

# Westchester County Mobility & Transit Plan

## Westchester County Mobility & Transit Plan Virtual Public Meeting

August 2022



# Your Hosts

## **Westchester County Department of Planning**

- Blanca Lopez, Deputy Commissioner
- Kelly Sheehan, Assistant Commissioner
- Ilana Wagner, Principal Transportation Planner
- Carlos Gomez, Program Administrator (Spanish assistance)



## **Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates**

- Bill Schwartz, AICP, Principal
- Eryn Rosenblum, Senior Associate
- Larry Gould, Principal
- Adija Manley, Associate



An aerial photograph of a city, likely New York City, showing a mix of old and new buildings, streets, and a river. The image is overlaid with several semi-transparent blue rectangular boxes containing white text. The text lists an agenda for a presentation or report. The background shows a dense urban environment with various architectural styles, including brick buildings and modern glass skyscrapers. A river flows through the city, and a train track is visible in the lower-left quadrant. A prominent sign on a building reads "NOW LEASING".

# AGENDA

Housekeeping & headlines

Why undertake a mobility & bus redesign?

How the study was done

What the suggested plan would do

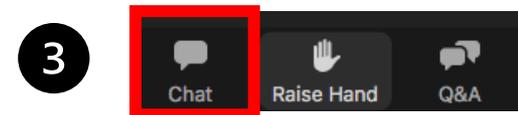
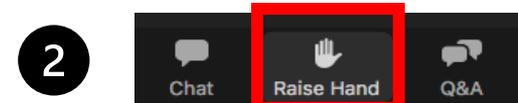
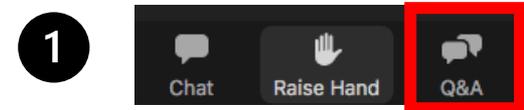
How to provide your feedback

Discussion

# How to Participate

## Via Zoom Video

- At any time, click **Q&A** to ask a question or submit a comment
  - You can "**Upvote**" questions posed by others
- If you wish to speak during the discussion, click **Reactions** and then the **Raise Hand** icon. Be sure to unmute yourself when asked
- Use **Chat** to ask about technical issues. Only the hosts can see what you put in the chat.



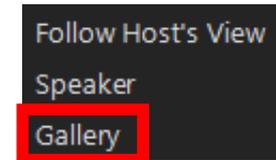
## By Phone

- Press \*6 to mute/unmute and \*9 to raise hand

# How to Change Your Zoom View

## Zoom Video Participants

1. To see the speaker and slides, be sure to select **Gallery** from the view
  - Top right on a PC or Mac
  - Upper left on iPad
  - If you need technical support, please type questions into the chat



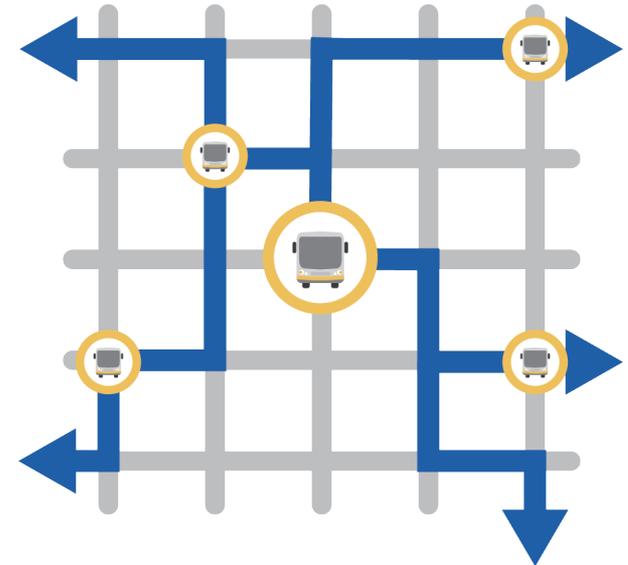


## The Headlines



# What the Suggested Plan Would Do

1. Provide more frequent bus service where it's needed most
2. Operate longer and add service on weekends
3. Reduce Metro-North fares within Westchester and provide free Bee-Line transfers
4. Offer on-demand shuttle service (microtransit)



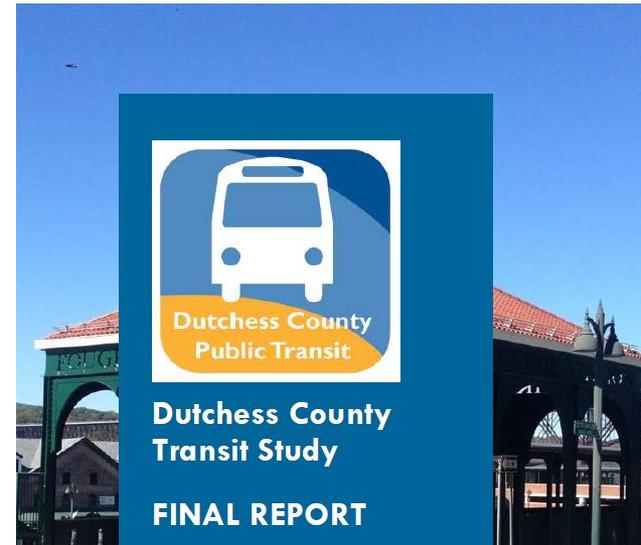


## Why a Mobility & Bus Redesign?





# Nearby Transit Agencies are Redesigning their Bus Networks

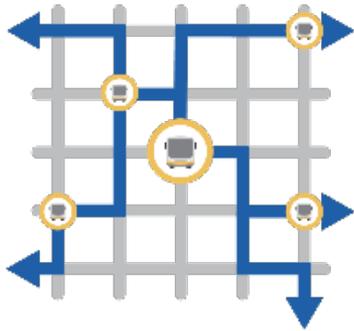




## How the Study was Undertaken



# Goals for the Mobility Plan



Design a **high-performing, reliable, and easy-to-understand transportation system**, emphasizing speed, convenience, directness, reliability, and comfort.



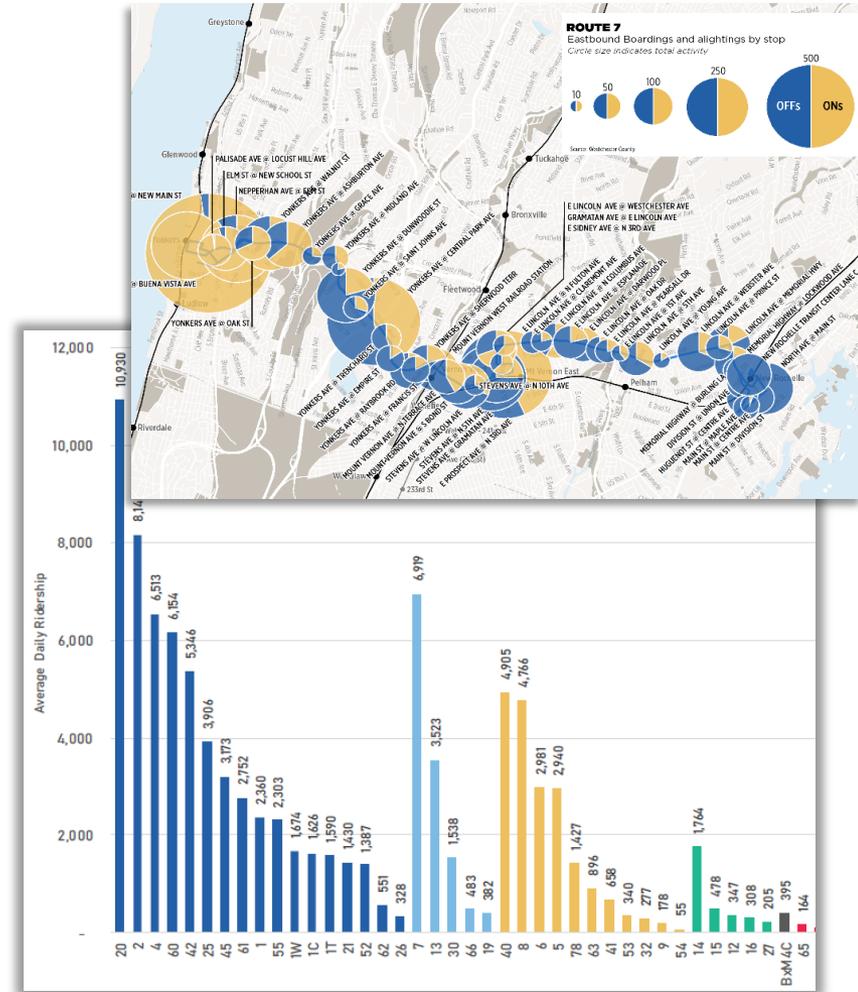
Create a **family of service options** to right-size mobility services for Westchester's many travel markets.



Provide an **equitable and socially just transportation network** that provides opportunities for prosperity and quality of life to users of all ethnicities, incomes, abilities, and ages.

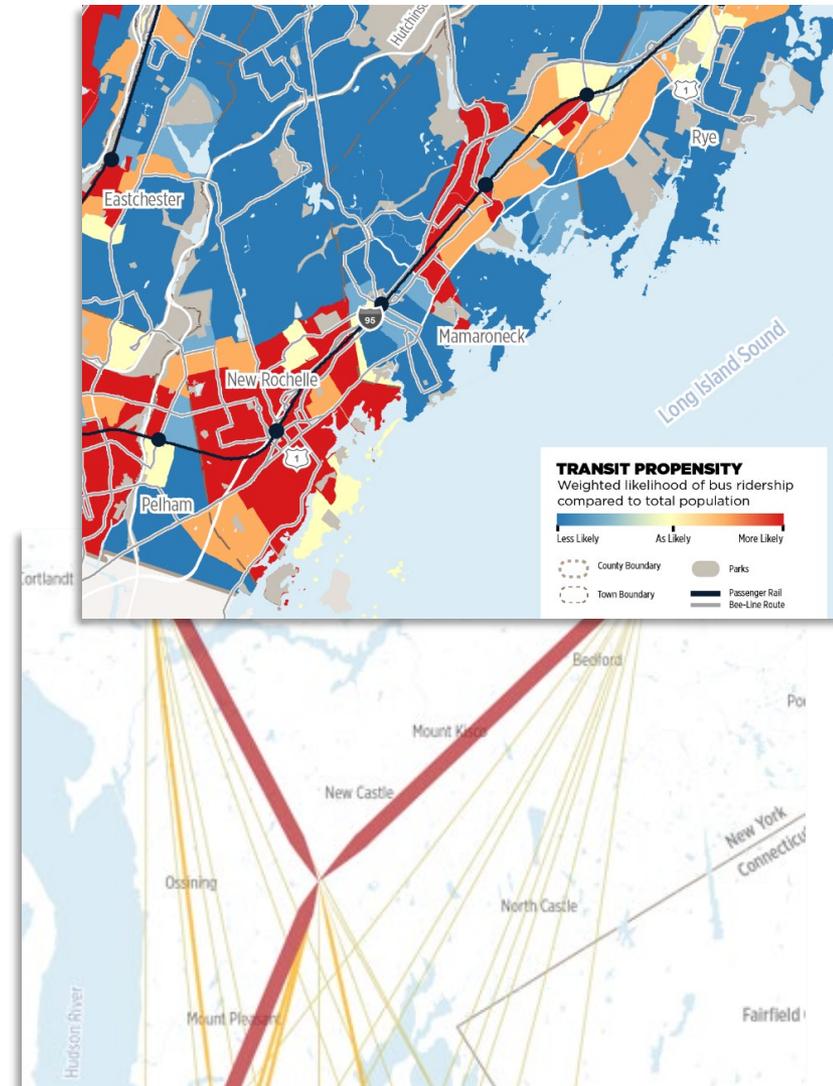
# Analysis, Engagement, and Evaluation

- **Robust evaluation of current Bee-Line service and performance**
- Assessment of transit markets, travel patterns, demographics
- Website, focus groups, and online public survey
- Evaluation of both fixed-route and microtransit options



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**Let's shape the future of mobility in Westchester**

Westchester County is embarking on a study to better align the county's mobility network with the needs of our residents, workers, and visitors.

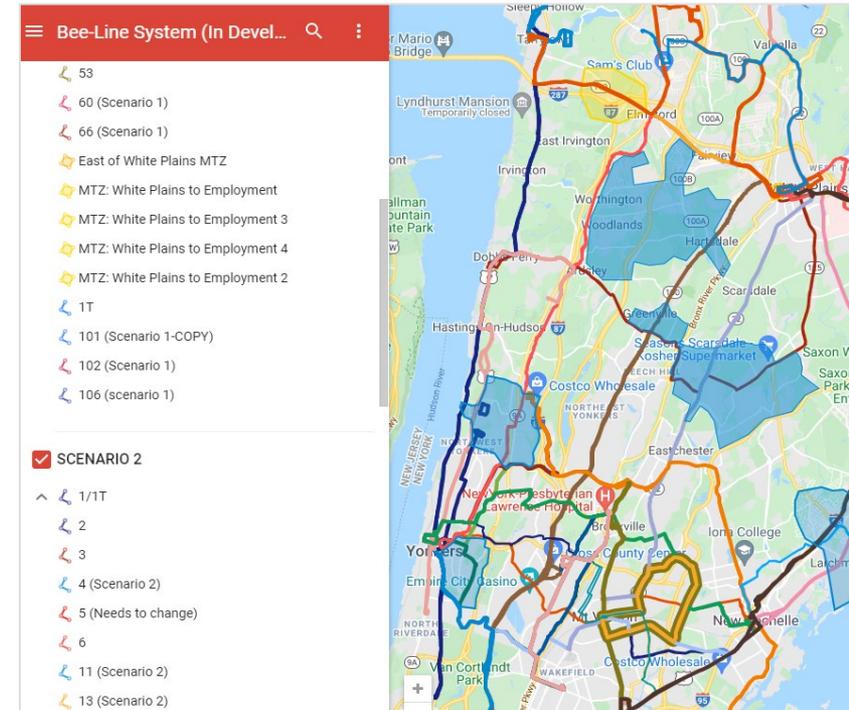
[Learn more about the plan >](#)

Watch of Tradeoff Question:  
For weekday service, would you prefer to have more buses running more frequently or having more service earlier or later in the day?

Group	Buses running more frequently during the day	Longer hours of service
Riders	54%	46%
Non-Riders	61%	39%

# Analysis, Engagement, and Evaluation

- Robust evaluation of current Bee-Line service and performance
- Assessment of transit markets, travel patterns, demographics
- Website, focus groups, and online public survey
- **Evaluation of both fixed-route and microtransit options**



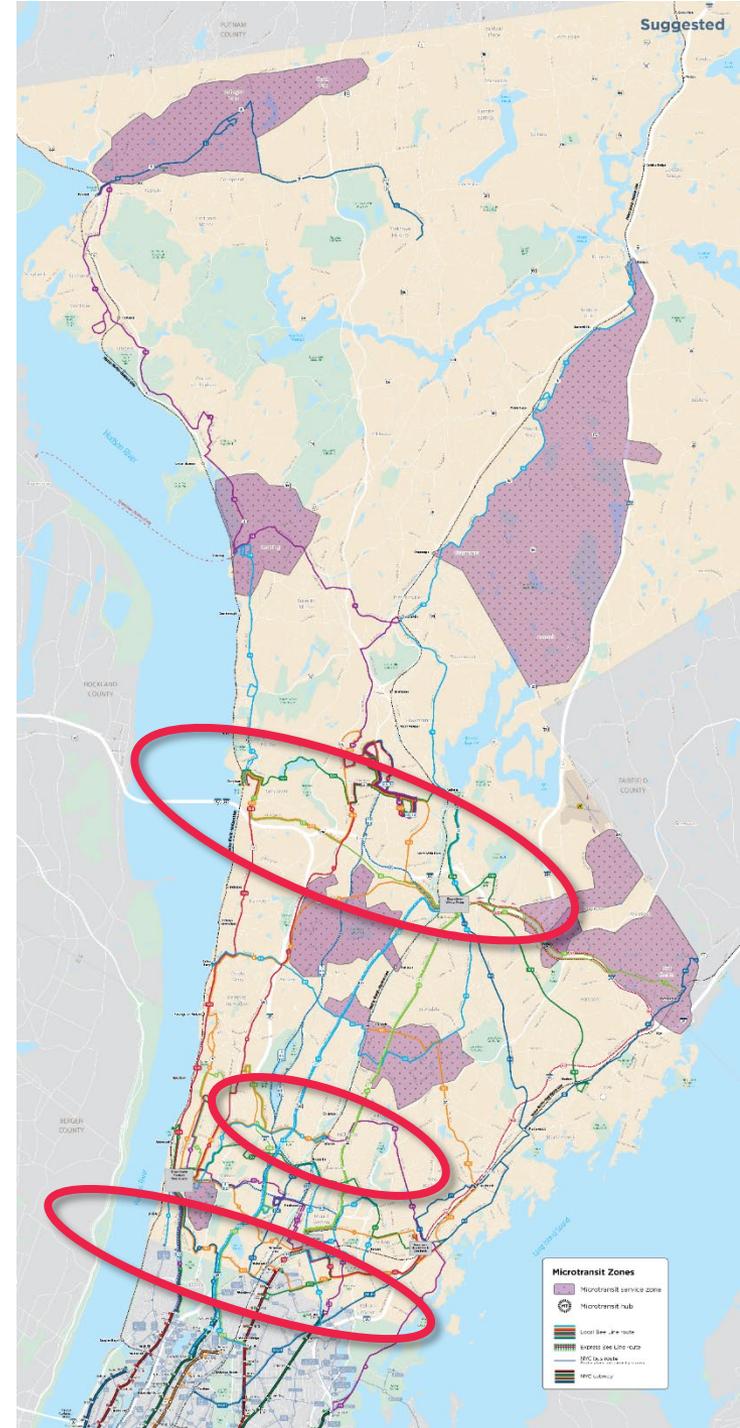


# Suggested Plan



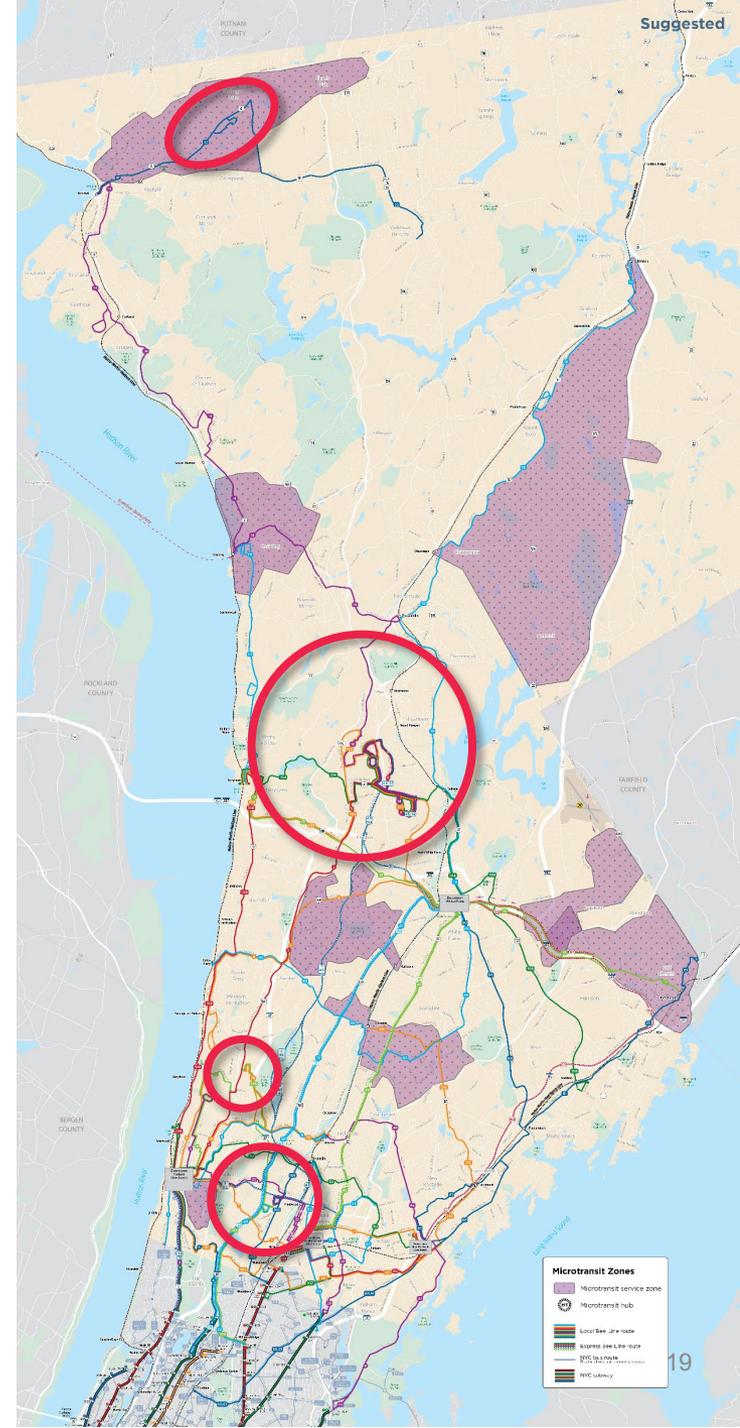
# What Would the Suggested Bee-Line Network Achieve?

- **Improve east-west connections**
  - **Example routes: 45, 78, 8, 13, 101**
- Serve major destinations
- Strengthen NYC subway and Metro-North connections
- Streamline and simplify routes
- Run more service earlier, later, and on weekends
- Discontinue low-performing bus routes and route segments
- Introduce microtransit services



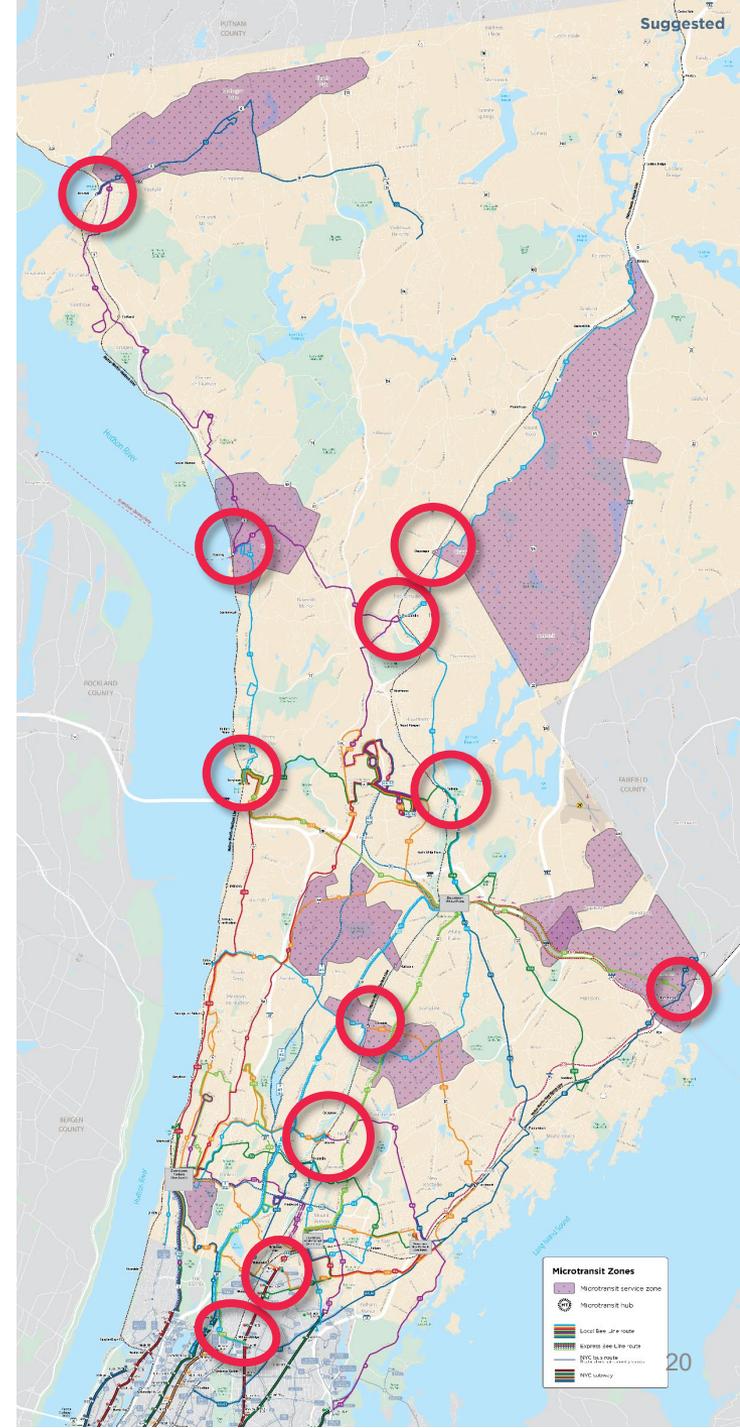
# What Would the Suggested Bee-Line Network Achieve?

- Improve east-west connections
- **Serve major destinations**
  - **Example routes: 1X, 3, 15, 103, 104, 105**
- Strengthen NYC subway and Metro-North connections
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# What Would the Suggested Bee-Line Network Achieve?

- Improve east-west connections
- Serve major destinations
- **Strengthen NYC subway and Metro-North connections**
  - **Example routes: 4, 20, 21, 105, 45, 15, 104**
- Streamline and simplify routes
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# Fare Reciprocity

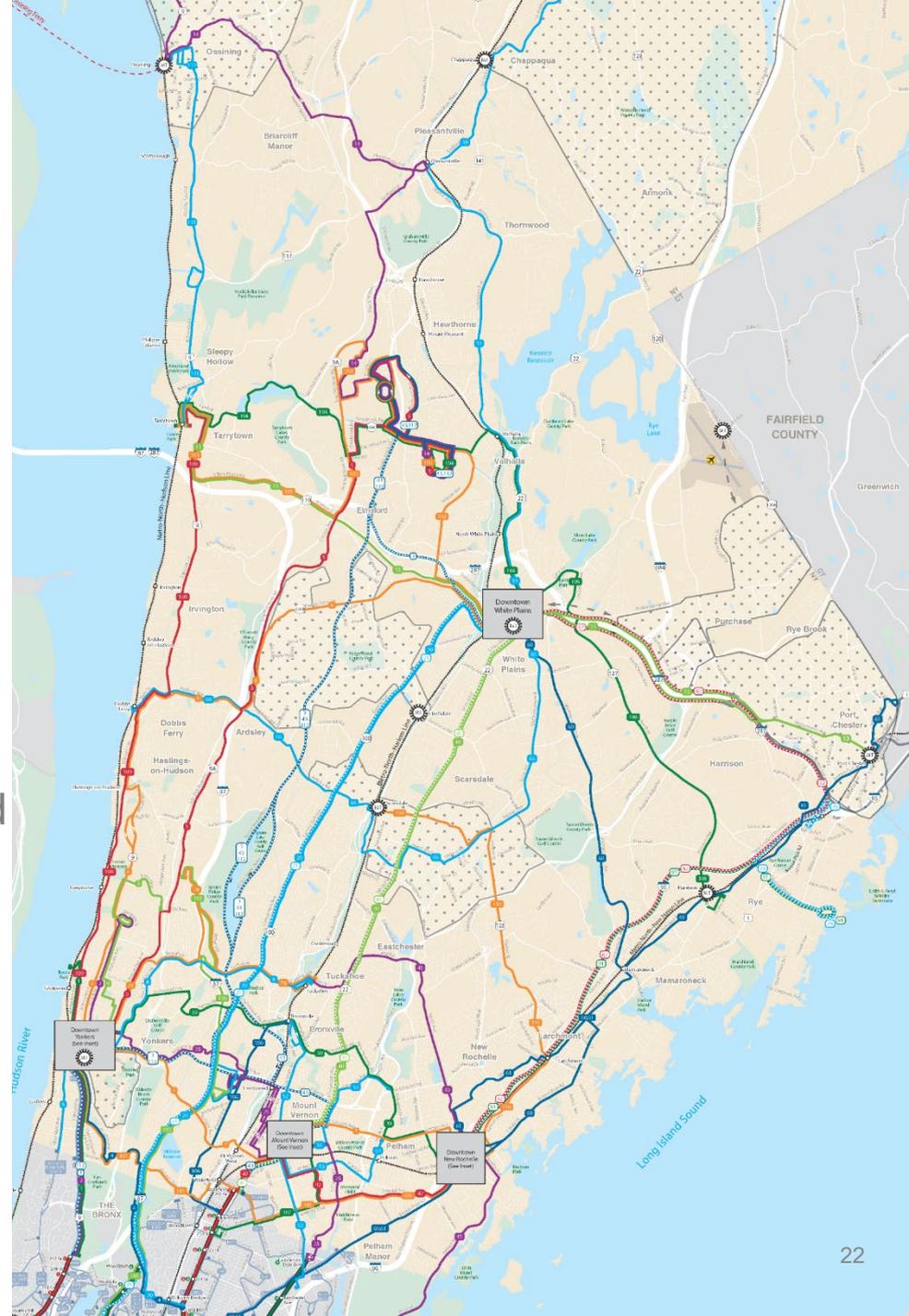
## One fare for all Westchester County bus and rail travel

- Current Bee-Line local fare is \$2.75
- Encourages use of Metro-North for longer trips within the county
- Will reduce cost barriers and shorten travel times
- Minor adjustments to proposed system plan if reciprocity not implemented



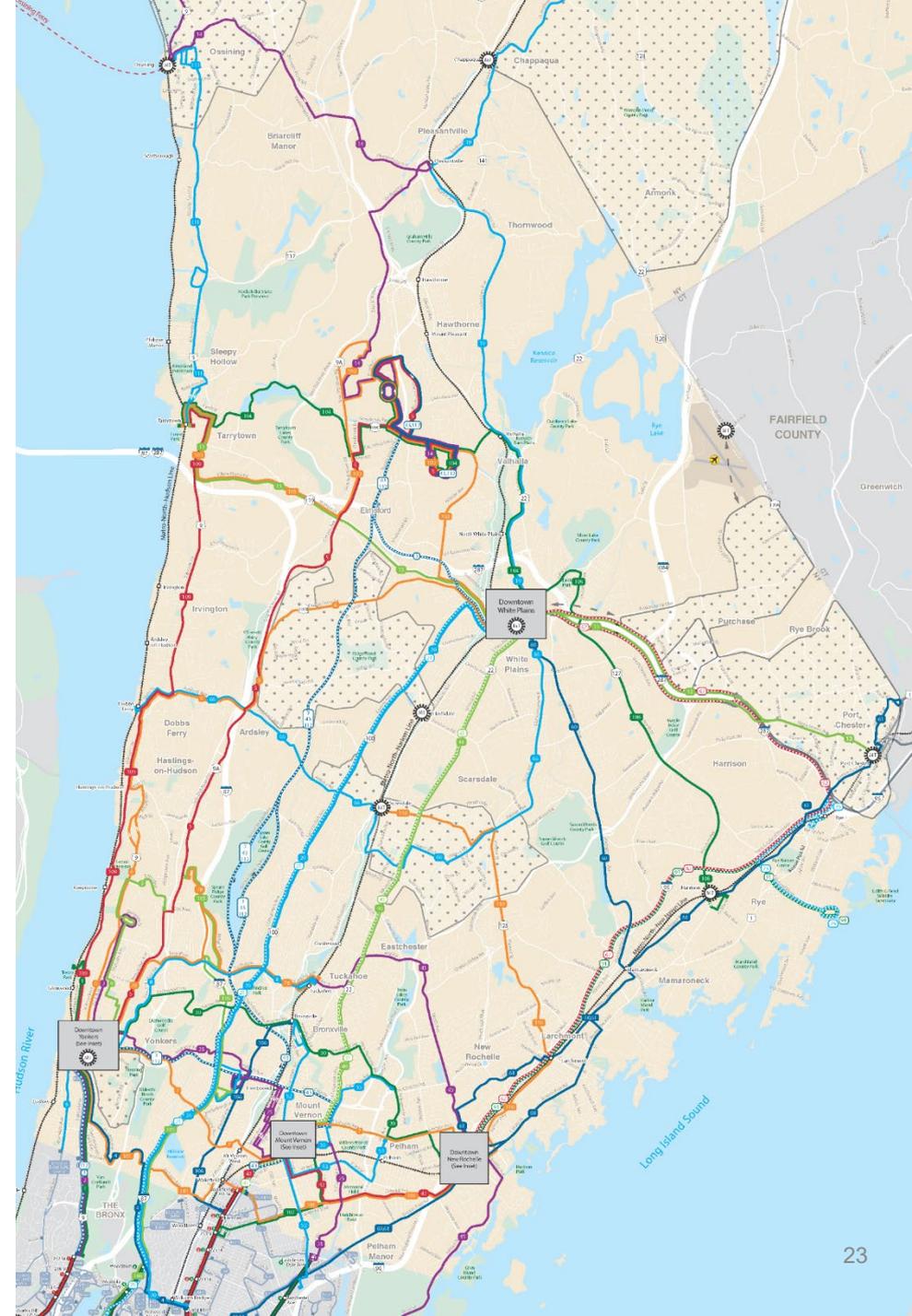
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- Improve east-west connections
- Serve major destinations
- Strengthen NYC subway and Metro-North connections
- **Streamline and simplify routes**
  - **Example routes: 1, 13, 6, 40**
- Run more service earlier, later, and on weekends
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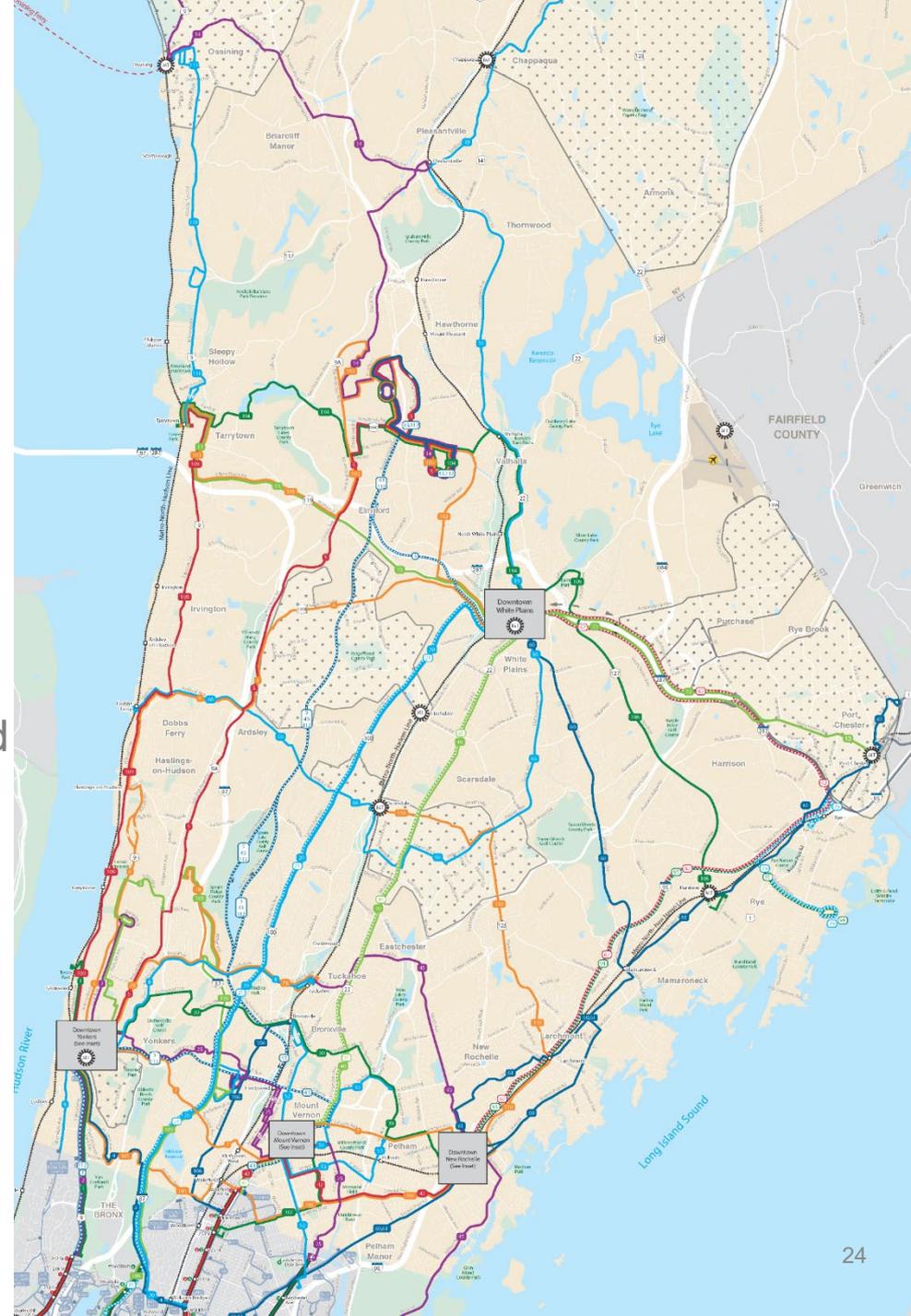
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- Improve east-west connections
- Serve major destinations
- Strengthen NYC subway and Metro-North connections
- Streamline and simplify routes
- **Run more service earlier, later, and on weekends**
  - **Example routes: 9, 60, 61, 15**
- Discontinue low-performing bus routes and route segments
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# What Would the Suggested Bee-Line Network Achieve?

- Improve east-west connections
- Serve major destinations
- Strengthen NYC subway and Metro-North connections
- Streamline and simplify routes
- Run more service earlier, later, and on weekends
- **Discontinue low-performing bus routes and route segments**
  - **Example routes: 38, 39, 34, 12**
- Introduce microtransit services



# Characteristics of Routes Proposed for Replacement or Elimination

## Poor performance

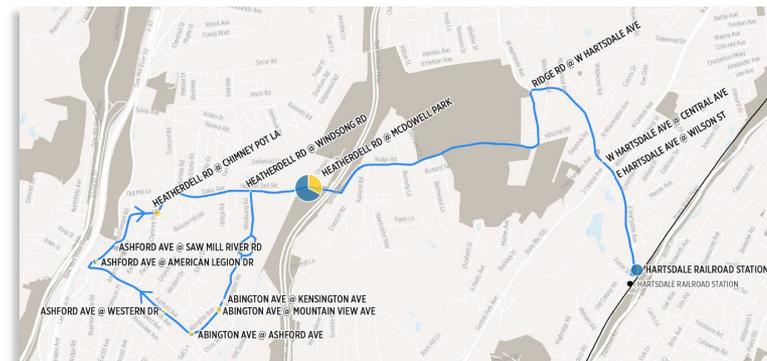
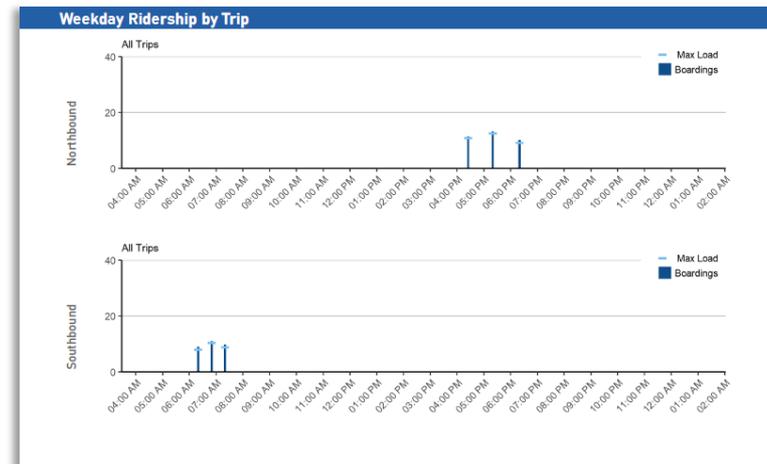
- Low ridership
  - One third of existing routes carry fewer than 100 riders per day
  - Higher-performing routes average 2,865 riders per day

## Route length

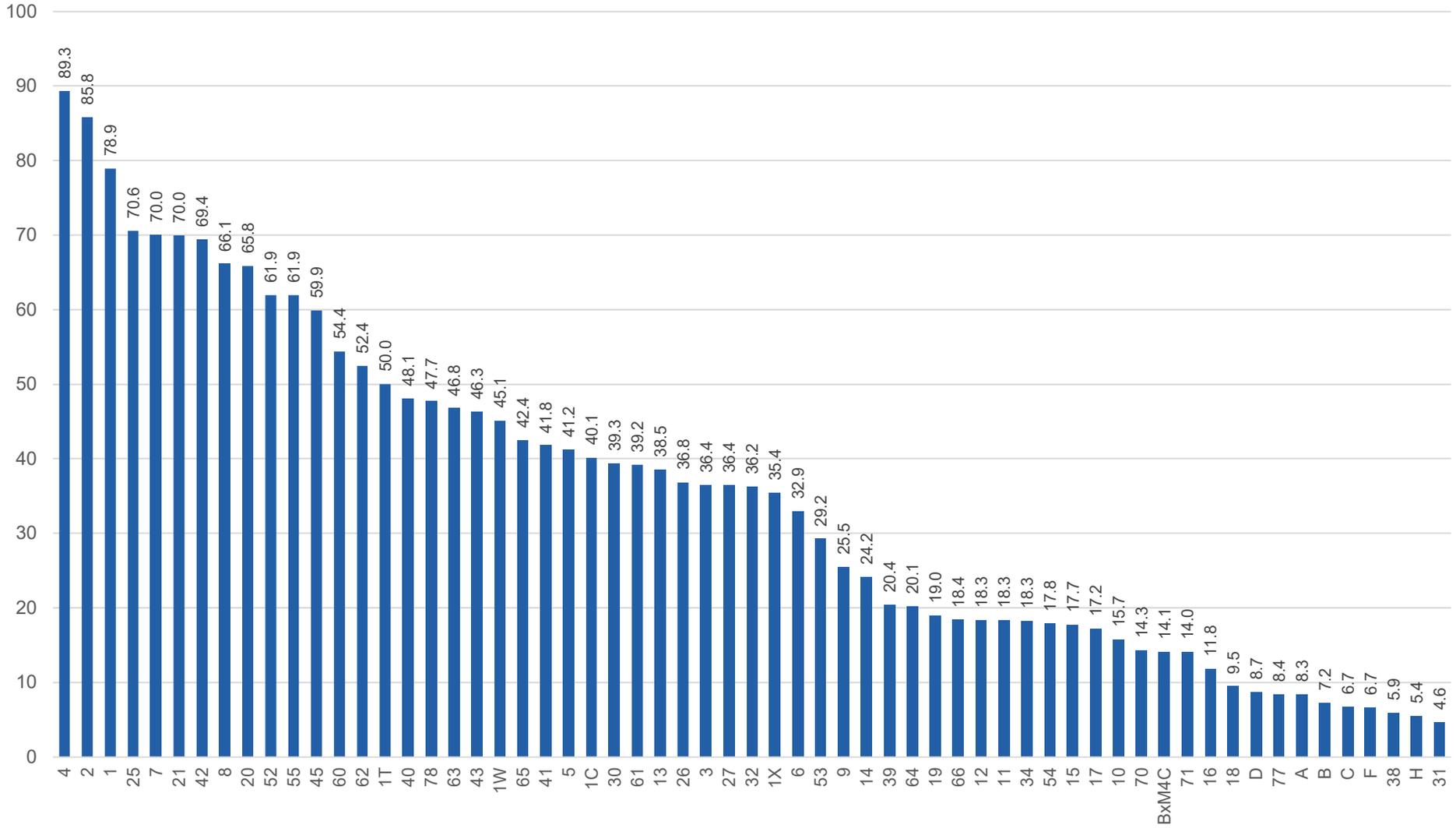
- Long travel times or inefficient

## Redundancy

- More efficient options available



# Average Daily Riders Carried per Hour of Service





# Microtransit Service Characteristics

- Operates “on demand” as a shared-ride shuttle service
- Is often considered in areas where fixed-route service is less viable
- Customers request trips via smartphone or by calling
- Service typically connects to trains and buses
- Fares would be the same as Bee-Line bus
- Operating rules and policies would be tailored to each zone

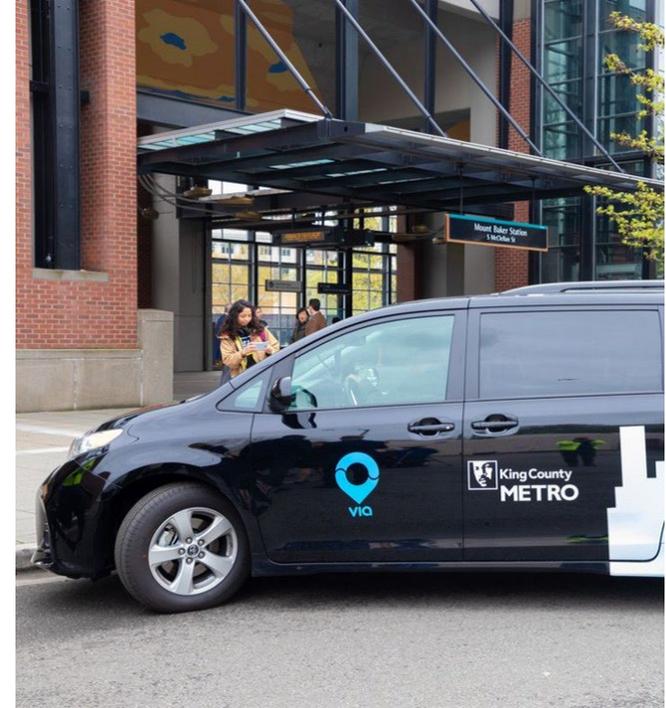
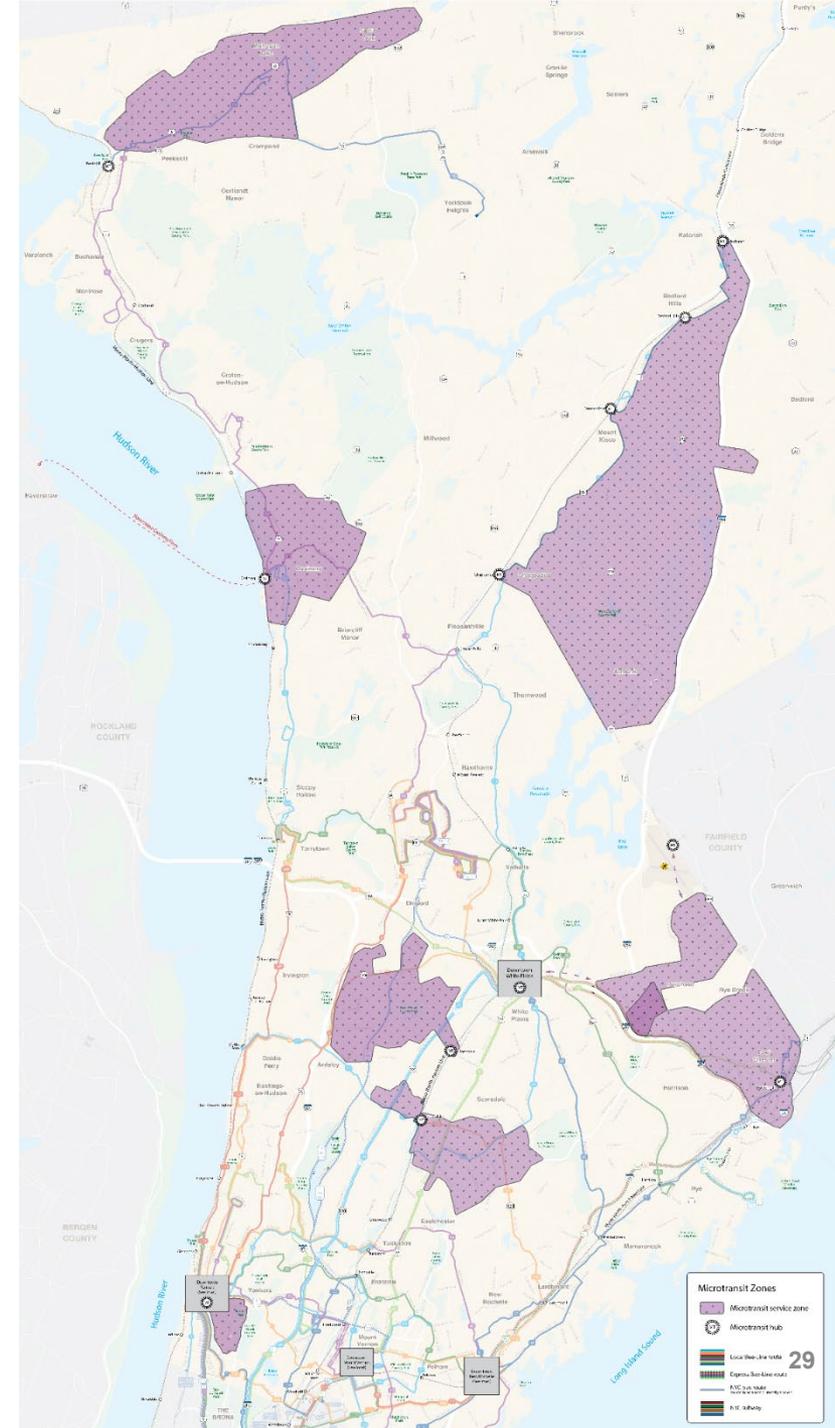


Photo: Town of Morrisville, NC

# Suggested Microtransit Zones

- Peekskill
- Chappaqua – Bedford Hills – Armonk
- Ossining
- East of White Plains
- Port Chester
- Hartsdale
- Scarsdale
- Southern Yonkers





## Improved Bus Service Characteristics



# Longer Hours of Bee-Line Service

Earlier start times, later end times, and more weekend service

	<b>Weekdays</b>	<b>Saturdays</b>	<b>Sundays</b>
<b>Routes with New Service</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Routes with Longer Hours of Service</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>

Does not include service added in microtransit zones

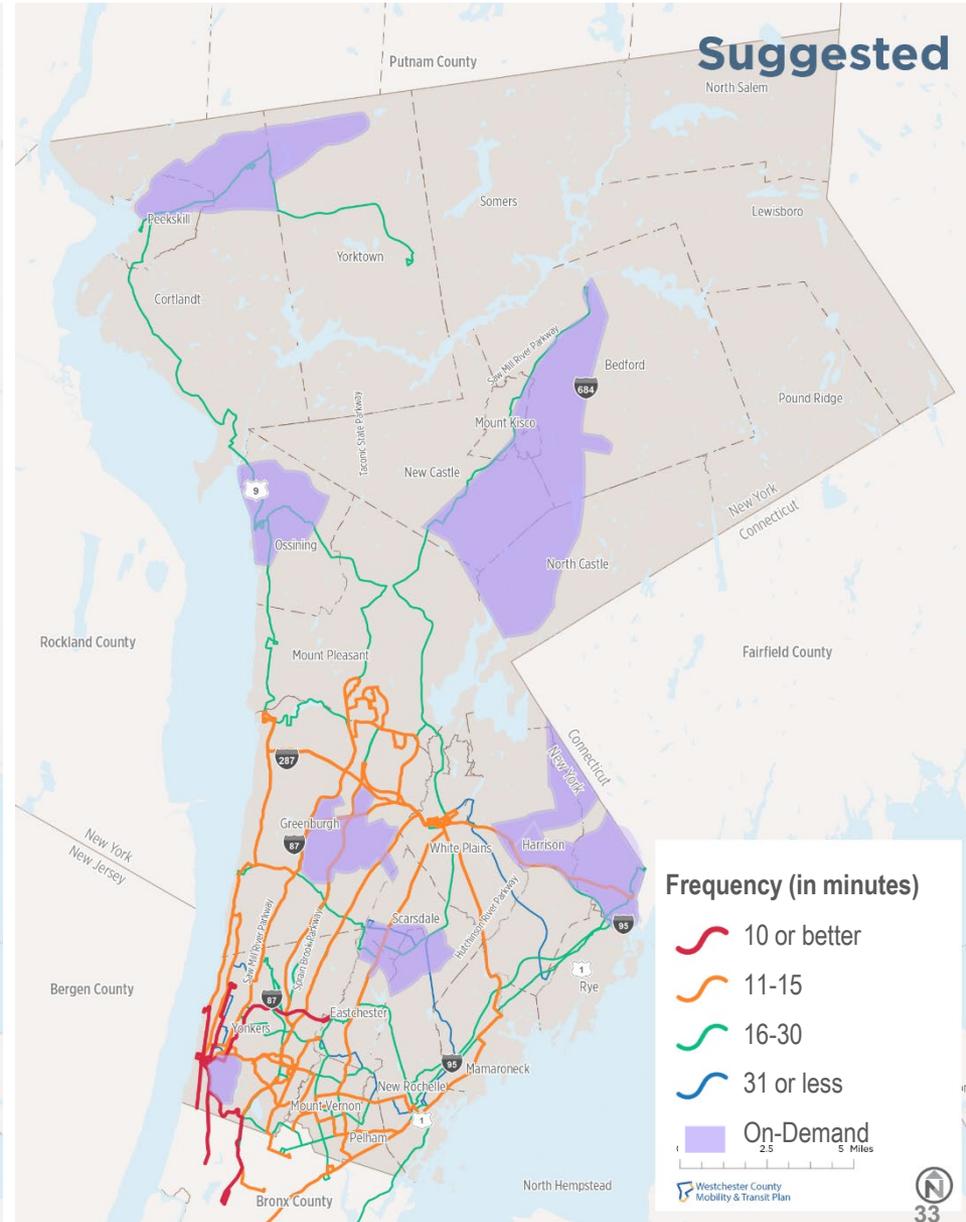
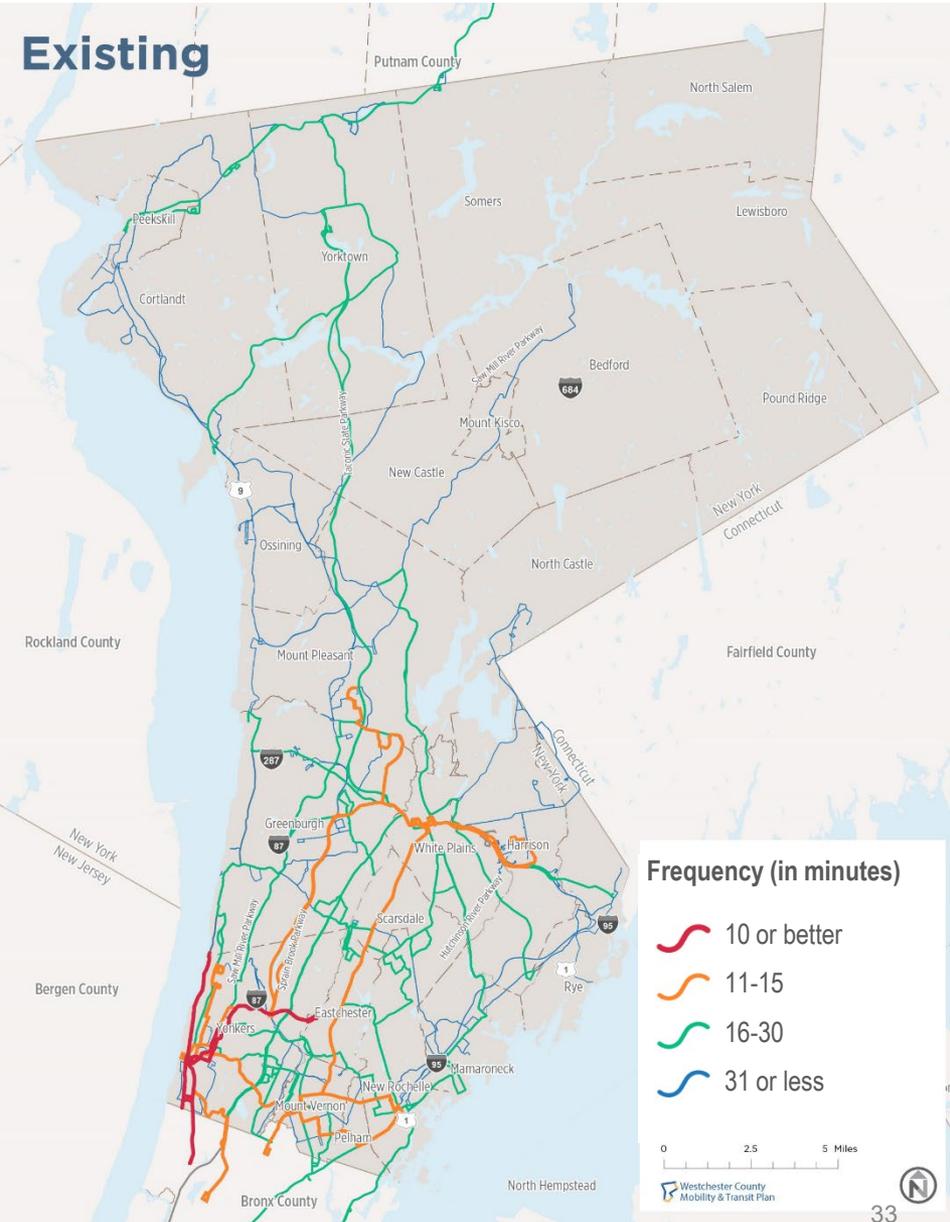
# Increased Access to Frequent Service

## Morning Peak Period

	Access to Frequent Service (Every 15 min or better, AM Peak)		
	Existing	Suggested	Change
All Residents	49%	59%	10%
Jobs	49%	61%	12%
Zero-vehicle households	78%	85%	7%
Minority residents	65%	75%	10%
Households experiencing poverty	70%	77%	7%
Bus commuters	82%	89%	7%

Access = within a 1/2 mile (about 10-minute walk) of a Bee-Line bus stop

# More Frequent Service During the AM Peak



# More Frequent Service During the Day: Route 13

More trips through the day on weekdays

	<b>Weekday Total</b>	<b>AM Peak (6:30-8)</b>	<b>Midday (9-2:30)</b>	<b>PM Peak (3:30-5)</b>	<b>Evening (6:30-10:30)</b>
Existing Trips	73	8	22	11	7
<b>Suggested Trips</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>

More trips on Saturdays and Sundays, too

	<b>Saturday Daytime</b>	<b>Saturday Evening</b>	<b>Sunday Daytime</b>	<b>Sunday Evening</b>
Existing Trips	43	9	20	4
<b>Suggested Trips</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>6</b>

## More Off-Peak Service: Route 112 (former Route 1X)

More express trips throughout the day, not just during peak hours

	<b>Weekday Total</b>	<b>AM Peak (6:30-8)</b>	<b>Midday (9-2:30)</b>	<b>PM Peak (3:30-5)</b>	<b>Evening (6:30-10:30)</b>
Existing Trips	5	3	0	1	0
<b>Suggested Trips</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>

# New Weekend Service: Route 61

More trips on Saturdays, and new Sunday service

	Saturday Daytime	Saturday Evening	Sunday Daytime	Sunday Evening
Existing Trips	19	1	0	0
<b>Suggested Trips</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2</b>



# How to Provide Your Feedback



We've got **big ideas** to make bus service better.

Tenemos **grandes ideas** para mejorar el servicio de autobús.

**Take a look** and tell us what you think!  
**¡Echa un vistazo** y dínos lo que piensas!

[www.WestchesterMobility.org](http://www.WestchesterMobility.org)



## Provide Feedback

### Share Your Comments

Please provide your comments on the suggested plan by August 26, 2022.

First Name\*

Last Name\*

Email

Organization

Home Zip Code \*

How often have you ridden a Bee-Line bus in the last 3 years? \*

- Never
- Rarely
- Occasionally
- Frequently

Do you ride the NYC subway?

- Yes
- No

Do you ride Metro North?

- Yes
- No

How/ where did you first learn about the suggested plan?

- Bee-Line bus sign or shelter
- Pop-up event
- Email
- Facebook



# Summary



# Summary of Suggestions

1. Provides more frequent service where it's needed most
2. Offers longer hours of service plus on weekends
3. Reduces Metro-North fares within Westchester and provides free Bee-Line transfers
4. Offers on-demand shuttles (microtransit)



## Questions and Answers



# Thank You!



Bill Schwartz, AICP, Principal

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