



Project Description and Fact Sheet

The current phase of the Columbia Pike Transit Initiative includes environmental documentation and preliminary engineering for transit improvements extending five miles along Columbia Pike between Bailey's Crossroads/Skyline area in Fairfax County and Pentagon City in Arlington County, Virginia.

The Columbia Pike Transit Initiative is one element of a decade-long effort by Arlington and Fairfax Counties to accommodate growing demand for transit service along this quickly redeveloping urban corridor. Citizens, planners, and community leaders have expressed desire for a modern, higher capacity transit system that supports expected levels of ridership and reinforces the "Main Street" environment envisioned for Columbia Pike.

Demographic Characteristics

- Population: 67,000 residents after growth of 10,000 between 1990 and 2000.
85,000 residents by 2030.
- Employment: 73,000 jobs within the study area.
100,000 jobs by 2030.

Transit Characteristics

- 15,000 weekday corridor ridership (WMATA and Arlington Transit (ART) bus services).
- Significant ridership increase with expanded PikeRide bus service.
- Transit and walk/bike trips are 25 to 30 percent of all corridor trips.
- Current PikeRide: branded service, some limited stop service, and signal priority on some routes.
- Future PikeRide: expanded signal priority and passenger information, plus "Super Stops".

Proposed Improvements

The environmental documentation will evaluate several alternatives including no build, enhanced bus, and streetcar. As proposed, the transit system is expected to have the following features:

- Transit would generally operate in shared traffic lanes within existing streets.
- Stations/stops with improved shelters, passenger amenities, and real-time information.
- Fare pre-payment and integration with WMATA's SmartTrip system.
- Operations: six-minute all-day service supplemented by transit bus during peak hours.
- One primary vehicle storage and maintenance facility at the western end of corridor.

Conditions along the corridor are very urban with a mix of commercial and residential land uses. Most of the corridor has been disturbed over the years to make way for the various developments that exist. Very little natural environment exists with the exception of designated recreation areas, landscaped areas, and along Four mile Run and Doctor's Branch. The Columbia Pike Corridor is shown in the attached map.