

# Howard County Office of Transportation

May 13, 2024



# Office of Transportation

## ***Regional and Comprehensive Planning***

- Managing Planning Studies
- MDOT and SHA Corridor Studies and Priority Projects
- Roadway Safety Plan and Monitoring Coordination
- Transportation Demand Management

## ***Transit Operations, Coordination and Oversight***

- RTA Service monitoring and improvement
- Grant Administration and Reporting
- Procurement & Asset Management

## ***Bike and Pedestrian Program***

- Development and Implementation of Functional Masterplans
- Community Engagement on Planning Projects
- Capital Project Coordination



# Accomplishments

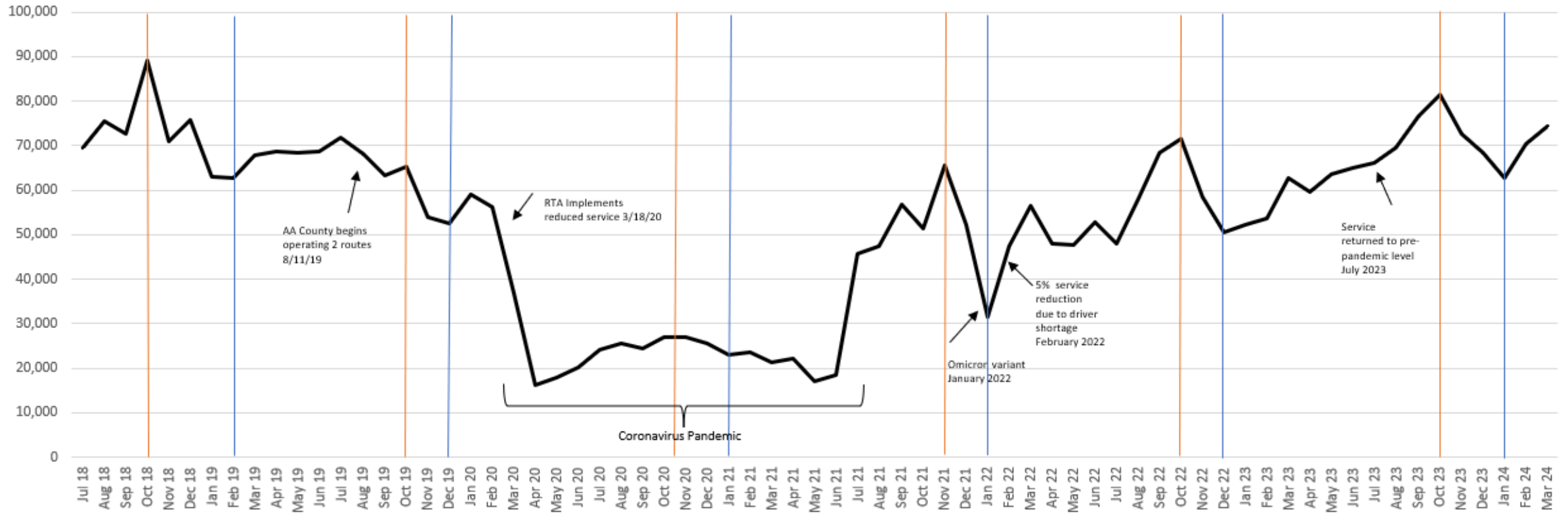
- Awarded USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All grant for US 1 planning and state grant for Dobbin Road Pathway
- Completed Ellicott City-Oella Transportation Studies
- Completed Complete Streets related Land Use and Subdivision Regulations Project
- Strategic Roadway Safety Plan Implementation Continues
- Transit
  - Implementation grant for US 1 Micro-Transit Pilot
  - Adopted 5 Year Transit Development Plan
  - 25 new buses - eliminating backlog for RTA
  - Deployed e-ticket Validators and a Real-Time Automated Annunciator System on RTA buses

# Action Plan

- Countywide Transportation Master Plan and update to Bike Howard
- Initiate Dobbin Road Pathway project
- Implement a US 1 Project Delivery and Management Plan to deliver Safety Improvements funded by the federal grant
- Implement the Bike Wayfinding project
- Continue to partner with HCPSS to plan and implement sidewalk and crosswalk projects
- Transit
  - Implement US1 Micro-Transit Pilot
  - Complete planning and design for Flash infrastructure and service
  - Expand of RTA service to ARL

# RTA Ridership FY 2019 to FY 2024

Monthly Fixed-Route Ridership  
July 2018 - March 2024






Fall ridership peak

Winter ridership dip

# Fleet Reliability

Vehicle Types	Current Fleet	Vehicle Replacements & Additions Ordered, Received, and Planned											Proposed Fleet
		FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24*	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	
Heavy and medium-duty buses	38	8	3	2	7	4	4	4	4	4	3	2	45
Light-duty cutaways	21			9	5	2		1	1	1	1	1	21
Sedans	8	4	2		3								9
Vans	5					4							4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>79</b>

 Ordered and received
  Ordered but not yet received
  To be ordered

# Engaged Workforce



- Delivered by 150 operators, mechanics and customer service staff for 15 routes
- Bus operator hiring and retention efforts include pay increases, signing and retention bonuses
- In-house CDL training and program implemented to enlarge pool of candidates
- Since January 2023, 51 operators have been hired. 63% of operator positions have been filled

# Service Modifications & Expansion

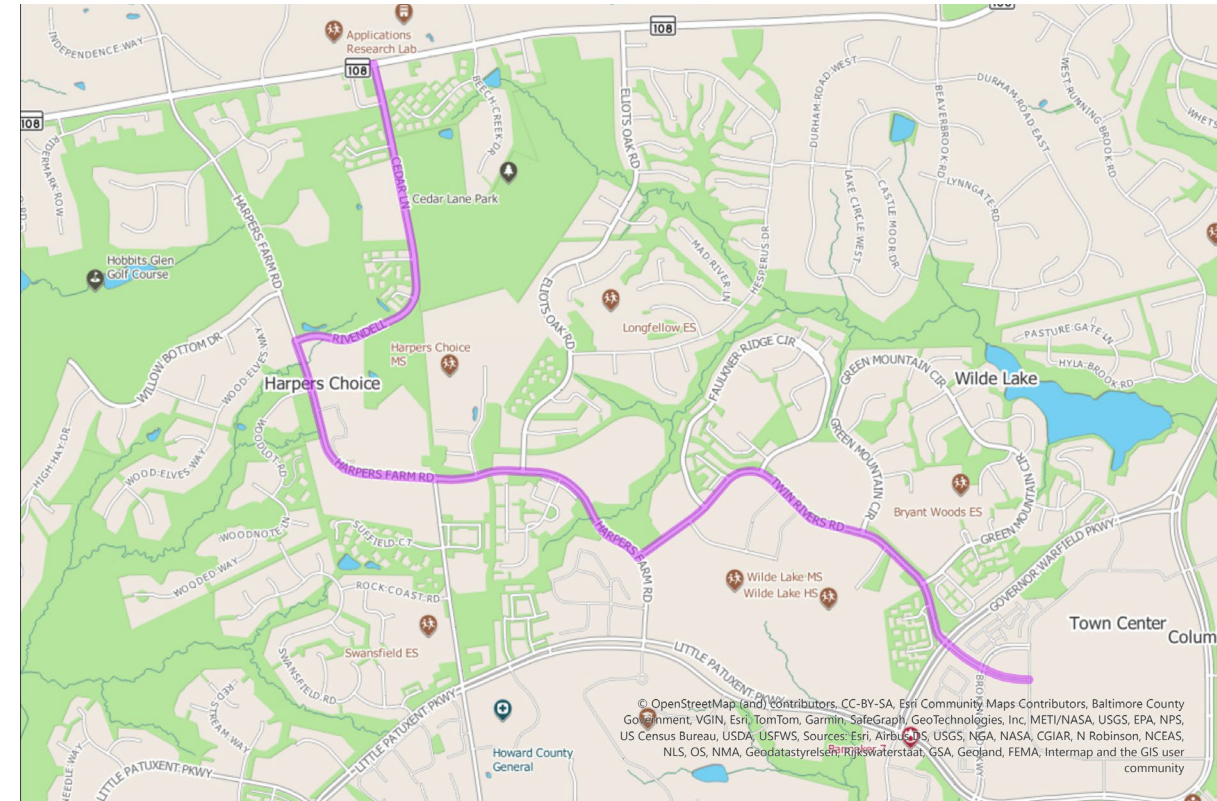
Continuing Free Fares for Howard Community College, High School and Middle School Students

Expanding Service along US 40 – Summer 2023

- 405 circulator service in Ellicott City area, westward to Pine Orchard Lane and to new 505 at Walmart on N. Ridge Rd.
- 505 connects Columbia and Ellicott City and provides expanded service east to Catonsville to provide a new transfer to the LocalLink 77 and CityLink Purple

Extension to ARL/Homewood Campus – 2024

- Will provide service to ARL when not otherwise served by school buses
- Will connect students and staff to ARL to/from the entire service area with transfers at the Mall in Columbia



# Technology & Customer Service



## Automated vehicle bus stop annunciators

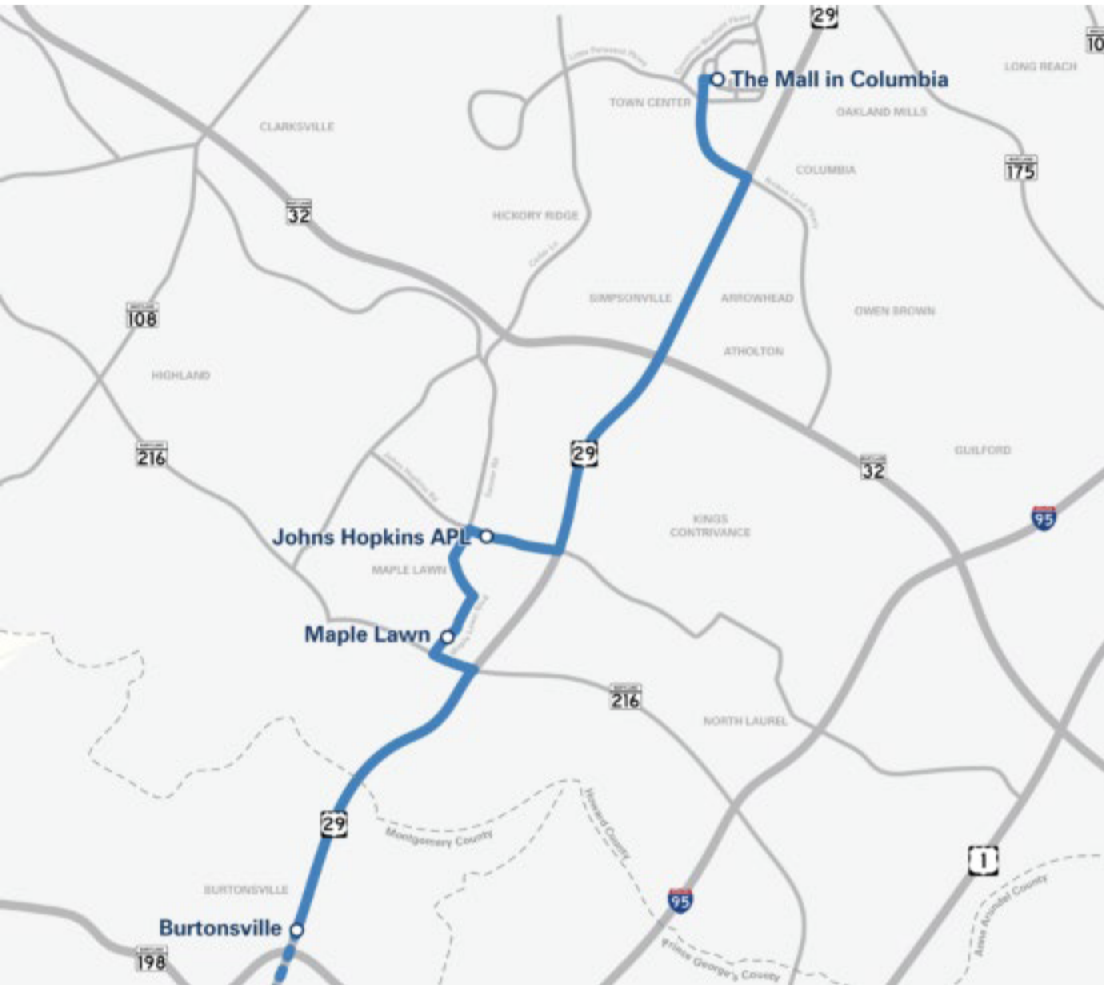
- Automated bus stop annunciator system
- Calls out stops
- ADA Compliance



## E-ticket Validators

- Touchless fare validator system on all fixed route vehicles
- Improve the efficiency of passenger boarding
- Decreasing dwell time at stops, which improves efficiency of the overall route

# Planning for New Service



- Extending current Montgomery County FLASH service north from Burtonsville to Columbia
- 4 buses & 3 new stops
- Peak hour service
- 2026

## On-Demand Micro-Transit

- Pilot program funded with a combination of local \$ and State grant funds
- Will serve the US 1 Corridor  
3 vehicles operating 13 hours per weekday
- Fall 2024

