A Transformative Vision for the Future of Transit in Baltimore

Governor Larry Hogan Announces $135 Million to Fix Baltimore's Transit System

WHAT: Governor Larry Hogan announced $135 million in targeted investments to transform and improve transit throughout the Baltimore metropolitan area. The multi-phase plan will create an interconnected transit system, known as BaltimoreLink, and will redesign the entire local and express bus systems throughout Baltimore. BaltimoreLink will include CityLink, 12 new high-frequency, color-coded bus routes that improve connections to jobs and other transit modes.

The BaltimoreLink system will deliver a unified transit network and include renaming existing Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) modes: LocalLink (Local Bus), Light RailLink, Metro SubwayLink and MobilityLink to create an interconnected transit system. Other key elements of the BaltimoreLink system include transitways, transit hubs and Transit Signal Priority.

WHY: Baltimore's existing transit system is disjointed and unreliable. BaltimoreLink will create an interconnected transit system that connects people to jobs and takes them where they want to go.

WHEN: The master transit plan announced by the Governor on October 22, 2015, could launch by June 2017. Two elements of BaltimoreLink will be implemented soon. As a down payment on the massive improvements coming in the months ahead, there will be enhanced service on the QuickBus 40 bus line between the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in Baltimore County and City Hall in Baltimore City starting October 25. This enhanced service will increase frequency and reliability on the line. Additionally, beginning on Saturday, October 31, MTA will make a third bike car available for MARC weekend trains. As a result, all 30 weekend train trips on the Penn Line now will be equipped with bicycle access.

COST: $135 million

IMPACT: This $135 million targeted transit investment will improve access to jobs, enhance bicycle and car-sharing access and expand Sunday service on Light RailLink. Other highlights include:

- 745,000 jobs accessible from the new BaltimoreLink System
- 131,000 more jobs accessible with high-frequency transit
- 76,000 new jobs accessible with new commuter connections
- 83 Bike Rack locations throughout MTA's rail network
- 30 MARC Weekend Bike Car Trips support BicycleLink
- 23 Targeted Car Share Locations in the Baltimore Region
- 12 CityLink high-frequency, color-coded bus routes serving Downtown Baltimore
- 10 more hours of Sunday Light RailLink Service (6 am to Midnight)
- 9 New/Enhanced Baltimore Regional Job Connections to: Aberdeen, Annapolis, Baltimore City, BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport, Columbia, Fort Meade, Kent Island, Owings Mills, Towson & White Marsh
- 6 Transit Hubs at Metro SubwayLink, MARC, Light RailLink and CityLink

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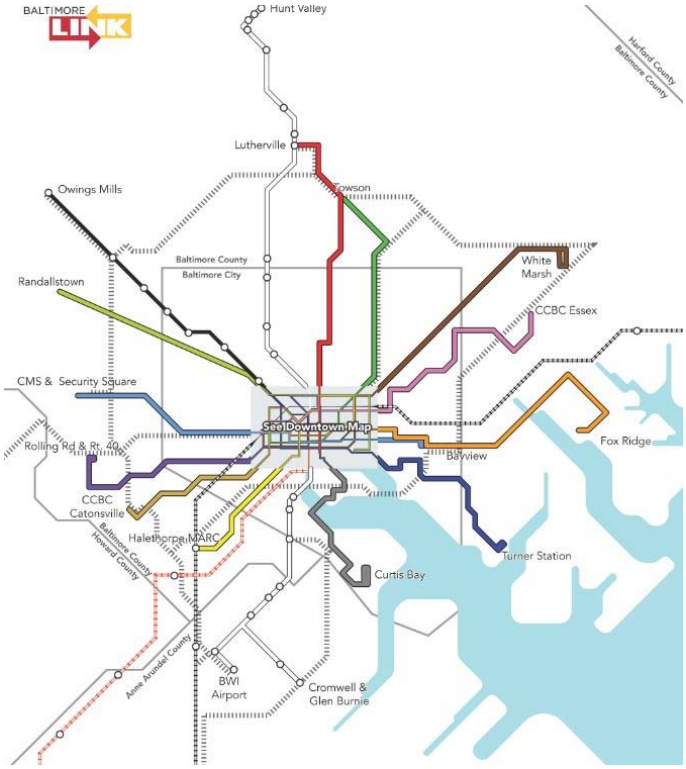
CITYLINK: 12 NEW HIGH-FREQUENCY, COLOR-CODED ROUTES



WHAT: 12 new high-frequency, color-coded bus routes that will improve reliability and better connect riders to Amtrak, Commuter Bus, Light RailLink, MARC Train, Metro SubwayLink and other services in Baltimore and the surrounding suburbs. In Baltimore City, new CityLink routes will run every 10 minutes during peak periods and every 15 minutes during the midday. The new CityLink buses will be specially branded and travel on color-coded routes with easy-to-read signage and detailed maps that will make the system easier to use. The CityLink bus routes, Light RailLink and Metro SubwayLink will form an interconnected, one-transfer system. On the new system, a rider will be able to get from any stop to any other stop with only one transfer.

WHY: To increase speed, efficiency and reliability of transit in Baltimore.

WHEN: The MTA will immediately begin an extensive public outreach effort to educate citizens on the elements of the plan and seek their feedback and input. Extensive public outreach efforts also will continue before the June 2017 launch of CityLink and the completely redesigned bus network.

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EXPRESS BUSLINK: 5 NEW SUBURB-TO-SUBURB ROUTES TO JOB CENTERS

WHAT: Following a series of public hearings in early 2016, MTA plans to implement five new Express BusLink routes to greatly improve suburb-to-suburb connectivity. The recommended Express BusLink Routes 100, 101, 102, 105 and 107 will provide significantly faster connections between BWI, Owings Mills, Security Square Mall, Towson and White Marsh without the necessity of traveling through downtown Baltimore and provide a new express connection to Odenton MARC Station near Fort Meade.

- Express BusLink 100 will provide all-day, bi-directional express service between Owings Mills and BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport/BWI Rail Station
- Express BusLink 101 will provide all-day, bi-directional service between Towson, Pikesville and the Owings Mills Metro Subway Station
- Express BusLink 102 will provide bi-directional express service between the White Marsh Park and Ride Lot, Towson Town Center and the Lutherville Light Rail Station
- Express BusLink 105 will provide all-day, bi-directional express service between the White Marsh Park and Ride Lot and BWI Airport/BWI Business District Station
- Express BusLink 107 will provide express service between the Patapsco Light RailLink Station and the Fort Meade area (Odenton MARC Station) during peak hours only

WHY: Connecting to job markets is an integral part of the plan and will be accomplished through the addition of five new Express BusLink services to improve suburb-to-suburb job connections.

WHEN: The MTA will immediately begin an extensive public outreach effort to educate citizens on the elements of the plan and seek their feedback and input. Public workshops will begin in November and continue before the June 2016 launch of the new Express BusLink service.

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LOCALLINK REVAMPS AND UNIFIES THE BUS SYSTEM IN BALTIMORE

WHAT: Under the new interconnected transit system known as BaltimoreLink, the current local bus system will be redesigned and renamed LocalLink. It will fill in the gaps to provide full system access and connectivity from neighborhoods and communities to CityLink, Light RailLink and Metro SubwayLink.

WHY: To help create a more efficient and unified transit system that will better connect Baltimore residents to jobs, healthcare, entertainment and other places they want to go.

WHEN: The MTA will immediately begin an extensive public outreach effort to educate citizens on the elements of the plan and seek their feedback and input. Public workshops will begin in November and continue before the June 2016 launch of the new Express BusLink service. Extensive public outreach efforts also will continue before the June 2017 launch of CityLink and the completely redesigned bus network.

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CLEARER SIGNAGE, REDUCED CLUTTER, LOCATION-SPECIFIC INFO

WHAT: A standardized signage template for all transportation providers will convey the idea of a simple, convenient and efficient transit system by reducing clutter at the stop.

WHY: Transit signage clutter has increased incrementally over decades. As transit services have increased, so has the signage. Well-designed signage and branding have the power to simplify transit trips and make riders feel comfortable and safe. Location-specific information will be in place at each bus stop to make transit decisions convenient and easy. This is an opportunity to wipe the slate clean with a new system that makes it easier for travelers to understand and use.

WHEN: Full implementation by June 2017

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ENHANCED ACCESS FOR WEST BALTIMORE RESIDENTS TO JOB CENTERS

WHAT: As a down payment on the massive improvements coming in the months and years ahead, the Governor announced enhanced service for West Baltimore residents on the QuickBus 40. The enhanced service will increase frequency and reliability on the line between the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid in Baltimore County and City Hall in Baltimore City. Amenities include the installation of new shelters and new colored destination signs on buses. Dedicated staff will work to keep the buses clean and well maintained.

WHY: West Baltimore and the adjacent suburb of Baltimore County are major population and job centers that can benefit from more reliable and frequent public transit. Greater transit frequency and enhanced service quality and amenities will support increased job growth and economic opportunity while decreasing reliance on automobiles.

WHEN: October 25, 2015

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TRANSITWAYS FOR DEDICATED BUS LANES

WHAT: Capital funding to support the planning and design of north-south and east-west dedicated bus lanes to provide efficient, high-speed through-town movement. These would complement the currently existing bus-only lanes on Lombard and Pratt streets.

WHY: Bus-only lanes have been shown to minimize the delays associated with auto traffic, particularly during rush hours. These lanes offer safety and improved reliability, speed and on-time performance of public transit vehicles. Transitways also create pedestrian/business friendly atmospheres.

WHEN: Full implementation by June 2017

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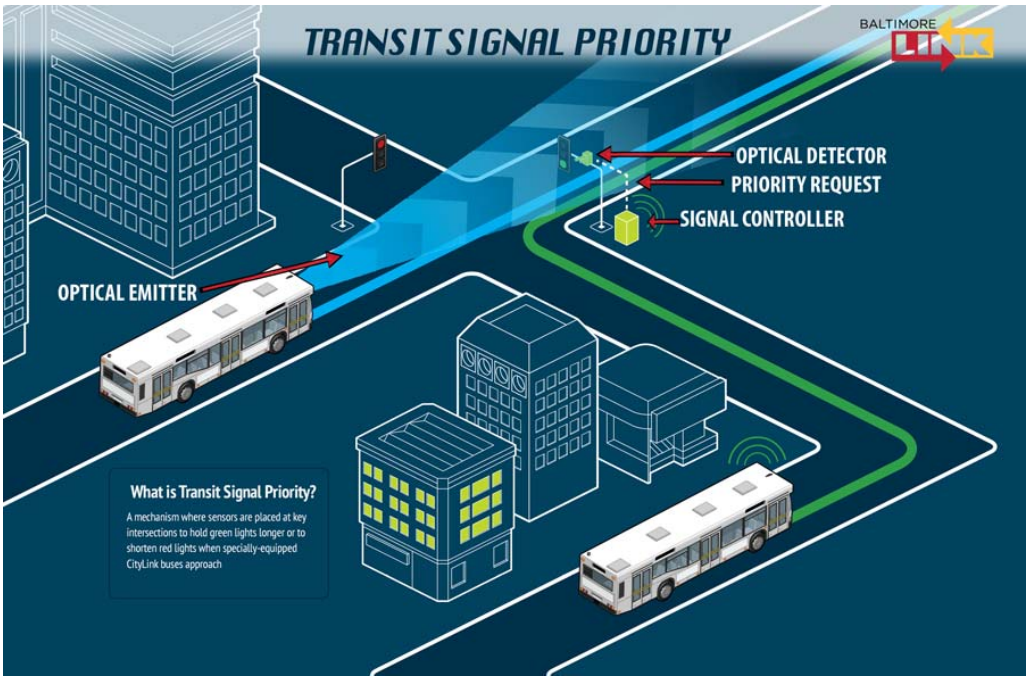
TRANSIT SIGNAL PRIORITY AT KEY INTERSECTIONS



WHAT: Transit Signal Priority reduces dwell time at traffic signals for transit vehicles by holding green lights longer or shortening red lights to expedite travel through intersections. This helps to shorten travel times, improve schedule adherence and increase the reliability and speed of the entire bus system. Transit Signal Priority can be implemented at individual intersections or across corridors or entire street systems.

WHY: To reduce travel times, improve schedule adherence and increase reliability and speed of the bus system, leading to improved customer satisfaction. Transit Signal Priority can maximize reliability, speed and efficiency through the smart use of technology.

WHEN: June 2017

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BALTIMORE LINK

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SIGNIFICANT SITE IMPROVEMENTS AT MULTI-MODAL TRANSIT HUBS

WHAT: New transit hub investments that will accommodate bus bays, new shelters, improved transfer pathways, wayfinding, improved pedestrian and bike access as well as other passenger amenities at:

- West Baltimore MARC Station
- Penn Station
- Penn North Metro Station
- Johns Hopkins Bayview
- Lexington Market
- Broadway North (Aisquith and Harford/Broadway and North Avenue)

WHY: Transit hubs are a key element for linking the disparate transit routes and making the system easier to understand and use. Transit hubs are powerful catalysts for development, with the ability to attract new businesses and residents who benefit from increased commuting opportunities.

WHEN: June 2017

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IMPROVED CONNECTIONS TO CENTRAL MARYLAND JOB CENTERS

WHAT: These improved Commuter Bus connections and expanded service to Arundel Mills, Fort Meade, the National Business Park and the National Security Agency are part of a comprehensive plan to improve transportation in the area through policy, operational and infrastructure investments.

WHY: Regional job centers have migrated to the suburbs, making it imperative for public transportation to provide a variety of services that connect people to employment centers.

WHEN: July 2016

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1 ENHANCED / 2 NEW COMMUTER BUS ROUTES TO REGIONAL JOB CENTERS

WHAT: New and enhanced "reverse-commute" routes will connect Baltimore City residents to regional employers.

- New service between Baltimore and Aberdeen/Havre de Grace
- New service between Baltimore and Annapolis/Kent Island
- Enhanced service between Baltimore and Columbia

WHY: With significant job growth occurring outside the Baltimore City limits, it makes sense for public transportation to realign itself to more effectively connect city residents to those regional employers. The addition or enhancement of Commuter Bus routes promotes equal opportunity for all Maryland citizens to gain access to the employment of their choice.

WHEN: January 2017

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EXPANDED SUNDAY LIGHT RAILLINK SERVICE, NEW SAFEGUARDS

WHAT: Light RailLink Sunday hours will expand from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. to 6 a.m.-midnight. The Howard Street Improvement Project also will be implemented to increase rider and pedestrian safety. Light RailLink audible and visual safety alerts will be installed at 16 intersections in the Central Business District to alert patrons when a train is approaching.

WHY: Those who depend on Light RailLink to get to work have been forced to make alternative arrangements for Sunday travel. Increased availability of Light RailLink service on Sundays will enhance access to Baltimore's sporting events, museums and other cultural activities, as well as to MARC Train service, Amtrak and BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport. The extra safety measures on Light RailLink will minimize the potential for pedestrians and vehicle conflicts.

WHEN: June 2017

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"LAST-MILE" INVESTMENTS, CHARM CITY CIRCULATOR SUPPORT

WHAT: To improve first-mile and last-mile access from transit, MTA will partner with Baltimore City to install bike-share docks at targeted MARC Train, Light RailLink and Metro SubwayLink stations. In addition, there will be new bike racks installed at every MARC, Light RailLink and Metro SubwayLink station in Maryland. A new MARC Bike Car will be put into operation in order to provide a biking option for every Penn Line weekend train. Additionally, funding to support Charm City Circulator service will be implemented in coordination with new MTA CityLink routes.

WHY: Transit systems that are truly customer-focused do their best to integrate as seamlessly as possible every mode of transportation to get riders where they want to go.

WHEN: Bike Car – October 31, 2015
Charm City Circulator – July 2016
Bike Racks – October 2016

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ENHANCED SAFETY, SECURITY AND CLEANLINESS

WHAT: More transit police will be hired and placed on and around transit to deter crime and help riders feel more secure when riding public transportation. New initiatives to reduce trash, eating and drinking on MTA vehicles will be implemented, with enhanced MTA oversight to ensure that vehicles are kept clean.

WHY: The presence of police officers often gives transit riders a better feeling of security. And riders appreciate traveling in clean transit vehicles. Riding in a clean vehicle is an integral part of feeling that the transit system itself is looking out for its riders.

WHEN: June 2016

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CAR-SHARING AND PRIVATE SECTOR INNOVATION

WHAT: MTA will issue a Request for Proposals for car-sharing services that would be available at MTA rail stations throughout the Baltimore region. MTA also will issue a Request for Information seeking a private-sector partnership for a data-driven, pop-up bus service. Express shuttles with limited stops that offer efficient and flexible trips also will be considered as part of this initiative.

WHY: Consumer demands for travel convenience and efficiency are evolving as fast as the technology that makes it possible. MTA can help lead the way in offering world-class customer service through partnerships with these technologically savvy transportation leaders.

WHEN: June 2017

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