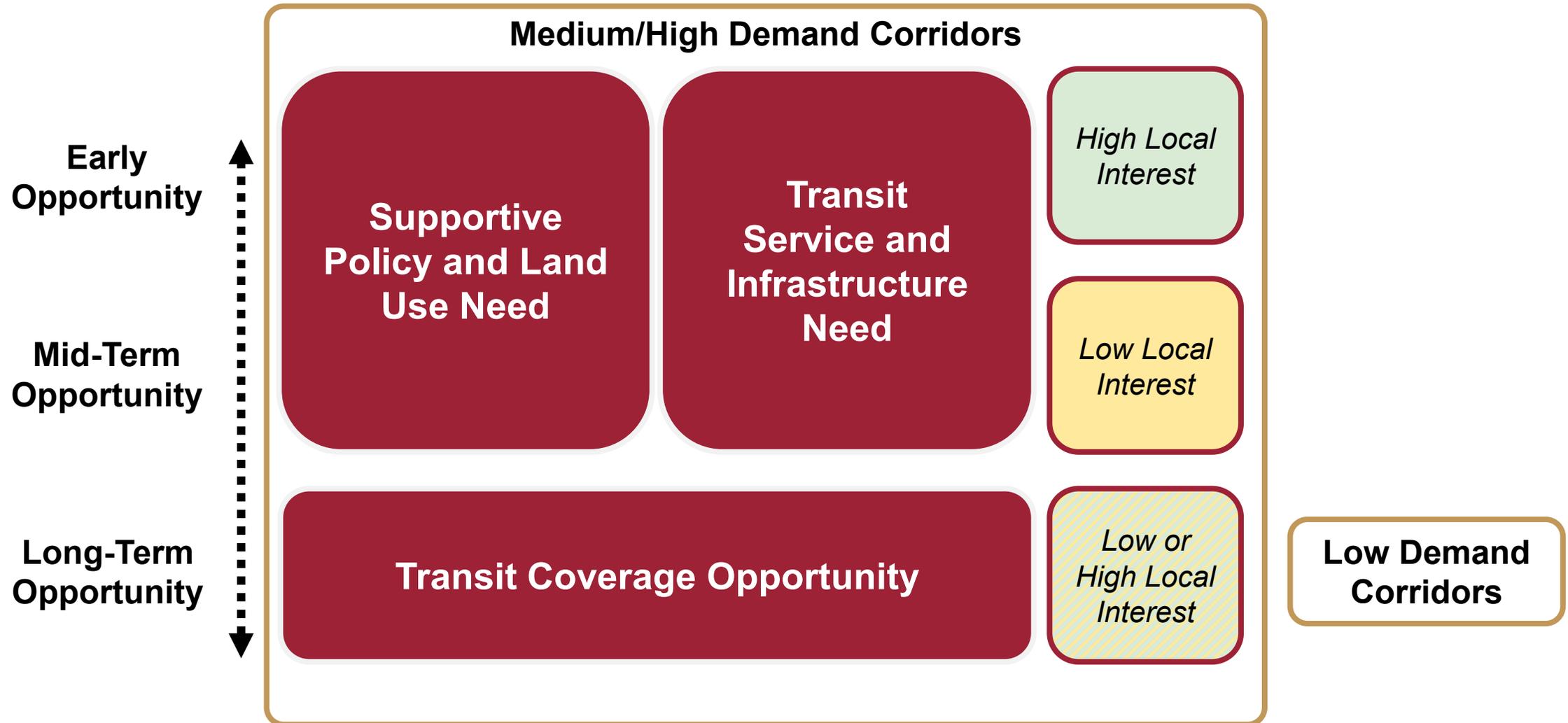
- Small increases in LOTS service coverage at edge of service area
- Enhancements to Anne Arundel County Transit, Charm City Circulator, and new Towson Loop within core service area



# Corridor Confirmation and Prioritization



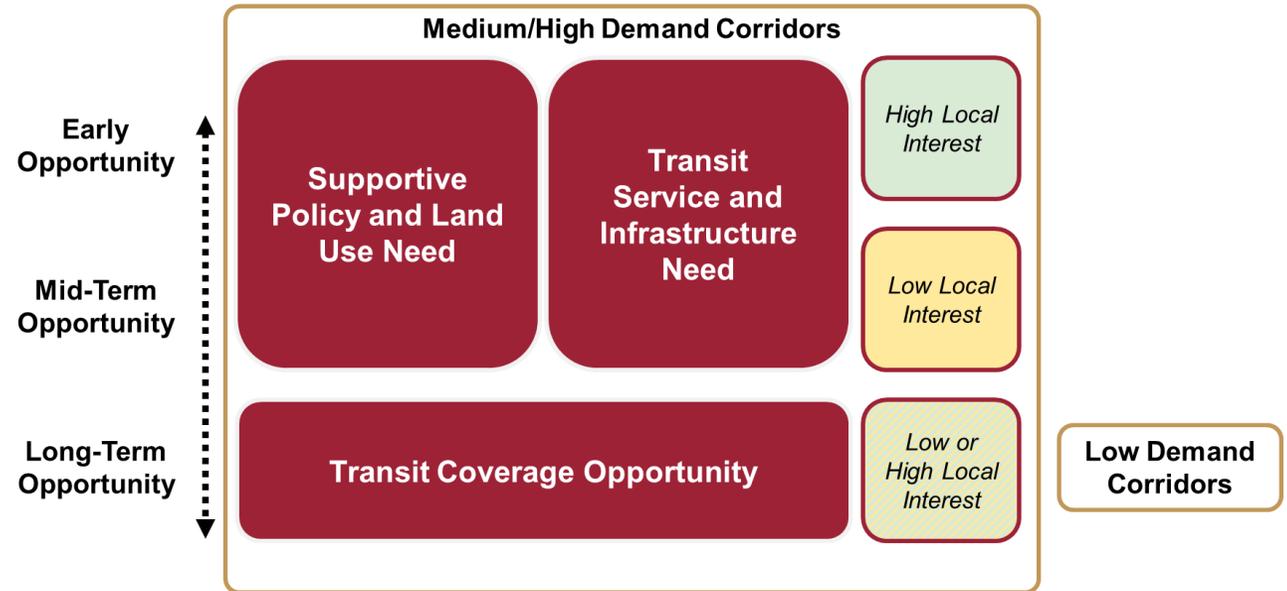
# Confirmation and Prioritization – Framework



# Confirmation and Prioritization – Questions

## Questions for Discussion

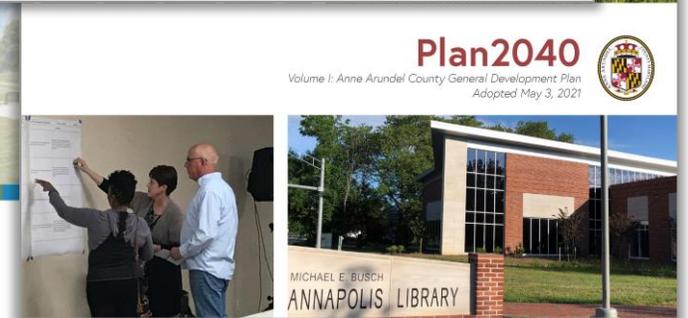
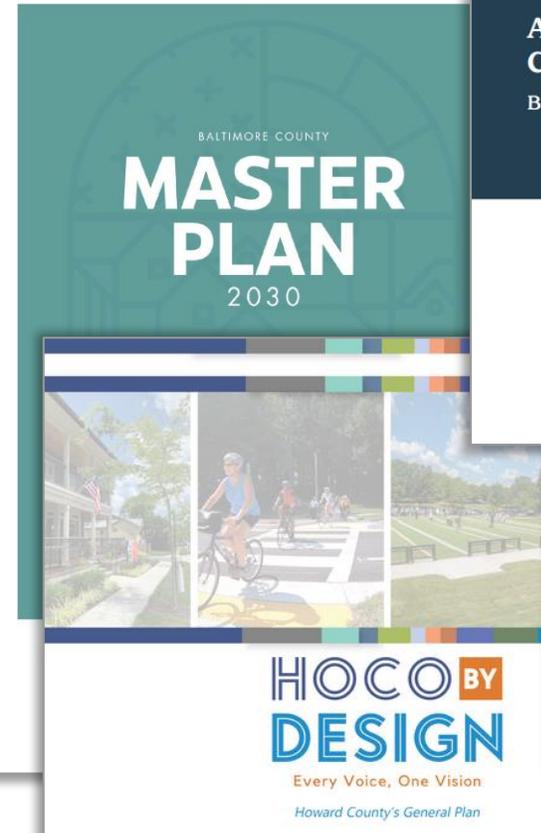
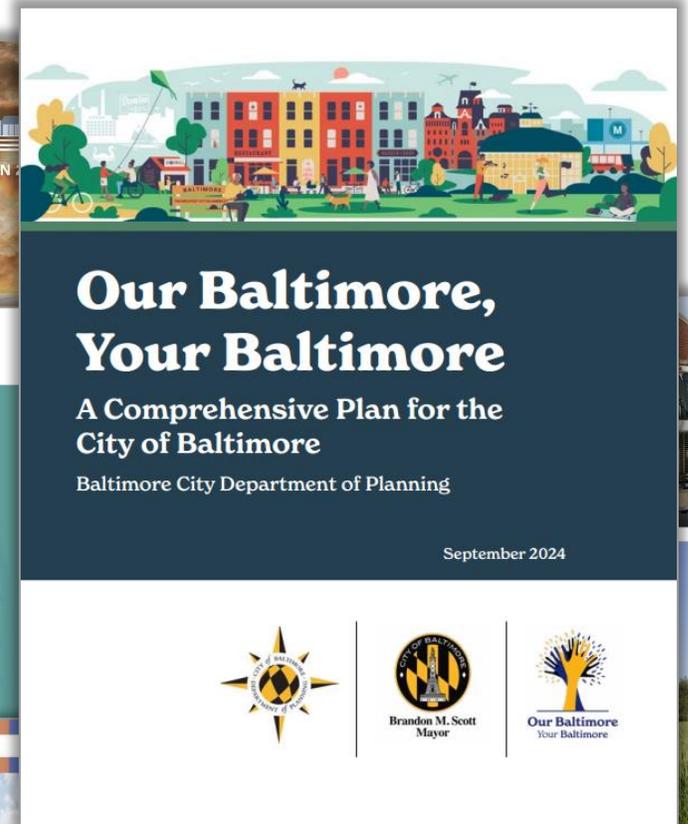
1. We're proposing that local interest be a distinguishing factor between early and mid-term opportunities. Are there other factors that should distinguish those?
2. How should we characterize short-term actions that could be taken along long-term opportunities to build demand in the long term?
3. Are there circumstances under which a low demand corridor should be elevated to the mid-term or early opportunity level?



# Confirmation and Prioritization – Local Engagement

- We are reviewing local plans to identify changes in land use planning since 2019
- Seeking to identify:
  - Where local jurisdictions are making transit-ready development a priority
  - Where existing transit service is not supported by land use policies
  - Local jurisdiction infrastructure proposals

*Local jurisdiction comprehensive plans adopted since 2020*



# Mode Suitability Assessment



# Mode Suitability Assessment

**Goal:** Identify modes that could be suitable for the corridors

Analysis will consider:	These correspond to CIG criteria:
Right-of-Way availability	Cost-Effectiveness
Potential transit demand	Mobility Improvements
Trip functions <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Predominantly peak hour commutes vs. all-day</li></ul>	Economic Development Effects
Corridor nature <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demand clustered or evenly distributed</li></ul>	Land Use
Travel Times	Mobility Improvements
Potential Mode Share	Environmental Benefits Congestion Relief

# Schedule and Next Steps



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A Regional Transit Plan for Central Maryland

# Schedule: Project Activities

## Winter 2024-25

- Document progress on RTP strategies and corridors
- Update transit market and demand analysis



BRTC Meeting 1

## Spring 2025

- Develop RTP corridors
- Assess modal feasibility of RTP corridors



BRTC Meeting 2 & 3

## Summer 2025

- Develop service improvement phasing
- Identify updates to RTP strategies
- Consider how RTP update will balance growth and existing system modernization
- Draft RTP update document



BRTC Meeting 4

## Fall 2025

- Finalize plan document
- Present finalized plan to BRTC for adoption
- Publish adopted plan



BRTC Meeting 5 & 6



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A Regional Transit Plan for Central Maryland

*We are here*

# Schedule: BRTC Meeting Topics

## Meeting 1: January 17, 2025 ✓

- Orient to the Plan
- ? Objectives and Corridor Analyses

## Meeting 2: March 7, 2025

- Market and Demand Analysis
- ? Corridor Development
- ? Mode Suitability Assessment

## Meeting 3: May 2, 2025

- Corridor Confirmation and Prioritization
- Mode Suitability Assessment
- ? Service Improvement Phasing

## Meeting 4: July 11, 2025

- Service Improvement Phasing
- ? Plan Development

## Meeting 5: September 2025

- **Draft Plan Document**
- ? Document Refinements

**MTA's RTP Due Date: October 1, 2025**

### Legend

- Present Information to BRTC
- ? Seek Input from BRTC

*Dates subject to change according to BRTC schedule*