Veirs Mill Road Flash Bus Rapid Transit Project Montgomery County, Maryland Small Starts Project Development Information Prepared September 2022

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) proposes to implement a 7.6-mile Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line, beginning on Rockville Pike (MD 355) at Montgomery College to the Rockville Metrorail Station, then along Veirs Mill Road (MD 586) to the Wheaton Metrorail station, with buses generally operating in mixed traffic, or in repurposed shoulders. The Project is anticipated to include 12 BRT-branded stations featuring canopies with wind screens, benches, real-time passenger information, offboard fare collection, system maps, landscaping, and bicycle parking. The Project is also anticipated to include the purchase of a fleet of branded, level-boarding vehicles, as well as the implementation of transit signal priority treatments at key intersections, including queue jumps at 10 locations. The Project is further anticipated to incorporate bicycle and pedestrian access improvements along the corridor, including new sidewalks and new signalized crosswalks. The Project is anticipated to operate from 6AM to midnight each day, with 6-10 minute headways in the AM and PM peak periods, and 10-20 minute headways in off-peak periods. The Project's current capital cost estimate is \$102 million and the CIG Small Starts funding amount is to be determined during Project Development.

MCDOT maintains that the Project would provide higher-frequency, more reliable, and higher capacity transit service with greater access to employment centers and destinations within the metro region; to address the growing demand for transit services for an ethnically diverse community with significant concentrations of low-income and minority populations; and to develop service consistent with and supportive of regional land use and economic development plans.

MCDOT adopted a locally preferred alternative (LPA) in June 2017, and the LPA was adopted into the fiscally constrained long-range transportation plan in May 2020. MCDOT anticipates completing NEPA in early 2023, receiving a Small Starts construction grant in late 2023 or 2024, and implementing revenue service in 2027.

