



# Meeting of the Planning and New Starts Development Committee

Thursday, September 24, 2020 • 12:00 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

## AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Approval of September 26, 2019 Meeting Minutes
3. Approval of February 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes
4. Peninsula Bus Rapid Transit Categorical Exclusion
5. Naval Station Norfolk DEIS
6. Old Business
7. New Business
8. Adjournment

***The next meeting: TBD***



# Meeting of the Planning and New Starts Development Committee

Thursday, September 26, 2019 • 12:30 p.m.

2nd Floor Board Room • 3400 Victoria Blvd, Hampton VA 23661

## MEETING MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER:

Committee Chair Amelia Ross-Hammond called the meeting to order at 12:45 pm.

### IN ATTENDANCE:

#### Committee Members:

Commissioner Ross-Hammond, Virginia Beach – **Committee Chair**

Commissioner Hamel, Chesapeake

Commissioner Hunter, **TDCHR-Chair**

#### Other Commissioners:

Honorable Patricia P. Woodbury, Newport News

Commissioner Gaylene Kanoyton, Hampton

Honorable John Rowe, Portsmouth

Commissioner Amy Inman, Norfolk Alternate

Commissioner Tara Reel, Virginia Beach, Alternate

Commissioner Steve Pittard, DRPT, Alternate

#### Hampton Roads Transit Staff:

William Harrell, President and CEO

Conner Burns, Chief Financial Officer

Ray Amoruso, Chief Planning & Development Officer

Jamie Jackson, Director of Transit Development

Samantha Sink, Transit Development Planner

Carleen Muncy, Executive Assistant to Planning & Development

Luis Ramos, Sr. Executive Assistant to the President and CEO

Amy Braziel, Sr. Executive Assistant to the Officer of Operations

Robert Travers, HRT Attorney

Jim Price, Chief Operations Officer

Sibyl Pappas, Chief Environmental and Facilities Officer

Gene Cavasos, Chief Marketing & Communications Officer

Brian Smith, Chief of Staff

Joe Dillard, Government Relations Liaison

Tom Holden, Media Relations Specialist

Sonya Luther, Director of Procurement

Mike Perez, Operations Project and Contract Administrator

Ben Simms, Director of Transportation (Bus & Rail)

Mark Stemple, Director of Maintenance

Debbie Ball, Director of Finance

Larry Kirk, Assistant Director of Finance

Brenda Green, Executive Administrative Assistant to Finance

Keith Johnson, Manager of Paratransit

**Other Attendees**

David C. Burton, Williams Mullen

Carl Jackson, City of Portsmouth

The March 28, 2019 Planning and New Starts Committee meeting minutes and Agenda for the September 26, 2019 meeting was distributed electronically to committee members in advance of the meeting and hard copies of packets were distributed at the meeting. The meeting package consisted of:

- Agenda
- Minutes from the March 28, 2019 Meeting
- Peninsula Bus Rapid Transit Categorical Exclusion Presentation
- Naval Station Norfolk DEIS Presentation
- Added at the meeting to the Agenda was verbal update regarding the Ferry Docks

**Welcome – Chairwoman – Amelia Ross-Hammond**

Chairwoman Amelia Ross-Hammond opened the meeting at 12:45 pm. It was determined that there was a quorum of members present to approve any action items if presented.

**Approval of the March 28, 2019 Minutes**

A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the March 28, 2019 Planning and New Starts Committee Meeting Minutes. The March 28, 2019 minutes were voted on and approved by committee members present. It was noted that the date of March 29, 2019 on the agenda was incorrect. There was 1 abstained vote.

Committee Chair Amelia Ross-Hammond requested Mr. Ray Amoruso, Chief Planning and Development Officer to present the next two portions of the meeting. He introduced Ms. Sam Sink who presented the PowerPoint portion entitled Peninsula Bus Rapid Transit Categorical Exclusion.

**Peninsula Bus Rapid Transit Categorical Exclusion – Sam Sink**

Ms. Sink gave a status report on the Peninsula Bus Rapid Transit Categorical Exclusion study, which was initiated on October 2018. The purpose is to obtain National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance and prepare the project for entrance into FTA Project Development phase; to provide a detailed evaluation of traffic impacts; to engage the public and stakeholders to build excitement and support; to define a locally preferred alternative (LPA); and to refine design and costs.

The project has been significantly delayed due to issues with finding meeting times that work for Newport News staff to discuss their response to traffic analysis. Traffic work is currently being redone to address City concerns. Newport News requested putting LPA decision off until early 2020, making the project now ineligible for FY26 SMART SCALE money.

The next steps include revising the alignment design, revising traffic modeling, developing cost and ridership estimates, and public engagement meetings in 2020 with City Council Meetings and Mobile Workshops.

The estimated finish is now June 2020.

**Naval Station Norfolk DEIS – Jamie Jackson**

Ms. Jamie Jackson gave a presentation on the Naval Station Norfolk DEIS, formally called the Naval Station Norfolk Transit Corridor Project. She provided an overview of the study background. She shared that the related Alternatives Analysis phase of the project started in 2015, which concluded with the evaluation of corridors on the east and west side. In 2017, the Norfolk Westside Transit determined that the recommendation for the west side of the City was a “no-build” solution, as there was no viable alternative on the west side of the City. Therefore, the next phase of the Environmental Review Process is the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the potential of an extension of high capacity transit in Norfolk.

In the phase of the project, alternatives will be identified and analyzed for their potential effects on the proposed project environment. This will include the project impacts on natural, cultural, and the socio-economic factors within the study area. The project will analyze a range of alternatives on the east side that will ultimately address the project’s Purpose and Needs statement and the goals that will be developed. At the conclusion of the project, one (1) alternative that best balances both the potential environmental impacts and the anticipated benefits of this project will be identified.

In June of 2019, the Commission awarded a contract for the project to Michael Baker STV JV. In partnership with the City of Norfolk, HRT is working with the Micael Baker STV JV on this effort.

With our partners in the City of Norfolk, high-capacity transit is being evaluated, that will not only meet the needs of residents, but impact area employers, and over 60,000 military, civilian and contractors that access Naval Station Norfolk and will support military readiness.

Key corridors within the east side of the City are being evaluated and include connections from The Tide to Naval Station Norfolk (NSN) with alignments being considered along Military Highway, West Little Creek Road, and upper portions of Hampton Boulevard. Intermediary destinations to be considered include activity centers within the corridor, with connections from The Tide to Naval Station Norfolk (NSN), Military Circle Mall/JANAF Shopping Center, Sentara Leigh Hospital, Ward’s Corridor, Norfolk International Airport, and access to IKEA-Norfolk Premium Outlets. The options along the corridor may improve citizen mobility in the area, access to job opportunities and provide benefits to employers in the area.

As we look ahead, this project will enhance the future of transit service and this future begins in the City of Norfolk. It will also impact the region. We are expecting this effort to last approximately thirty (30) months. Over the next couple of months, information will be gathered by the consultants, the City of Norfolk, businesses, stakeholders, and the public to reflect on the Purpose and Need statement. The consultants are working now through November on the Tier 1 Alternative Identification. Development of the Advisory Committees is taking place. There will be an Executive Advisory Committee; a Technical Advisory Committee; and a Stakeholders Advisory Group.

**Chesapeake Corridor Study – Sam Sink**

Ms. Sink reported that RSTP funding has been programed for FY21. Anticipated release of the RFP in the spring of 2020, with the beginning of the study to start in the summer of 2020. Meetings with Chesapeake staff are planned in the coming weeks to evaluate alignments and technologies to determine the best alternative to move forward into environmental clearance. If all goes well, Chesapeake might be set up for the SMART SCALE FY26 funding.

**Old Business****Ferry Docks Update – Portsmouth and Norfolk – Sibyl Pappas**

Last month Mr. Carl Jackson stated that he would like to receive updates on the improvements to the ferry docks at a future meeting.

Ms. Sibyl Pappas stated that there was a project ongoing right now that includes both Norfolk and Portsmouth Ferry Docks as well as all our passengers to make the four ferry docks more ADA accessible, allow for simultaneous boarding and alighting onto the ferries, and provides Ticket Vending Machines (TMV) for our customers. There is \$3,295,488.00 available for ferry dock reconstruction and TVM's. The local portion of that is \$131,820 divided by the two cities impacted, each city (Norfolk and Portsmouth) contributes \$65,910. There are two (2) docks in each city that is being rebuilt for a total of four (4) docks. In October 2019 through March 2020, the Harbor Park dock will be the first to be reconstructed. Next, starting in December 2019 through February 2020 will be Waterside dock, followed by the North Landing dock from February 2020 through March 2020. The last dock to be reconstructed will be the High Street dock in April 2020. Permits and design plans have been submitted to both cities so that there will be no delays in the start of construction. At this time, Hampton Roads Transit does not anticipate any delays.

Regarding the passenger amenities, improvements will be made to add shelters, canopied waiting areas, additional lighting, less signage and new ticket vending machines.

**New Business**

There was no new business.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Carleen Kay Muncy*  
Carleen Muncy, BA, CAP, OM  
Executive Assistant  
Planning & Development  
Hampton Roads Transit



# Meeting of the Planning and New Starts Development Committee

Thursday, February 27, 2020 • 12:00 p.m.

2nd Floor Board Room • 509 E. 18<sup>th</sup> Street Norfolk, VA 23513

## MEETING MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER:

Chairwoman Ross-Hammond called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm.

### IN ATTENDANCE:

#### Committee Members:

Commissioner Ross-Hammond, Virginia Beach

#### Other Commissioners:

Commissioner Cole Fisher, Virginia Beach, Alternate

#### Hampton Roads Transit Staff:

Ray Amoruso, Chief Planning & Development Officer

Gene Cavasos, Chief Marketing & Communications Officer

William Harrell, President and CEO

Sonya Luther, Director of Procurement

Carleen Muncy, Executive Assistant to Planning & Development

Sibyl Pappas, Chief Environmental and Facilities Officer

Samantha Sink, Transit Development Planner

Brian Smith, Chief of Staff

Robert Travers, Counsel

The February 27, 2020 Planning and New Starts Committee meeting package was distributed electronically to committee members in advance of the meeting and hard copies were distributed at the meeting. The meeting package distributed at the meeting consisted of:

- Agenda
- Minutes from the September 26, 2019 Meeting
- Hampton Roads Transit 2019 Annual Report
- Peninsula Bus Rapid Transit Categorical Exclusion Presentation
- Naval Station Norfolk Transit Corridor Project Presentation
- Naval Station Norfolk Transit Corridor Project Flyer

### Welcome

Commissioner Ross-Hammond welcomed everyone to the meeting. No quorum was obtained and any items requiring action will not be brought forth for approval unless the quorum is obtained during the meetings progress.

### **Approval of the September 26, 2019 Minutes**

Since there was not a quorum, the minutes from the September 26, 2019 minutes could not be approved. They will be held for approval at the next meeting.

### **Peninsula Bus Rapid Transit Categorical Exclusion**

Mr. Ray Amoruso called on Ms. Sam Sink to give a status report on the Peninsula Bus Rapid Transit Categorical Exclusion study.

Ms. Sink presented the Peninsula Bus Rapid Transit Categorical Exclusion as enclosed in the meeting package. Ms. Sink stated this project was originally a 12-month project that was initiated October 2018. Ms. Sink reviewed the Purpose of the Project and gave an update on the revised alignment along Jefferson Avenue. It was stated that the project team was currently working on cost and ridership estimates and traffic impacts and that the projected LPA would go to City Councils for approval in March. The projected FTA approval of Documented CE would be completed over the summer.

There was discussion regarding flooding, and it was noted that flooding is not a concern for this project.

The next steps include meeting with City Managers; Council Work Sessions; LPA approval, Public Outreach, and FTA approval of the Documented CE.

### **Naval Station Norfolk DEIS**

Mr. Ray Amoruso, reviewed the presentation on the Naval Station Norfolk DEIS, formally called the Naval Station Norfolk Transit Corridor Project as enclosed in the meeting package on behalf of Ms. Jamie Jackson who has accepted the position of Transit Director for Fredericksburg Transit.

Mr. Amoruso provided an overview of the study background and history and reviewed potential alternatives. Mr. Amoruso shared that both bus rapid transit and light rail are being considered as transit alternatives to serve Military Circle Mall, Janaf shopping center, Norfolk International Airport and Naval Station Norfolk. This project will evaluate high-quality transit to meet the needs of residents, employers, retail centers, and neighborhoods and will improve citizen mobility and access to job opportunities, enhance connections to downtown and other city assets.

Mr. Amoruso stated that in the later phase of the study, after alternatives are narrowed down, the preparation of a DEIS (Draft Environmental Impact Statement) will begin. The goal is to document the benefits and impacts of the proposed project in accordance with federal environmental regulations were discussed.

It was state that the public engagement strategy includes innovative and interactive engagements through website and other media, community events, and building community group that will last throughout the duration of study and project. Project Committees structure being coordinated are: Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC); Technical Advisory Committee (TAC); Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) and The Community Group.

Mr. Amoruso then reviewed the timeline and how this project benefits the entire region including the Peninsula.

**Old Business**

There was no old business discussed at the meeting.

**New Business**

There was no new business discussed at the meeting.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

***Carleen Kay Muncy***

Carleen Muncy, BA, CAP-OM

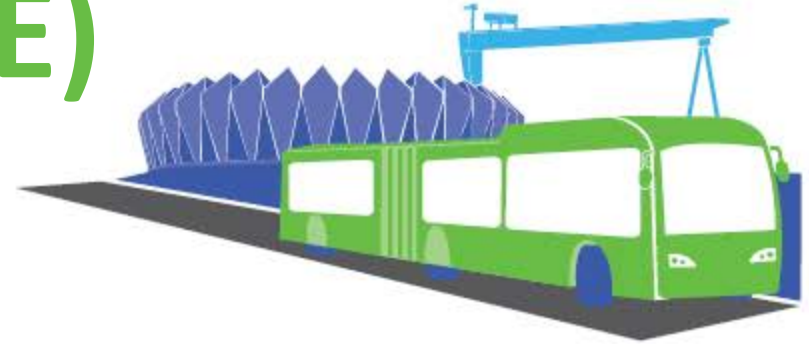
Executive Assistant

Planning & Development

Hampton Roads Transit



# Peninsula BRT Categorical Exclusion (CE)

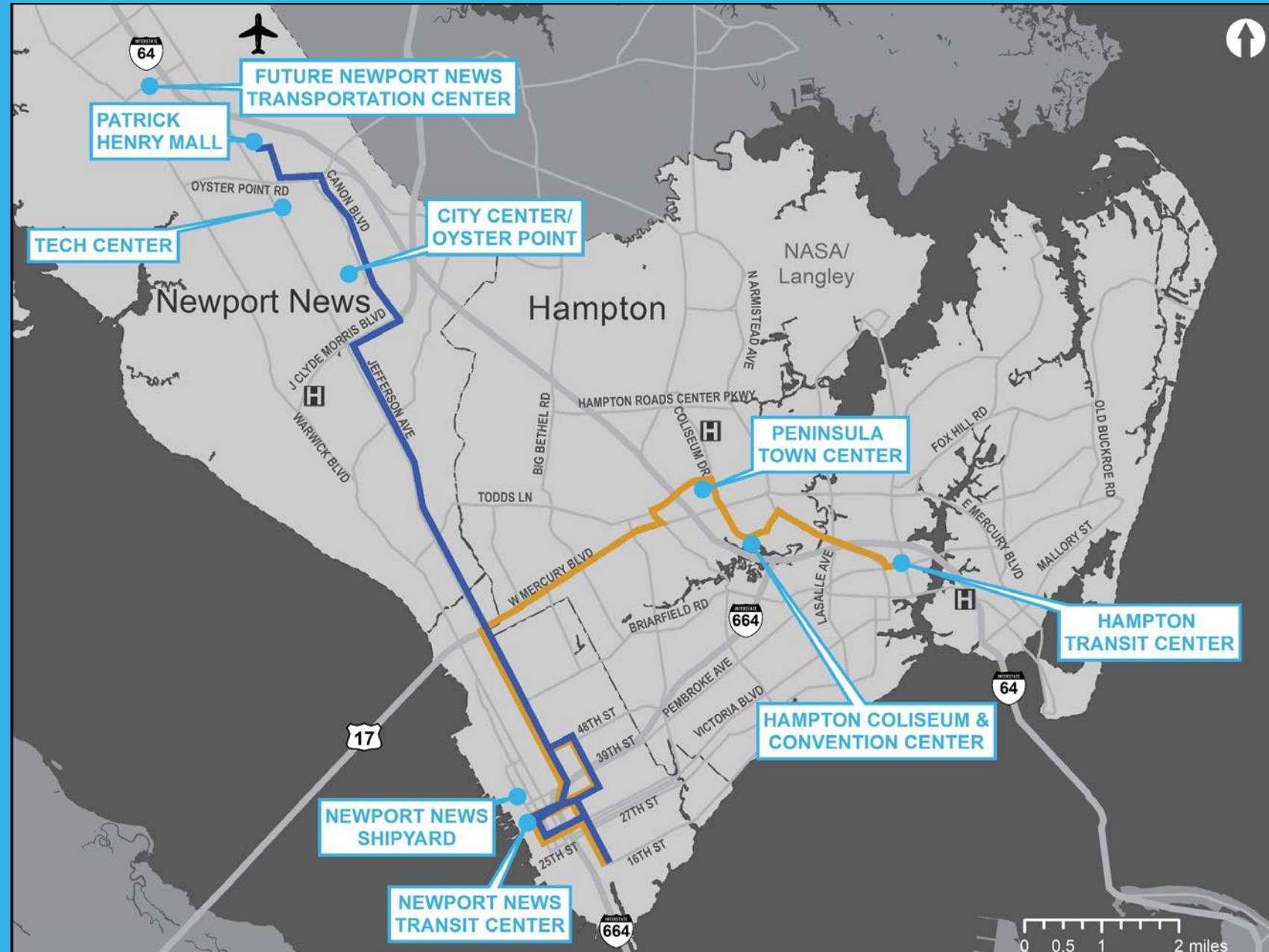


**PENINSULA**  
BUS RAPID TRANSIT

September 24, 2020  
Planning & New Starts

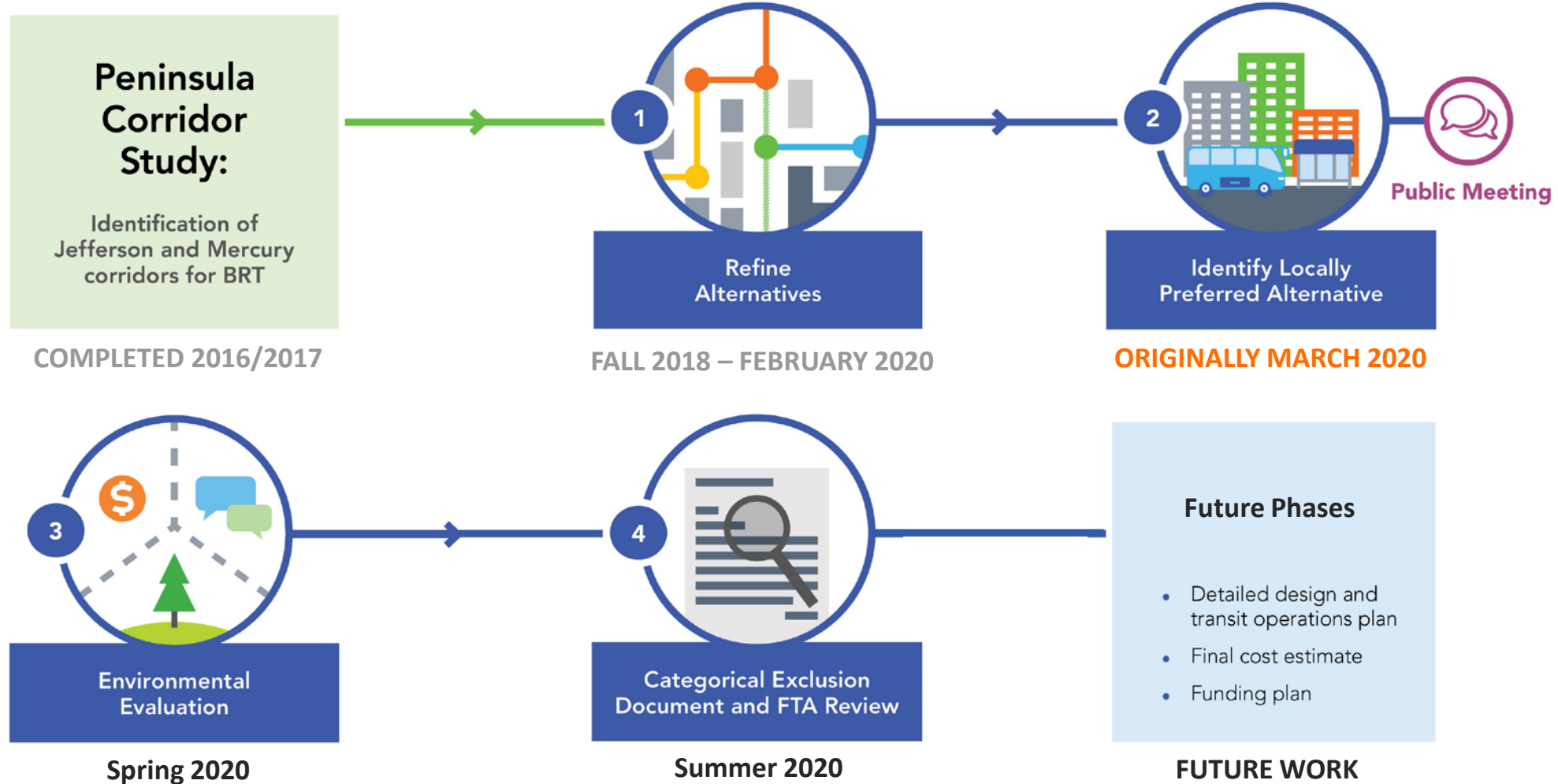
# Peninsula BRT CE

- Obtain National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance and prepare the project for entrance into FTA Project Development phase
- Define a locally preferred alternative (LPA)
- Engage the public and stakeholders



# Study Process

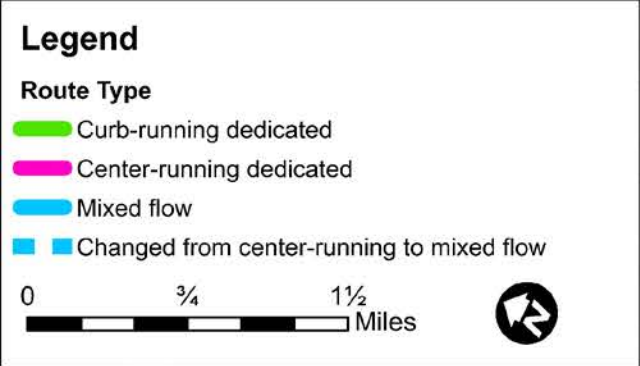
Current Project (NEPA)



ENGAGEMENT THROUGHOUT

- Website updates
- Newsletters and email updates
- Civic engagement opportunities
- Briefings to City and HRT leadership



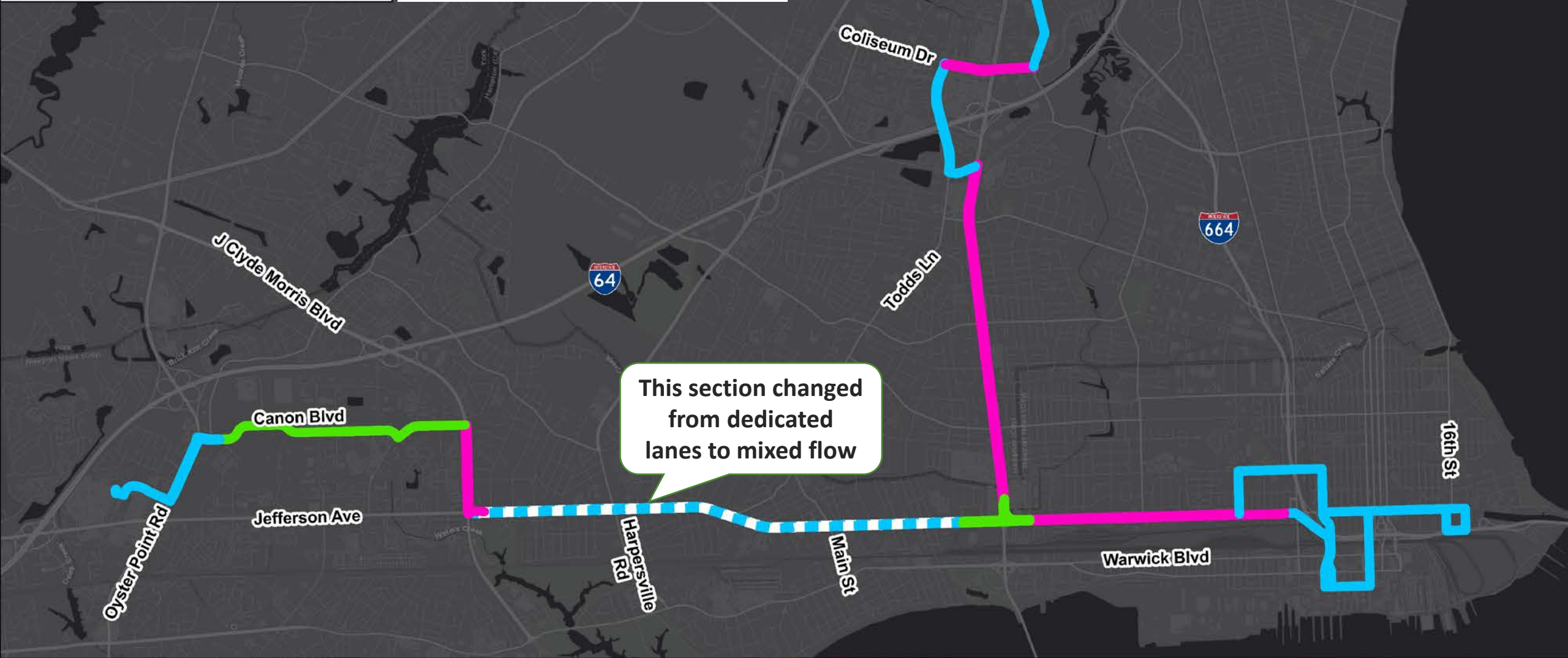


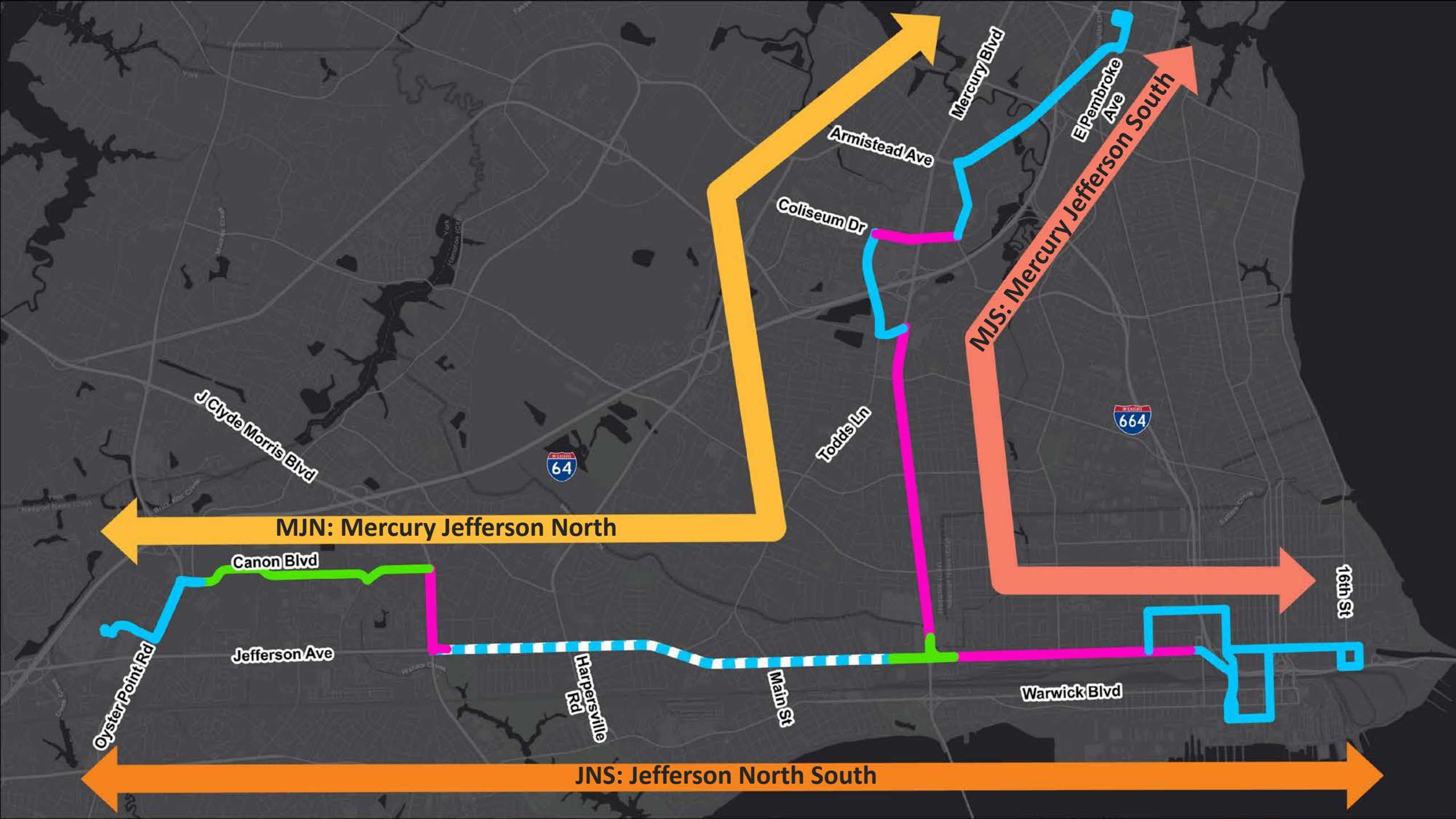
Previous Configuration

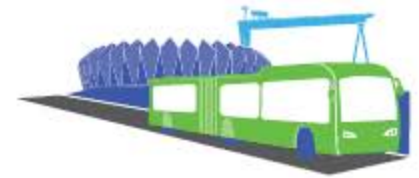
- 40% mixed flow
- 60% dedicated lanes

Revised Configuration

- 60% mixed flow
- 40% dedicated lanes







**PENINSULA**  
BUS RAPID TRANSIT

# Next Steps



# What's Next?

- Draft CE to FTA
- City Council LPA Decisions
- Public Engagement
- Final CE



**PLANNING & NEW STARTS**  
**SEPTEMBER 24, 2020**



**NAVAL STATION**  
**NORFOLK**

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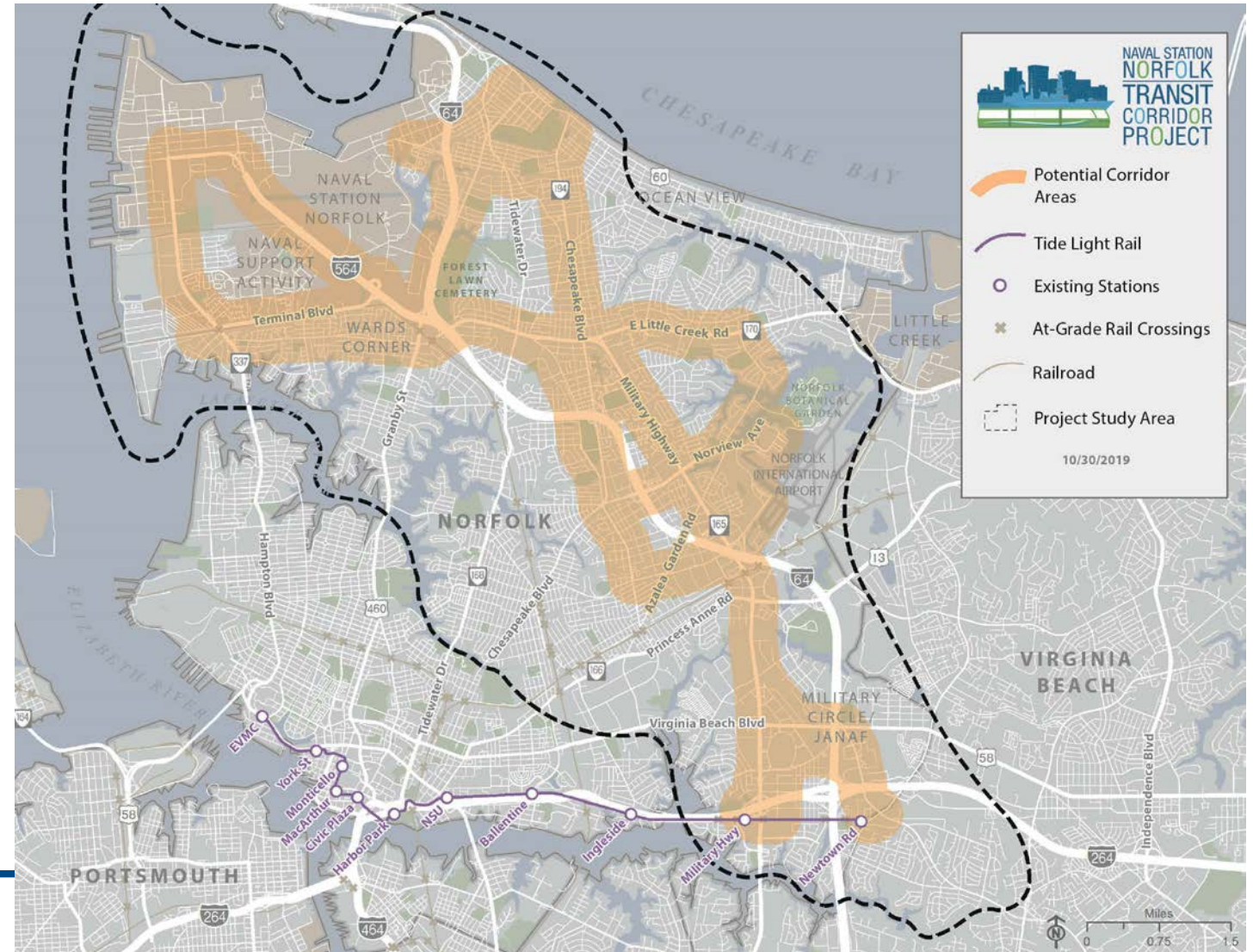
**TRANSIT**  
**CORRIDOR**  
**PROJECT**



# CORRIDOR ALTERNATIVES



- The project will begin with a 'universe' of possibilities, building on prior studies
- Two tiers of evaluation and screening will be conducted, followed by full environmental analysis
- BRT and LRT technologies will be evaluated



## 2020 ACTIVITIES TO DATE:

- Conducted Round I Public Engagement
- Completed Tier I Alternatives Evaluation
- Conducting Tier 2 Alternatives Evaluation





# TIER I ALTERNATIVES

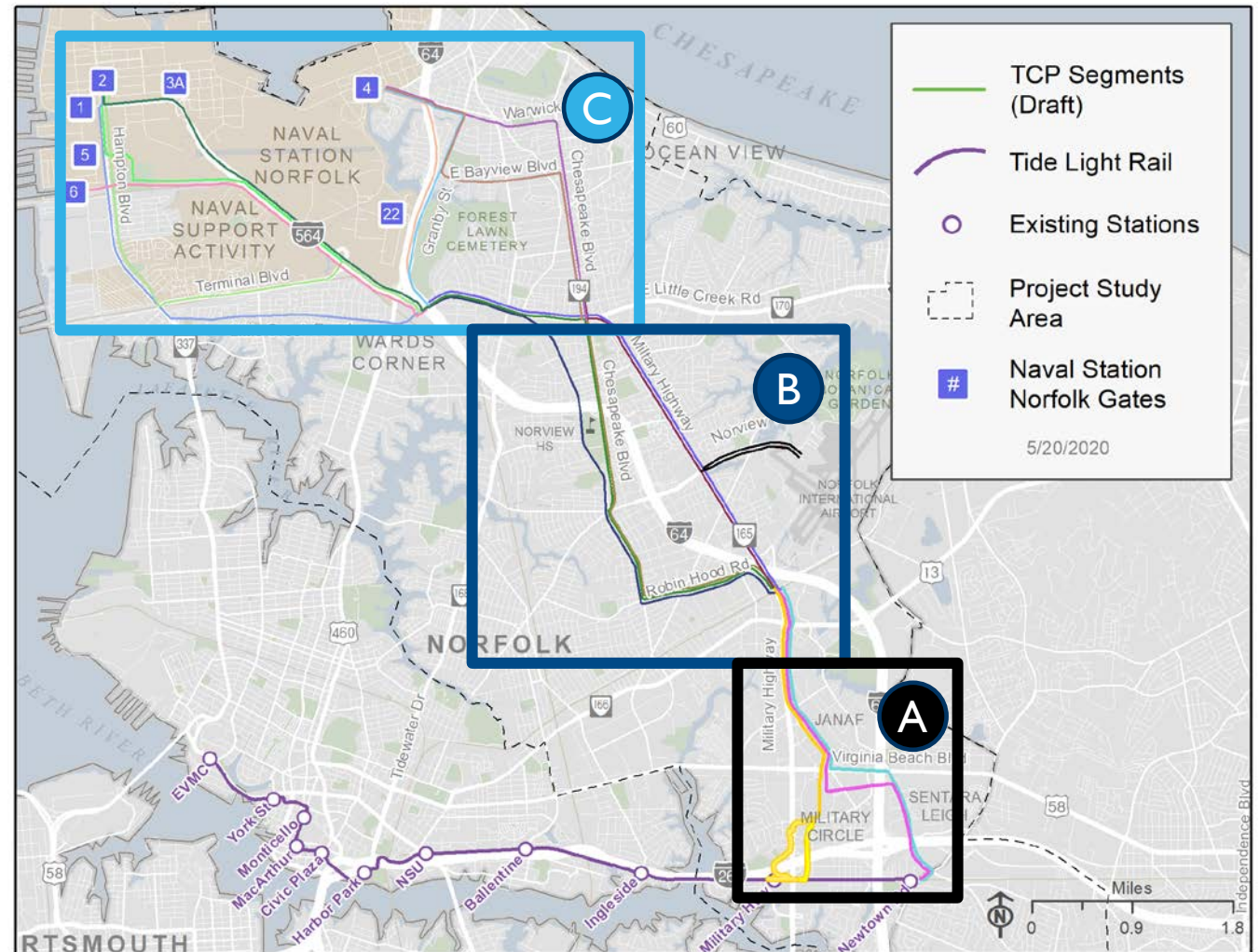


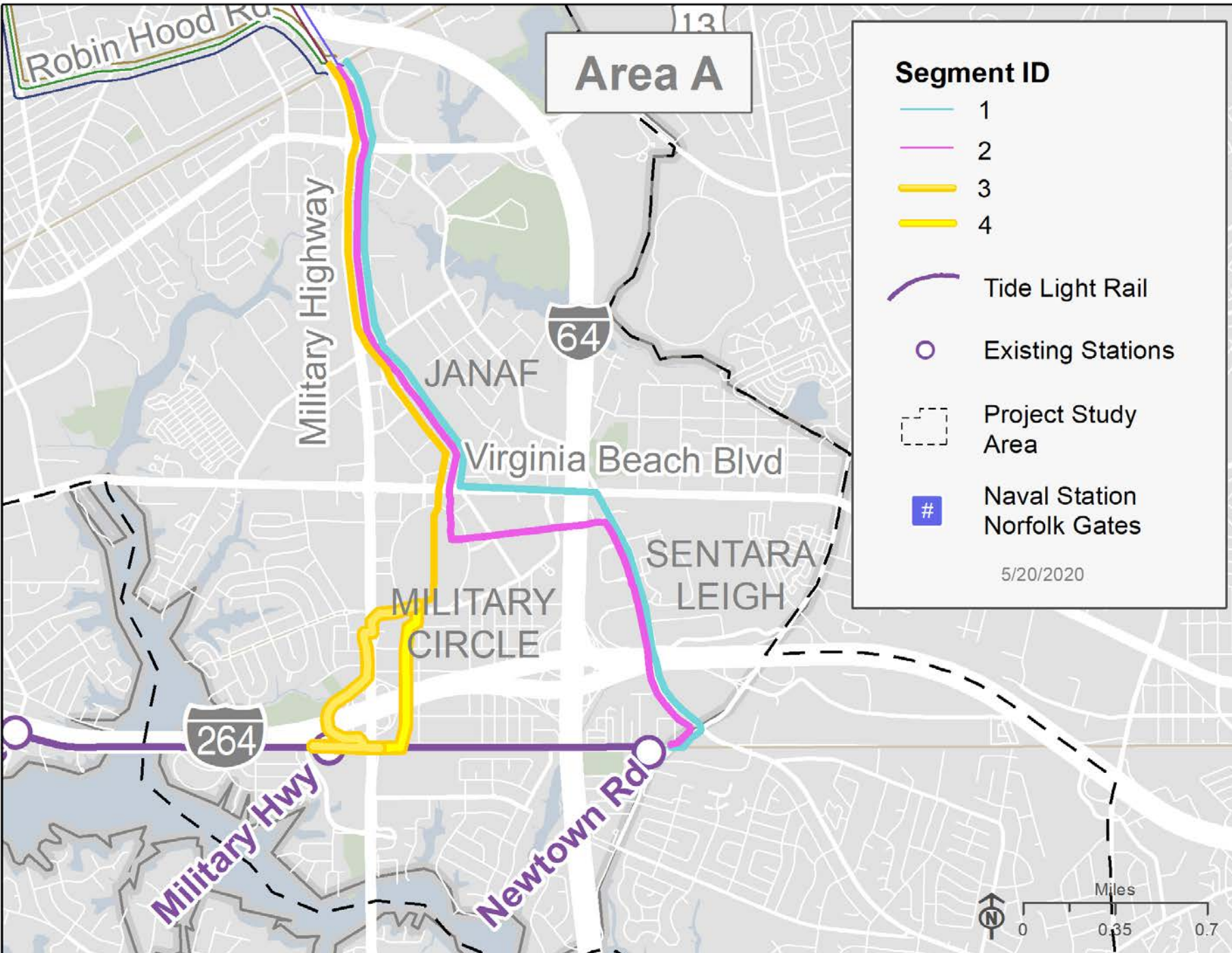
Alternatives defined and evaluated within each of several geographic areas in Tier 1.

- A** Mall Area
- B** Airport Area
- C** Naval Station Norfolk Area

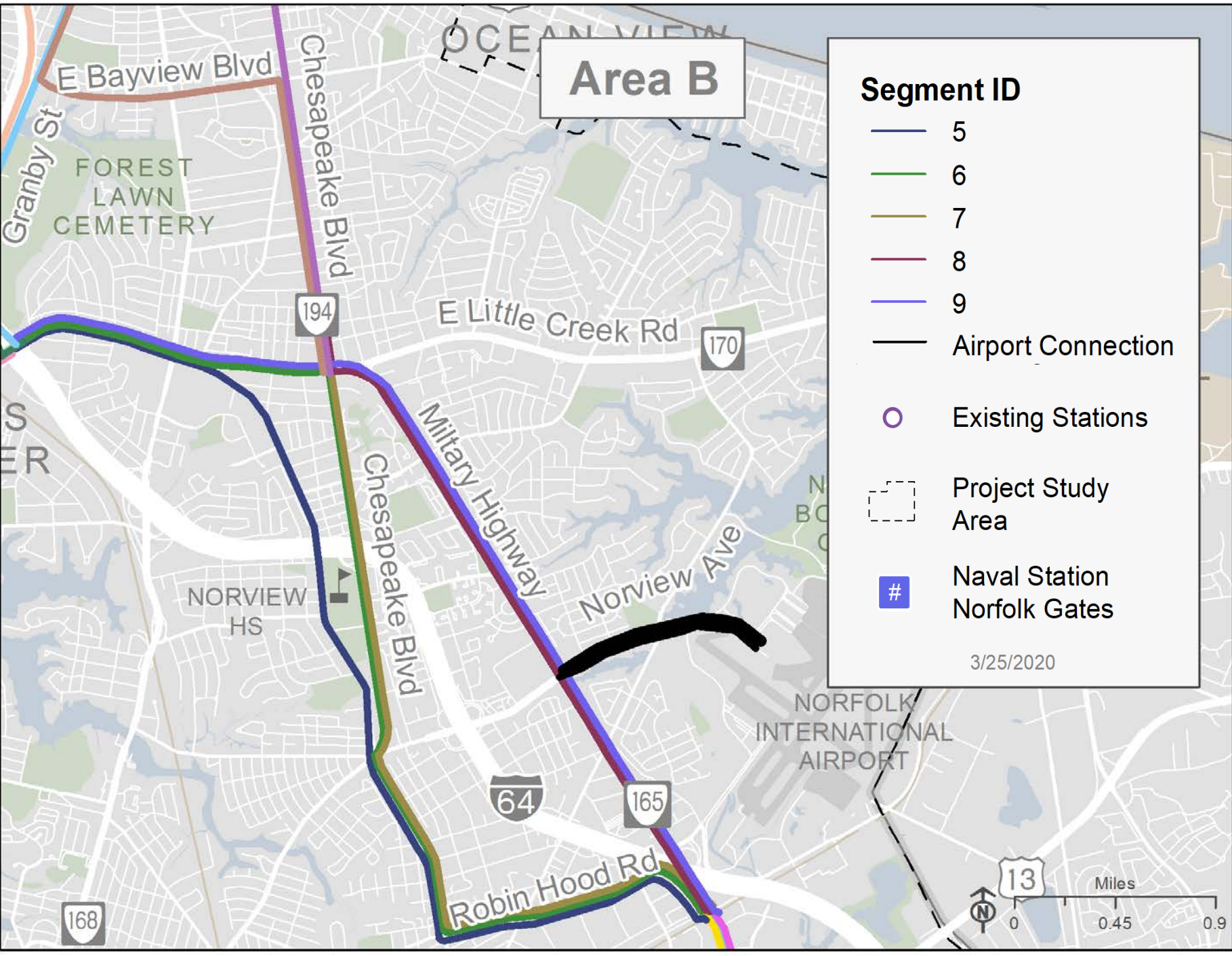
Each Geographic Area ends where the next numbered Geographic Area begins.

Results of Tier 1 analysis will be used to construct alternatives spanning the entire corridor that will be evaluated in Tier 2.









# Area C

## Segment ID

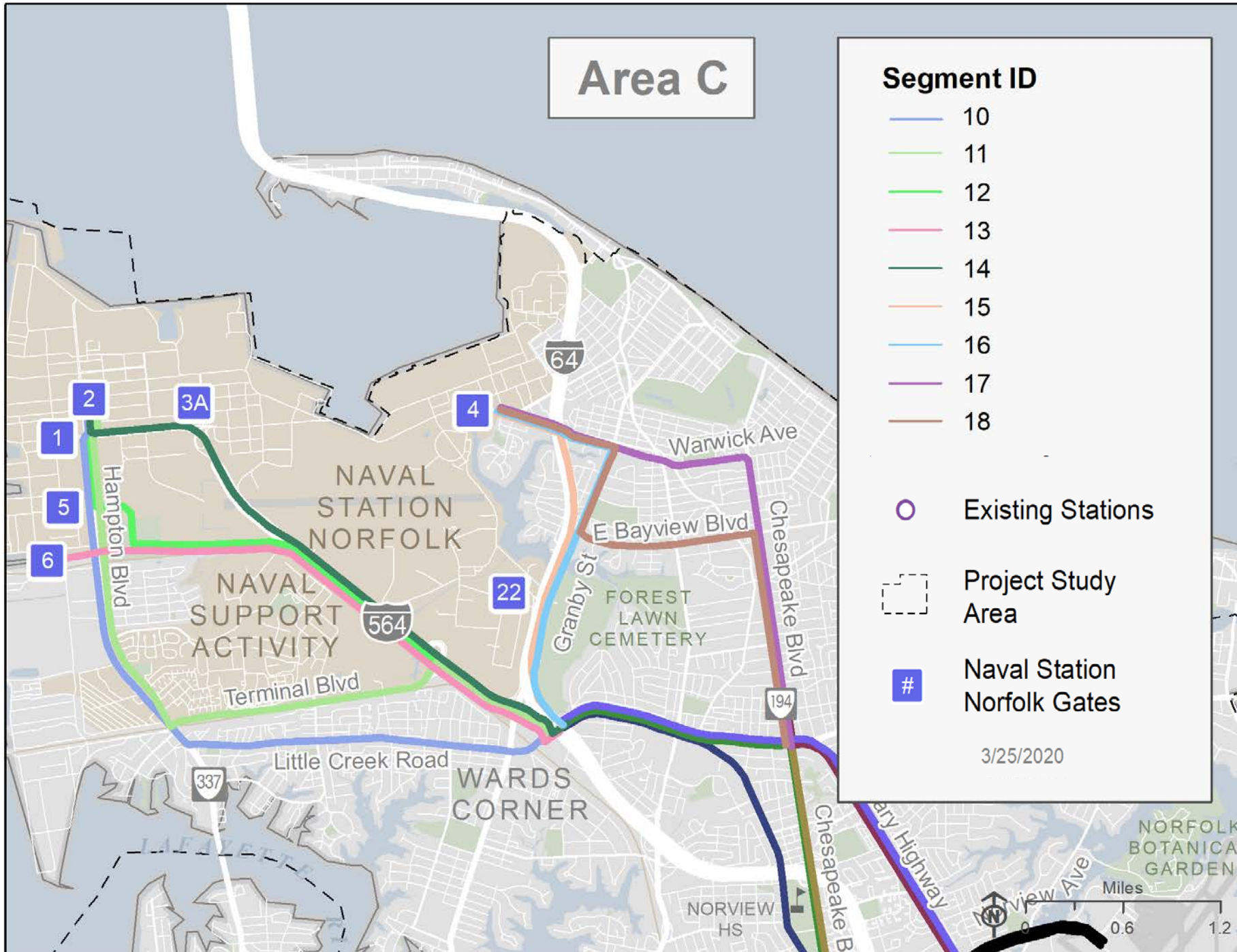
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18

Existing Stations

Project Study Area

Naval Station Norfolk Gates

3/25/2020





# TIER I EVALUATION RESULTS



Alternative	Transit Technology Compatibility	Major Activity Centers	Population within ¼ mile	Transit Ridership within ¼ mile	Total Travel Time	Route Directness	Volume to Capacity	Segment Feasibility	Employment within ¼ mile	Multimodal Connections	Preliminary Environmental Issues	Land Use	Rating
A1													
A2													
A3													
A4													
B5													
B6													
B7													
B8													
B9													
C10													
C11													
C12													
C13													
C14													
C15													
C16													
C17													
C18													

Highest ranked segment from Newtown Rd Tide Station – A2

Highest ranked segment from Military Hwy Tide Station – A3/A4

Highest ranked joining segment – B9

Highest ranked segment to NSN Main Gate – C12/13

Highest ranked segment to NSN Gate 4 – C15

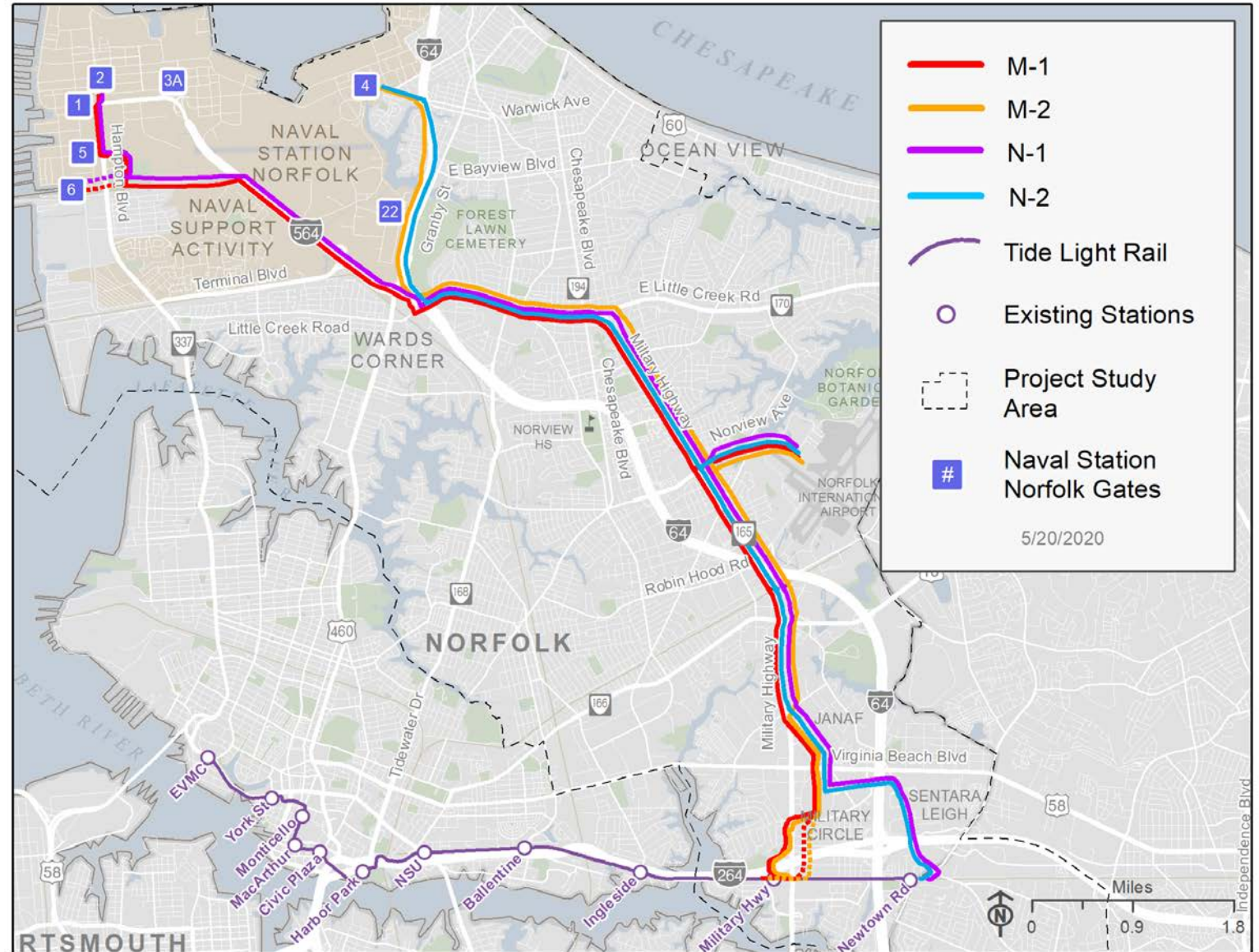
# TIER 2 ALTERNATIVES

**M-1:** Military Highway Station to Main Gate – A3/A4, B9, C12/I3 (BRT or LRT)

**M-2:** Military Highway Station to Gate 4 – A3/A4, B9, C15 (BRT or LRT)

**N-1:** Newtown Road Station to Main Gate – A2, B9, C12/I3 (BRT or LRT)

**N-2:** Newtown Road to Gate 4 – A2, B9, C15 (BRT or LRT)





# PROJECT TIMELINE



# PROJECT TIMELINE

