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Community Meeting

McLean Area Traffic Analysis: Proposed Pilot Project Fairfax County

Thursday, October 18, 2018
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

McLean High School
1633 Davidson Road
McLean, VA 22101

Community Meeting

Welcome to the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) second community meeting on plans to test a potential pilot project to evaluate limiting access to the ramp from Georgetown Pike to northbound I-495 during weekday afternoon/evening periods. We look forward to your active participation.

This meeting is being held to provide an opportunity for citizens and organizations to give VDOT comments and/or suggestions on the proposed project. VDOT strives to

ensure that all members of the community have the opportunity to participate in public decisions on transportation projects and programs affecting them.

VDOT representatives are here to discuss the project and answer your questions. We've included a comment sheet with this brochure and encourage your input. All written comments received on this study will be reviewed by the design team, summarized, and made available on the VDOT project website.

Proposed Pilot Project at a Glance



Purpose: Assess operational effectiveness and potential impacts of closing the entrance ramp from Georgetown Pike to northbound I-495 during weekday afternoon/evening periods

Phase: Study

Pilot Project Duration: up to 4 months

Status: Currently accepting public input on the proposal to gauge community, Fairfax County, and elected official support on whether to move forward with the pilot project

Study Overview

Over the last year, VDOT and Fairfax County have been working with residents as part of a traffic study to address neighborhood access and congestion concerns. Short-term, intermediate, and long-term improvements were identified. Short-term improvements recently completed include additional signs, pavement markings, traffic cameras, and shoulder improvements for police enforcement.

VDOT and the County are seeking input on some of the longer-term proposals, including a potential pilot project to evaluate limiting access to the ramp from Georgetown Pike to northbound I-495 during weekday afternoon/evening periods.

The goals of the proposed pilot project include:

- Reducing cut-through traffic on local and neighborhood streets between Tysons and the Potomac River
- Evaluating the operational effectiveness and potential impacts of limiting access to northbound I-495 at the Georgetown Pike interchange during periods of afternoon/evening congestion
- Assessing alternatives for keeping regional commuter traffic trips on the interstate and regional arterial network

In the Fall of 2017 and Spring of 2018, data on traffic volumes and vehicle movements was collected to identify cut-through and operational issues. Alternatives have been identified which aim to reduce cut-through traffic, address congestion on local and residential streets, and incentivize regional commuter traffic to stay on major arterials. Over the span of several months, details and logistics of the proposed pilot project will be refined and analyzed.

Civil Rights

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Allison Richter at 703-259-2604 or TTY/TDD 711.

Next Steps

Following public input, VDOT will work with the County and stakeholders on the implementation and schedule for the pilot project and longer-term improvements.

For the proposed pilot project specifically, the next steps are:

- Seek public input to gauge support
- Summarize and evaluate feedback
- Decide whether to advance the pilot project forward and communicate to the public

Get Involved

VDOT will review and evaluate any information received as a result of the community meeting. The comment sheet and brochure is provided to assist in making your comments. You may leave the sheet or any other written comments in the comment box, or mail/email your comments.

Comments must be postmarked, emailed or delivered to VDOT by **November 12, 2018**. Mail comments to Allison Richter at the address below or email meetingcomments@vdot.virginia.gov. Please include "McLean Area Traffic Analysis" in the email subject line.

Project information shared here, including a summary of comments received during the comment period, will be available at a www.virginiadot.org and at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office.

Contact Information

Primary Contact:
Allison Richter

Transportation & Land
Use Director

4975 Alliance Drive
Fairfax, VA 22030

703-259-2604



www.VirginiaDOT.org

Community Meeting

McLean Area Traffic Analysis Fairfax County

Thursday, Oct. 18, 2018

McLean High School
1633 Davidson Road
McLean, VA 22101

COMMENT SHEET

All comments are subject to public disclosure.

Name (optional): _____

Address (optional): _____

Email (optional): _____

1. Do you support a potential pilot project to evaluate limiting access to the ramp from Georgetown Pike to northbound I-495?

Yes ___ No ___ Yes, with the following suggestions:

2. Do you have any comments on the proposed hours limiting access to the ramp during weekday afternoon/evening periods?

3. Are there any other changes to this proposal that you would support?

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Virginia Department of Transportation
Northern Virginia District
Ms. Allison Richter, PMP
4975 Alliance Drive
Fairfax, VA 22030

Fold Line



McLean Area Traffic Concerns Community Meeting

McLean High School

October 18, 2018

7:00PM



Meeting Agenda

- Welcome/Introductions
- Background
- Description of Proposed Pilot Program
- Comments Received So Far
- Next Steps
- Questions/Comments
- Adjourn

Recap of Previous Meetings

- Issue: Commuters use neighborhood streets to reach I-495N, causing congestion that is preventing mobility and accessibility within the neighborhoods
- September 2017 Meeting:
 - Line by Line Review of Citizen Suggestions and Available Responses
 - Discussion of Possible Solutions such as Cut-Through Restrictions
 - Question/Comment Period
- May 2018 Meeting:
 - Discussion of Activities since September
 - Short-, Intermediate-, and Long-Term Solutions
 - Shoulder Lane and American Legion Bridge
 - Question/Comment Period
- August 2018 Meeting:
 - Introduction of Proposed Pilot Project



“Short Term” Accomplishments

- ✓ Installed temporary traffic monitoring cameras (linked to 511)
- ✓ Installed larger “Do not Block the Intersection” signs
- ✓ Installed additional “No U-turn” signs
- ✓ Installed additional orange flags placed on the signs
- ✓ Increased police enforcement to prevent illegal behavior in the intersection
- ✓ Widened shoulder on north side of Georgetown Pike at the intersection of Balls Hill Rd & Georgetown Pike for increased enforcement
- ✓ Painted the box to discourage drivers from stopping in the intersection

“Intermediate Term” Accomplishments

- ✓ Formed regional advisory group representing various neighborhoods, to communicate with neighbors
- ✓ Began Cut Through Restriction Process with Dead Run/Carper neighborhood
- ✓ Analyzed concept of improvements at Balls Hill Road and Georgetown Pike intersection
- ✓ Reviewed Douglass Drive and Georgetown Pike intersection
- ✓ Interacted with local group and FCPS with the purpose of improving safety around Cooper Middle School
- ✓ Reviewing other possible alternatives to improve congestion in the area

“Long Term” Accomplishments

- ✓ Actively coordinating with Maryland on proposed improvements to American Legion Bridge
- ✓ Commonwealth Transportation Board approved \$6 million to initiate environmental document for proposed improvements on Virginia side that will connect to bridge
- ✓ Public Information Meeting on this initiative (I-495 NEXT) was held June 11, 2018 – Next Public Meeting expected in early 2019
- ✓ Analysis of Proposed Pilot Project to close ramp at Georgetown Pike to I-495 N – meeting held August 2, 2018, also tonight’s discussion topic

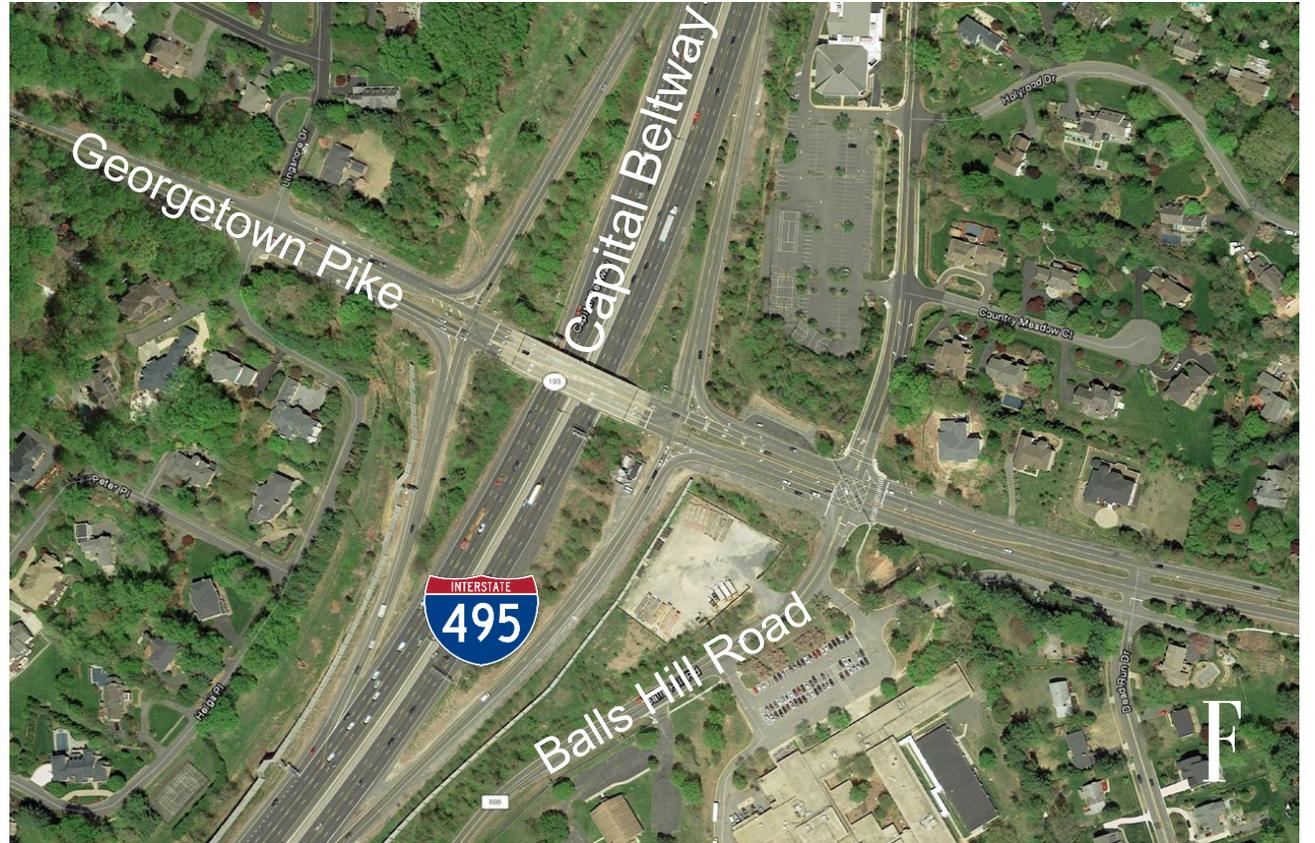
VDOT Proposed Pilot Project

- Assess operational effectiveness and potential impacts of closing the entrance ramp from Georgetown Pike to northbound I-495 weekdays from approximately 1 PM – 7 PM



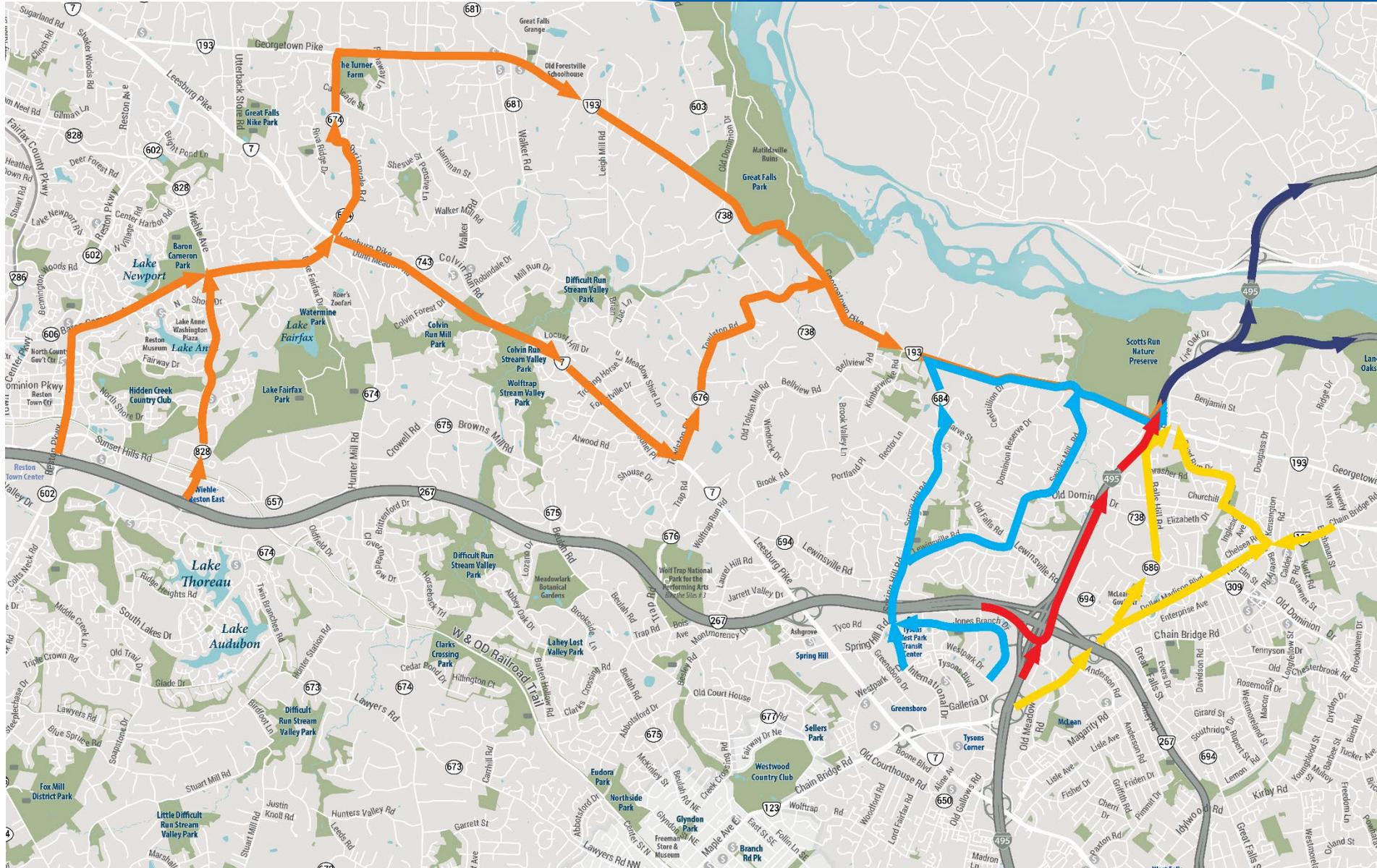
Options for Path Forward

- Do not advance the Pilot Project
- Proceed with the Pilot Project
- Proceed with modifications to the Pilot Project
- Put the Pilot Project on hold

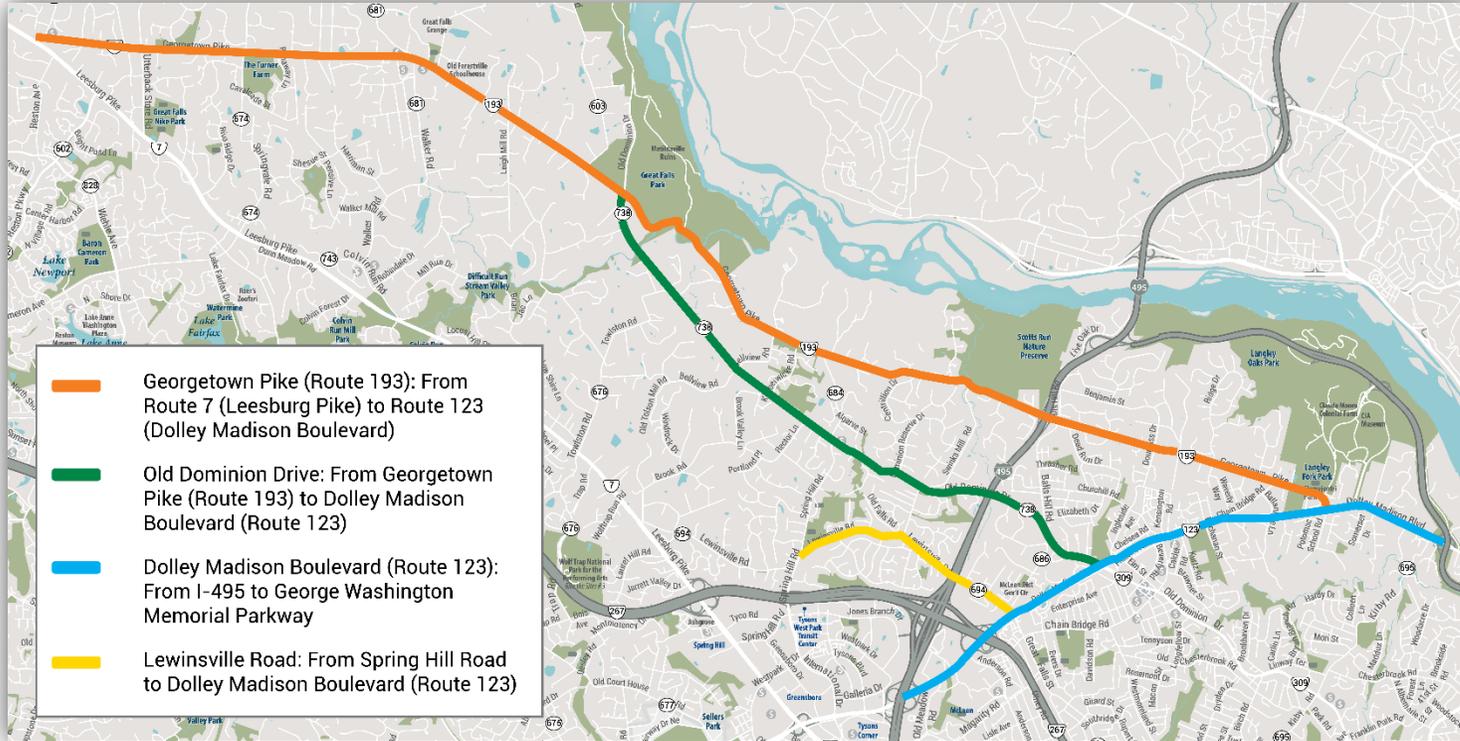


Existing Diversion Routes to the I-495 Inner Loop – with Ramp Open

-  Freeway Routes Being Avoided by Drivers
-  Freeway Main Downstream Destinations
-  Reston/Sterling to Route 193 Shortcut
-  Tysons West to Route 193 Shortcut
-  Tysons East to Route 193 Shortcut

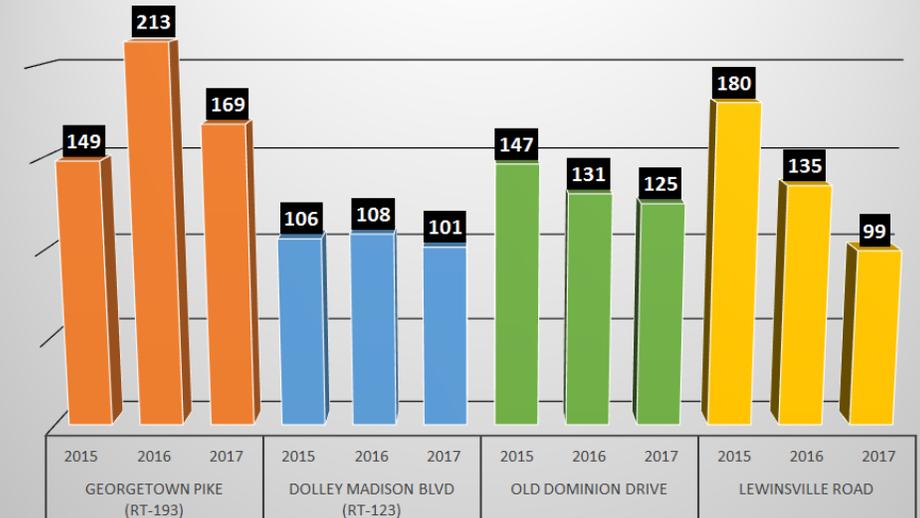


Crash Analysis (2015 – 2017)

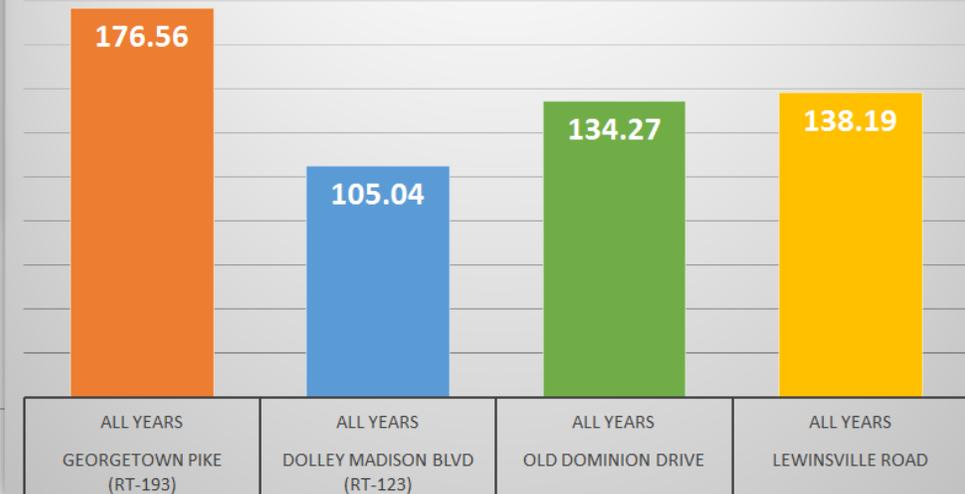


Crash Analysis shows higher crash rates along Georgetown Pike compared to nearby facilities.

Crash Rates (per 100 million vehicle-miles)



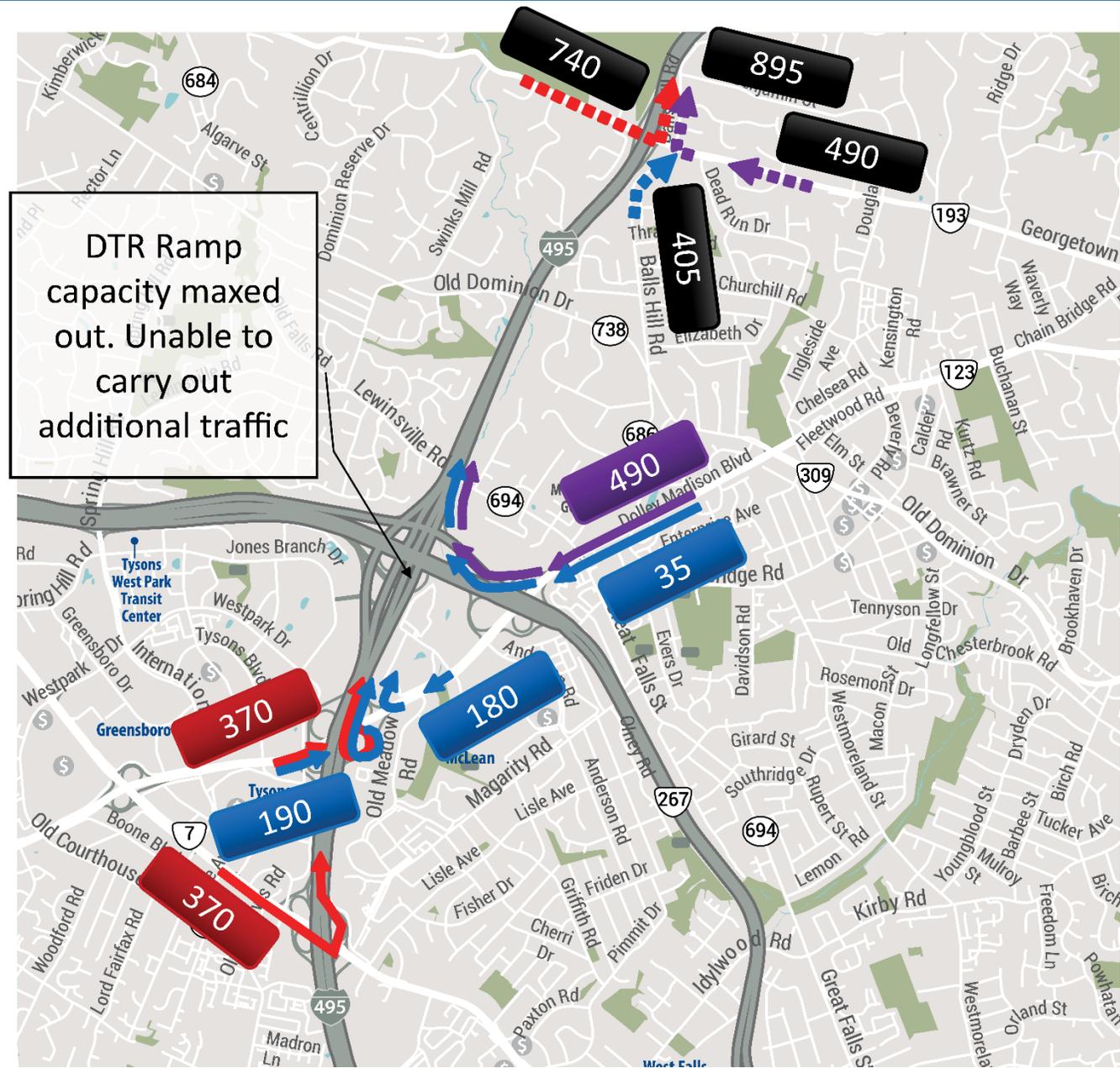
Crash Rates (2015 - 2017) per 100 million vehicle-miles



Assumed Diversion Routes after Closure of the Georgetown Pike On-Ramp to the I-495 Inner Loop (PM)

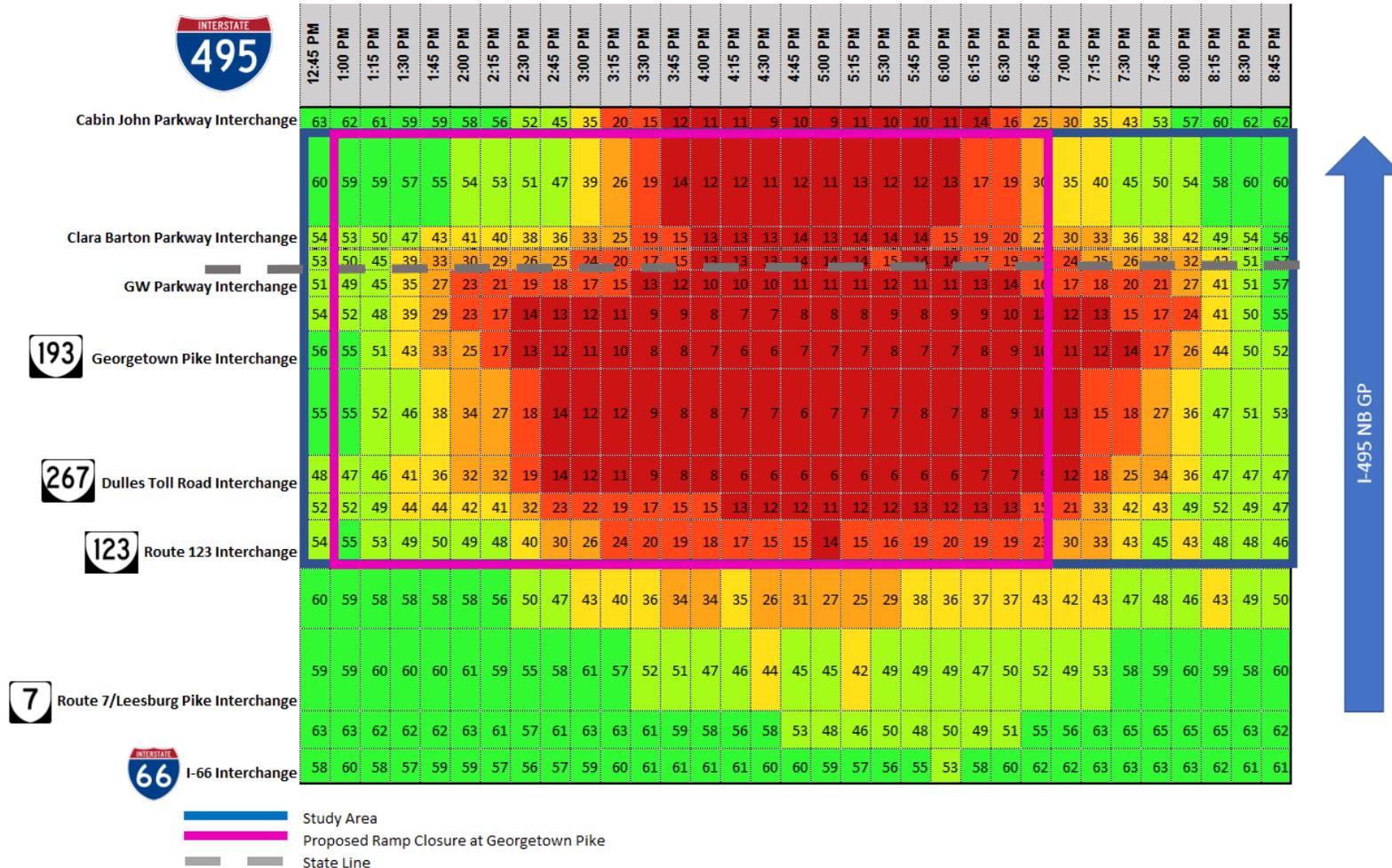
Current Rte 193 Using On Ramp Traffic		Detour After Ramp Closure	
Traffic Flow	Volume	Traffic Flow	Volume
 From Georgetown Pk West of the Beltway	XX		XX
 From Georgetown Pk East of the Beltway	XX		XX
 From Balls Hill Rd Northbound	XX		XX

PM peak hour – ramp closure detours will have greater impact



Traffic Operations – PM Peak Period

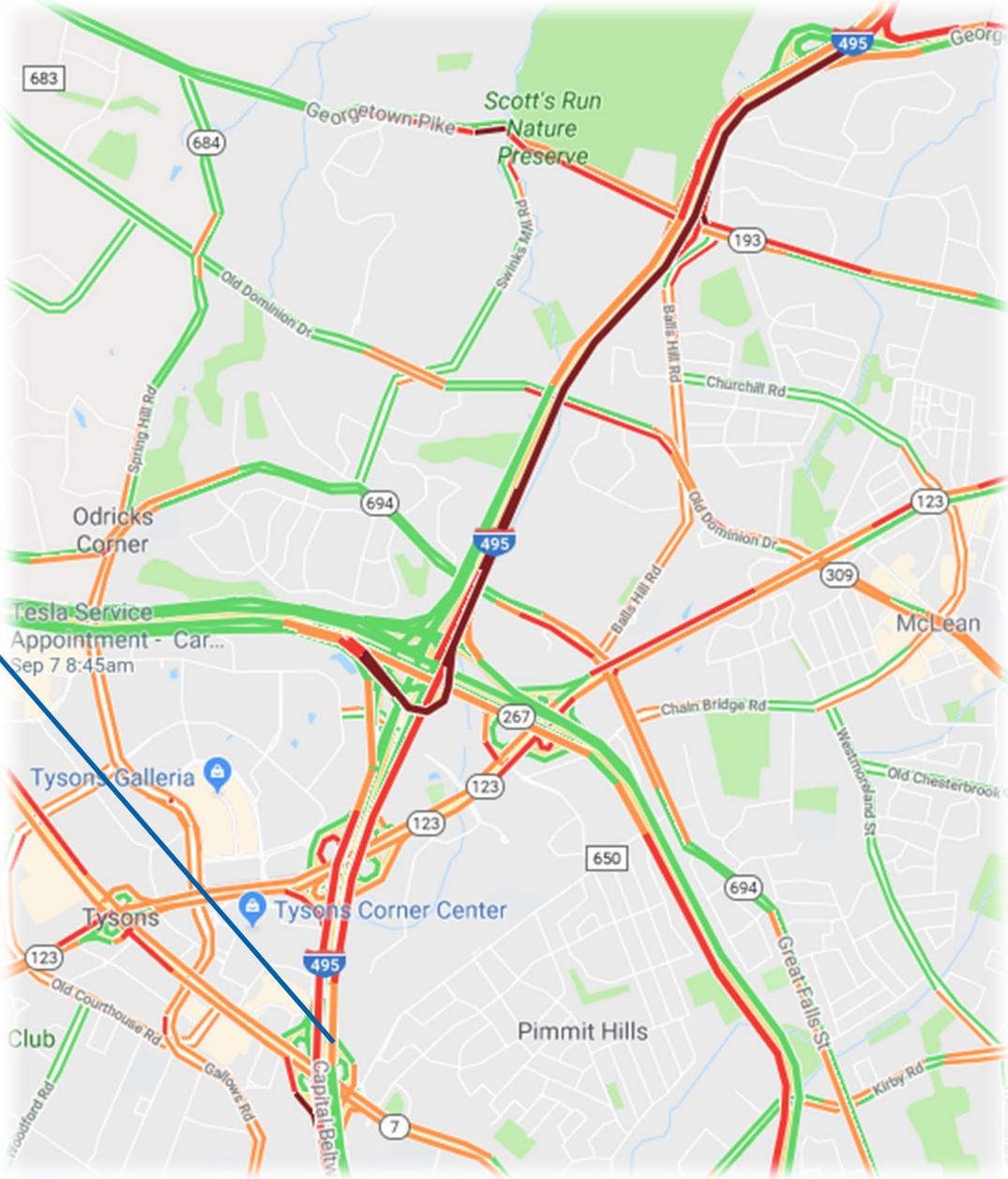
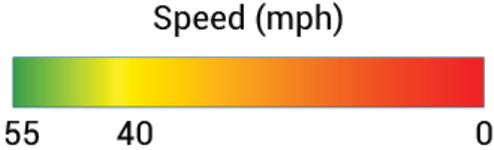
I-495 Northbound General Purpose Lanes



Congestion: Speed Comparison (PM Peak Hour)

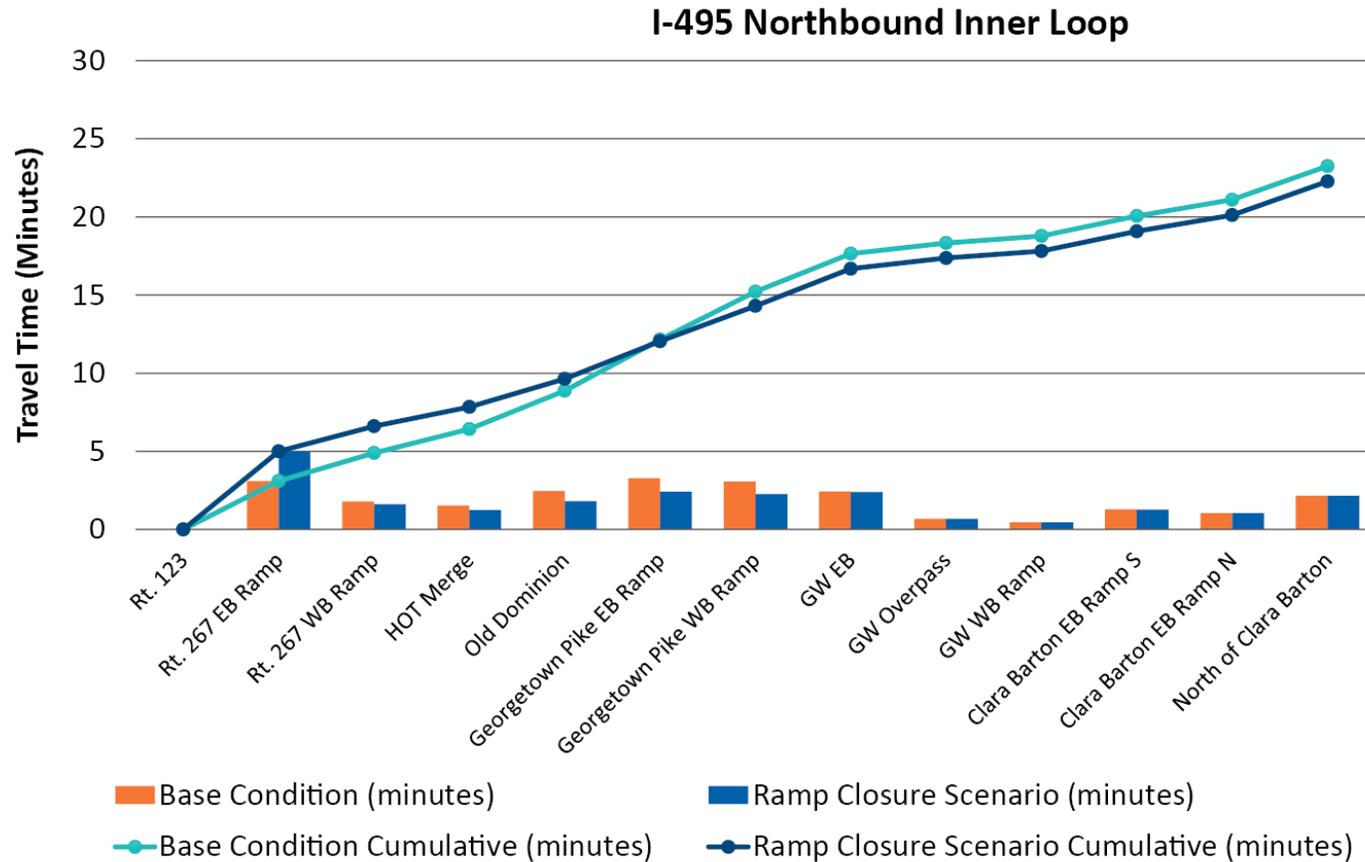
Queues don't go beyond Rt-7

PM peak hour – queuing may show minimal change, potentially may improve conditions.



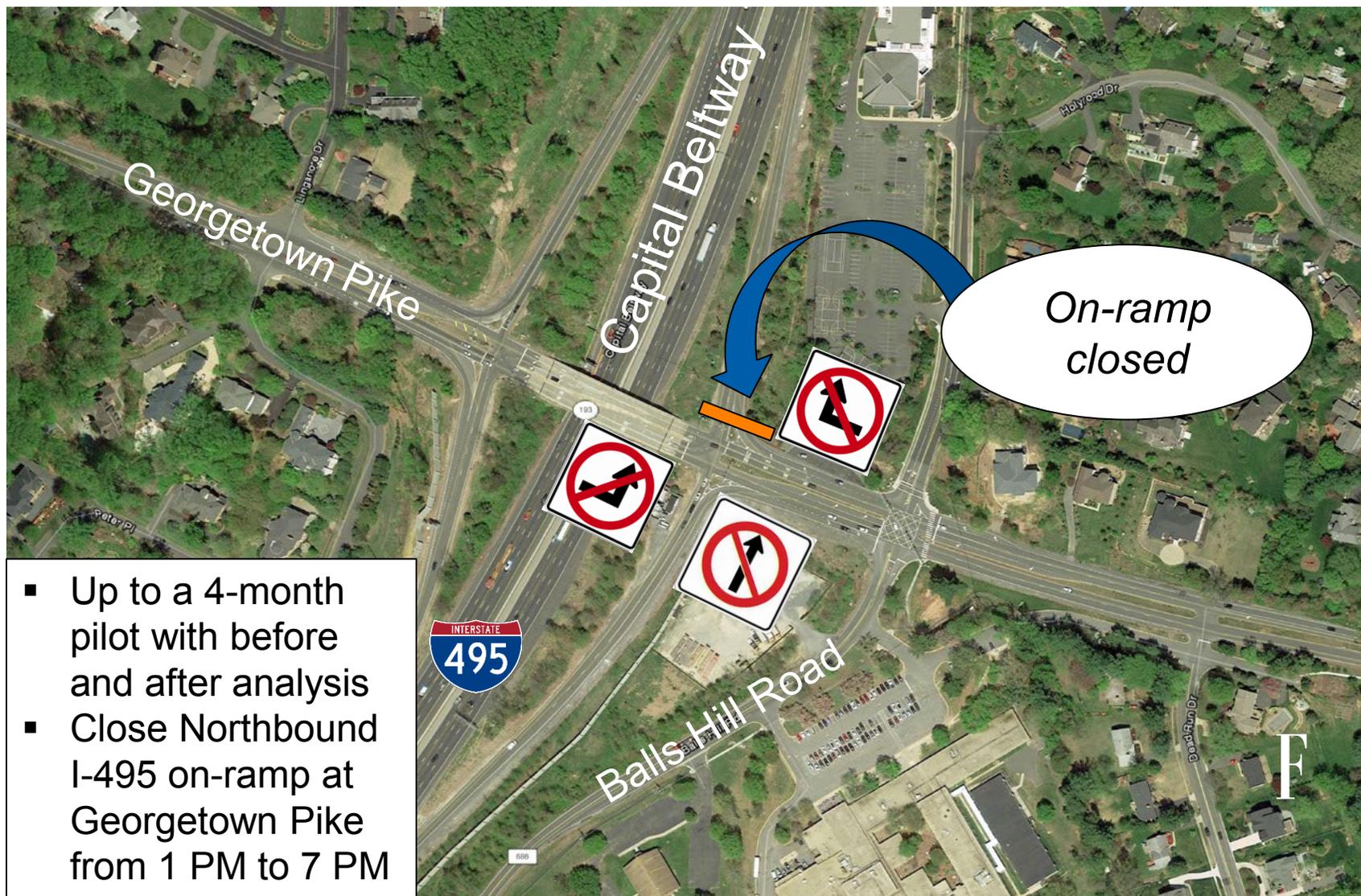
TRAVEL TIME:

Travel Time Comparison (PM Peak Hour)



PM peak hour – ramp closure will not impact overall travel time.

Proposed Pilot Project



- Up to a 4-month pilot with before and after analysis
- Close Northbound I-495 on-ramp at Georgetown Pike from 1 PM to 7 PM

Criteria for Success/Failure of Pilot

- Causes no decrease in throughput to I-495
- Accomplishes the goal of restoring mobility through and access to the neighborhoods
- Does not shift the “cut-through” problem to other neighborhoods
- Does not create undue congestion on other arterials
- Does not cause any other unexpected consequences (such as safety-related) that would negate the benefits

Next Steps for Proposed Pilot Project

- Seek public input to gauge support
- Summarize and evaluate feedback
- Decide whether to advance the pilot project forward and communicate to the public
- Decision to move forward will require strong local support

Summary of Comments to Date

- Total Comments Received as of 8/31/2018 = 305
- 35% in Favor of Moving Forward with Pilot
- 62% Opposed to Moving Forward with Pilot
- 3% Neutral

Comment period will end 11/12/2018

Most Common Reasons Respondents Oppose the Pilot

- Convenience of ramp
 - Frequent trips to Maryland/DC
 - Children in private schools in Maryland
- Purchased home based on proximity to ramp
- Will likely cause more traffic in other neighborhoods or other primary routes

Most Common Reasons Respondents Support the Pilot

- Currently, mobility is very restricted within neighborhoods
- Safety concerns
 - Safety of school children walking in neighborhoods
 - Aggressive driving
- Inability to participate in school activities due to congestion

Questions/Comments

Email: meetingcomments@vdot.virginia.gov

Website:

[http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/
mclean_traffic_analysis.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/mclean_traffic_analysis.asp)