

# TransAction

## *Project Update*

October 13, 2022

*presented to*

*Northern Virginia Transportation Authority*



NVTA's  
**TransAction**  
*Transportation Action Plan  
for Northern Virginia*

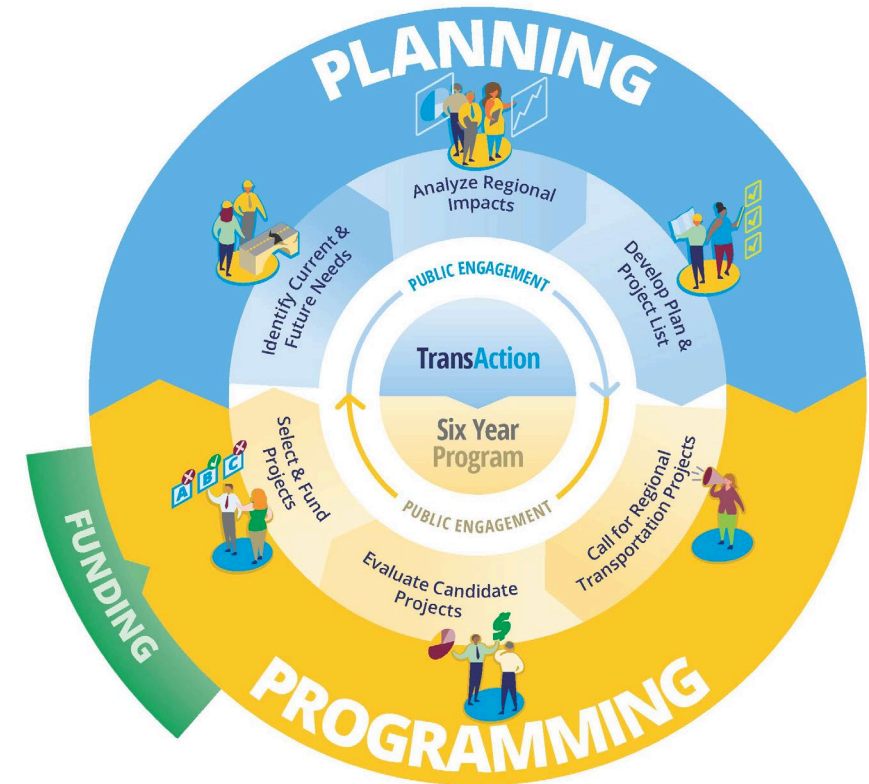


# Topics

1. Update on TransAction Progress
2. Public Comments on TransAction
3. Potential Enhancements to the Draft Plan and Project List
4. Next Steps

# TransAction Activities and Schedule

- » Nov/Dec 2021: NVTa approved TransAction goals, objectives, performance measures, and weights
- » Winter/Spring 2022: Transportation Perception Survey, web post series, TransAction project modeling and analysis
- » Summer 2022: Public comment period – August 1 – September 18<sup>th</sup>
- » Fall 2022: Finalization of plan and project list based on public and stakeholder comments
- » December 2022: Anticipated NVTa adoption of TransAction



# TransAction Public Engagement 2022

- » Public comment period: August 1 – September 18<sup>th</sup>
  - Detailed on-line comment form
  - TransAction Plan 2022 Update – Draft Summary
  - TransAction Plan 2022 Update – Draft Project List, containing 429 projects
  - Other supporting information
- » Draft Summary document and comment form available in English, Spanish, and Korean

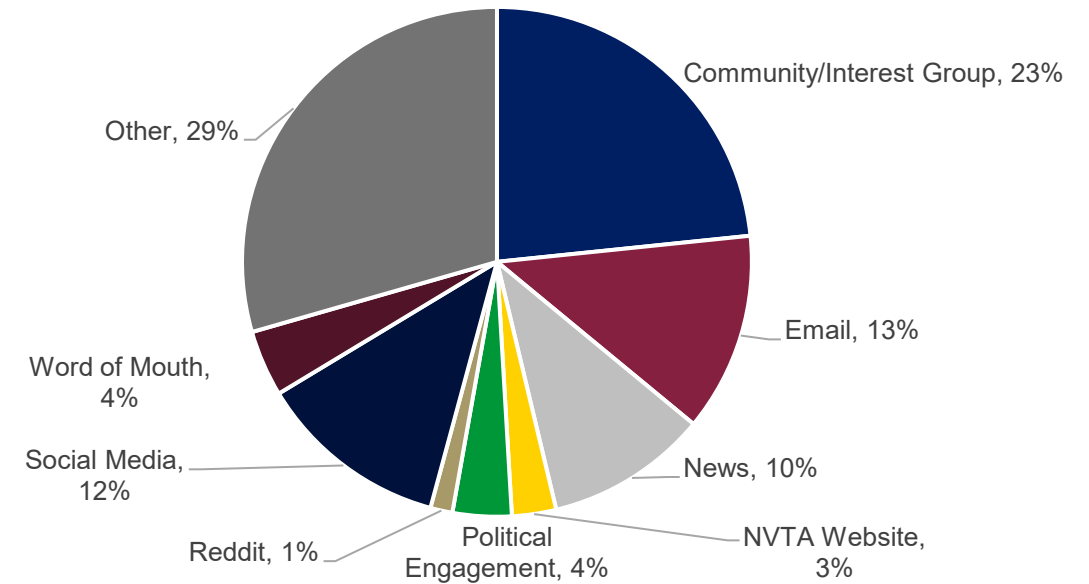


# Public Comments Received

## » Total Comments Received

- 223 comments received
  - 193 comments through web comment form
  - 21 comments heard at public hearing
  - 6 letter responses
  - 2 emails
  - 1 voicemail
- 222 comments in English, 1 in Korean
- 201 unique commenters

## » Where public heard about TransAction Comment Period

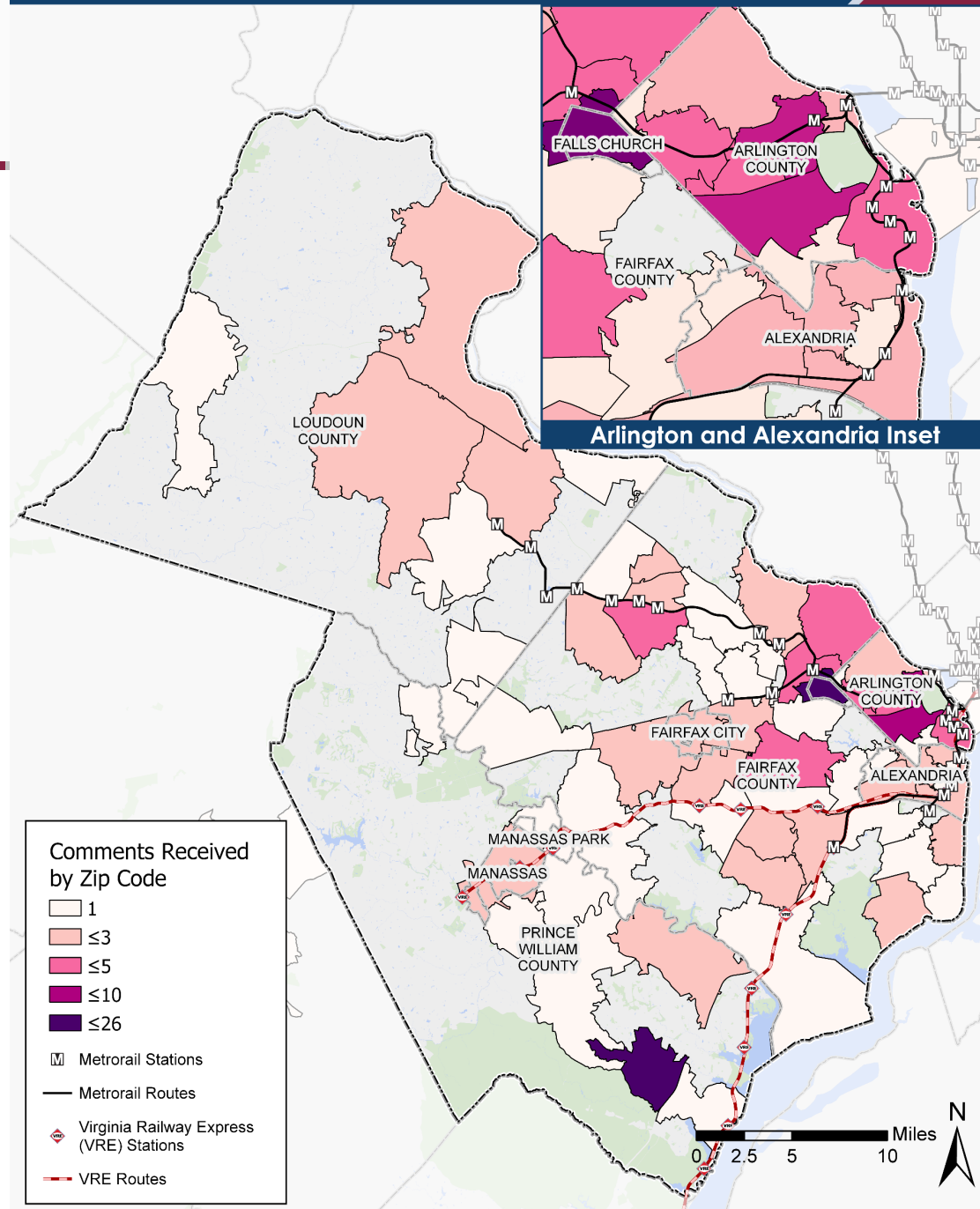




# Comments Received by ZIP Code

- » Most comments from Inside the Beltway
- » Zip code 22025 (Four Seasons): Van Buren Rd Extn
- » Zip code 22046 (Falls Church): Mixed comments
- » A few from DC, MD, other VA

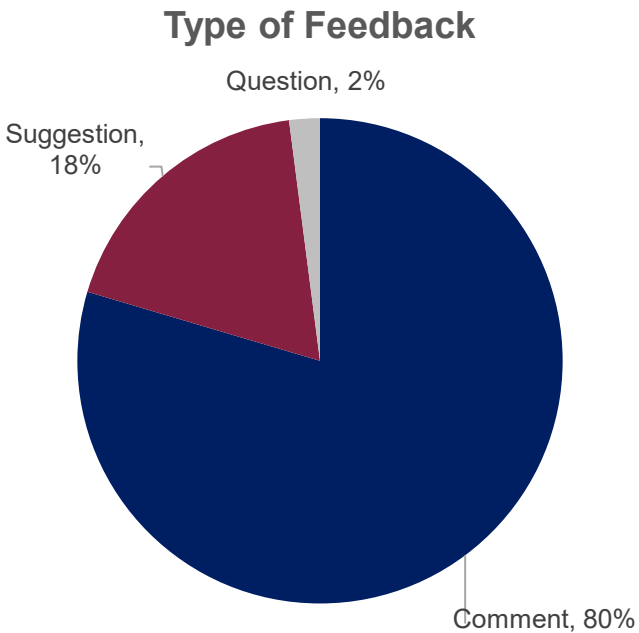
## Comments Received





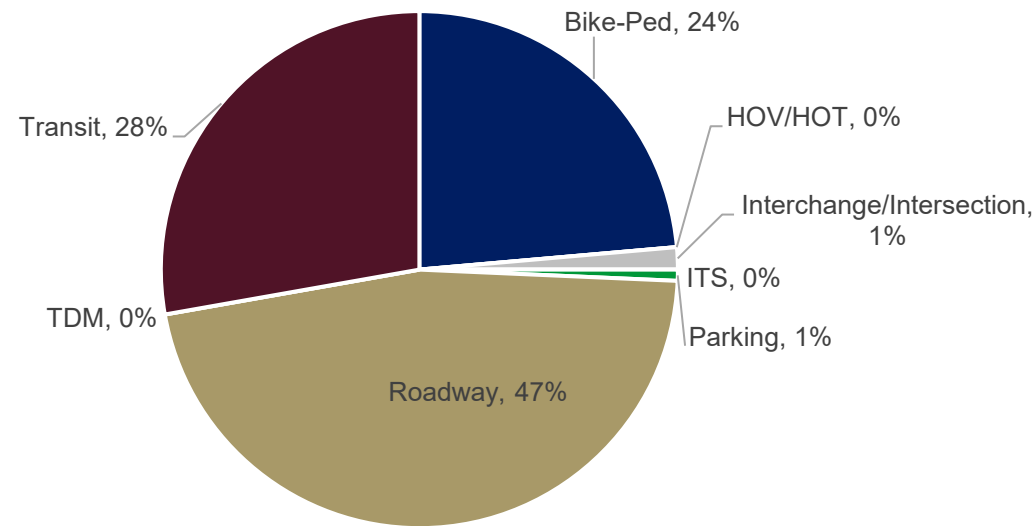
# Type and Themes of Comments Received

Common Theme	Example Comment
Against Roadway or Widening	"We must shift the scoring for NVTa projects to reward those that reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled if we are ever going to meet our climate goals."
Environmental Concern	"Northern Virginia needs a plan that will keep its residents safe from disastrous climate change. We should be working towards resilience and emissions-curbing solutions, not business-as-usual and increased driving. From what I have read, the list of projects in 2045 far exceeds what Northern Virginia can afford, fails to address the land use policies and lack of affordable housing at the root of our transportation problems, and largely ignores urgent climate goals."
Increase/Improve Transit	"As a resident, I would like to voice my support for this NVTa TransAction vision, and for the City projects contained within the draft project list. Investments in pedestrian, bicycle, transit projects help to relieve congestion and increase connectivity and accessibility."
Improve Bike-Ped Routes	
Safety	

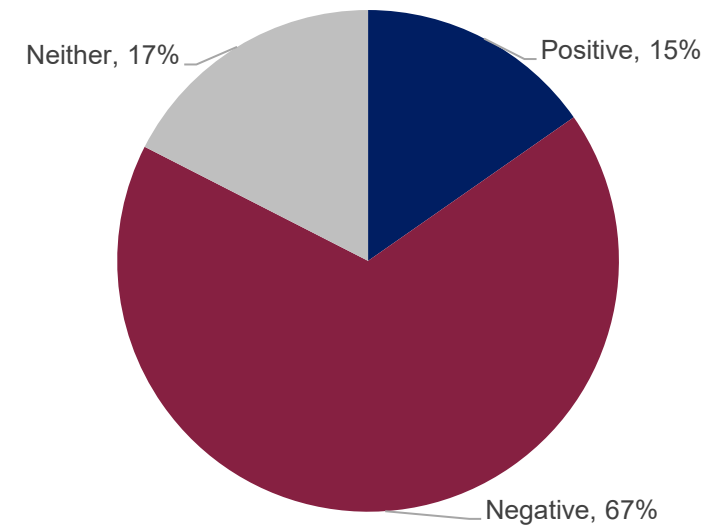


# Public Comments Received

Amount Modes Mentioned



Direction of Feedback



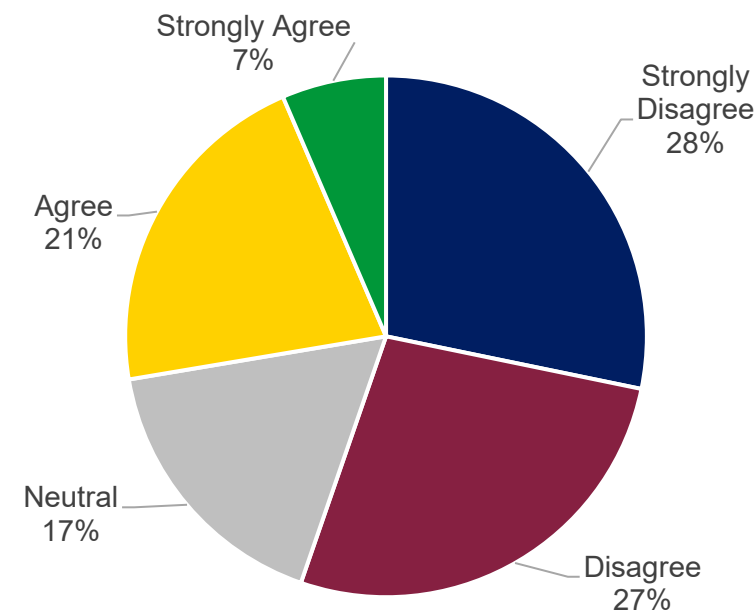


# Does the Plan Achieve TransAction Goals - Mobility, Accessibility, and Resiliency?



## » Example comments:

- “It is a start, but there is so much more to be done to actually achieve those goals.”
- “A plan that would do little to improve mobility without the massive financial outlay of a car cannot achieve true mobility in the region nor improve accessibility for those who need it most.”
- “The BRT plan definitely increases mobility, accessibility, and resiliency.”
- “A plan that fails to reduce vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions cannot be a resilient plan; it dooms us to more and more of the disruptive severe weather we have been seeing over the last few years.”
- “I often use the Burke VRE trail to travel from the GMU area to West Springfield. I'm glad to see you are extending the trail out to Manassas. Please continue to expand these types of trails, keeping cyclists and pedestrians as far away from busy roads as possible.”

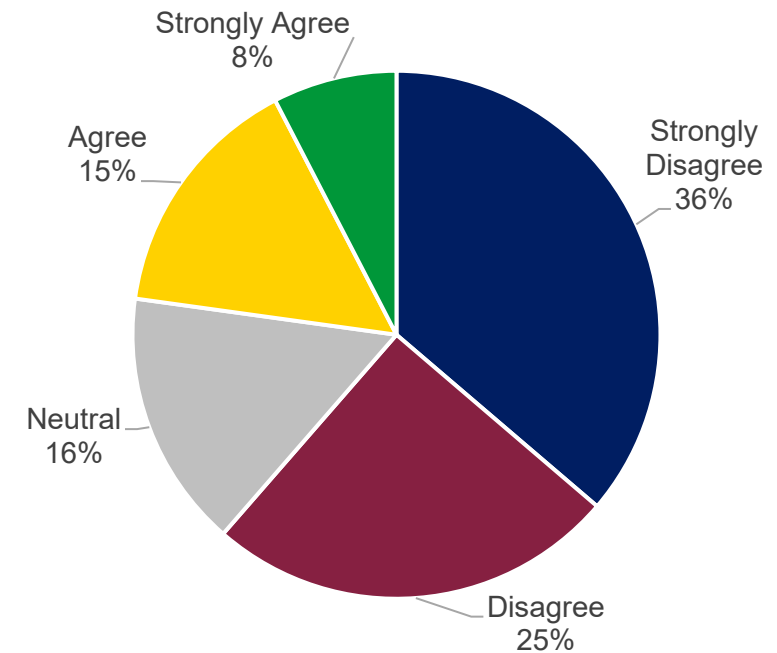


# Does the Plan Reflect TransAction Core Values - Safety, Equity and Sustainability?



## » Example comments:

- “A plan that anticipates such a large increase in VMT for a majority of the region cannot reasonably be called sustainable”
- “Expanding transit options can build up lower-income and minority communities by providing needed access to public goods, employment, and amenities.”
- “More bus services (including BRT) for underserved communities. People shouldn't have to take three buses to get to work.”
- “NVTA and TransAction continue to advocate for roadway widening. Nearly 1000 people die every year on Virginia roads, and a non-insignificant cause of some of these crashes are roadway design and roads meant to speed up cars.”
- The goals are reasonable to meet the core values of safety, equity, and sustainability.



# Comments on Scenario Analysis

“Because there is uncertainty associated with predicting the future, TransAction considered multiple ways that the future of Northern Virginia could unfold. These scenarios were: Post-Pandemic ‘New Normal’, Technology, and Incentives/Pricing.”

Common Themes (79 completed responses)	Number of Responses	Positive	Negative	Neither
Specific strategies or types of projects	26	31%	35%	34%
Scenario definition	21	5%	14%	81%
Thoughts on future travel	20	5%	5%	90%

## Example Comments:

- “It sounds as though the region is preparing for multiple scenarios, which is encouraging to see.”
- “Post-Pandemic 'New Normal' -> need to focus on transit and non-car travel across the region, not just connections to DC”
- “Technology - With automated vehicles, there should probably be fewer cars on the road: if people can rent cars out to ride-share services while they aren't using their own cars, then it will decrease the reliance on owning a car”
- “Incentives and pricing are one of the most effective ways to alter behavior, but NVTA needs to support such a policy with the appropriate infrastructure to give people a real choice. Without that infrastructure, it will be nothing more than a tax on the poor.”



# Feedback on Specific Projects

Project ID	Project Name	Mentions	Positive	Negative	Neutral
273	Construct Van Buren North Road: Cardinal Drive to Dumfries Road	29	1	24	3
31	Route 7 Transit: Tysons to Mark Center	14	9	4	1
118	East Falls Church Bikeshare Connections	12	12	0	0
67	Route 29 Trail	11	7	2	2
356	City of Falls Church Greenway and Parkway Network	10	9	1	0
133	Falls Church Enhanced Bus Service	9	7	2	0
18	Seven Corners Ring Road Improvements	8	7	1	0
66	Falls Church Multimodal Improvements	8	8	0	0
72	Arlington Regional Trail Network	8	3	5	0
334	Falls Church Metro Station Access	8	7	1	0
406	W&OD Regional Trail Capacity and Connectivity Enhancements	8	2	6	0
21	Bike Lanes on Route 7: Alexandria to Seven Corners	7	6	1	0
62	East Falls Church Metrorail Station Second Entrance	7	7	0	0
71	Route 29 Bus Improvements	7	7	0	0
302	Fredericksburg Line Peak Period Service Expansion	7	6	1	0
303	Manassas Line Peak Period Service Expansion	7	6	1	0
333	Transit Boulevard along Sycamore Street and Roosevelt Street: East Falls Church Metrorail to Seven Corners	7	7	0	0
335	Falls Church Regional Bicycle Connections	7	7	0	0
357	Bicycle Facility Route 7 - City of Falls Church	7	6	1	0
360	City of Falls Church Safe Routes to School	7	7	0	0

# Potential Enhancements to the Draft Plan and Project List



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# Project List

## » Remove duplicates

- IDs 64 & 230 – Overpass between RT28 @ New Braddock Rd and Stone Rd @RT29
  - Retain ID 64
- IDs 412 & 441 – Trail along VRE Manassas Line. From Landmark to City of Manassas
  - Combine the description to include farthest extends
- IDs 424 & 425 – Euclid Avenue Full Extension & Euclid Avenue Southern Extension.
  - Retain ID 424

*Note: No additional model runs are expected*



# Project List

## » Change project sponsor

- ID 32 – Route 28 Corridor High Capacity Transit – Fairfax County to Top-down
- ID 411 – Nokesville to Calverton Double Track – VRE to VPRA

## » Change project location

- ID 32 – Route 28 Corridor High Capacity Transit. Fairfax Co to Multi-jurisdictional
- ID 403 – Huntington Metro station ADA improvement. From Alexandria to Fairfax County
- ID 424 – Euclid Avenue Full Extension. From Manassas Park to Multi-jurisdictional

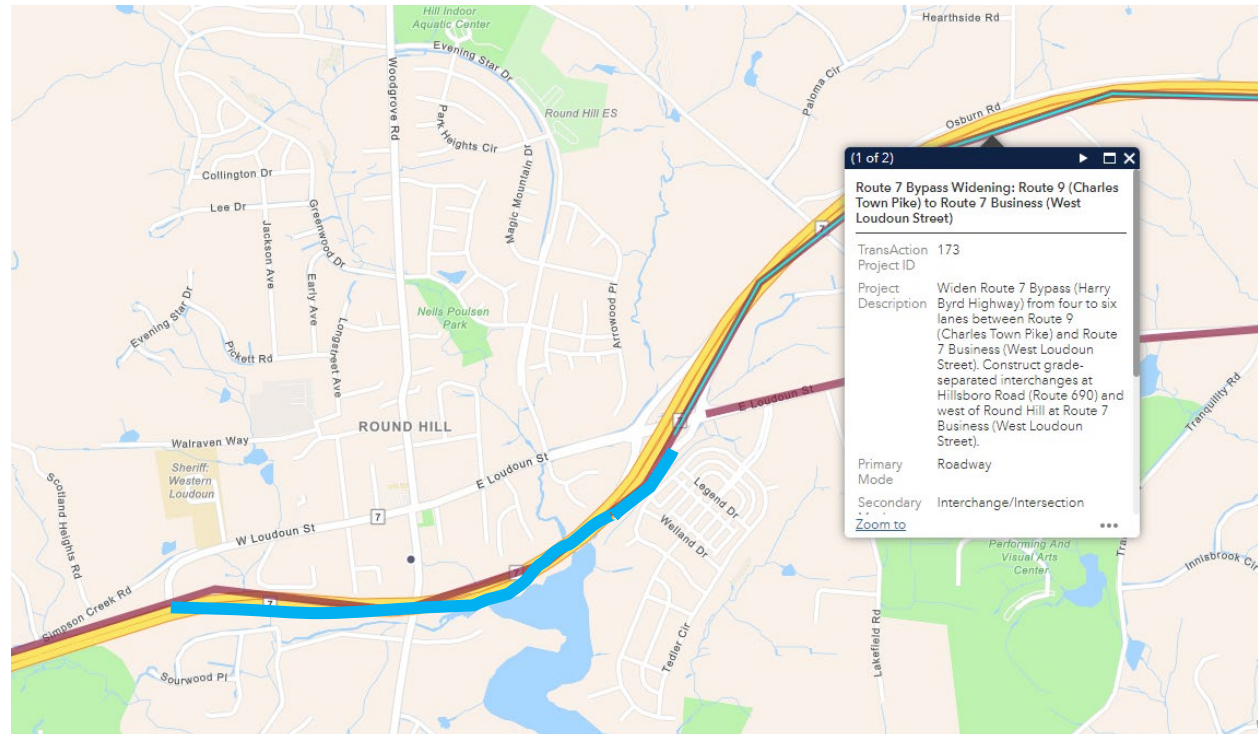
## » Remove project under construction or in TIP

- ID 77 – I-495 HOT Lanes: Route 267 to George Washington Memorial Parkway
- ID 337 – I-495 HOT Lanes: American Legion Bridge to I-270

*Note: No additional model runs are expected*

# Interactive Map

- » ID 173 – Route 7 Bypass Widening: Route 9 (Charles Town Pike) to Route 7 Business (West Loudoun Street)
  - Extend Western terminus from Route 7/East Loudoun Street interchange to Route 7 and West Loudoun St



# Scenarios

## » Better explain

- What it is and what it is not: different potential futures; not different packages of projects
- Clarify scenario assumptions
- What it tells: Plan is not redundant

## » Replace the “7. What happens if the future is different than expected” section (scenario planning) with

- A subsection on scenarios under the “6. What are the impacts of the Plan” section (Plan performance)
- Focus on plan performance related to uncertainty



# Scenarios

- » Land use scenarios were run last round
  - Add language to note this and the conclusion that concentrated land use helps improve TA goals





# Concluding section

- » Rewrite the “8. How will TransAction benefit the region” section to focus on:
  - Major takeaways
  - “So what?”
  - Limitations and external factors

# Other



- » Alternate term for “emissions” and “green house gas” to “carbon pollution”
  - <https://www.epa.gov/transportation-air-pollution-and-climate-change/carbon-pollution-transportation>
- » Stress the fact that TransAction is not a funding document
- » Beautification of the Plan document
- » Does the document communicate what TransAction is and what it says?

# Next Steps



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# Remaining TransAction Activities

- » Finalization of plan and project list based on public and stakeholder comments
- » Committees:
  - October: Review any refinements to plan and project list
  - November: Anticipated endorsement of TransAction
- » December 2022: Anticipated NVTA adoption of TransAction

Thank you!



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