

Area Advisory Committee #2 Meeting

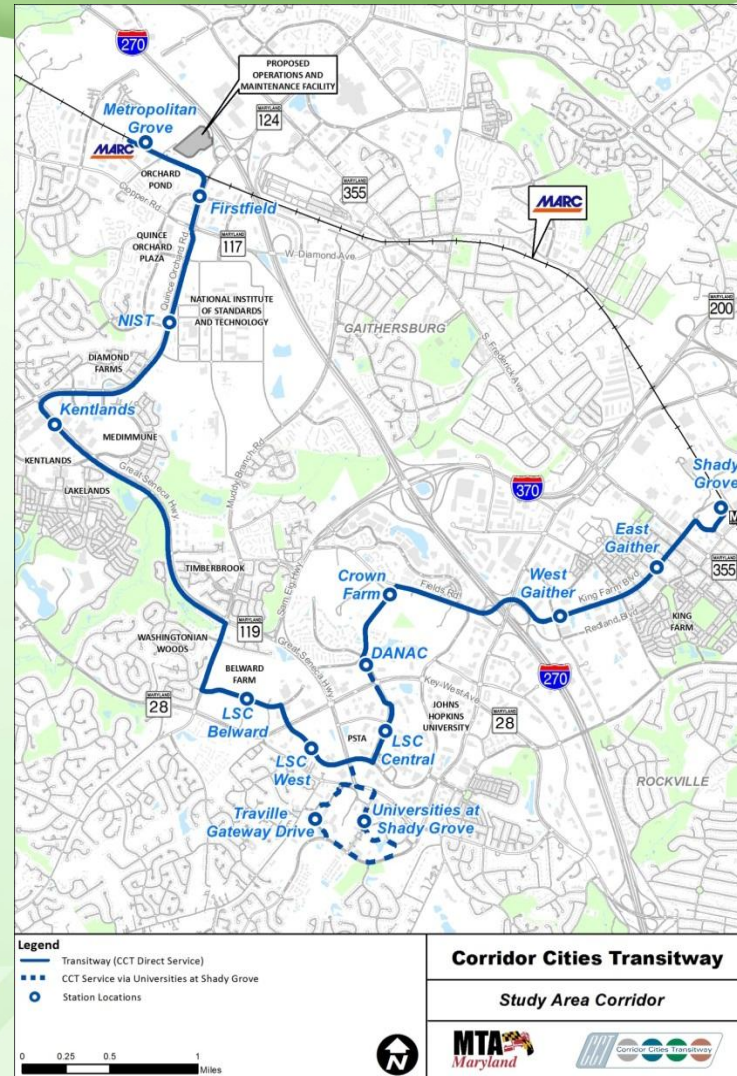
March 18, 2015





Environmental Assessment and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation

- Covers Phase 1 of the CCT Project – 9 miles between the Metropolitan Grove MARC Station and Shady Grove Metro Station
- Prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is the lead federal agency
- Draft document currently under review by FTA; full results anticipated in May





Document Contents

- Executive Summary
- Chapter 1: Introduction - Purpose and Need
- Chapter 2: Alternatives Considered – Alternatives from Previous Studies and Alternatives Evaluated in EA
- Chapter 3: Environmental Resources, Consequences & Mitigation
- Chapter 4: Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation
- Chapter 5: Public Information and Outreach



Alternatives Evaluated in the Environmental Assessment

- The No-Build Alternative proposes no new BRT transitway and represents the future conditions of transportation facilities and service in 2035 if the CCT Project is not built. It provides a baseline to compare the environmental impacts of the Build Alternative.
- The Build Alternative includes bus rapid transit service adjacent to or in the median of existing and proposed roadways along the alignment. It includes 14 stations and an operations and maintenance facility.



Environmental Effects

- Potential effects of the No-Build and Build Alternative to 28 resources are evaluated.
- Major Categories:
 - Socioeconomic Resources
 - Cultural Resources and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation
 - Natural Resources
 - Physical Resources





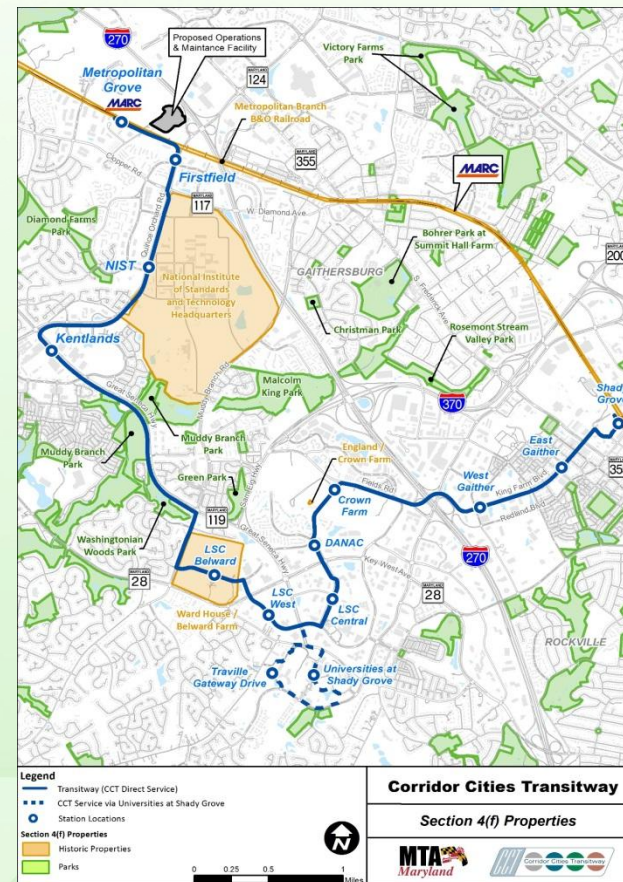
Socioeconomic Resources

- Land Use: residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and other land uses will be converted to transportation use
- Neighborhoods:
 - strip right-of-way impacts
 - 2 residential relocations
 - low to moderate visual impacts
 - moderate noise impacts
- Parks: Impacts to Washingtonian Woods and Muddy Branch Park
- Economy: One business displacement
- Environmental Justice Communities: No disproportionate high or adverse effect



Cultural Resources and Draft Section 4(f)

- Historic Properties: Likely adverse effect at Ward House/Belward Farm
- Archeological Properties: No effect
- Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation
 - Muddy Branch
 - Washingtonian Woods Park
 - Metropolitan Branch, B&O Railroad
 - NIST Headquarters
 - Ward House/ Belward England/Crown Farm





Natural Resources

- The Build Alternative would result in permanent and temporary impacts to:
 - 100-Year Floodplain
 - Streams and waterways
 - Wetlands
 - Forest stands
 - Tree cover
 - Specimen Trees
 - Street/ Individual Trees





Physical Resources

- Noise and Vibration: no severe impacts; moderate noise impacts at three receptor sites
- Air Quality: reduction in regional pollutants and not a project of air quality concern
- Energy: reduction in regional energy use
- Hazardous Materials: no impact
- Utilities: temporary outages likely
- Indirect and Cumulative Effects





Schedule

- March – April 2015: Review by FTA
- May 2015 – Distribution of Environmental Assessment for Public Comment
- June 2015 – Public Hearing on Environmental Assessment
- Summer 2015 – MTA Considers Agency and Public Comments Received
- Fall 2015 – Final Environmental Document