Future Riders, Time Savings, and Costs

TRAVEL DEMAND FORECASTING PROCESS
Travel demand forecasting is a tool used by transportation planners to estimate future use of facilities (transit and highways). The process applies data available from regional and national resources to estimate demand:

WHY
Future land use estimates are maintained by Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG)—these estimates identify expected future houses and employment throughout the region. This data set represents an estimate of what the future will look like in the region.

WHERE
MWCOG develops an understanding of trip patterns in the region by conducting a household travel survey. This data is used as an input to define future trip patterns for all modes.

HOW
MWCOG has surveyed people in the region, asking them how they make decisions about mode of travel. This information is used to estimate future mode choice (transit, drive, walk, bike)

WHICH WAY
Assignment
Once trip patterns are defined, the assignment step estimates the path each traveler will take to get to his or her destination, taking into account travel time along various options.

CAPITAL COSTS
Capital costs are one-time, fixed costs associated with building the service line. Major capital costs associated with a new transit system include:

- Physical construction of the alignment: additional roadways, steel rails (LRT), and lane reconfiguration
- Stations and stops: structures, shelters, seats, and amenities
- Right-of-way purchase: buying land for the route, stations or stops
- Site work: demolition, road work, and utility relocation
- Systems: communications, signals, electrification (LRT), and fare collection
- Vehicles
- Maintenance facilities
- Professional services: engineers, architects, lawyers, and permitting fees

ALIGNMENT CAPITAL COST ESTIMATES
The capital costs of the seven various alignment or mode options have been estimated based on comparable systems nationally. The estimates below have been tailored to account for mode type, alignment length, and location.

TRAVEL TIME PROJECTIONS

2040 NEW DAILY TRANSIT TRIPS WITHIN THE CORRIDOR

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SIMILAR PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE REGION
Various BRT and LRT projects have been proposed or constructed throughout the region. Below are several capital cost estimates, which include construction and real estate costs.