



## STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

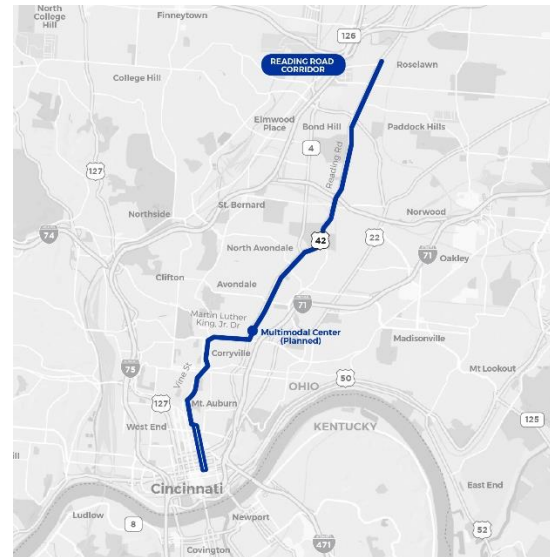
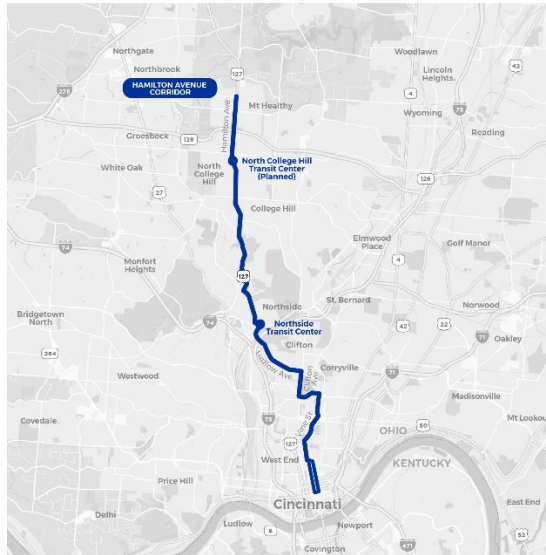
FEBRUARY 6, 2022

### Step 1 Completed: Hamilton and Reading Moving Forward as BRT Corridors; Glenway and Montgomery Moving Forward as Enhanced Corridors

On January 17<sup>th</sup>, SORTA presented the results of the Step 1 technical evaluation which identified the Hamilton Avenue and Reading Road corridors as having the highest potential as successful BRT lines, scoring the highest among the 12 screening categories. The results were also presented at and discussed with the SORTA Board Planning Committee on the 17<sup>th</sup> and the SORTA Board of Directors on January 24<sup>th</sup>.

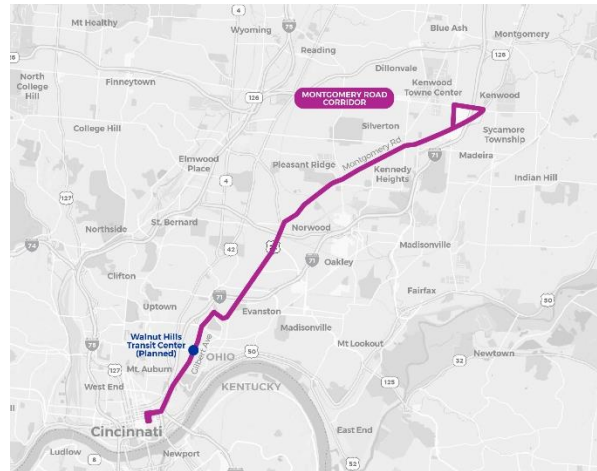
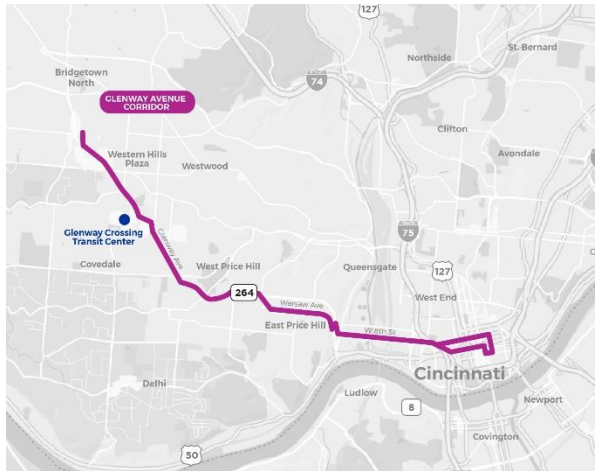
The Hamilton and Reading corridors now advance to more detailed development while a series of enhancements, such as passenger amenities and signal priority, are being identified for the Glenway and Montgomery corridors.

#### BRT Corridor Features:



- ✓ Stations spaced every ½-1 mile to facilitate shorter travel times
- ✓ Prominent stations with passenger amenities, real-time info, level boarding, and neighborhood-compatible design
- ✓ Shared high-frequency Downtown-Uptown segment
- ✓ Bus-only and bus-priority lanes in key segments to improve travel speed
- ✓ Signal priority at key intersections to improve reliability
- ✓ Pedestrian access improvements
- ✓ Advance Transit-Oriented Development planning

## Enhanced Corridor Features:



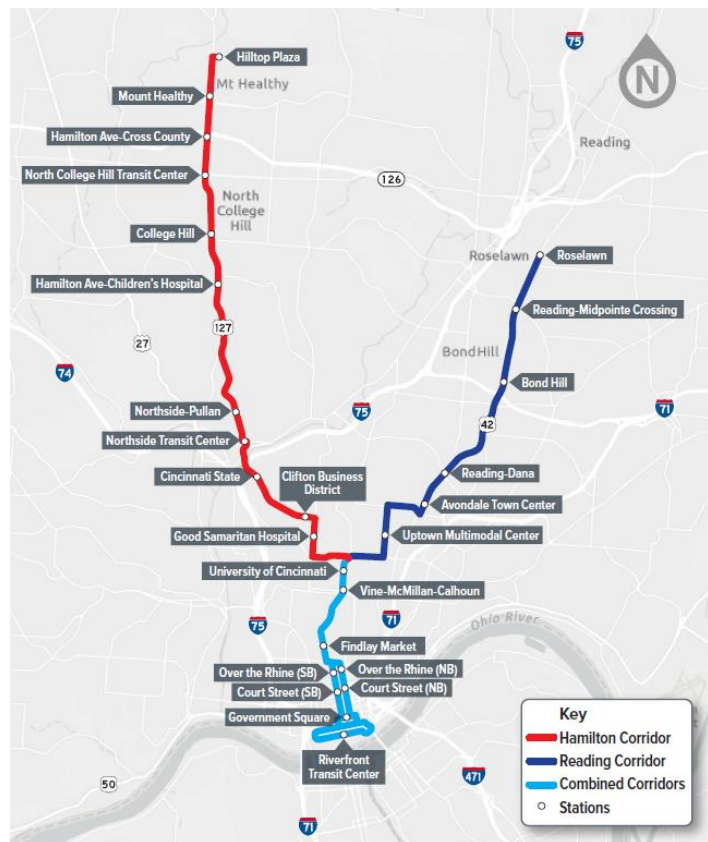
- ✓ More bus shelters & enhanced passenger amenities, lighting, and real-time info
- ✓ Pedestrian access improvements
- ✓ Signal priority at key intersections to improve reliability
- ✓ Weekend service on Metro\*Plus route (Montgomery Road corridor)
- ✓ Advance Walnut Hills Transit Center development (Montgomery Road corridor)
- ✓ Explore Transit-Oriented Development opportunities
- ✓ Future inclusion in regional BRT network

## Step 2 Design Begins

The design team is now working on conceptual level, or "10%," design to determine specific lane treatments, station configurations, signal priority location, queue jumps, and other features design to minimize travel time and maximize convenience.

Initial station locations have been identified, as shown to the right. Relatively wide station spacing further enables BRT to move riders faster up and down the corridor while serving neighborhoods and key destinations and attractions. Local all-stops service will be maintained along both corridors.

The Reading and Hamilton corridors share a common alignment, shown in light blue, between Downtown and Uptown. With a potential service frequency of 10 minutes on each



corridor, this will provide a super-convenient 5-minute BRT frequency connecting our region's two largest employment and activity centers.

Additional Step 2 planning activities currently underway include:

- Coordination with the cities of Cincinnati, North College Hill, and Mt. Healthy
- Service/operations plan
- Ridership estimates using the FTA-designed STOPS model
- Request to the Federal Transit Administration for entry into Project Development (making it eligible for federal funding)
- Financial and cash flow model
- Capital and operating cost estimates
- Animated visualizations
- State of the Practice assessment of BRT and Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)
- TOD assessment for potential station area sites
- Identification of specific Enhanced Corridor treatments

Step 2 design is scheduled to be completed by the end of March, identifying the components of each corridor that will constitute the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). The final report will be completed in April, concluding the BRT Study and providing the foundation for SORTA to begin more detailed design and engineering.

### **Step 2 Outreach is Already Underway**

The outreach team has devised a robust public and stakeholder outreach program that, as in Step 1, is both extensive and intensive, taking the project directly to the community for their input and feedback.

The centerpiece is a series of **Community Design Workshops** to be held toward the end of February. We are currently working to secure workshop locations and dates and will relay those to the Stakeholder Advisory Committee along with our 1000+ member mailing list and others as soon as they are finalized.

We are also working to recruit workshop participants and need your help. It would be great if you can attend and if you can contact at least five people in your neighborhoods and constituent areas to help maximize participation and the community's ability to help craft these important transit investments.

Each workshop will run up to 90 minutes and, along with an introductory presentation, will feature four "stations" at which participants can brainstorm these topics:

- **Station Locations:** *Are these the best locations? Should others be considered?*
- **Build Your Own Station:** *What features would you like to see as part of a BRT station?*
- **Connectivity:** *Where do you travel on weekdays and weekends? What connections to and from the BRT lines would you like to see?*
- **Transit-Oriented Development:** *How can BRT stations help enhance the surrounding areas? What development would you like to see- or not see?*

Along with the Community Design Workshops, we are also proactively scheduling numerous pop-up activities and attendance at community events along all four study corridors. So far, we have these lined up:

- **Tuesday, February 7: UC Professional and Technical Career Fair at the University of Cincinnati Campus Recreation Center**
- **Saturday, February 11: Pre-Valentine's Shopping Event at the College Hill Recreation Center**
- **Sunday, February 12: Art on Vine at Rhinegeist Brewery, 1910 Elm Street**
- **Friday, February 17: Square Mile Coffee Company (Not Yet Confirmed)**
- **Friday, February 17: Good Samaritan Hospital, 375 Dixmyth Avenue**
- **Saturday, February 18: Mittenfest in Washington Park**
- **Sunday, February 19: Findlay Market's Sweet & Savory Stroll**

Many more will be added to this list- we'll pass along the dates and locations.

SORTA is also scheduling meetings and presentations with local jurisdictions, neighborhood councils, and other stakeholder groups. Finally, a second round of internal outreach at SORTA is being conducted to obtain valuable information and ideas from front line staff.

#### **Next Stakeholder Advisory Committee**

**Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am** at SORTA, 525 Vine Street, in the Union Terminal Conference Room.

Lunch will be provided. We'll send out a reminder between now and then. Among the topics to be covered will be station locations, operations plan, enhanced corridor treatments, results-to-date of Step 2 outreach activities, and next steps. We need your input- please try to attend.

We're also in the process of updating the website so please check out [www.metrobrtstudy.com](http://www.metrobrtstudy.com).