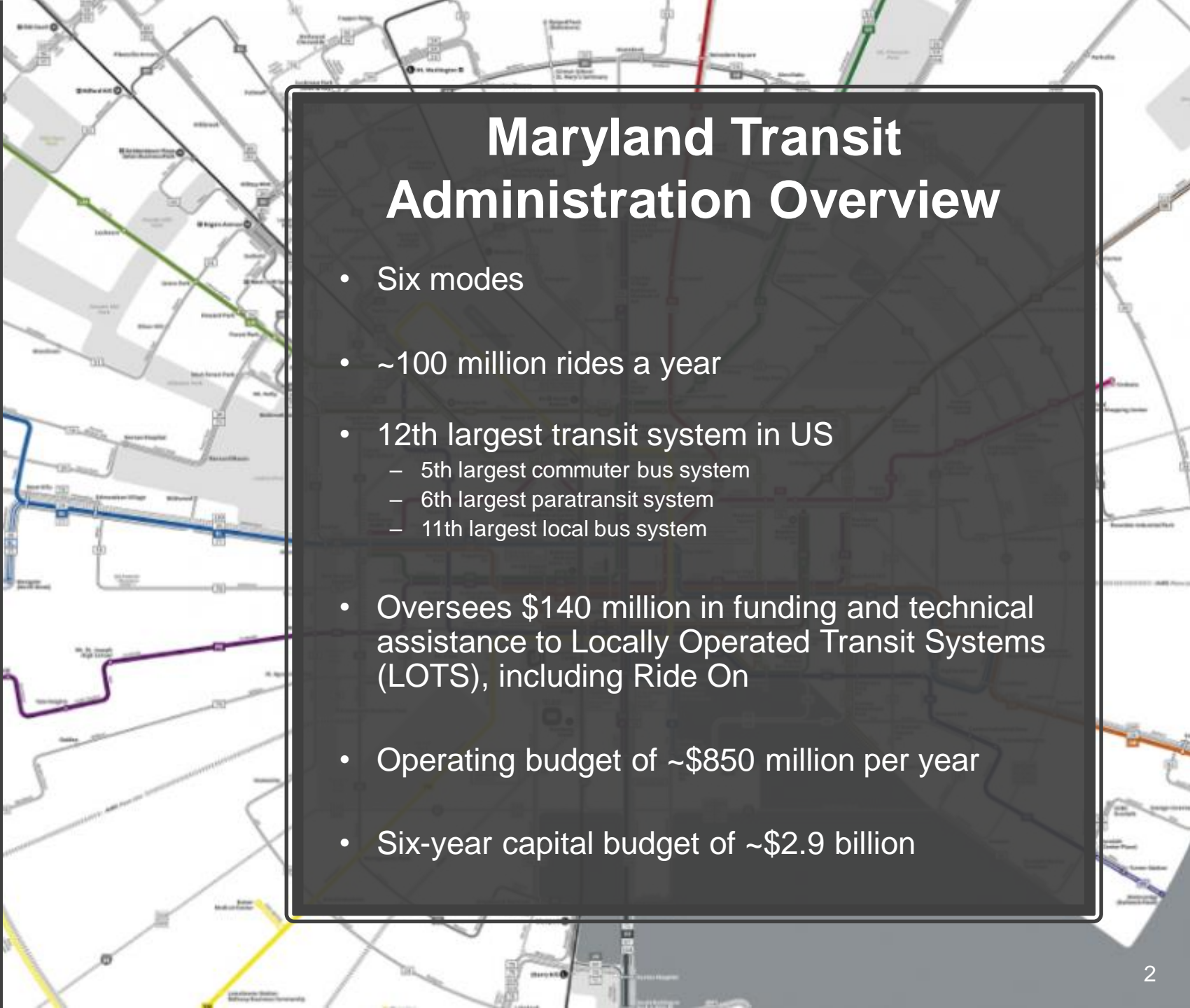


# Montgomery County Civic Federation

Kevin Quinn, Administrator  
November 9, 2020





# Maryland Transit Administration Overview

- Six modes
- ~100 million rides a year
- 12th largest transit system in US
  - 5th largest commuter bus system
  - 6th largest paratransit system
  - 11th largest local bus system
- Oversees \$140 million in funding and technical assistance to Locally Operated Transit Systems (LOTS), including Ride On
- Operating budget of ~\$850 million per year
- Six-year capital budget of ~\$2.9 billion





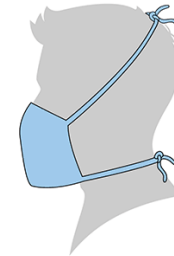
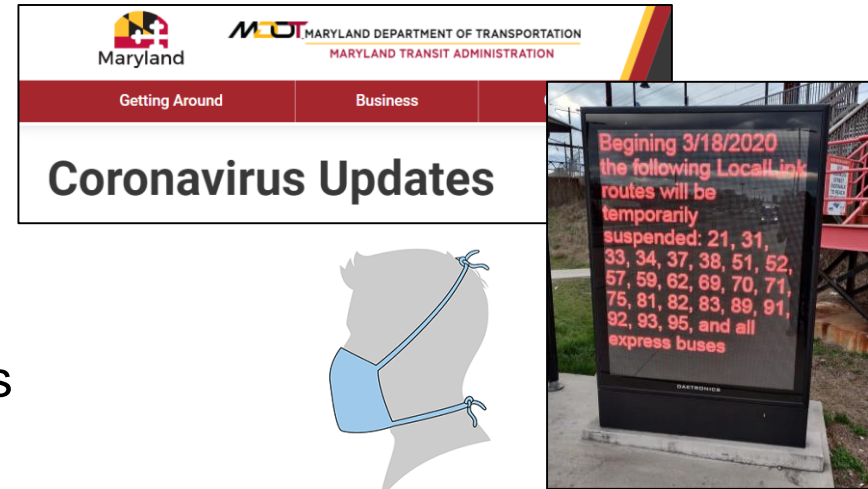
# COVID-19 Updates



# COVID-19 Emergence and Initial Reactions



- Core Bus
  - Implementation of rear-door boarding
  - Suspension of Express routes
  - Saturday schedule with enhanced service on select routes
    - Focus on hospitals, food distribution sites, and other employers critical to the supply chain
- Metro and Light Rail
  - Saturday schedule
- Mobility
  - Essential travel encouraged
- MARC and Commuter Bus
  - “R” and “S” schedules
- Essential travel only and face covering requirement
- Updates communicated to public at [mta.maryland.gov/coronavirus](https://mta.maryland.gov/coronavirus)









# Service Restoration

- After mid-March service adjustment, service was restored to regular schedule on July 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Front door boarding and cash fare collection on buses resumed

## MDOT MTA COVID-19 Service Guide

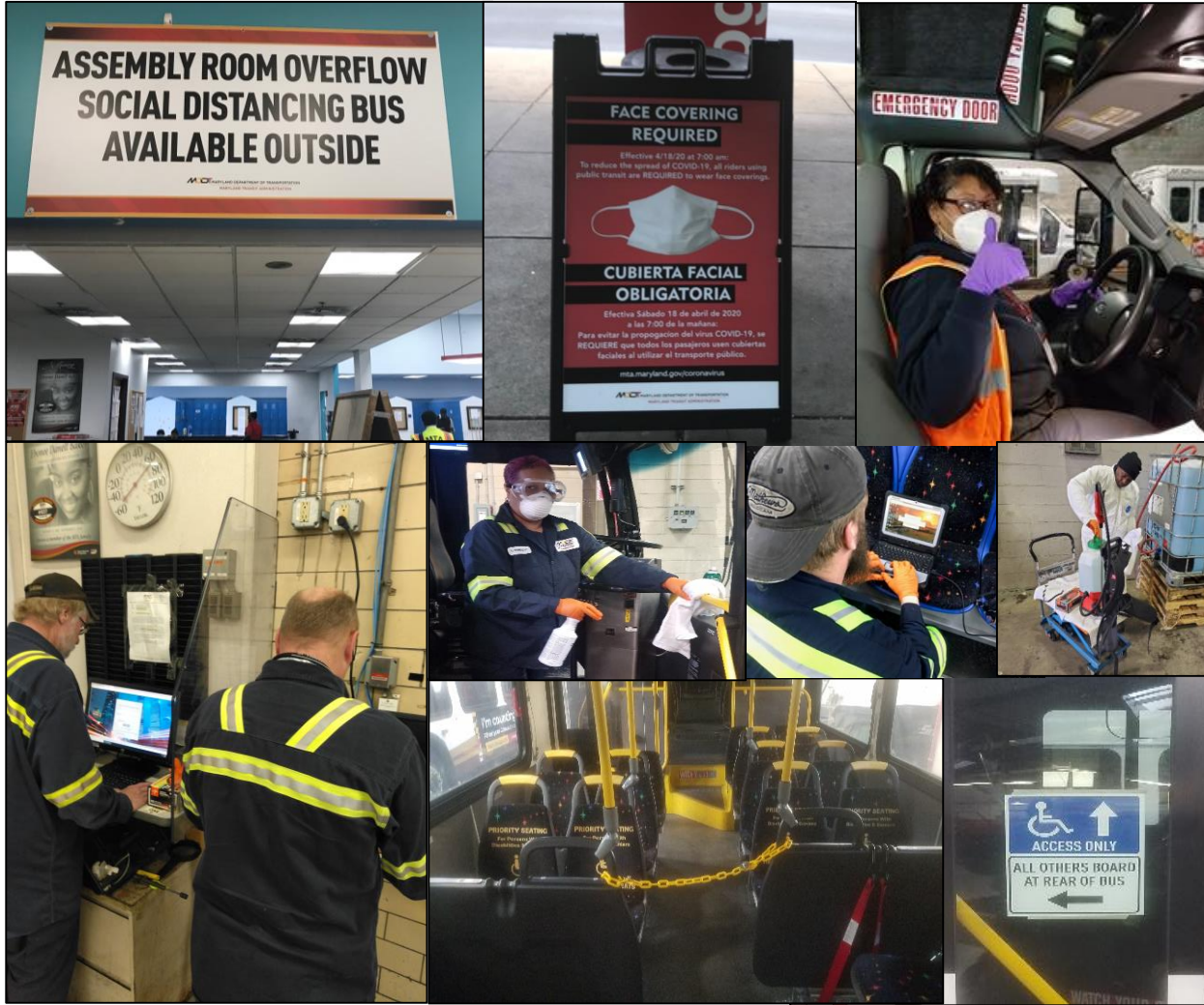
### PHASE 2: INCREASED SERVICE

#### HOW OUR SERVICES ARE AFFECTED

	<b>Local Bus:</b> Effective July 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regular summer weekday/weekend schedule for City and Local routes</li><li>• Local 38 and 92 remain suspended</li><li>• Express Bus service remains suspended</li></ul>		<b>MARC Train:</b> Effective July 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regular weekday/weekend schedule</li></ul>
	<b>Light Rail:</b> Effective July 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regular weekday/weekend schedule</li></ul>		<b>Commuter Bus:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enhanced “S” schedule begins July 13</li><li>• Regular service begins July 27</li></ul>
	<b>Metro Subway:</b> Effective July 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regular weekday/weekend schedule</li></ul>		<b>Mobility:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regular service continues</li></ul>
<b>FACE COVERINGS REQUIRED FOR ALL PASSENGERS</b>			



# Protecting Riders and Employees

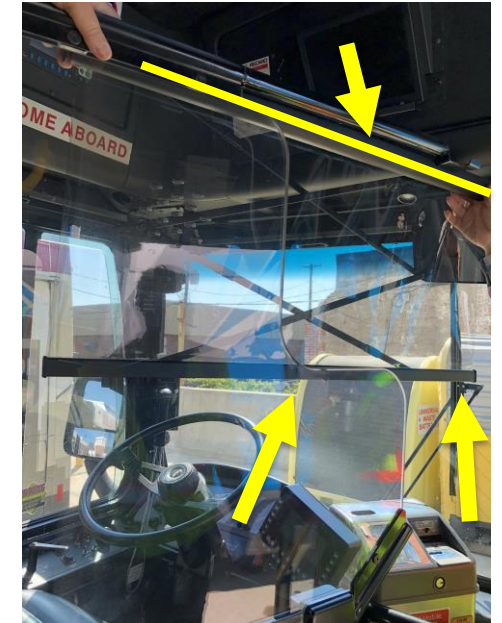
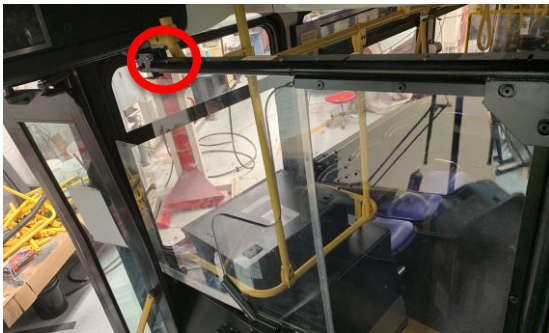


- Actions taken to date:
  - Disinfecting and fogging of vehicles
  - Power washing of rail stations
  - Initially implemented rear-dooring boarding on buses
    - Suspended cash fare collection
    - Restricted front seating
  - Distribution of PPE to front-line employees
  - COVID-19 screening upon entry to MDOT MTA facilities
  - Social distancing buses for operator divisions
  - Dividers between workstations at MDOT MTA facilities
  - Internal and external communications to ensure compliance with face covering requirement



# COVID-19 Bus Modifications

- Bus Maintenance team designed and fabricated several bus modifications to mitigate the spread of COVID-19
- 4 buses currently being piloted in revenue service
- Outfitted with the following:
  - Operator's Barrier Latch Modification
  - Operator's Barrier Curtain
  - Passenger Seat Partitions
  - Seat Retrofits from Cloth to Plastic
  - Electronic Air Ionizer



Transit agencies nationwide are facing service reductions due to revenue impacts

### Transportation managers adapt to major changes



By Matt Murphy / State House News Service  
Posted Aug 6, 2020 at 5:00 PM



Metro, losing \$2M a day, faces 'looming crisis'

The New York Times

The Coronavirus Outbreak > **LIVE** Latest Updates Maps and Cases Vaccine Tracker F.A.Q. Markets & Economy

*N.Y. Subway, Facing a \$16 Billion Deficit, Plans for Deep Cuts*

*Public Transit Officials Fear Virus Could Send Systems Into 'Death Spiral'*

Sections

The Washington Post  
Democracy Dies in Darkness

Get 1 year for \$29

Transportation

# From Metro funding crisis to telework's rise, transportation is in historic turmoil

TIME

CORONAVIRUS STATS PLAGUE ELECTION REIMAGINING POLICING ECONOMIC IMPACT NEWSLETTER

HEALTH

## COVID-19 Has Been 'Apocalyptic' for Public Transit. Will Congress Offer More Help?

August 6, 2020

## Without Emergency Funding, Doomsday Cuts Threaten to Upend Transit Riders' Lives

MASS TRANSIT SUBSCRIBE MAGAZINE ADVERTISE CONTACT US SUPPLIER'S DIRECTORY LOG IN REGISTER

COVID-19 NEWS BUS RAIL TECHNOLOGY SAFETY & SECURITY ALT. MOBILITY MANAGEMENT TRANSIT BIDS CAREER CENTER

## MD: Maryland congressional delegation requests \$32 billion more relief funding for U.S. transit systems

Maryland's congressional delegation is asking for an additional \$32 billion in coronavirus relief funding for U.S. public transit systems -- and for a larger share to go to transit systems serving mid-sized cities, such as Baltimore.



# MDOT Revenues Overview

- COVID-19 has resulted in a major decline of Marylanders' use of transportation services resulting in a major decline of revenues to the Transportation Trust Fund
- Early estimates show a revenue decline of \$550 million for FY20 and between \$490 to \$560 million for FY21
  - The FY20 funding gap was covered by CARES Act funding, spending reductions, and MDOT's reserve fund
    - MDOT MTA received \$392M in CARES Act funding that has been critical to maintaining service for essential employees throughout the COVID-19 pandemic
    - CARES Act funding was fully expended by September 2020
- FY21 will require MDOT to reduce its operating budget by \$98 million and reduce the FY21-26 capital budget by \$1.9 billion

# MDOT MTA Advocacy

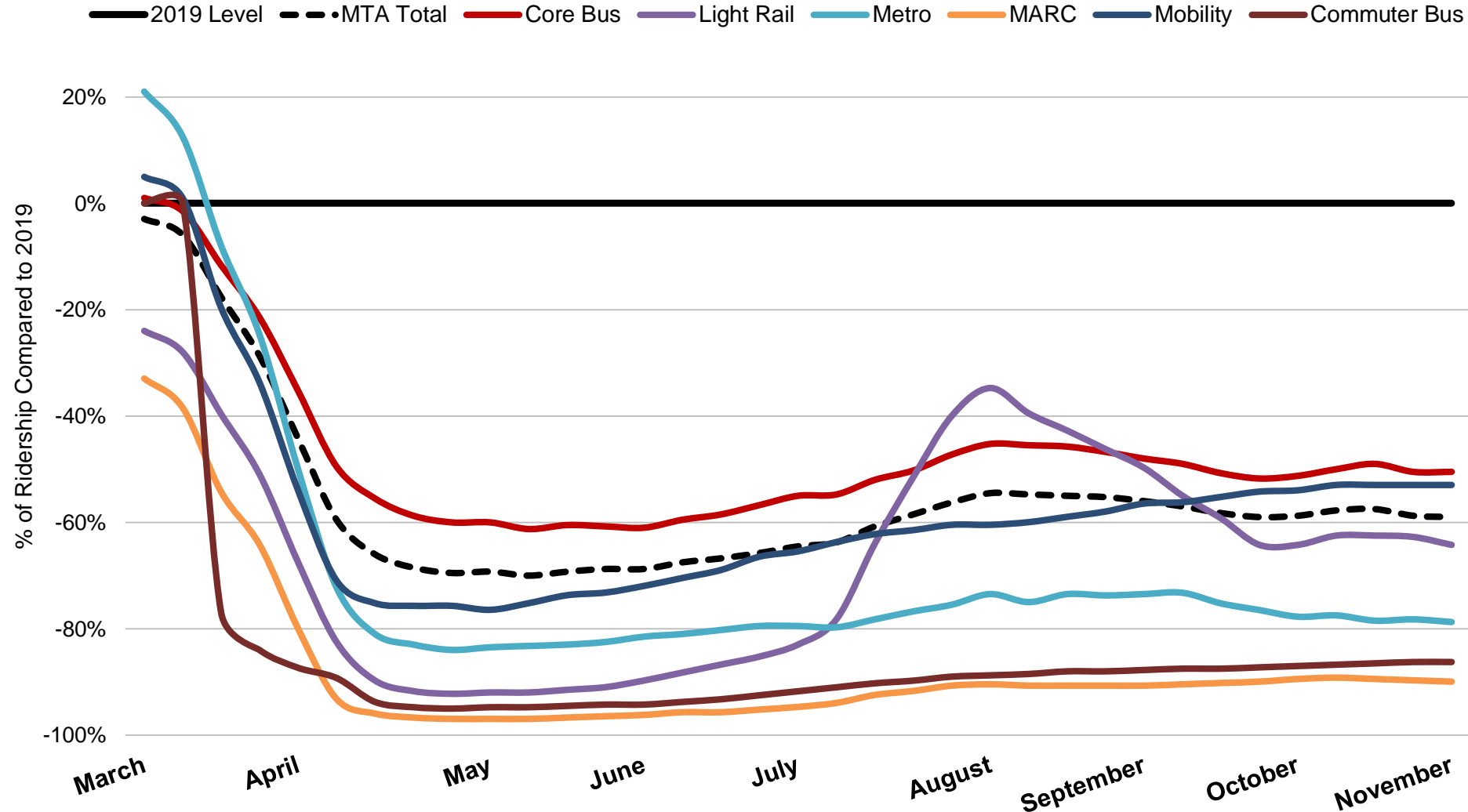
- MDOT MTA has been an active advocate for additional federal funding for transit including:
  - A July 6, 2020 joint letter with 26 other transit CEOs to Congressional leadership requesting funding and highlighting the consequences of failing to provide funding for transit
  - An August 6, 2020 joint letter with APTA and 23 other commuter rail CEOs to Congressional leadership requesting additional funding
  - A September 23, 2020 joint letter with more than 70 organizations to the Maryland Congressional Delegation in support of \$32 billion in additional transit funding
- Frequent advocacy to the Maryland Congressional delegation urging their support for additional funding for transit





# Ridership Update

Ridership Compared to Previous Year (Rolling 4-Week Averages)



- Overall ridership is down approximately 60% as of early November:
  - Core Bus down 50%
  - Mobility down 55%
  - Light Rail down 65%
  - Metro down 80%
  - Commuter Bus down 85%
  - MARC down 90%

# Service Adjustments

- Press release issued on September 30<sup>th</sup> that Commuter Bus will operate on the published "S" schedule for all routes, which effectively reduces service by 45%
  - Also distributed via social media posts, website, e-blasts, and rider alerts
  - Exceptions are Route 320 which has seen less of a ridership drop and will operate regular service, and Route 201 which will operate odd numbered trips
- MARC will operate an enhanced "R" schedule with limited supplemental service for the Penn and Brunswick Lines
- Went into effect on Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>



# Commuter Bus Passengers Per Trip

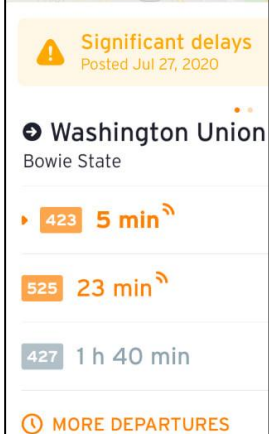
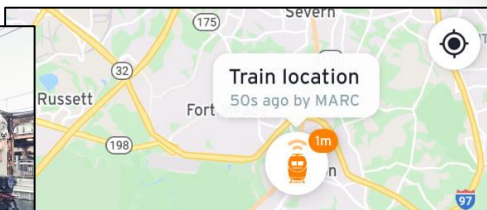
- **30 out of 36 routes (83%)** have 3 or less passengers per trip as of August 2020
- Systemwide, passengers per trip declined from **21 to 3 (87% reduction)** between August 2019 and August 2020

Route	Aug-19	Aug-20	% Change
201	12	3	-73%
203	16	3	-79%
204	21	0	-98%
210	7	3	-57%
215	5	4	-17%
220	21	1	-94%
230	24	1	-95%
240	20	2	-89%
250	23	2	-92%
260	21	1	-93%
305	21	2	-93%
310	20	6	-68%
315	22	1	-96%
320	11	8	-27%
325	15	1	-92%
335	23	2	-93%
345	22	1	-93%
410	19	5	-73%

Route	Aug-19	Aug-20	% Change
411	20	6	-69%
420	16	6	-63%
505	21	3	-86%
515	26	3	-89%
610	28	3	-90%
620	28	3	-88%
630	26	2	-94%
640	35	3	-90%
650	35	3	-92%
705	27	3	-88%
715	25	2	-93%
725	23	2	-90%
735	24	1	-95%
810	18	1	-94%
820	26	2	-93%
830	24	2	-91%
840	21	2	-88%
850	21	2	-91%

# Rider-Focused Technological Advancements

- Real-time launched on MARC Train Service
  - Integration with Transit app and station signage
  - Also available on core bus and Commuter Bus
  - Light Rail currently in development
- CharmPass Mobile Ticketing
  - Highest rated mobile ticketing app among 20 US agencies
  - Over 3.4 million purchases and \$20 million in revenue since launch
- Transit App
  - Approximately 80,000 active monthly users in September 2020



Trying out this commute to Baltimore on the MARC today. I was nervous, but the CharmPass app makes it so easy by allowing you to buy and keep bus and train tickets on your phone. WMATA needs to get on MTA's level!

