MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
BALTIMORE CITY

RAISE Transit Priority Project

VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

15% DESIGN MILESTONE

MARCH 30, 2022

RAISE
BALTIMORE
TRANSIT PRIORITY PROJECT

WELCOME!

- This virtual meeting is enabled by the zoom platform.
- Do your best to be in a **quiet, stationary environment**.
- You can choose **side-by-side speaker view.**
- Use the **“raise hand,” chat and reaction functions** to communicate throughout the meeting.
- Remain on “**mute**” until the Q&A Session. If you would like to speak at this time, **raise your hand** and **unmute yourself** when called upon.

Introductions & Roles

PROJECT LEADS

MDOT
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

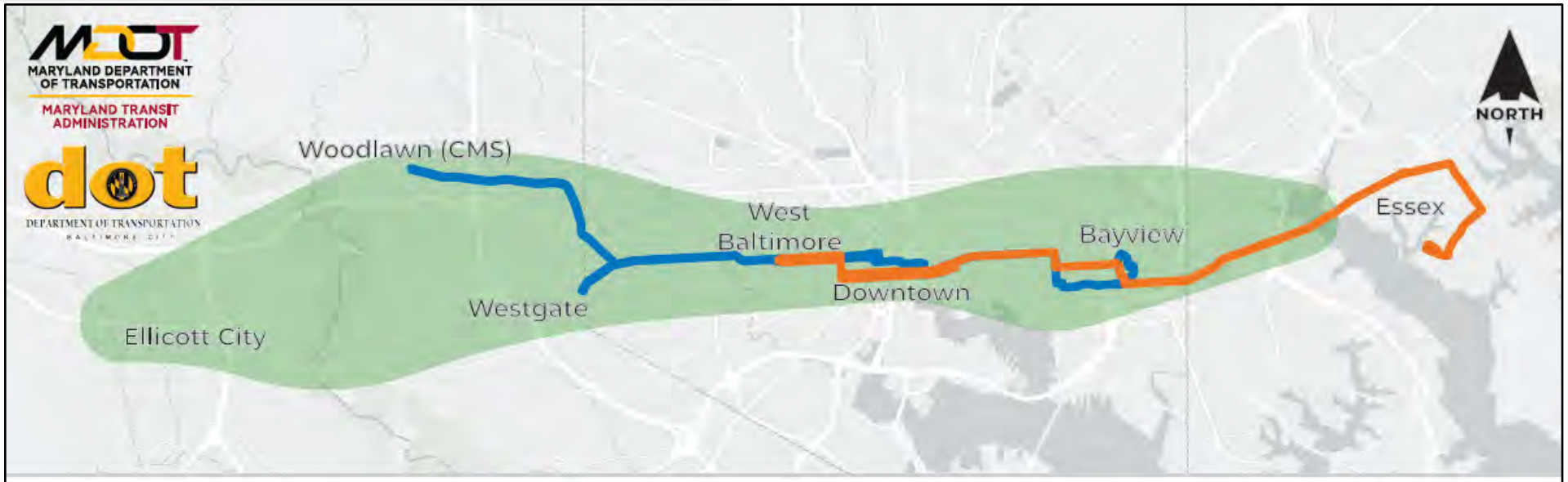
dot
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
BALTIMORE CITY

PUBLIC OUTREACH
Transit Riders
Pedestrians & Bicyclists
Schools

COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL
Community Associations
Advocacy Groups
Other Key Stakeholders

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE
State & Local Government
Elected Officials

East-West Corridor Efforts



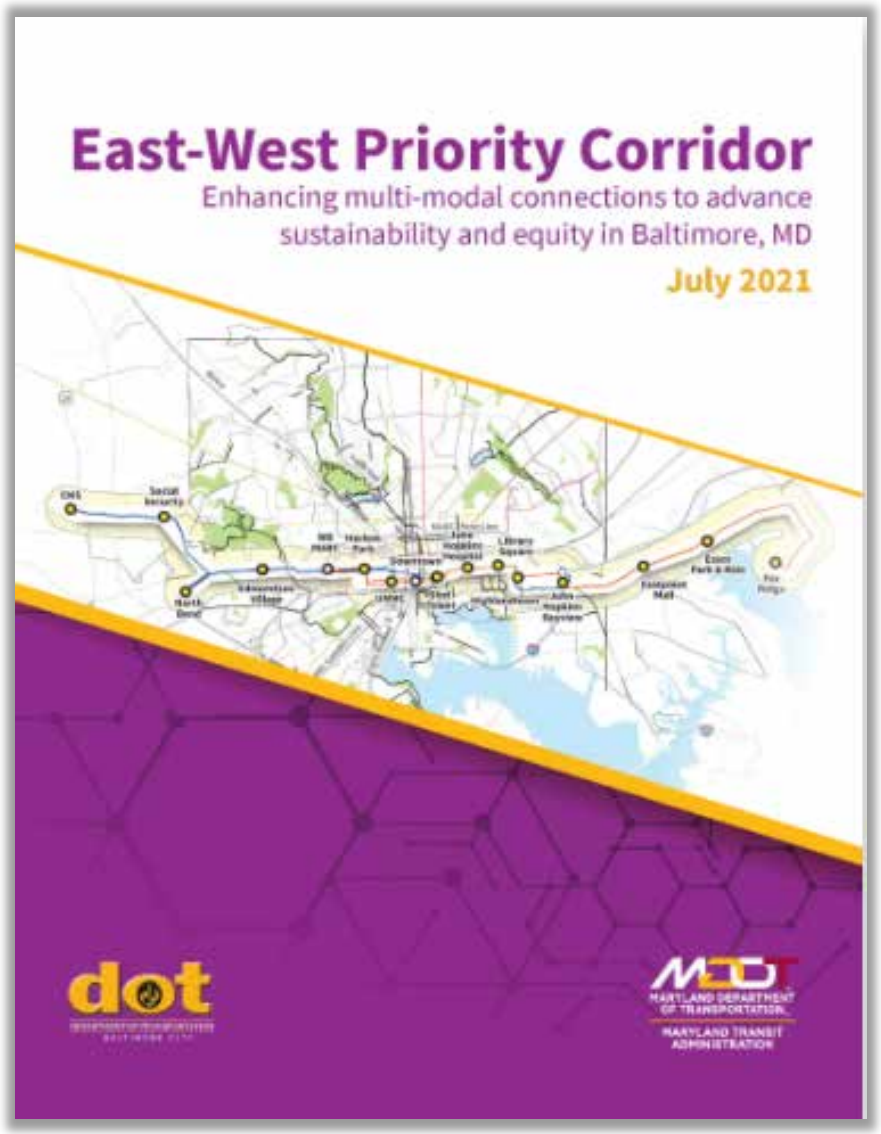
Short Term (1–2 Years)	**MDOT MTA Annual Service Changes**	MDOT MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION / MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION	*MDOT MTA regularly evaluates route alignments, scheduling and bus stop locations during three yearly service changes. Major service changes occur each Fall. Reliable East-West service is a priority for its annual service planning and a goal of the Regional Transit Plan is to 'introduce limited-stop service where appropriate'.*
Mid Term (3–5 Years)	CityLink Blue / CityLink Orange	RAISE BALTIMORE	*$50M investment of City, State, and Federal dollars to add dedicated bus lanes, transit signal priority, real-time signage, sidewalk, and accessibility improvements for the CityLink Blue and CityLink Orange.*
Long Term (5-10 Years)		Connecting Our Future — A Regional Transit Plan for Central Maryland — East – West Corridor	*Future transit service with dedicated guideway and additional infrastructure. Bus rapid transit, light rail, and heavy rail alternatives are under consideration across multiple alignments.*

RAISE Grant Status

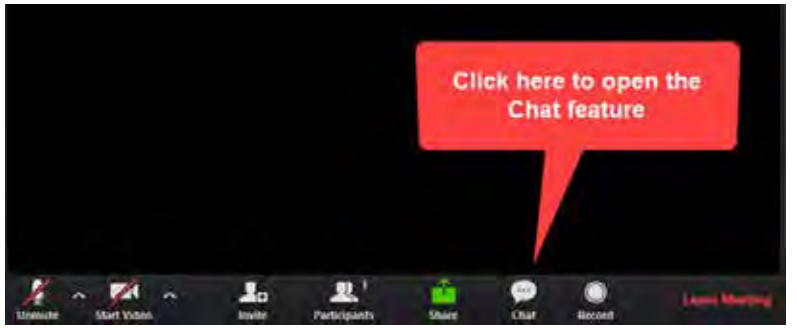
View RAISE GRANT documents at:

RAISEBaltimore.com

Project Narrative (PDF)
Benefit-Cost-Analysis (PDF)
Letters of Support (PDF)
News Coverage Report November 2021



RAISE – Chat Question



What **transportation improvements** do you think are <u>needed</u> within the RAISE project corridor?

(Please put your answers in the CHAT box.)

RAISE Project Corridor

- ✓ 2 of the highest-ridership routes in MDOT MTA transit system; more than 9,000 trips each on an average weekday (Fall 2019)
- ✓ Nearly 3x higher than systemwide ridership average for all core bus routes
- ✓ **More than 20% of bus transfers in the BaltimoreLink bus system are on this corridor** (2018 MDOT MTA Core Bus O-D Survey)

RAISE Project Corridor

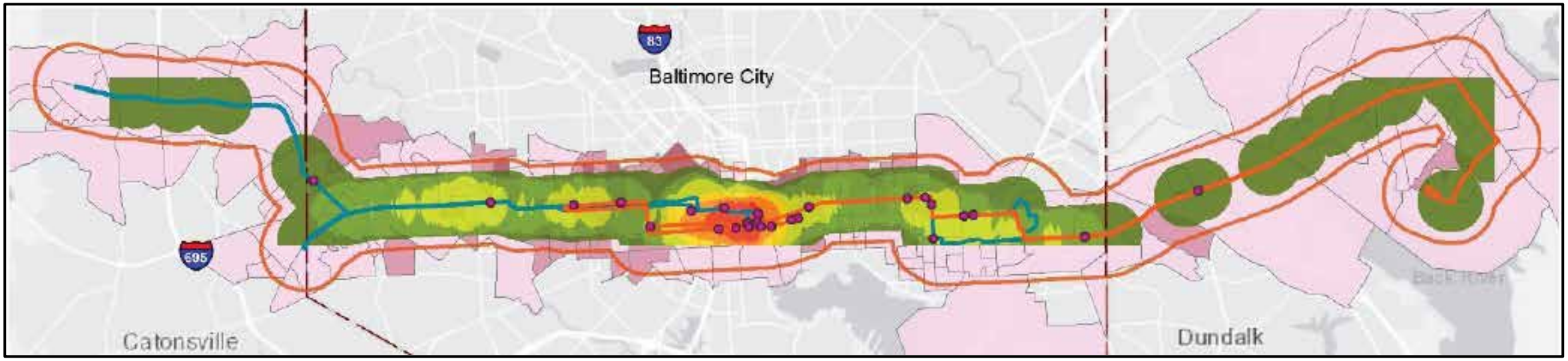
- Nearly a quarter of a million people live within ½ mile of the corridor;
  - Nearly 2/3 are people of color
  - More than ¼ live in households without access to a car
- Average of 156 wheelchair users per month boarded bus stops on the corridor (Fall/Winter 2019 and 2020)
- More than 45,000 paratransit trips originated within ¼ mile of stops on the corridor (February 2020)

Key Statistics within a Quarter Mile of the East-West Priority Corridor

Buffer	Total Population	Total Households (HH)	HHs in Poverty	Households without Personal Vehicle	Black, Hispanic, Asian, Indigenous Population	Jobs
¼ Mile	160,634	62,720	12,788 (20%)	17,326 (28%)	103,372 (64%)	88,139
½ Mile	223,334	86,835	16,999 (20%)	23,539 (27%)	145,034 (65%)	189,188

Table 5: Key Statistics Source: American Community Survey, 2018 ; Longitudinal Employer Household Dynamics Survey, 2018

RAISE Project Corridor



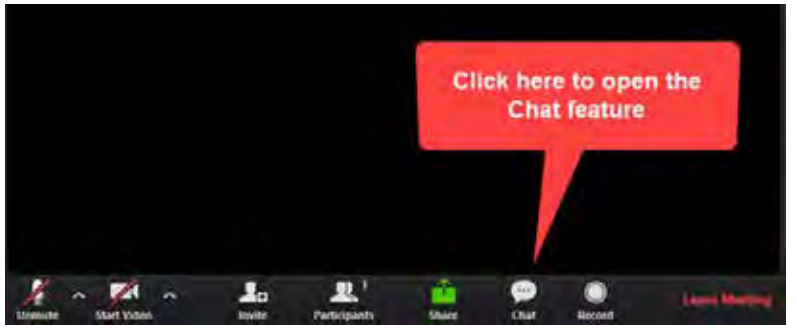
Crash Data (avg. per year, 2017-2019)

- More than 1,200 crashes
- 2.6 fatal crashes
- 17 serious injury crashes
- 51 injury crashes

Bus Crash Data (2019)

- 111 bus crashes occurred on the corridor where **Dedicated Bus Lanes** will be constructed

RAISE – Chat Question



What is your <u>vision</u> for the RAISE Project corridor?

(Please put your answers in the CHAT box.)

RAISE Project Objectives

- **Improve** transit reliability, accessibility and comfort
- **Attract** new riders to transit
- **Connect** emerging development to regional transit
- **Improve** safety and accessibility
- **Create** safe cycling connections
- **Strengthen** neighborhood revitalization efforts
- **Align** efforts with MDOT MTA's Sustainability Program & statewide climate change adaptation efforts

RAISE Poll

Please tell us which way **you usually travel** along the RAISE corridor?

Renderings

Edmondson Avenue East of Old Frederick Road

RAISE BALTIMORE
TRANSIT PRIORITY PROJECT>>

Dedicated Bus Lanes (DBLs)

- **What are DBLs?**
  - Convert travel or parking lanes to bus-only lanes identified by pavement markings, red paint, and signage
- **Where would DBLs be installed?**
  - Along at least 10 lane-miles of CityLink Blue & CityLink Orange bus routes
- **What are the benefits of DBLs?**
  - Reduced transit delay & conflicts between buses and vehicles
  - Increased on-time performance
  - Allows shared use with bicycles

Potential time savings in RAISE Project corridor:

- up to 1,050 hours of travel time savings for transit riders/day & up to 262,387 hours/year

Projected crash reductions in RAISE Project corridor:

- 10 miles of DBLs projected to lead to reduction of about about 13 bus crashes per year

Transit Signal Priority (TSP)

What is TSP?

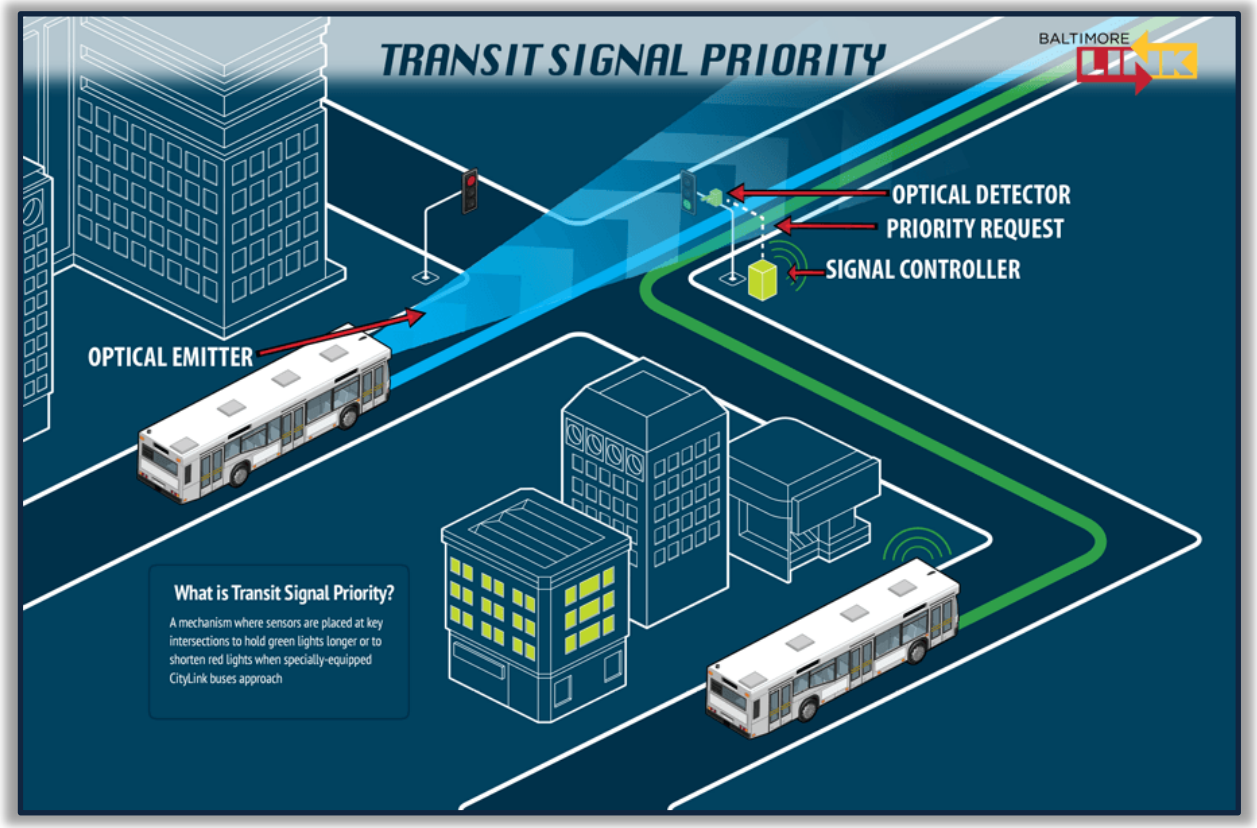
- Traffic control for faster transit
- A green light will be held longer, or a red light will be made shorter so buses can pass through intersection

Where would TSP be implemented?

- Along at least 10 lane-miles of **Dedicated Bus Lanes**

What are the benefits of TSP?

- Faster bus travel through intersections
- Improved reliability
- Reduced transit delay
- Increased on-time performance



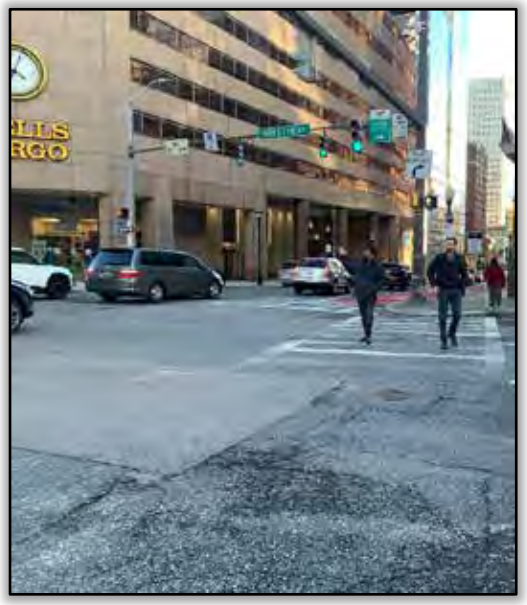
*Run times dropped up to 20% along certain segments with **TSP** in peak hours (2018)*

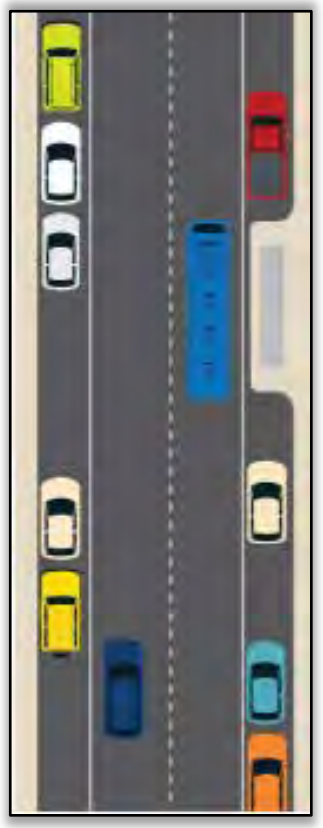
Bus Stop Enhancement & Hubs

- **Improvements at 100+ bus stops**
  - ADA compliance upgrades
  - Bus shelters
  - Benches
  - Trash cans
  - Pedestrian lighting
- **Wayfinding & real-time signs at high-transfer activity 'hubs'**
  - Bus route destinations, frequencies, estimated arrival times
  - Buses have GPS systems to share real-time data through a mobile app

Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety

- Reduce pedestrian crossing distance
- Trees, lighting and other sidewalk improvements
- ADA Improvements
- Bicycle infrastructure between Downtown Baltimore and West Baltimore MARC commuter rail station





Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations

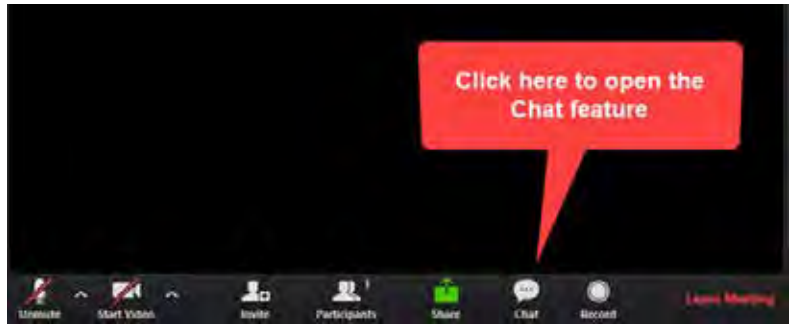
- **RAISE** Project corridor intersects five MD EV Ready corridors
- BGE to **install at least 25 EV charging stations** in publicly-owned parking lots and public ROW along the project corridor
- 30% of new chargers are required to be **installed within "Equity Zones"** (underserved areas)
- Advances goals of the MDOT Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act Plan by **reducing GHG emissions**

Photo source: https://pluginsites.org/bge-charging-stations-at-library-in-ellicott-city-md/

Renderings

Fayette Street east of Front Street

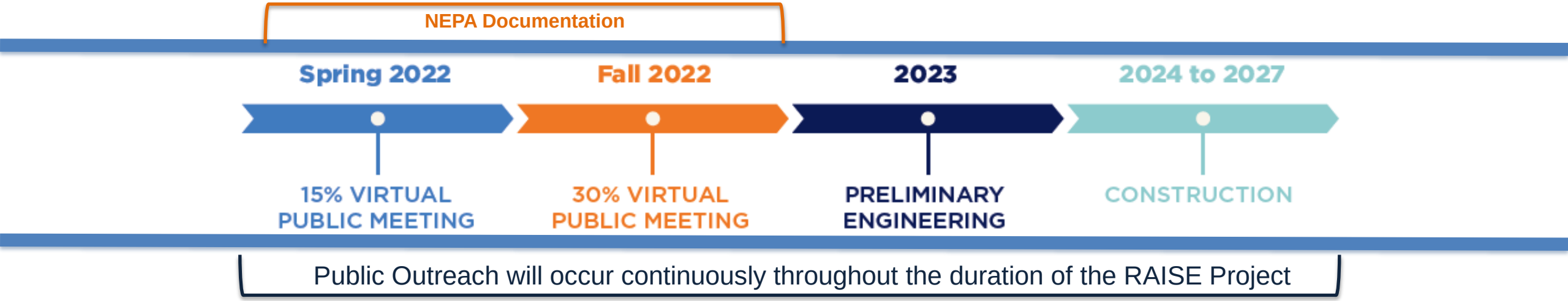
RAISE – Chat Question



Are there any **elements we have missed** that you want to see considered?

Environmental Studies

- Projects using federal funds must comply with **NEPA**
- NEPA is the **National Environmental Policy Act**
- Identification and documentation of potential resource impacts
  - Cultural Resources
  - Natural Resources
  - Socio-economic
  - Environmental Justice



Public Outreach will occur continuously throughout the duration of the RAISE Project

Public Outreach

- **Pop-Up Meetings & Street Teams**
  - Located at transit stops and community events
    - Kiosk / Fact Sheet / FAQs / Survey
    - Interactive Web Map
- **Student Outreach**
  - Identified five High Schools in RAISE Project corridor
    - Edmondson, Excel, Dunbar, Woodlawn & Patterson
  - Develop relationships with students & staff members
  - Participate in upcoming school events

Public Outreach

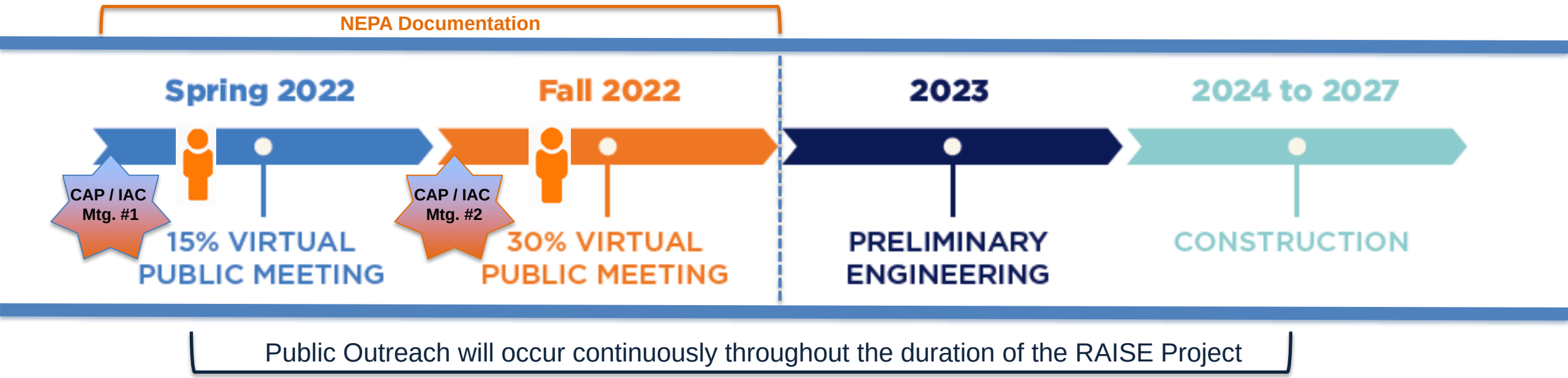
- **Project Webpage: RAISEBaltimore.com**
  - Get project information
  - Download a Project Fact Sheet
  - Review Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
  - Send us your comments via a Comment Form
  - View and leave comments in the Interactive Web Map
  - Take a survey
- **Community Advisory Panel (CAP)**
- **Interagency Committee (IAC)**
- **E-Blasts**
- **Social Media**

Scan to take a survey!

INVITE US TO YOUR COMMUNITY!

info@RAISEBaltimore.com

RAISE Project Schedule



Public Outreach will occur continuously throughout the duration of the RAISE Project

Street Teams are visiting the RAISE Project corridor to distribute project information, talk to stakeholders and administer surveys.

What Happens Next?

- Complete the online **survey**
- Check out the **Interactive Web Map**
- **Provide comments** via Interactive Web Map, online comment form, email, phone
  - RAISEBaltimore.com
  - info@RAISEBAltimore.com
  - 443-317-9793
- **Reach out** to others in your communities and **encourage** them to visit the project website & share comments
- **Invite us** to your community meetings & neighborhood events

Scan to take a survey!

Questions & Answers

- **Raise your hand** using the **reaction function**
  - When your name is called by the speaker, **unmute** yourself and **turn on your camera** if desired.
  - Remember to make sure you and your camera are **centered and eye level**.

OR

- **Type** a question in the **chat** box.

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Contact Information

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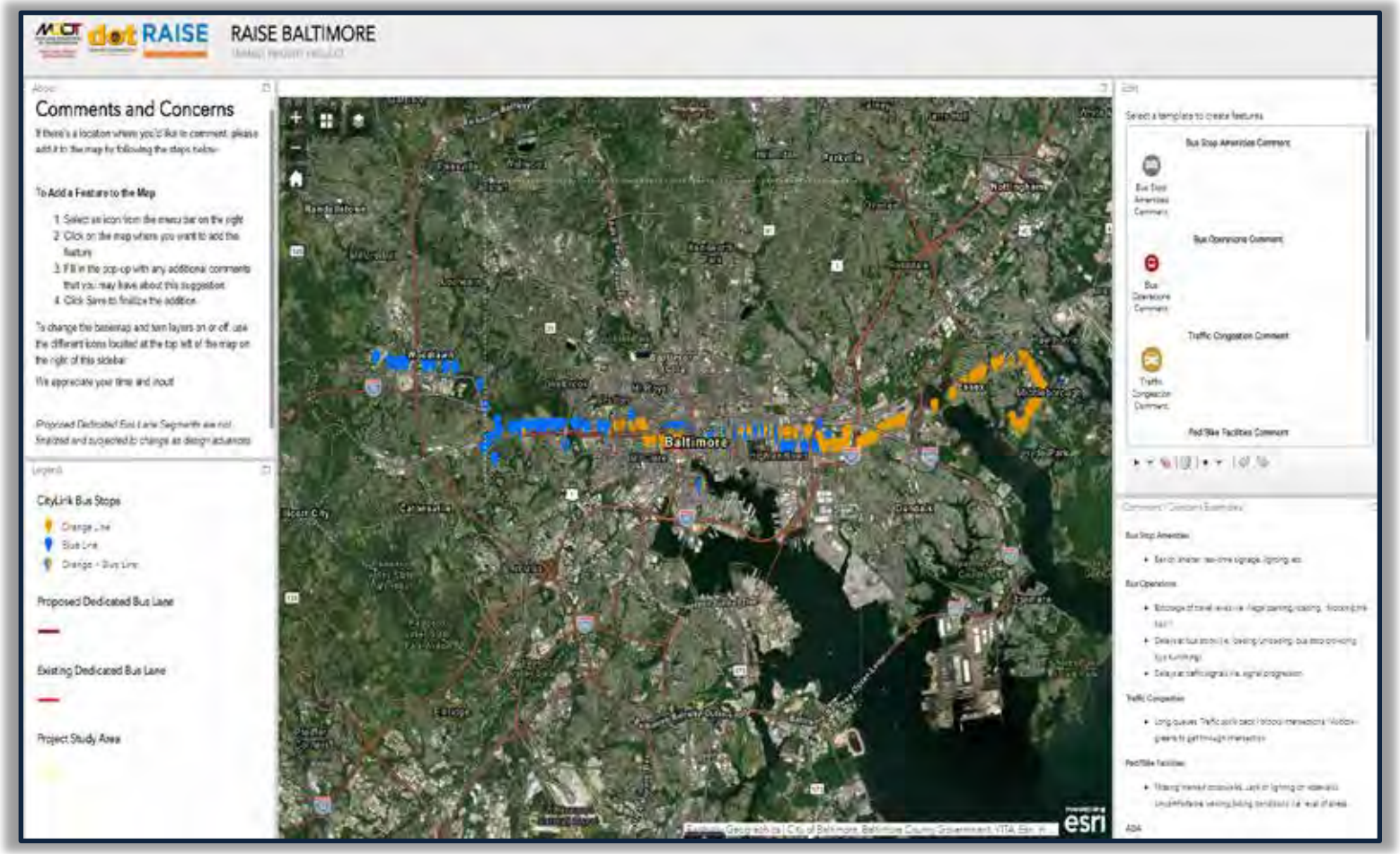
General transit questions?

Call the MDOT MTA:
410- 539-5000

To view, download and share project information, visit the Project Webpage:
RAISEBaltimore.com

Ask a question or leave a comment for the Project Team by Email or phone:
info@RAISEBaltimore.com
(443) 317-9793

Interactive Mapping: ArcGIS Online



Features

- 24/7 Online Accessibility
- Record comments
- Instructions
- Legend
- Push Pins

[Visit ArcGIS Online]