

# CLAYTON COUNTY TRANSIT INITIATIVE

## Clayton Program Update and Peer City Visit Summary

City of Forest Park  
City Council

November 7, 2022



# Today's Discussion

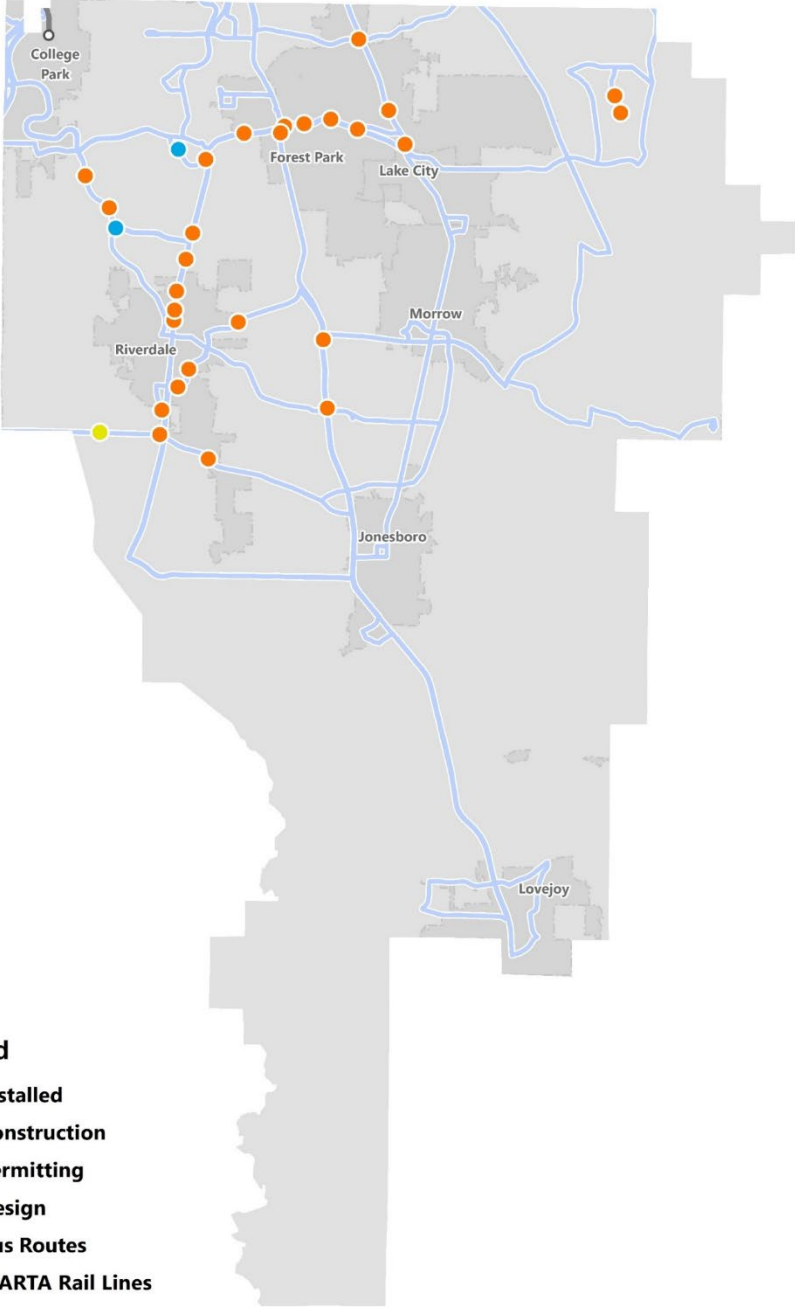
- Clayton MARTA Overview
- SR 54 Challenge
- Peer City Tour
- Major Next Steps



# Delivering the 15th Amendment

Project	Existing MARTA Bus & Mobility	Clayton County HCT Commuter Rail	Clayton County Southlake Bus Rapid Transit	Clayton County Bus Stops Amenities Program	Clayton County Multipurpose Operations & Maintenance Facility	Mobility Centers & Park n Ride Facilities
<b>Description</b>	Maintain existing bus routes and implement Routes 197 & 198 in 2021.	Planning & design of 22-mile commuter rail corridor from East Point Station to Lovejoy. Funding from Clayton Co. Reserve and FTA New Starts. In service 2030.	Planning, design and implementation for a BRT corridor along SR 85 & 139. Funding from Clayton Co. Reserve and FTA Small Starts. In service 2026.	Bus amenities and stop upgrades (approximately 175 amenities) Completed by 2024.	Construct a new multipurpose operations & maintenance facility with police precinct and administrative offices. Funding from Clayton Reserves and MARTA State of Good Repair in 2026.	Continue planning efforts to identify and design mobility centers and park n ride lots. To be implemented through CRT & BRT projects
<b>Status</b>	✓ - Complete August 2021 Markup	○ – Planning complete, results may not qualify for FTA New Starts	✓ - On schedule Opening 2026	✓ - Underway 30+ Bus shelters programmed each year for five years	✓ - On schedule Opening 2026	✓ - Underway Jonesboro Mobility Hub Under 30% Design

# FY22 Bus Shelters & Amenities Update





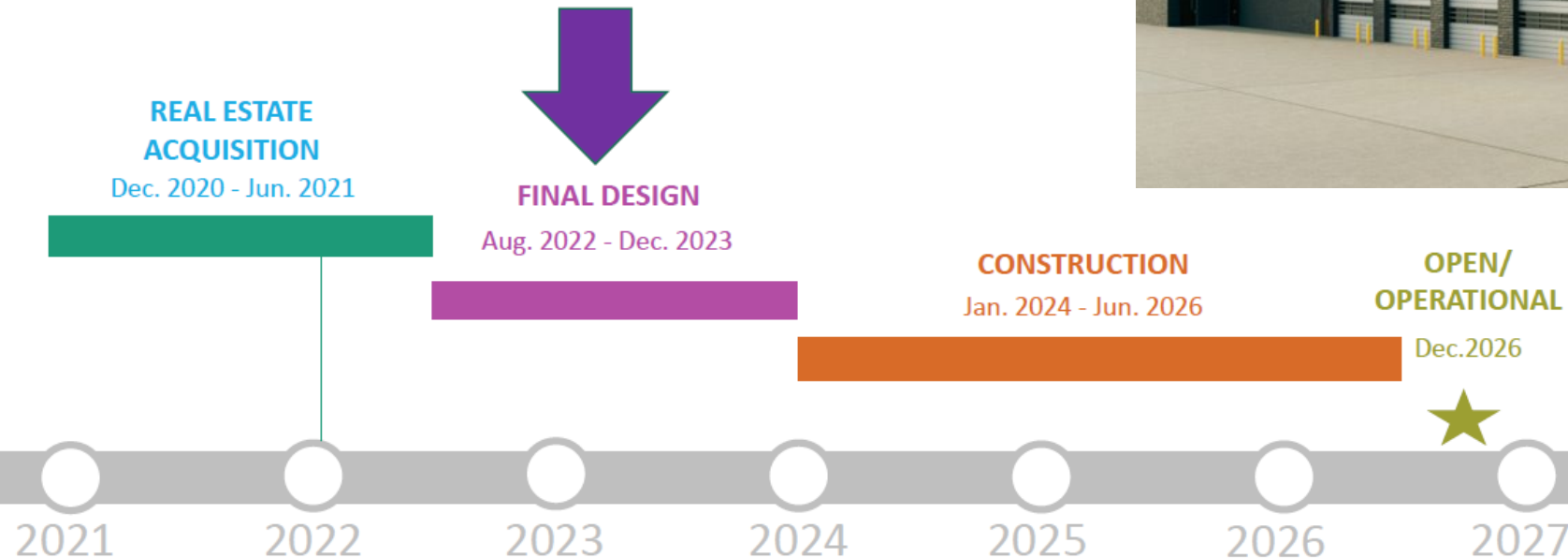
# Justice Center Transit Hub Update



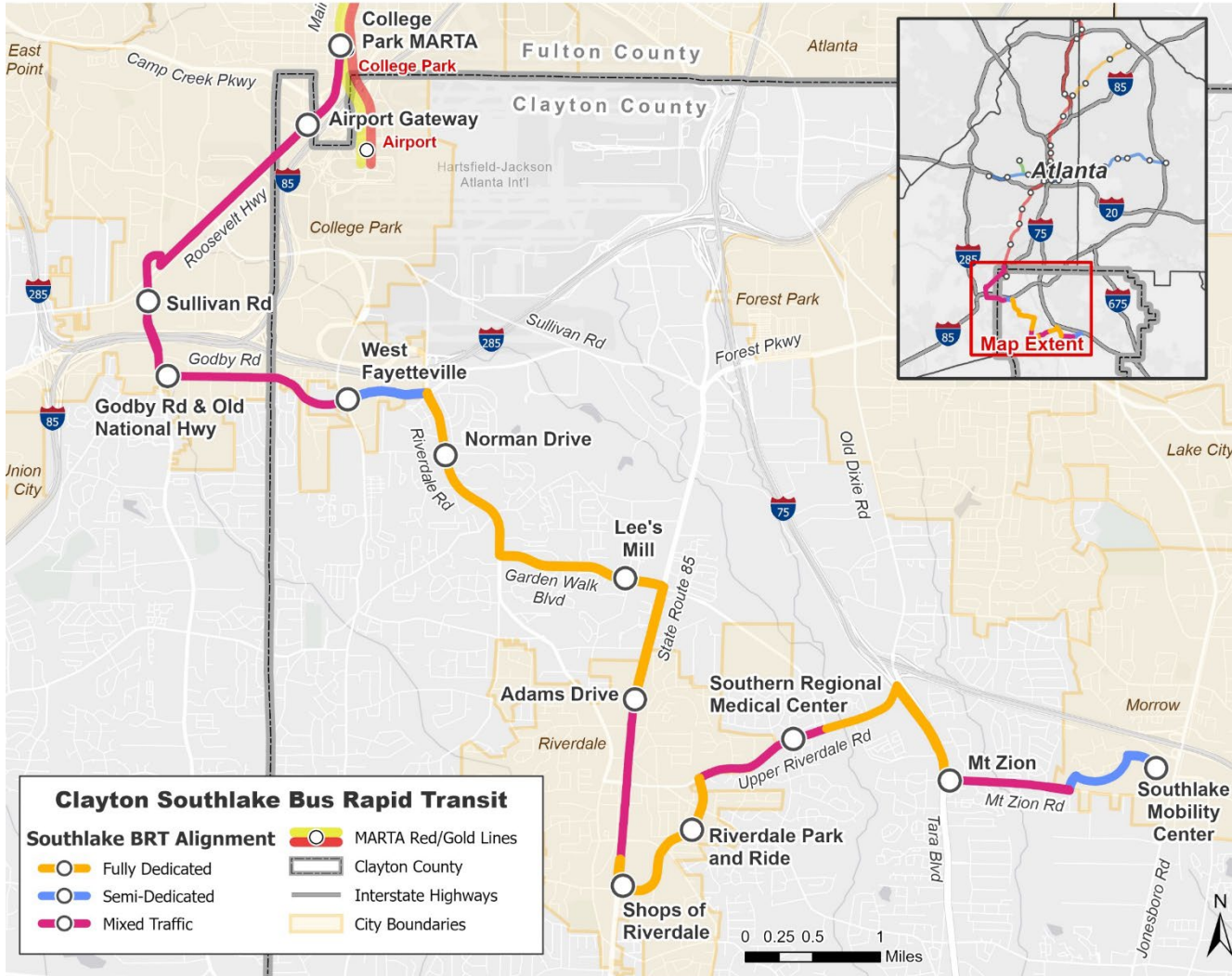


# Clayton Operations & Maintenance Facility

- Strong Federal Support \$33M
- STV Team is leading the design; team includes
  - HNTB, Rohadfox, Accura, Nickleworks Consulting and CERM
  - 17% DBE Commitment



# Clayton Southlake BRT





# Draft System Plan

## BRT Route

**701** – College Park to Southlake via Riverdale

## ART Routes










**202** – US 41 – East Point to Clayton Justice Center

**203** – Riverdale to Justice Center

## High Capacity Transit

SR 54/Jonesboro Road Corridor

## Local Bus Routes

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
|  191   |  194   |  197   |
|  192   |  195   |  198   |
|  193 |  196 |  199 |

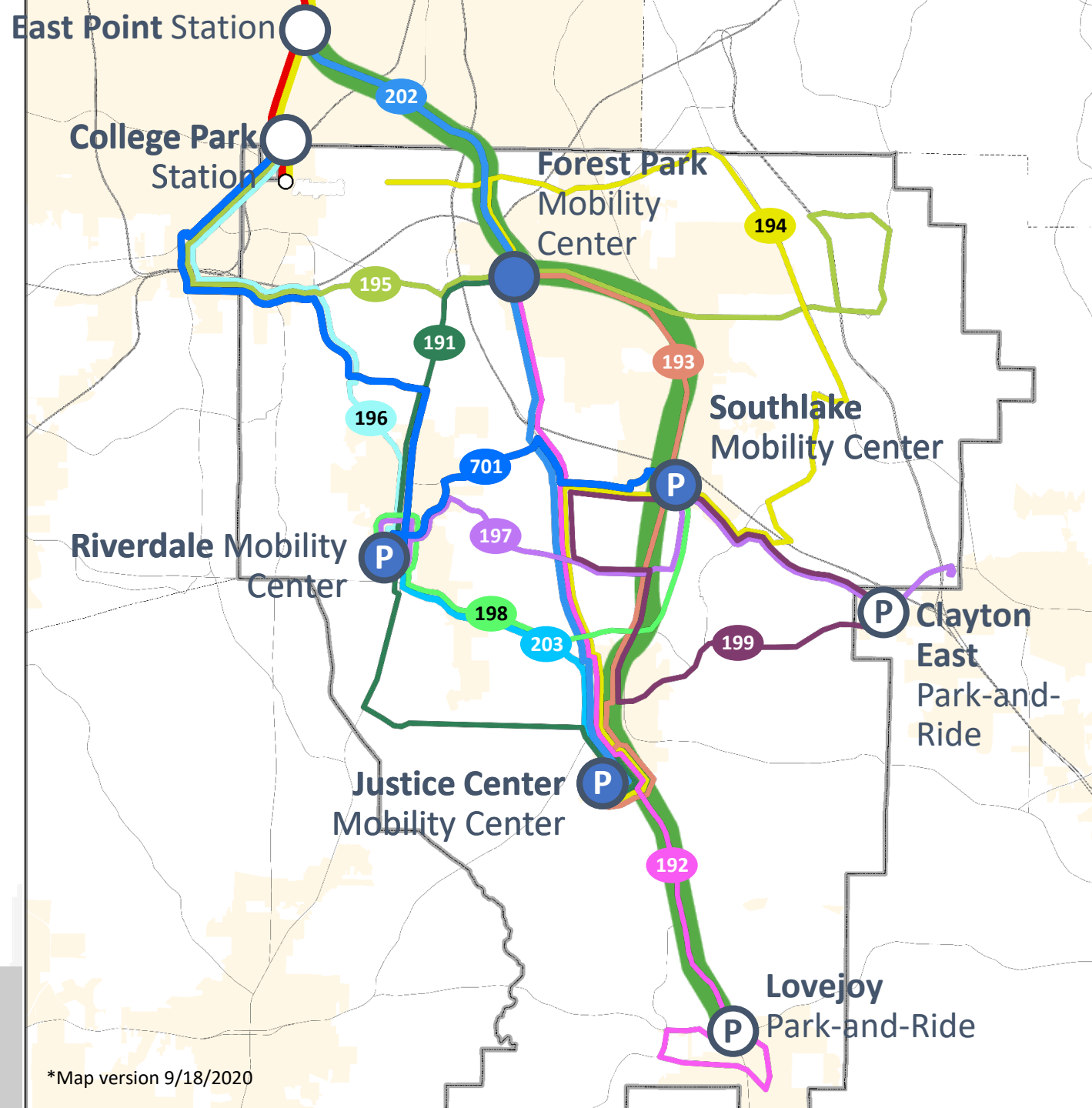
## Transit Facilities

### Park-n-Rides:

-  Lovejoy
-  Clayton East

### Mobility Hubs:

-  Forest Park
-  Southlake
-  Justice Center
-  Riverdale



\*Map version 9/18/2020



# Commuter Rail Constraints



## Norfolk Southern Coordination

*Exclusive track and 26-foot separation is required*



## Right-of-Way Acquisition

*Extensive amount of parcel impacts*



## Roadway Realignment Needed

*Increases impacts to community and project costs*



## Funding Implications

*\$1.5 - \$2 Billion and likely not competitive for FTA funding*



## Other Opportunities

*Consideration of other modes*

# IndyGo BRT Trip Purpose and Result

- Clayton County and MARTA delegation including all five commissioners, city officials, business community, citizen representation, and agency partners
- Gained consensus on actions to advance BRT implementation in SR 54 corridor and set aside commuter rail







# IndyGo BRT Trip Purpose and Result

Delegation experienced Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and visited bus maintenance facility and transfer center





# IndyGo BRT Trip Purpose and Result

Learned how bus rapid transit improves transit service by increasing frequency and reducing trip times while providing operational flexibility



# IndyGo BRT Trip Purpose and Result

Heard from Metropolitan Planning Organization, Community Improvement District and developers on how transit-oriented development success happens and saw built projects





# IndyGo BRT Trip Purpose and Result

Observed partnerships in action, including examples of workforce development and economic empowerment



# IndyGo BRT Trip Purpose and Result

Reviewed successful public engagement strategies, including messaging and messengers





# Lessons Learned

## Important messaging around IndyGo BRT system benefits

- **Shared Vision for Transit** - agreement on expectations for transit investment
- **Clear Purpose for Projects** - address equity, access, connectivity, mobility, and economic development
- **Projects are for the People** - transit increases opportunities for the traditionally underserved and can also improve quality of life for everyone



# Lessons Learned

- Indianapolis defined a plan mapping out transit investments
- Realistic about transit they could afford
- Indianapolis Chamber led communication on transit expansion including the business community and the public
- BRT system is a catalyst for investments in transit-oriented development
- Development community expressed TOD projects could have been delivered faster if a TOD ordinance was in place prior to Red Line implementation
- Red Line lessons learned are being applied to Purple and Blue Line implementation





# Applying What We Heard

- BRT in dedicated lanes is a modern and effective high-capacity transit solution for Clayton County
- BRT can be a catalyst for residential and economic development
- Recognition that the delegation has a key partner role to help MARTA and Clayton County implement BRT



# Applying What We Heard

- Project champions and relationships are key to implementation
- Senator Ossoff supports transit in Clayton County and will help secure federal funding
- Deliver transit and other community investment by working closely with both governmental and non-governmental entities





# Why BRT is Important to Clayton County

- Can be built faster than rail
- Creates a BRT network to expand mobility and connectivity across Clayton County and the Atlanta region
- Leads to economic development and upward mobility
- Provides frequent service all day
- Partnership with other agencies to address broader corridor concerns during construction



# Action Items

Goal: Move forward with BRT in the SR 54 Corridor  
& set aside commuter rail alternative

- Develop intentional messaging
- Deliver messaging to the public in partnership with Clayton County
- Update stakeholder and community engagement plan
- Complete zoning ordinance updates with local governments
- Gather resolutions and letters of support
- MARTA Board of Directors action to advance BRT and set aside commuter rail





# Major Next Steps

- **October 4, 2022** ✓
  - Clayton County Board of Commissioners Resolution of Support for setting aside CRT and advancing BRT in the SR 54 Corridor
- **October 20, 2022**
  - Hometown Connection Meeting in Jonesboro to solicit letters of support for BRT in the SR 54 corridor from Mayors, Councilmembers, and State delegation
- **November 10, 2022 (1:30pm)**
  - MARTA of Directors Board Meeting, opportunity for public comment
- **November 17, 2022**
  - MARTA Board Planning and Capital Programs Committee to approve advancing BRT and setting aside commuter rail in the SR 54 corridor
- **December 8, 2022**
  - MARTA Board of Directors action advancing BRT and setting aside commuter rail in the SR 54 corridor
- **January 2023**
  - Refinement of BRT alignment and station locations to prepare for FTA funding

# Thank You

