City of Alexandria, Virginia

Route 1 Rapid Transit-

City Council Hearing
May 12, 2012

Previous City Council Action

- April 2006, amended Master Plan to add Crystal City/Potomac Yard (CCPY) Transitway
- On June 5, 2007, the Planning Commission recommended the following in relation to the Route 1 transit corridor:

  "*Route 1-Jefferson Davis Highway shall be designated as a transit corridor.…The final- type and design of any future dedicated transit service shall require approval by the Planning Commission and City Council. Any future transit lanes should maintain the character of Route 1 as an urban boulevard with a continual median, trees and street trees, and shall be reserved in perpetuity for exclusive public transit use.*"

Previous Approvals

- April 2006, amended Master Plan
  - Median transit facility for BRT usage
  - 2 lanes with landscaped medians
- Coordinated Development District (CDD) #10 and #19
  - Roadway access to/from Route 1
- Potomac Yard Urban Development Guidelines
  - Widths of streets, connection points
- City Council Approval of the Bus Rapid Transit in Route 1 (April, 12, 2011)
- Planning Commission Approval of Design Elements (May, 2012)

Route 1 Today

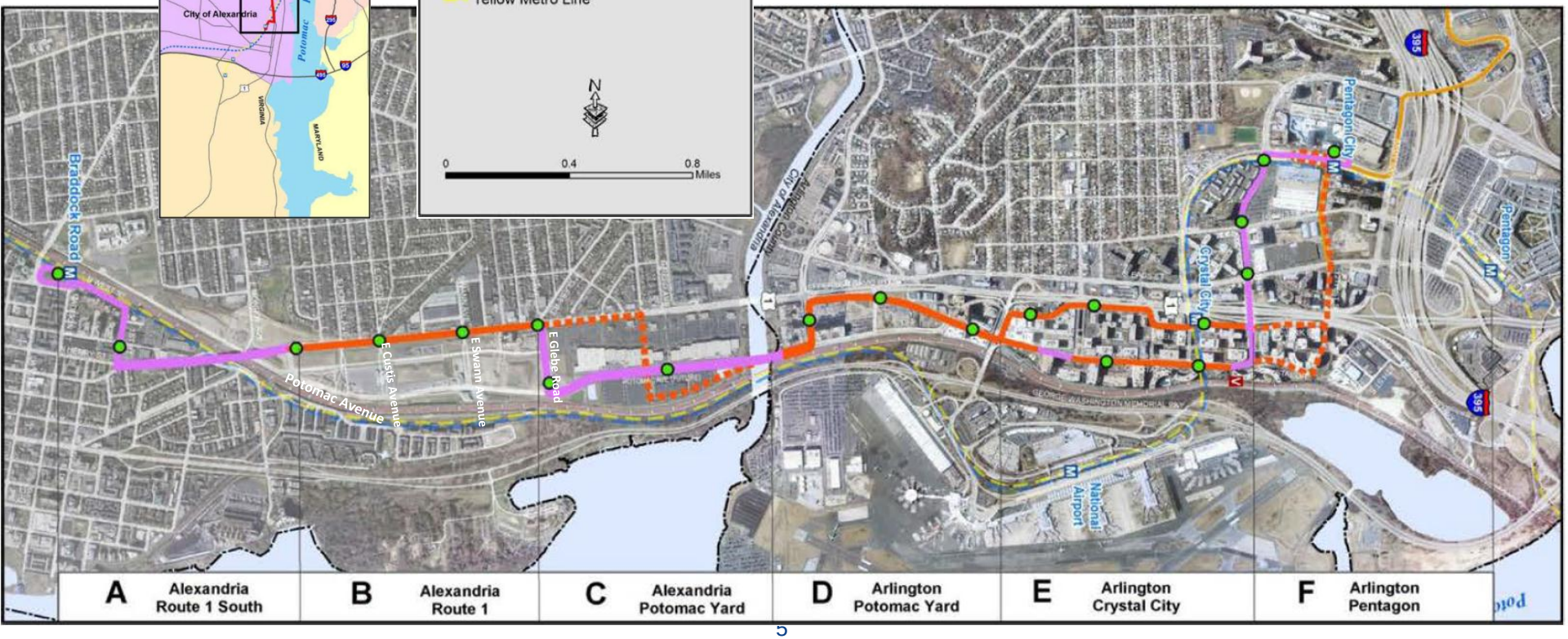
Overview

Legend

- Station Stop
- VRE Station
- Metro Station
- Dedicated Lanes for Transit
- Transit Vehicles in Mixed Traffic
- Future Alignment
- Columbia Pike Streetcar
- VRE Railroad
- Blue Metro Line
- Yellow Metro Line

N

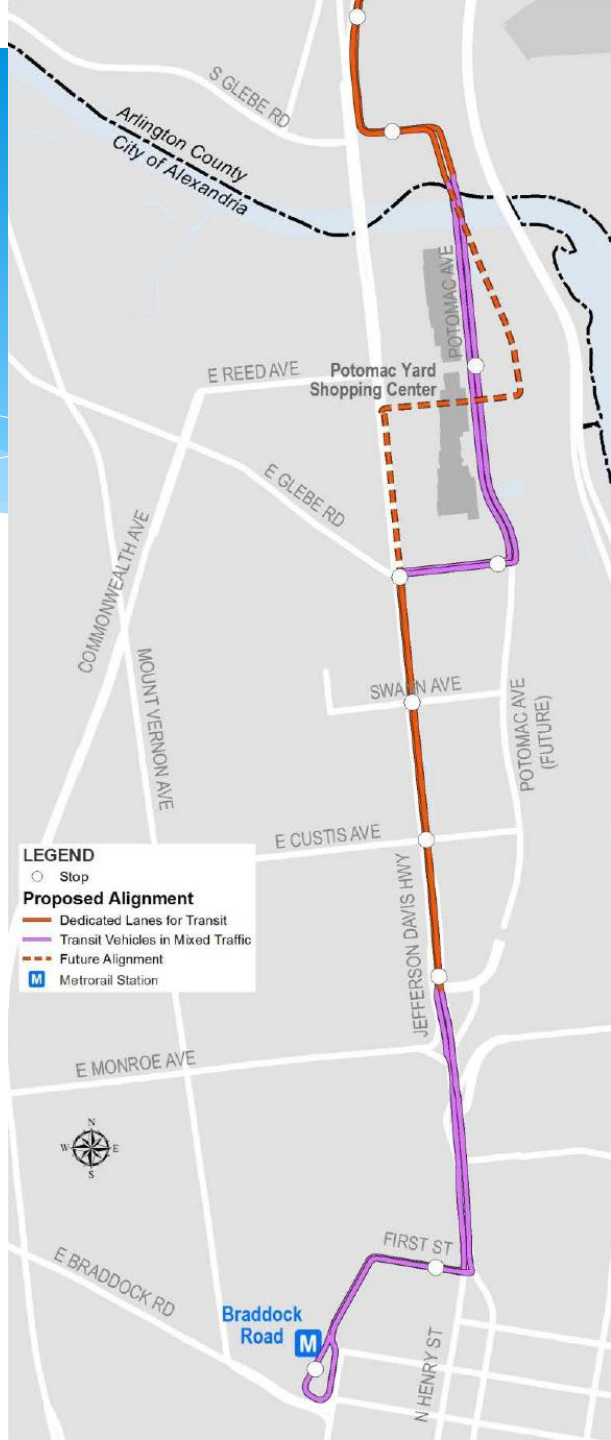
0 0.4 0.8 Miles



Project Specifics

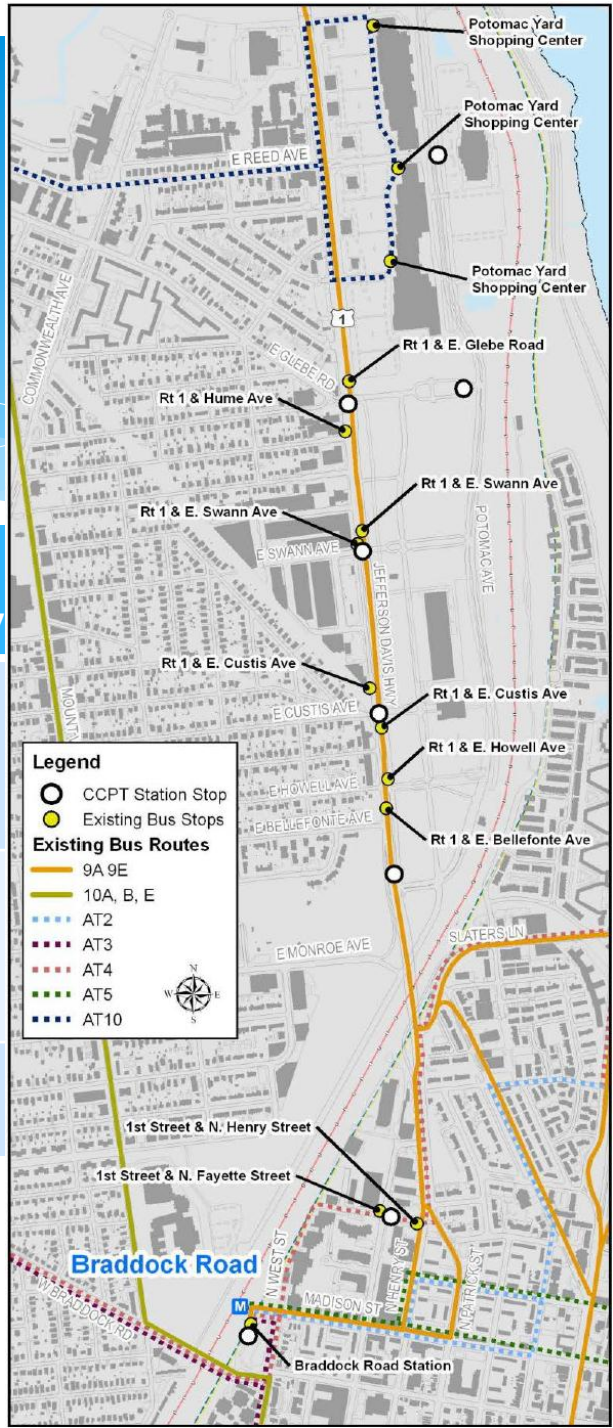
- Route 1
  - Northbound widened by Potomac Yard Developer
  - Existing northbound lanes repurposed to transit lanes
  - Southbound lanes remain untouched
- 2-lane transit-only corridor. 12-foot landscaped medians on either side. Medians taper to allow left-turn lanes at signalized intersections.
- 7 stations within section
  - East Glebe Rd – SB only (NB located in Potomac Yard)
  - East Swann Avenue – two stations – far side
  - East Custis Avenue – two station – far side
  - Potomac Avenue – two stations – both on north side of intersection.

- Station design under separate contract

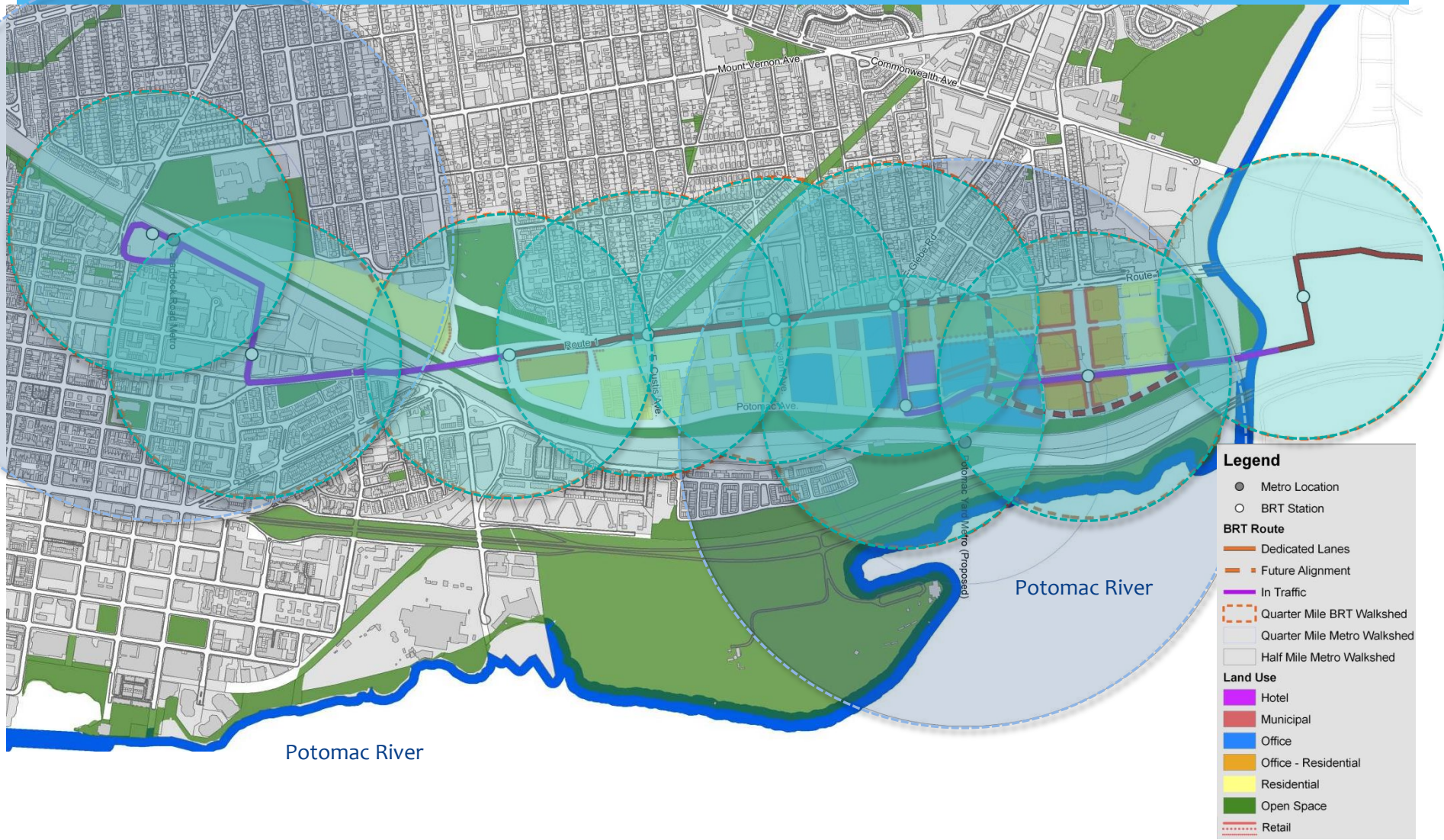


Routes Utilizing Transitway in Alexandria

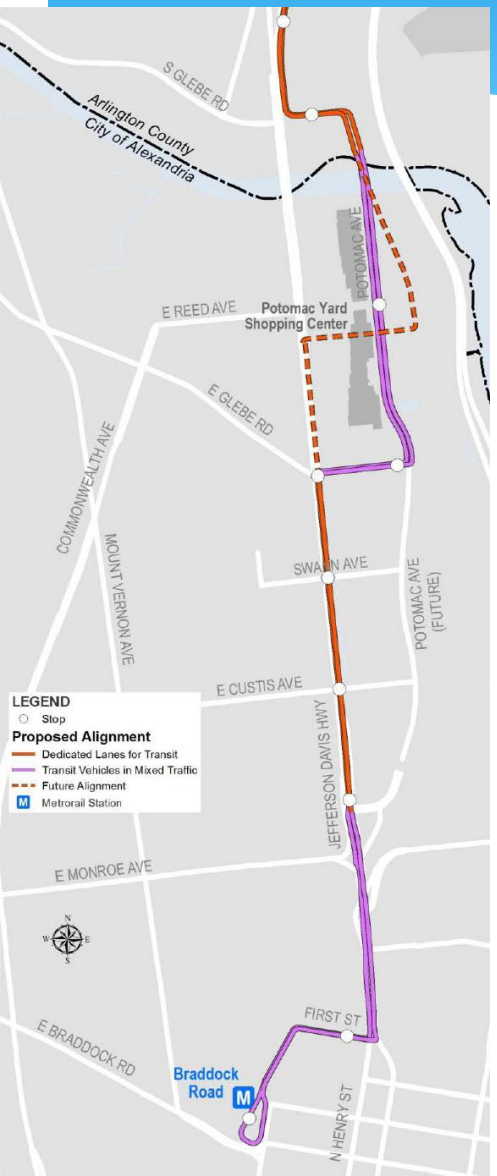
Route	Headway (Peak/Off, Wknd)	Currently Utilizing	Current Ave Riders/ Weekday
9A/9E	30/30/30	Curb along Route 1	1,550 400 (within transitway)
9S	6/15/20	Curb – will be extended to Potomac Yard	1,800 (all within transitway)
9X (New Service)	12/15/20	BRT lanes	--



Land Use


Mount Vernon Ave
Commonwealth Ave
Route 1
Potomac Ave.
Potomac Yard Metro (Proposed)
Potomac River
Potomac River
Legend
Metro Location
BRT Station
BRT Route
Dedicated Lanes
Future Alignment
In Traffic
Quarter Mile BRT Walkshed
Quarter Mile Metro Walkshed
Half Mile Metro Walkshed
Land Use
Hotel
Municipal
Office
Office - Residential
Residential
Open Space
Retail

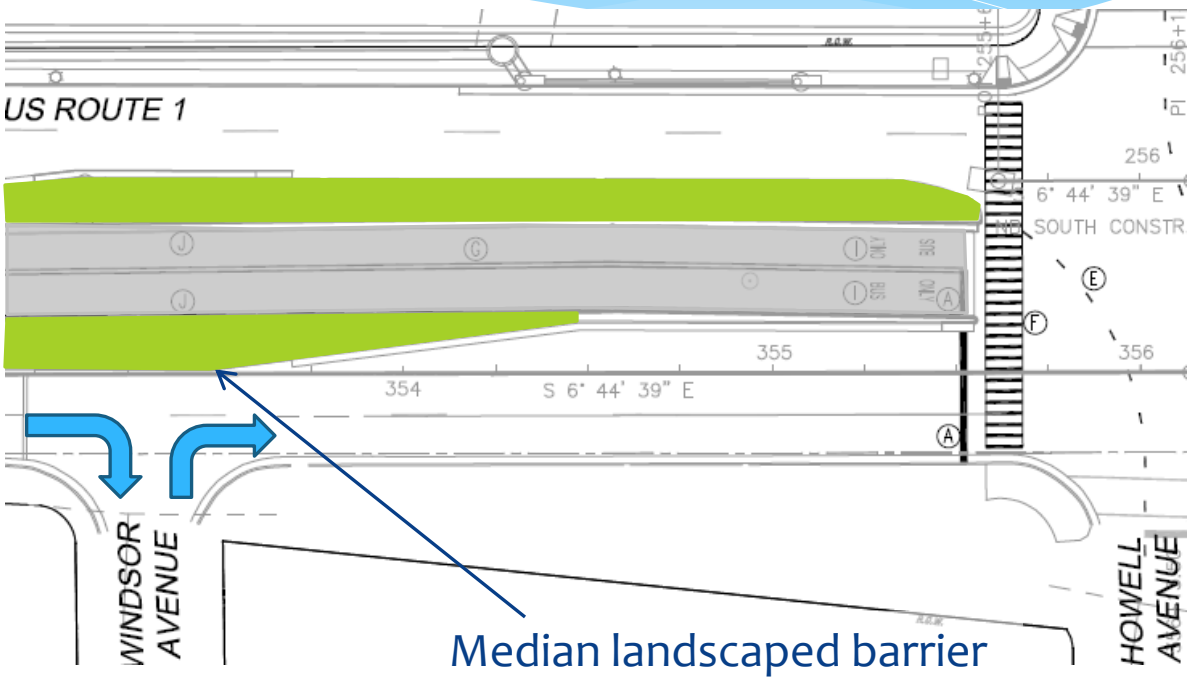
Design - Build Contracts



- Allows for single point of contact for design and construction of the facility.
- Allows for acceleration of design and construction process.
- Contractor has direct input into the design phase – minimizes re-work during construction phase.

Access to/from Route 1

- Right-in/Right-out will be required at:
  - Hume Avenue
  - Raymond Avenue
  - Calvert Avenue
  - Fannon Street
  - Windsor Avenue
  - Bellefonte Ave
- Emergency Services can utilize BRT lanes



Median landscaped barrier along Route 1 necessitates right-in/right-out from Windsor Ave

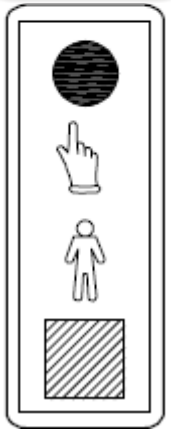
Elements of the Project

- Median dedicated Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) lanes providing service that is:
  - efficient
  - reliable
  - safe
- Pedestrian safety and accessibility
- Maintain urban boulevard character of Route 1
- Maintain adequate traffic flow on Route 1
- Provide environmentally and context-sensitive design elements
- Set a standard for future transitway(s) within City

Schematic of Route 1 in Vicinity of Transit Stops

Pedestrian Amenities

- Colored concrete crosswalks across Route 1
- High emphasis crosswalks on cross-streets to Route 1
- Countdown pedestrian signals
- High-visibility pedestrian-crossing signage
- Additional time allocated to pedestrians in the signal timing
- Additional lighting at stations
- Landscaping to direct pedestrians to use crosswalks
- Way-finding signage at the stations

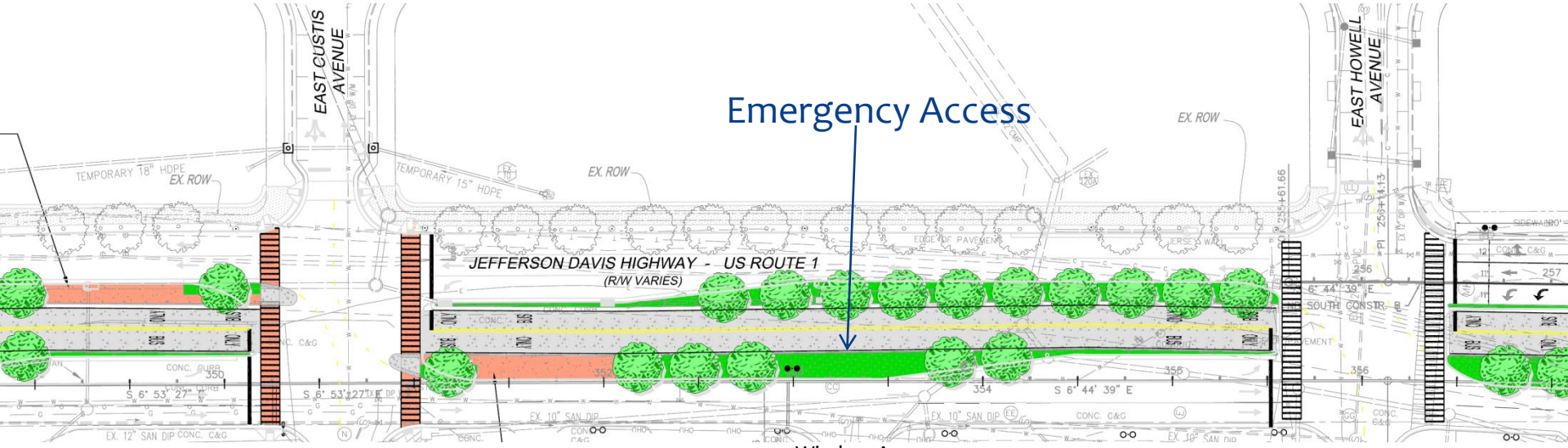


Lighting

- Concentrated at station locations and crosswalks.
- Along transitway, minimal additional lighting. Proposed double acorn lights if needed.
- Lighting at stations to be at 2.0 luminosity (same as parking lot lighting level).

Landscaping

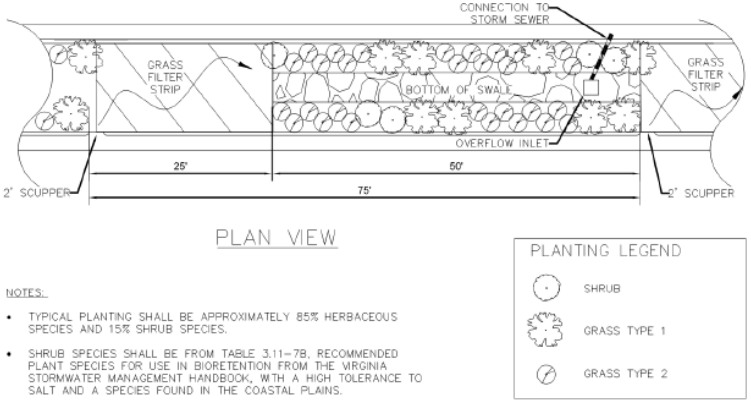
- Trees in both medians will mimic east side of Route 1 except due to:
  - Emergency Vehicle Access needs (Hume Ave/Maskell Avenue; Windsor Ave)
- Currently determining schedule for plantings



Stormwater

- Required by State Watershed Implementation Plan to treat as much stormwater as possible affecting Chesapeake Bay.
  - South of Maskell flowing to Pond 2
  - North of Howell flowing to Pond 3
  - Only small location available for stormwater treatment

Filterra installation



PLAN VIEW

NOTES:

- TYPICAL PLANTING SHALL BE APPROXIMATELY 85% HERBACEOUS SPECIES AND 15% SHRUB SPECIES.
- SHRUB SPECIES SHALL BE FROM TABLE 3.11-7B, RECOMMENDED PLANT SPECIES FOR USE IN BIORETENTION FROM THE VIRGINIA STORMWATER MANAGEMENT HANDBOOK, WITH A HIGH TOLERANCE TO SALT AND A SPECIES FOUND IN THE COASTAL PLAINS.
- HERBACEOUS SPECIES SHALL BE FROM TABLE 3.11-7C, RECOMMENDED PLANT SPECIES FOR USE IN BIORETENTION FROM THE VIRGINIA STORMWATER MANAGEMENT HANDBOOK, WITH A HIGH TOLERANCE TO SALT.

Next Steps

- City Council Public Hearing and Approval of Design Elements – May 12, 2012
- Construction Scheduled to Begin in July, 2012
- Opening of Route 1 BRT Between Potomac Avenue and East Glebe Road in December, 2013.

For more information on this project or other capital or planning projects in Potomac Yard:

www.alexandriava.gov/potomacyard

THANK YOU

COMMENTS / QUESTIONS?