

# DASH Transit Briefing for City Council



Alexandria Transit Company (ATC)  
February 28, 2012

# Overview

- DASH History and Operating Statistics
- Current Challenges
- DASH Current Objectives
- FY 2012 Accomplishments and Current Projects
- 3-5 Year Improvements and Expansion
- 6-10 Year Improvements and Expansion

# DASH History

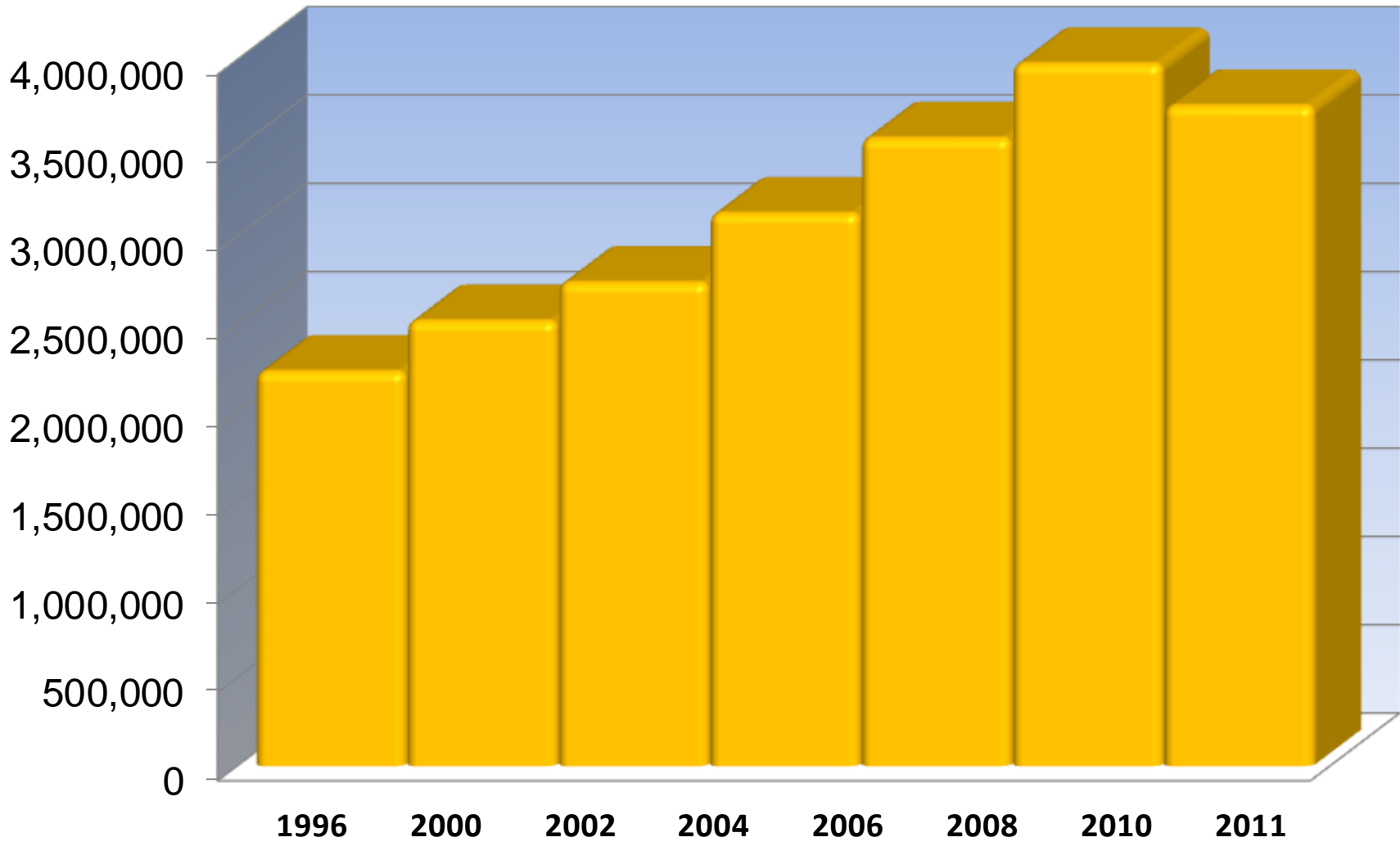


- Service began March 11, 1984, coinciding with the opening of Alexandria's first Metrorail stations
- Alexandria Transit Company - non-profit public service corporation wholly-owned by the City
- Allows it to be part of the City, but maintain autonomy operating as a business-type enterprise
- Designed to support community objectives:
  - Improved mobility throughout the City
  - Access to Metrorail and other transit modes
  - Development of the City's growth areas
  - Reduce traffic and parking impacts
  - Reduce City's transit subsidy for Metrobus

# DASH Key Operating Statistics

	1985	2000	2011
<b>Ridership</b>	923,405	2,521,925	3,741,499
<b>Buses</b>	17	47	63
<b>Miles Operated</b>	522,705	1,194,507	1,576,649
<b>Passengers/mile</b>	1.8	2.3	2.7
<b>Passengers/hour</b>	24.6	30.3	31.4

# DASH Annual Ridership



# Current Challenges

- Increased travel times and traffic congestion which negatively impact on-time service reliability
- Making transit attractive to choice riders by increasing convenience, safety, service, and reliability of transit
- Attracting and retaining qualified employees
- Operating and capital budgets are constrained
  - AT-4 service reduction saves \$180,000, but negatively impacts service continuity for commuters
- Rising fuel costs impact total operating expenses



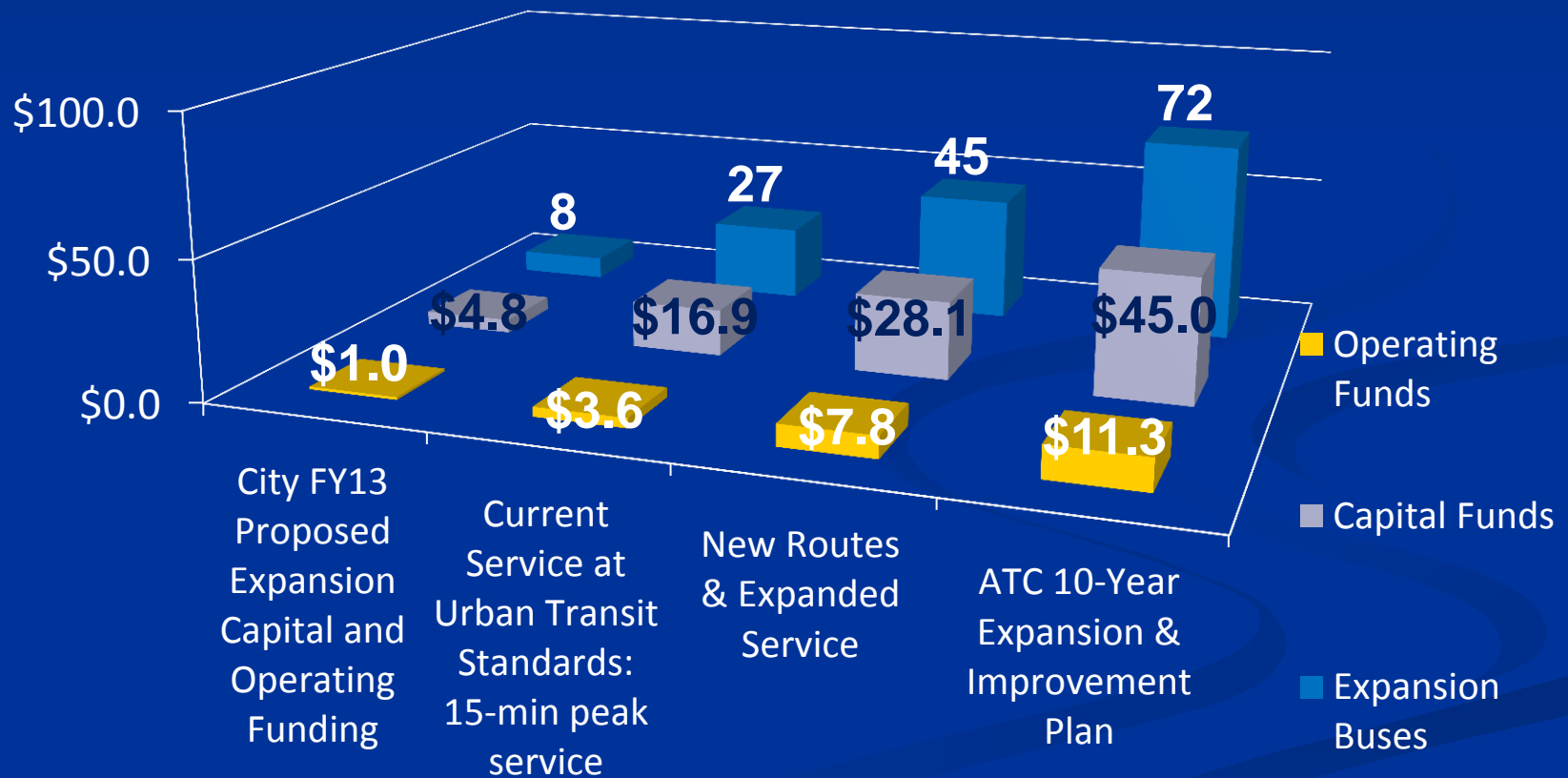
# Current Challenges

- Expansion requirements due to new development, employment growth, and changing travel patterns
- Overcrowding at Metrorail Stations during peak travel times



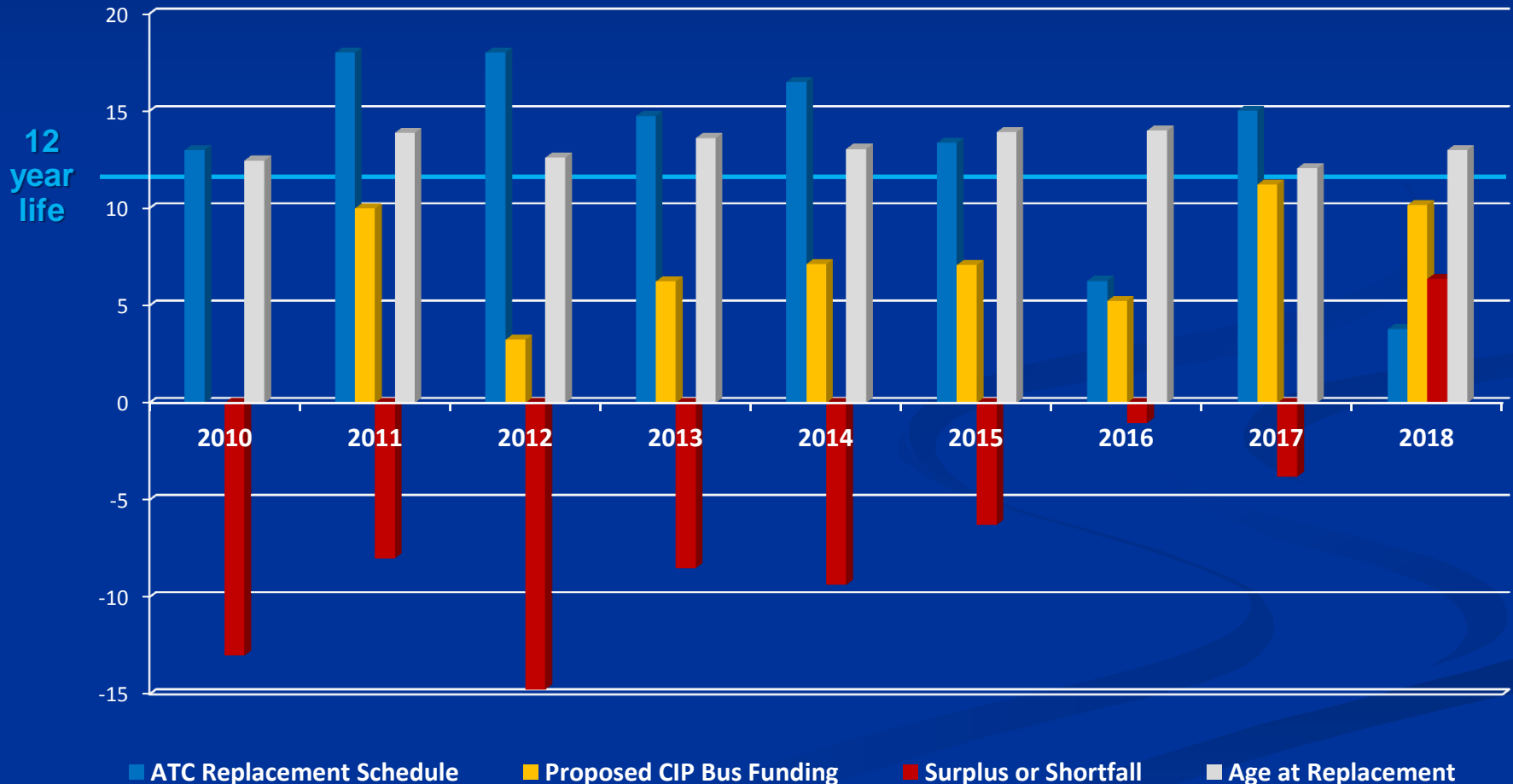
# Current Funding Gap 10-Year Program

(\$ in \$MM)





# Capital Funding Gap for Replacement Buses



# Capital Funding Gap for Replacement Buses

(dollars in \$MM)

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
DASH Replacement Schedule	\$8,125	\$11,250	\$11,250	\$9,218	\$10,313	\$8,353	\$3,923	\$9,393	\$2,373
<u>CIP Funding (Prior and Proposed FY13)</u>	=	<u>6,250</u>	<u>2,032</u>	<u>3,905</u>	<u>4,460</u>	<u>4,430</u>	<u>3,280</u>	<u>7,020</u>	<u>6,360</u>
Funding Surplus / Gap	(8,125)	(5,000)	(9,218)	(5,313)	(5,853)	(3,923)	(643)	(2,373)	3,987
Average Age of Replacement Buses	12.5	13.9	12.6	13.6	13.1	13.9	14.0	12.1	13.0

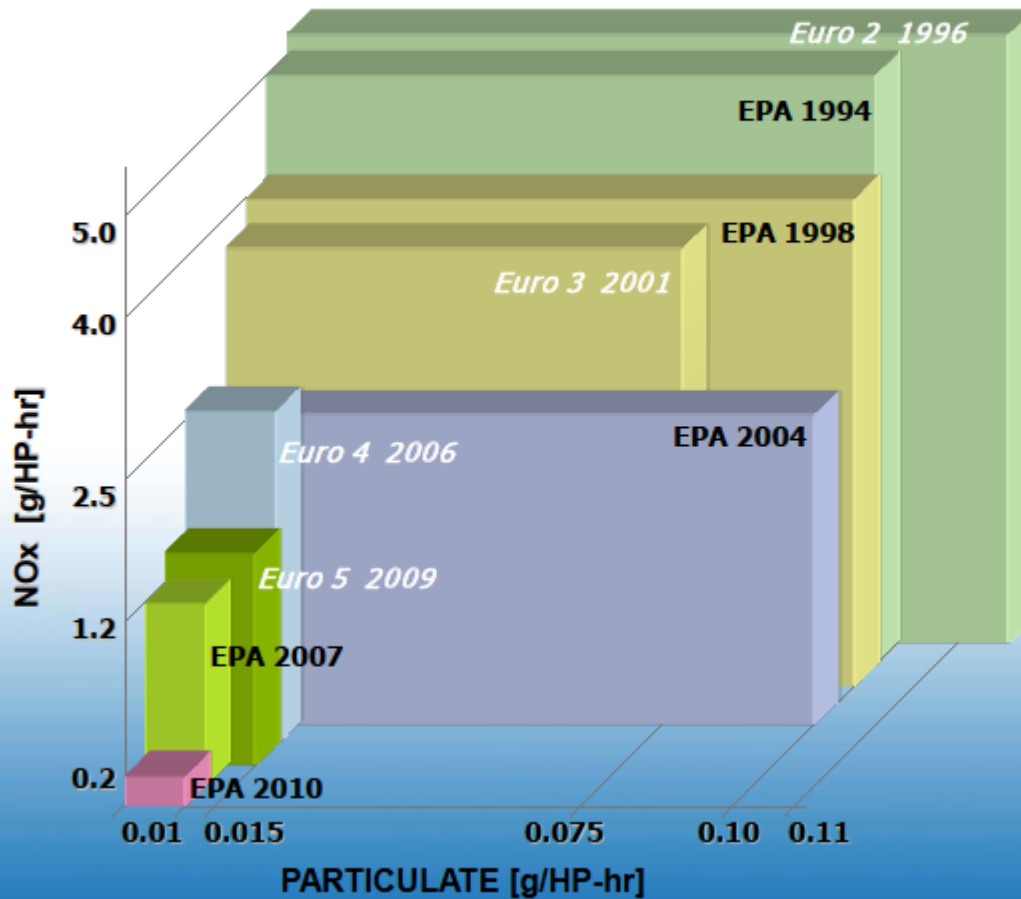
# Clean Diesel vs. Hybrid Fuel Cost Comparison

	Cost of Fuel/ Gal	Miles/ Gal	Miles/ Year	Fuel Cost \$/Year	Savings in Fuel Cost \$/Year	Hybrid Upcharge \$	Break Even in Years	Total Fuel Cost \$ in 12 Years	Operation Budget Fuel Savings \$ in 12 years
<b>CURRENT SCENARIO</b>									
Clean Diesel	\$3.25	3.5	45,000	\$41,786	Baseline	NA	NA	\$501,429	-
Hybrid	\$3.25	5.0	45,000	\$29,250	\$12,536	\$200,000	16	\$351,000	\$150,429
<b>FUEL INCREASE to \$5.00 / GAL</b>									
Clean Diesel	\$5.00	3.5	45,000	\$64,286	Baseline	NA	NA	\$771,429	-
Hybrid	\$5.00	5.0	45,000	\$45,000	\$19,286	\$200,000	10	\$540,000	\$231,429
<b>FUEL INCREASE to \$7.05 / GAL</b>									
Clean Diesel	\$7.05	3.5	45,000	\$90,643	Baseline	NA	NA	\$1,087,714	-
Hybrid	\$7.05	5.0	45,000	\$63,450	\$27,193	\$200,000	7	\$761,400	\$326,314

# Diesel Engine Emissions

Evolution of On-Highway Standards EPA & Euro

GILLIG



# DASH Current Objectives

- Increase community awareness as service expands
- Enhance service convenience, reliability, and frequency and attract new riders
- Monitor and maintain customer satisfaction
- Improve marketing and integration with City's Transportation Demand Management (TDM) programs
- Expand utilization of Old Town Transit Store, as a one-stop shop for Transit service needs

# DASH INTO THE FUTURE!

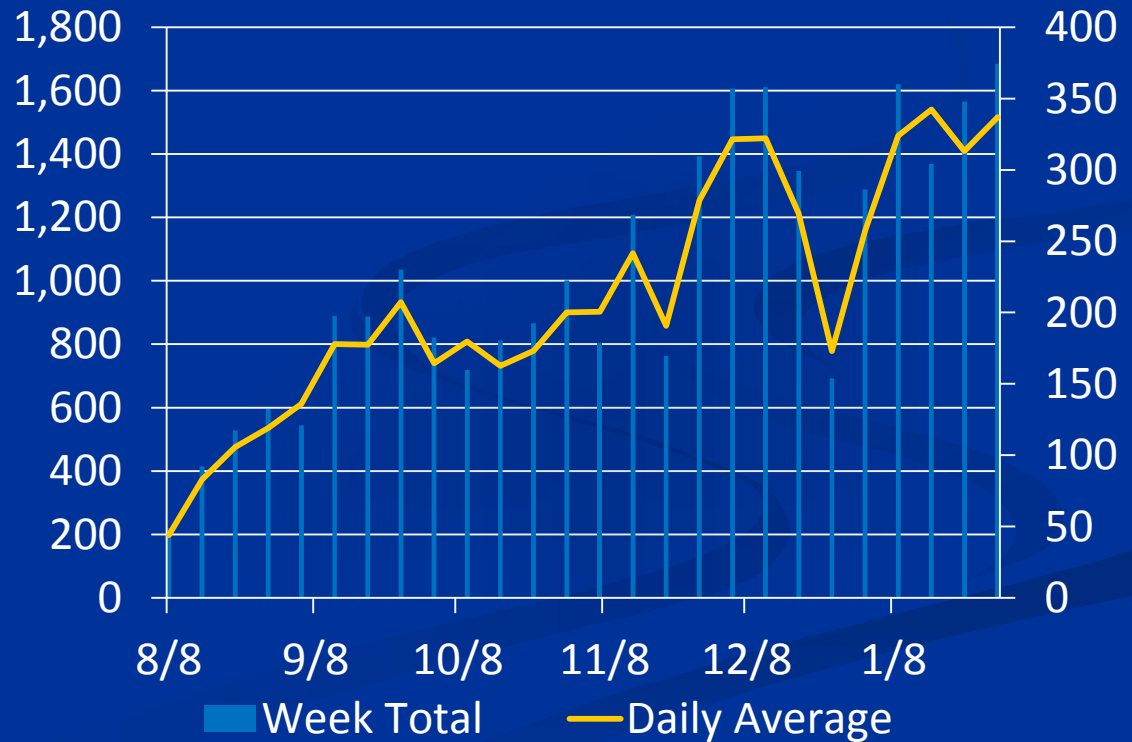


# FY 2012 Accomplishments

- BRAC 133 – AT2X



### AT2X Ridership



# FY 2012 Accomplishments

- **Low Floor Hybrid Buses**
  - Low floor entrance improves accessibility for seniors and disabled persons and speeds boarding
  - Eliminates need for high maintenance wheelchair lifts
  - Reduces noise and exhaust emissions
  - First of DASH fleet to have bike racks
  - 25% fuel savings





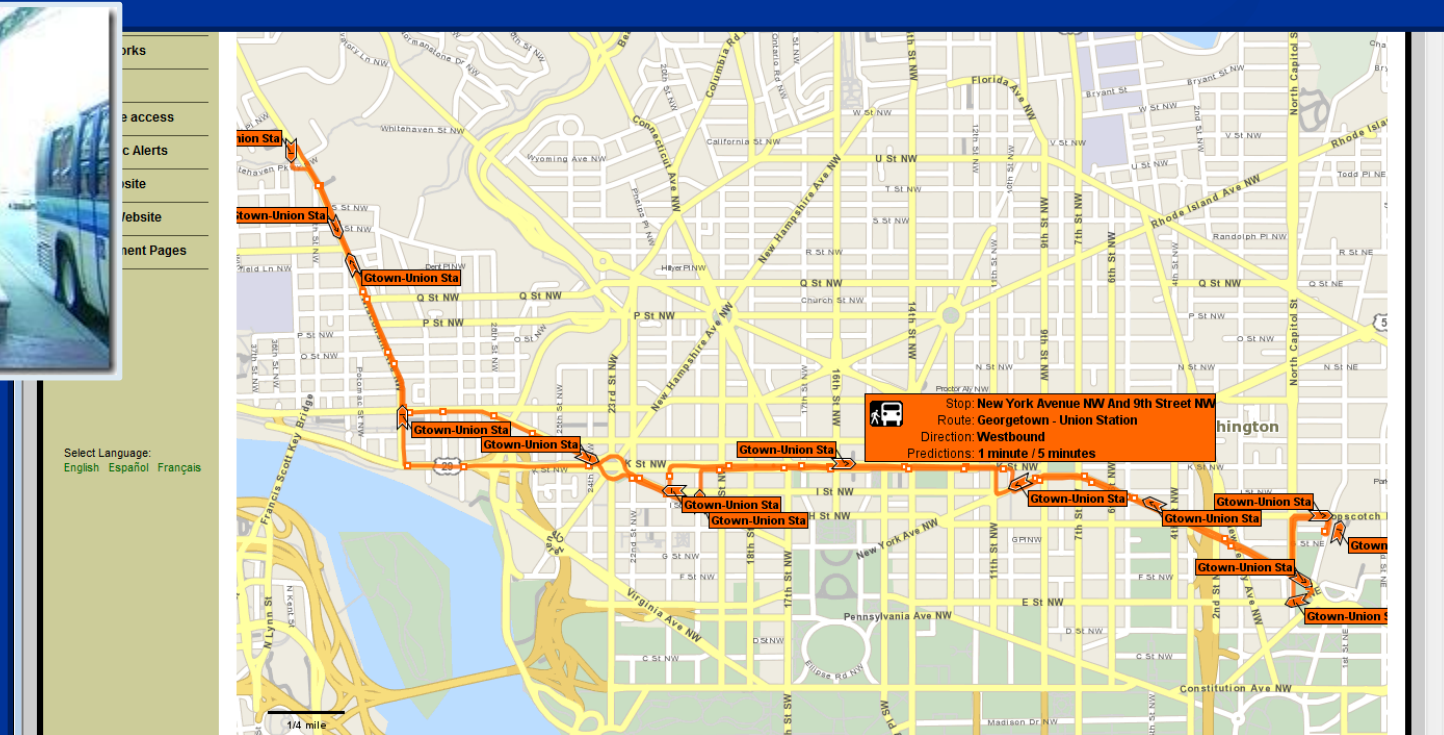
# FY 2012 Accomplishments

- **Low Floor Hybrid King Street Trolley**
  - Funded with ARRA grant
  - Low maintenance wheelchair ramp and bike racks
  - Starting April 22, 2012, will be operated by one of the top-10 transit employers in the country... DASH!
  - Partnering with ACVA and City to develop strong promotional campaign



# Current Technology Projects

- Real-time Bus Information / Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL)
- Automated Passenger Counters (APC's)
- Electronic Monthly DASH Pass on SmarTrip



# Other Current Projects

- Low-floor Hybrid Bus Replacement and Expansion
- Efficiency and Effectiveness Study (Spring 2012)
- Comprehensive Operational Analysis - COA (Fall 2012)
- DASH Bike and Roll Program - Bike racks installed on 100% of fleet with State grant funding
- Introduction of summer student DASH Pass



# FY13 Transportation Reserve Funds Service Expansion and Improvements

- New crosstown route connecting Mark Center to Potomac Yard, via Bradley, Parkfairfax, Arlandria, Del Ray
- Increase peak frequency of AT6-NVCC route
- Add bus to AT2 route to improve reliability affected by increased traffic on Beauregard

# 3 – 5 Year Improvements

- Improve service frequencies on current routes to meet urban transit standards
- Introduce new Circulator and Crosstown routes
- Begin integration of DASH service with BRT and transitways
- Replace aging diesel bus fleet with low-floor hybrid buses
- Maintain 12-year life cycle bus replacement schedule
- Continue to implement industry technology advances
- Improve bus bay and layover capacity at Metro stations and other terminal points

# 6 – 10 Year Improvements

- Continue integration of DASH service with BRT and transitways
- Evaluation of Metrobus route replacement to provide City transit subsidy savings
- Continue to implement industry technology advances
- Expand DASH system to serve new Potomac Yard Metro station

# Thank You!

