



**SMRT Project:  
Revolutionizing Southern  
Maryland**

# Video from WUSA9



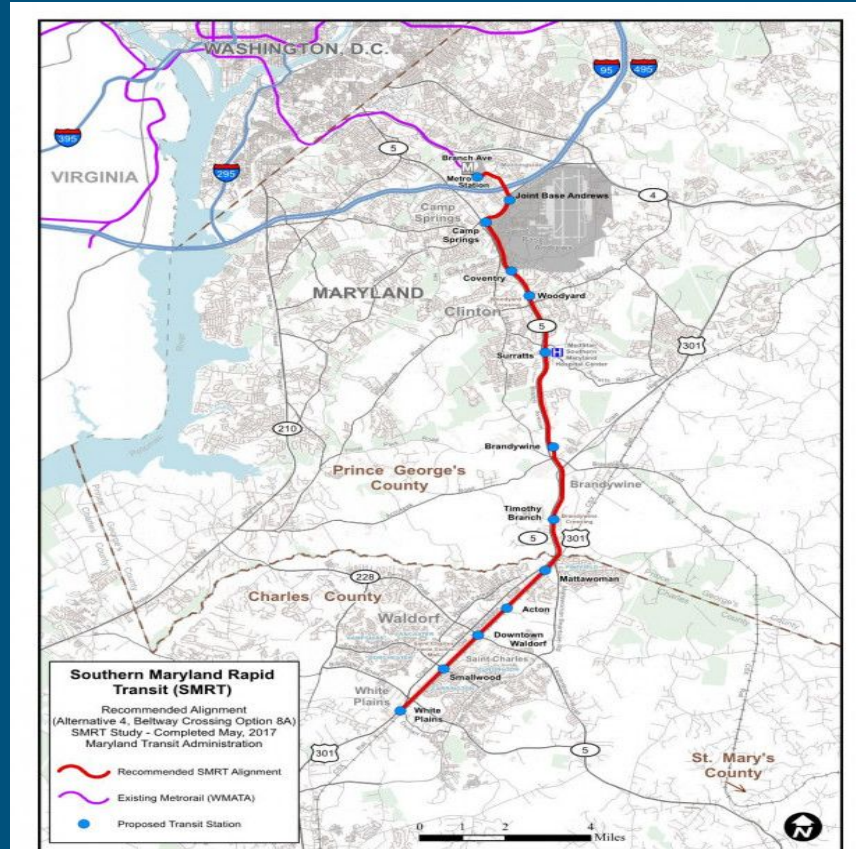
# Overall Purpose for the Project

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- Create an an 18-mile light rail line running largely along the MD 5 right-of-way from White Plains to the Branch Avenue Metro Station in Prince George's County



# Future Light Rail Location



# Why should you support this project?

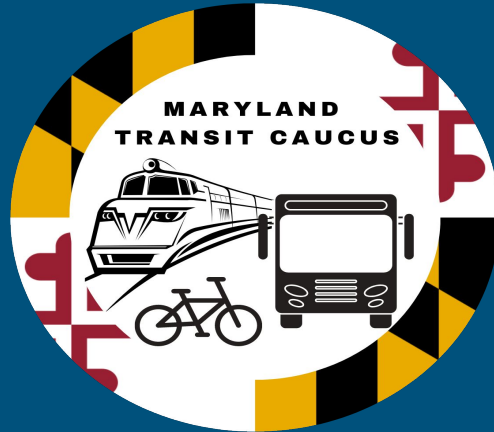
- According to a 2019 Analysis by Bloomberg, Charles County has the worst commute in the entire country.

## What are the implications of this problem?

- Commutes of 90 minutes or more take parents away from children for long periods and prevent low-income people from getting a second job.
- “Our region has the highest number of fatalities per capita on the roads, we have the highest number of people traveling on the roads, and we expect it to get worse.” - Delegate Debra M. Davis (D-Charles)

# Who supports it?

- SMRT has been endorsed as “priority legislation” by the Maryland Transit Caucus, whose membership includes delegates and senators from around the state, including both Central and Southern Maryland



# How is this project way overdue?

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- According to 1997 Southern Maryland Rapid Transit Study recommendations, an 18-mile light rail system with 13 stations in Charles and Prince George's County should be built. Much of the system would be built in the median alignment of Routes 301 and 5 through Southern Maryland.
- **THIS WAS 24 YEARS AGO!**



Affordable



# How much is it going to cost?

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- A 2017 Study recommends spending \$2 billion dollars on a light rail system that would connect Charles and Prince George's County residents to the Metro at Branch Avenue.
- However, in this bill, the Senator introduced legislation that would provide \$27 million to jump-start light rail service along the MD Route 5 Corridor.



# What does Senator Ellis think?

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Senator Ellis:

- “This project is number 36 on their list of 38 priorities. They’re telling us to drop dead,” said Ellis. “The worst commute in the nation, on average two hours a day, one way, and the state of Maryland is ignoring that.”



# What do Prince George's County officials think?

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- “There really is no other answer,” said County Council member Mel Franklin (D). “If it’s not this project, what’s the answer for the crushing transportation problem of Southern Maryland?”
- During the Prince George’s County Council Meeting on January 7 2020, the county council unanimously voted for the project.





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