

**Moving Forward. Faster. Dedicated to Faster Bus Service.**

# University Blvd (MD 193) BUS LANE PILOT

## Presenters:

**Gary Erenrich**

Special Assistant to the Director  
Montgomery County DOT

**Keith Riniker, PE, PTOE**

Traffic Engineer  
Mead & Hunt





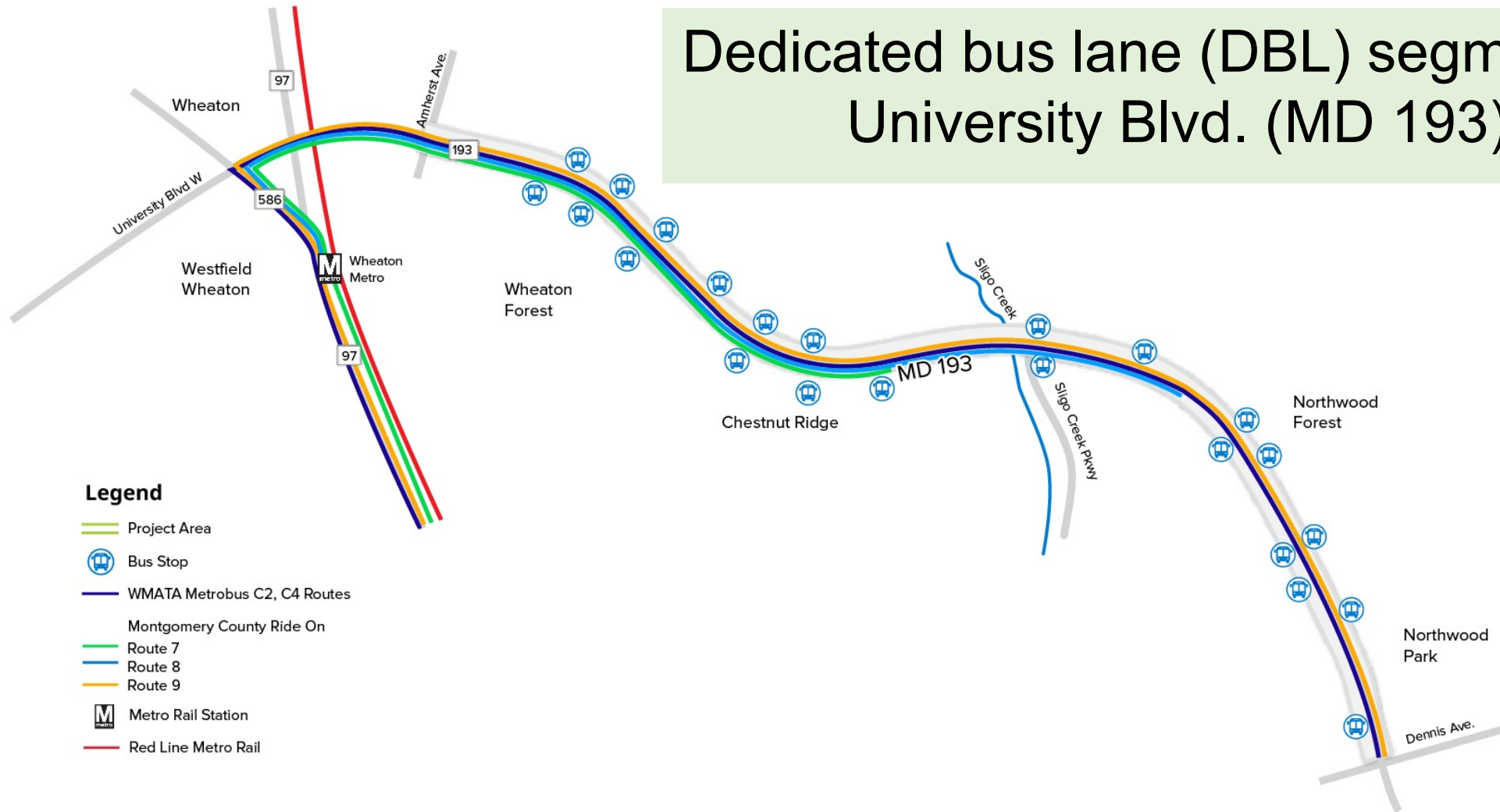
# Project Background

- There is a difference between this project and the Montgomery Planning Master Plan for University Blvd.
- The experience of the bike lane pilot on University Blvd. contributed to this project plan.
- The **right turn lane from Arcola onto University will not be blocked** as it was for the bike lane pilot.



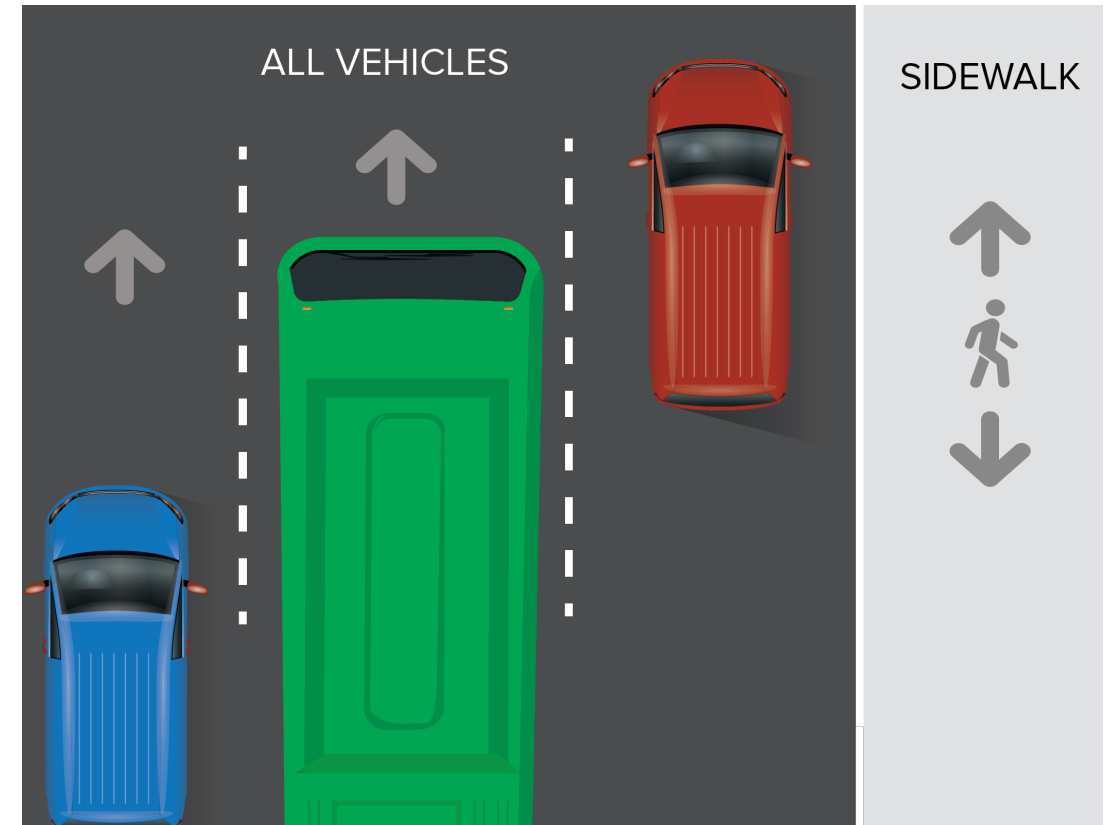
# Project Introduction

Dedicated bus lane (DBL) segment on University Blvd. (MD 193)



# What are Dedicated Bus Lanes?

- What are dedicated bus lanes?
  - Lanes that allow buses to travel independently of regular traffic along the same roadway.
  - For this project, the bus lanes are the curb lanes in each direction.



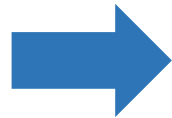


# Why on University Blvd (MD 193)?

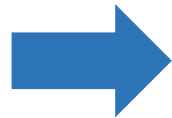
**MetroBus Routes C2/C4 ranked highest ridership in Maryland along this corridor**

## Current status

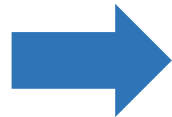
Highest ridership –  
approx **8,067 daily**



**19.2% congestion delay\*\***  
during the day



An average of **35% variation**  
in **bus travel** time throughout  
the day due to congestion



## Projected result

Many riders will be impacted by  
service improvements

DBL will remove buses from mixed travel lanes  
eliminating much of the congestion delays

Riders will experience more consistent travel  
times due to improved congestion delays

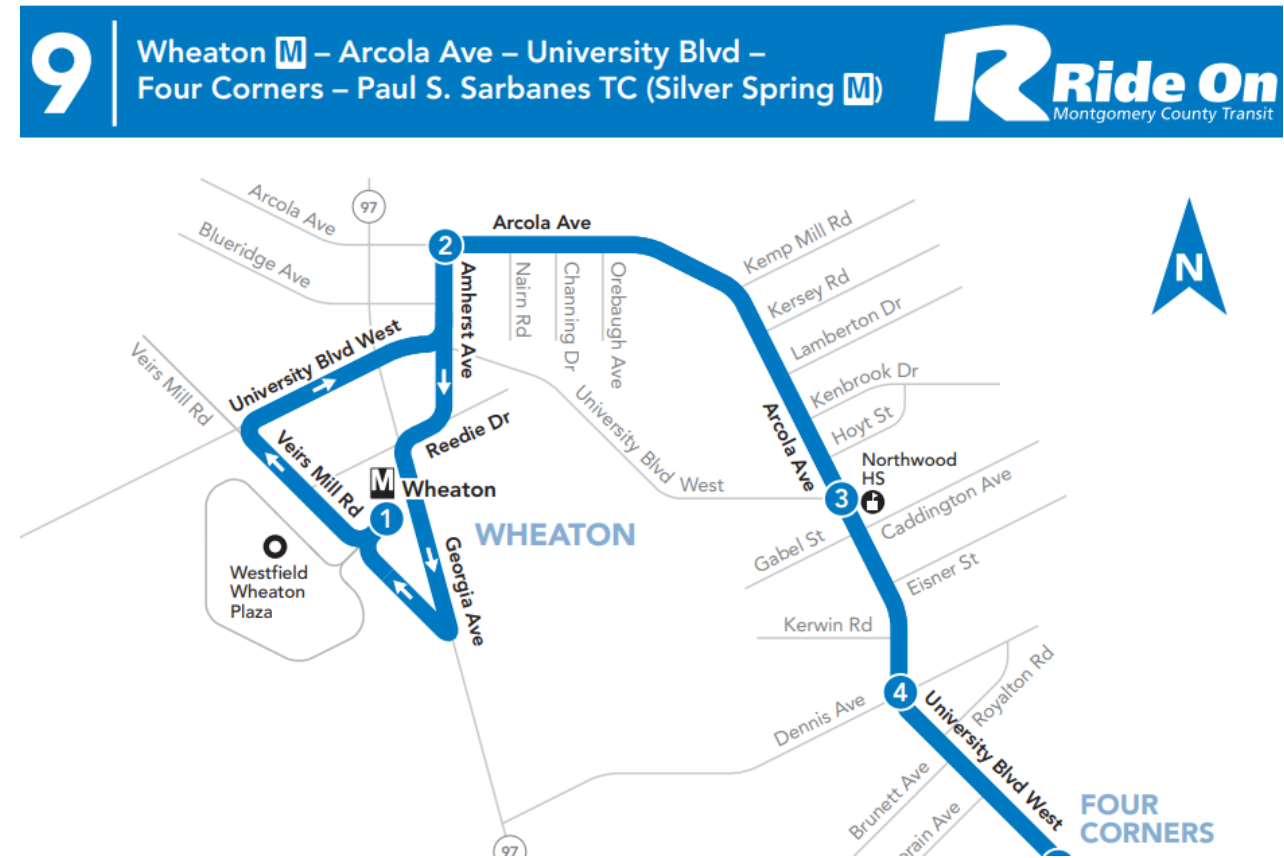
\* Based on ridership data from the April 2023 ridership report

\*\* Congestion delay: comparison of median run time to an estimated free flow run time for buses (i.e., no congestion)

# Why on University Blvd (MD 193)?

## To improve on-time performance

- **Ride-On Bus Route 9:** runs on this corridor
  - Average daily ridership: 1,530
  - Low on-time performance: 78%
- **Ride-On Bus Route 7:** Peak hour only, between Amherst Ave and Inwood Ave
- **Ride-On Bus Route 8:** Operates daily, between Amherst Ave and Gabel Ave



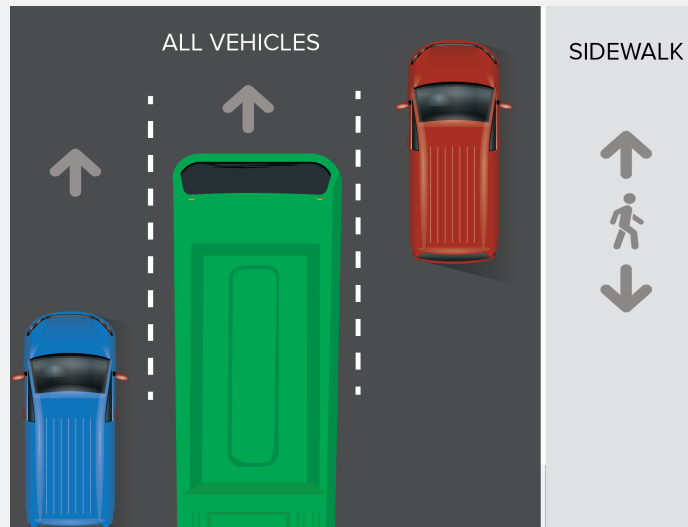


# Why on University Blvd (MD 193)?

To support equitable connections in this area

## NOW

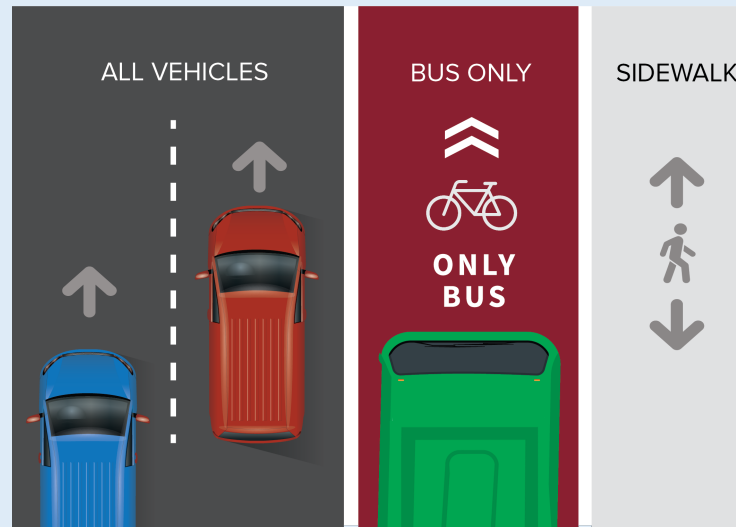
1000 cars + 15 buses



Typical rush hour traffic

## PILOT

2 Lanes for 1000 cars + 1 Lane for buses 500 riders



Typical rush hour traffic

Those who use public transit won't be experiencing longer travel time due to their choice of travel mode

There is spare capacity to support implementing a bus lane with equitable results\*

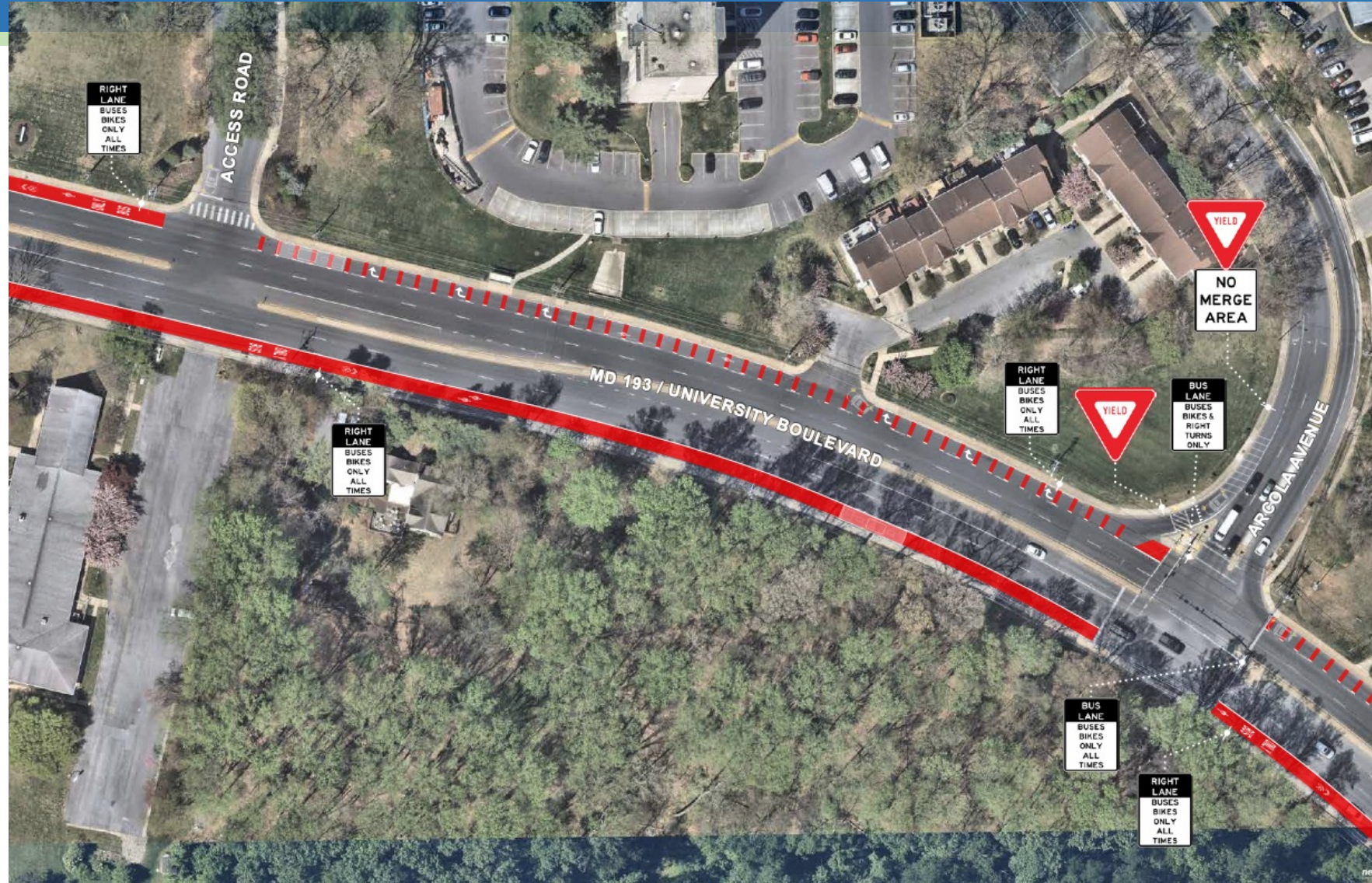
\* Based on ridership data from September to December 2022

# The Test Area

## University Blvd @ Arcola Intersection Updated Plan View

Turning vehicles from Arcola onto University can cross the bus lane briefly to safely merge into the traffic lane.

Red pavement marking shown here is the preferred treatment.





# The Pilot Concept Plan

## University Blvd @ Northwood High School



Red pavement marking shown here is the preferred treatment.



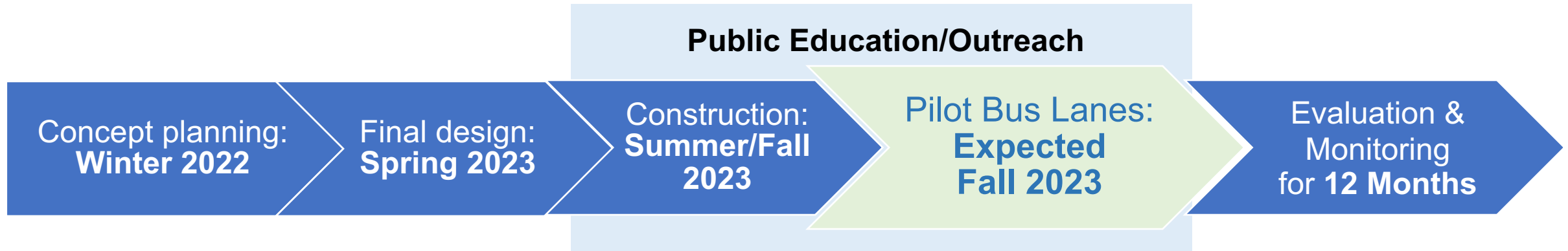
# Project Benefits

- Reduces bus times and protects buses from traffic congestion, providing better on-time reliability
- Improves connections between Metro, bus services and access to Wheaton and Silver Spring Transit Center





# Project Schedule



After an evaluation (month 12-18), the success of the bus lane pilot will be determined, and lanes will remain as constructed or revised as appropriate.

# Next Steps

**Tell us what YOU think!**

Contact a project manager with comments and questions.

**Gary Erenrich**

Special Assistant to the Director  
Montgomery County DOT

[Gary.erenrich@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Gary.erenrich@montgomerycountymd.gov)

301-221-8104

**Visit Our Website**

for FAQ and to download the flyer and presentation

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT/Projects/buspriority/university.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT/Projects/buspriority/university.html)

