



www.VirginiaDOT.org

Public Information Meeting

Route 50 STARS Safety and Operational Improvements Study Arlington County

**Thursday, November 14, 2019
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Presentation starts at 7 p.m.**

Thomas Jefferson Middle School
125 S. Old Glebe Road
Arlington, VA 22204

Public Information Meeting

Welcome to the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) public information meeting on concepts being studied to assess potential operational and safety improvements for less than a mile of Route 50 (Arlington Boulevard) between Glebe Road and Fillmore Street. The concepts studied include improving traffic signal timing and operations, turn lane improvements, turn restrictions, access management, pedestrian, bicycle, and transit enhancements.

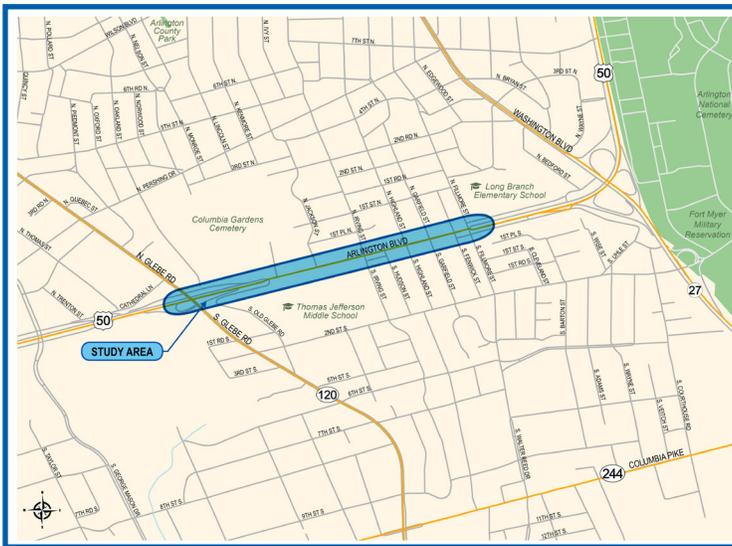
This meeting is being held to provide an opportunity for residents and organizations to give VDOT comments and/or suggestions on the study. A second public information meeting will be held in **early 2020** to discuss alternatives developed based on public input and feedback.

VDOT strives to ensure that all members of the community have the opportunity to participate in public decisions on transportation projects and programs affecting them.

VDOT representatives are here to discuss the concepts being studied and answer your questions. **Residents and drivers of the corridor in the study area are asked to take a short online survey** that is now available for responses at www.virginiadot.org/route50arlingtonstudy.

All comments received on this study will be reviewed and the final concepts based on public input will be made available on the VDOT study website.

Study at a Glance



Purpose: Assess potential safety and operational improvements.

Lengths and Limits: About 0.7 miles of Arlington Boulevard (Route 50) between Glebe Road and Fillmore Street.

Phase: Study

Begin Date: August 2019

Completion Date: Spring 2020

Cost: \$250,000

Study Overview

This study is assessing potential safety and operational enhancements along less than a mile of Route 50 (Arlington Boulevard) between Glebe Road and Fillmore Street.

Currently, this segment of Route 50 experiences congestion in the morning and evening peak periods and a high number of crashes.

The concepts being studied will be developed based on public input and may include:

- Traffic signal timing and operations improvements
- Turn lane improvements
- Access management for properties and streets along the corridor
- Pedestrian, bicycle and transit enhancements
- Innovative Intersections (potential examples include Quadrant Roadway and Restricted Crossing U-Turn)

Civil Rights

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT Civil Rights at 703-259-1775.

Get Involved

VDOT will review and evaluate any information received as a result of the public information meeting. The comment sheet and brochure are provided to assist in making your comments. You may leave the sheet or any other written comments in the comment box, or mail/email your comments.

Residents and drivers of the corridor in the study area are asked to take a short online survey that is now available for responses at www.virginiadot.org/route50arlingtonstudy.

Environmental Review

Potential environmental impacts will not be included as part of this study. When the operational concepts are finalized and carried forward into a future project design development, VDOT will coordinate with the appropriate federal, state and local agencies as part of the environmental review and approval process.

Right of Way

Preliminary study concepts presented on the displays are conceptual and may change as the study and concepts are refined. Property owners would be informed of the exact location of any easements during the right of way acquisition process and prior to construction if projects should be developed as a result of this study.

Information about right of way purchase is discussed in VDOT's brochure, "Right of Way and Utilities: Guide for Property Owners and Tenants." Copies of this brochure are also available online at: www.virginiadot.org/business/row-default.asp.

Comments must be postmarked or delivered to VDOT by **Nov. 25, 2019**. A second public information meeting will be held in **early 2020** to discuss alternatives developed based on public input and feedback. Look for details on the study website.

All comments received on this study will be reviewed and the final concepts based on public input will be made available on the VDOT study website. Study information shared here, including a summary of comments received during the comment period, will be available on the study website mentioned above.

Contact Information

Primary Contact:
Bobby Mangalath, P.E.

Northern Region Operations
Traffic Engineering

4975 Alliance Drive
Fairfax, VA 22030

703-259-3238



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COMMENT SHEET

All comments are subject to public disclosure.

Name (optional): _____

Address (optional): _____

Email (optional): _____

1. What are your major concerns that you would like to see incorporated into this study?

2. Please provide us with any additional information or suggestions that will assist VDOT in developing the final concepts of this study.

3. How did you hear about this meeting?

_____ Newspaper _____ Social Media _____ Website _____ Other _____

Please leave this comment sheet at the designated location, or mail your comments (postmarked by Nov. 25, 2019) to the addressee on the reverse side.

Fold Line

Postal Service
will not
deliver without
a stamp

Virginia Department of Transportation
Northern Virginia District
Mr. Bobby Mangalath, P.E.
4975 Alliance Drive
Fairfax, VA 22030

Fold Line



ROUTE 50 STARS SAFETY AND OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS STUDY - ARLINGTON COUNTY

A Study undertaken as part of VDOT's **S**trategically **T**argeted and **A**ffordable **R**oadway **S**olutions (STARS) Program

November 14, 2019

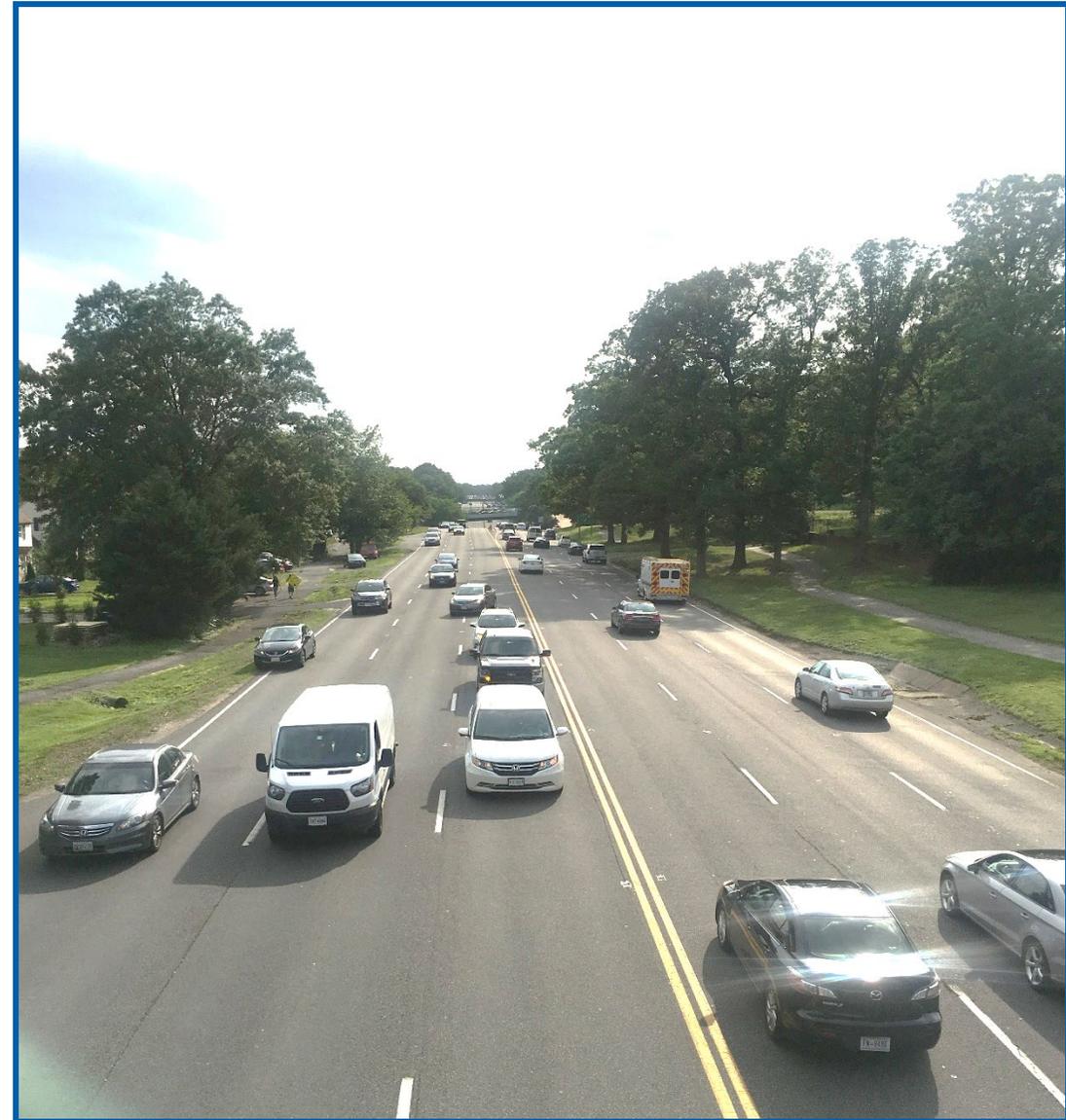
Claudia Llana, VDOT, Northern Virginia District, Transportation and Land Use

Terrell Hughes, VDOT, Central Office, Transportation and Mobility Planning Division

Dana Trone, WRA (Consultant to VDOT)

Presentation Outline

- Meeting Objectives
- VDOT STARS Program
- Route 50 STARS Safety and Operational Improvements Study
 - Study Overview
 - Existing Traffic and Safety Conditions
 - Potential Improvements
- Next Steps



Objectives of the Public Information Meeting

- **Inform the public about this STARS study**
- **Present preliminary information on safety and traffic conditions within the study area**
- **Solicit input from the public on existing safety and traffic issues**
- **Gather ideas to enhance safety and reduce congestion in the corridor**



Background on VDOT's STARS Program

Terrell Hughes, VDOT, Central Office, Transportation Mobility Planning Division

Background on VDOT's STARS Program

- **STARS is an acronym for Strategically Targeted and Affordable Roadways Solutions**
- **Program to develop solutions to reduce crashes and congestion bottlenecks using a data-driven approach**

Crash hotspots

Speed data

Traffic count data



Use this information together to identify corridors with safety and congestion challenges

Overall goal of STARS is to develop solutions that can be funded and implemented

STARS Program Goals

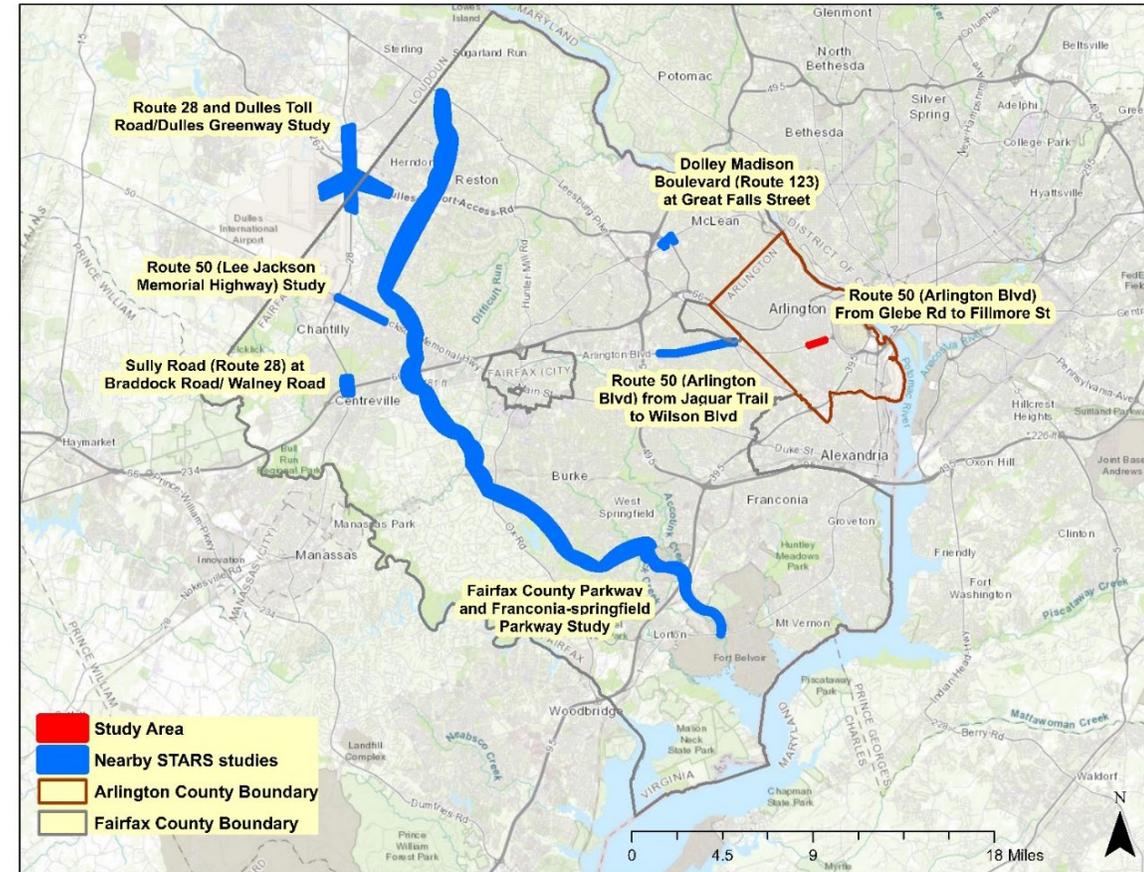
- **Develop comprehensive, innovative transportation alternatives to relieve congestion bottlenecks and solve critical safety challenges**
- **Involve planners, traffic engineers, safety engineers, roadway designers, and local stakeholders**

STARS Project Stakeholders



Recent STARS Efforts Near the Study Area

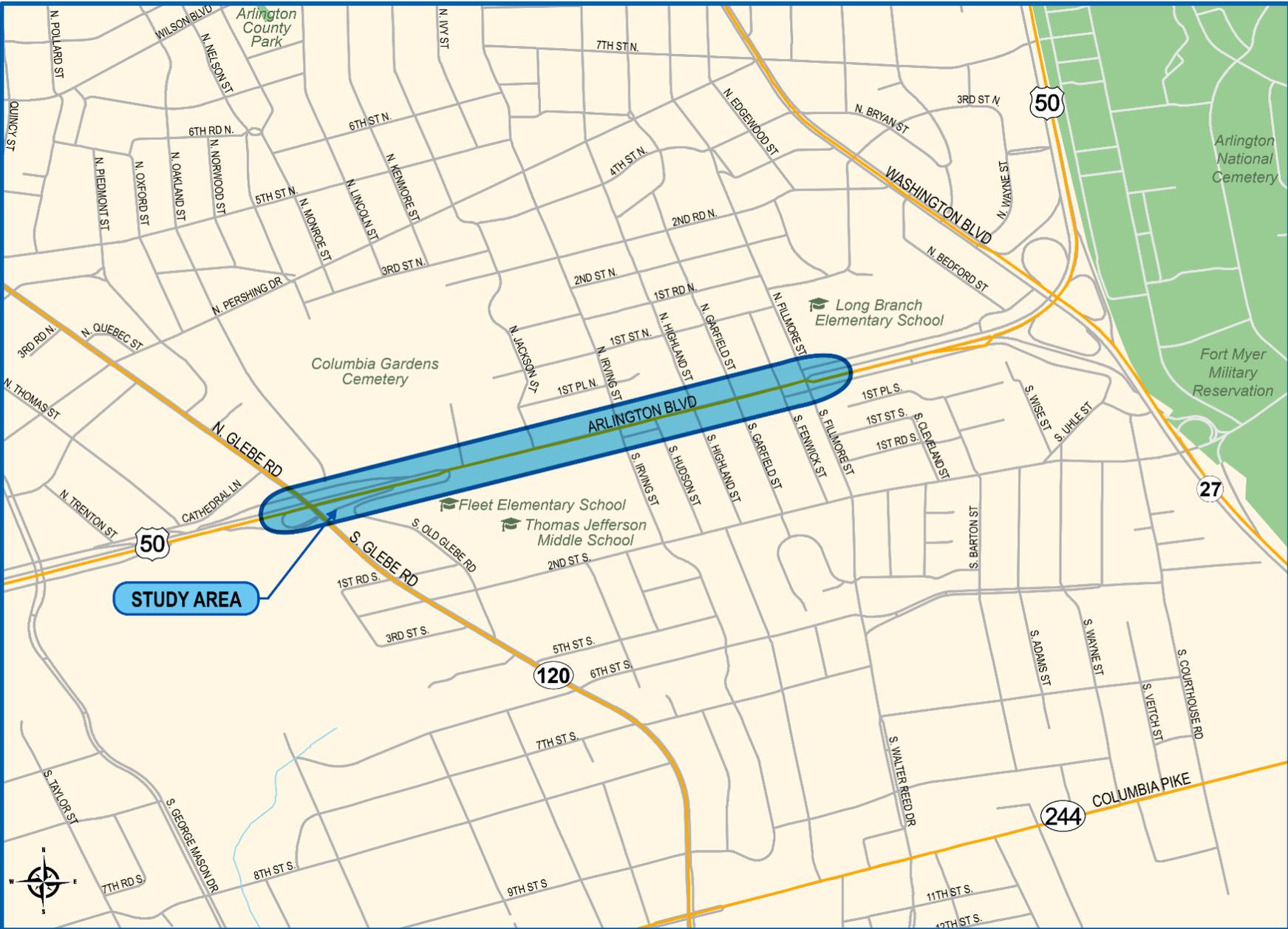
- **Route 50 (Lee Jackson Memorial Highway) Study (Ongoing)**
- **Route 50 (Arlington Blvd) from Jaguar Trail to Wilson Blvd (Ongoing)**
- **Route 28 and Dulles Toll Road/Dulles Greenway Study (Ongoing)**
- **Fairfax County Parkway and Franconia- Springfield Parkway (Funded)**
- **Dolley Madison Boulevard (Route 123) at Great Falls Street**
- **Sully Road (Route 28) at Braddock Road/ Walney Road**



Route 50 STARS Safety and Operational Improvements Study

Study Area

Route 50 (Arlington Boulevard) between Glebe Road and Fillmore Street



Study Purpose / Elements

- Evaluate operational and safety conditions along Route 50 from Glebe Road to Fillmore Street
- Consider and evaluate potential improvements to enhance safety and operations in the study area
 - Identify both short and long term improvements
- Develop cost estimates for the preferred alternatives



Route 50 Study Area Features

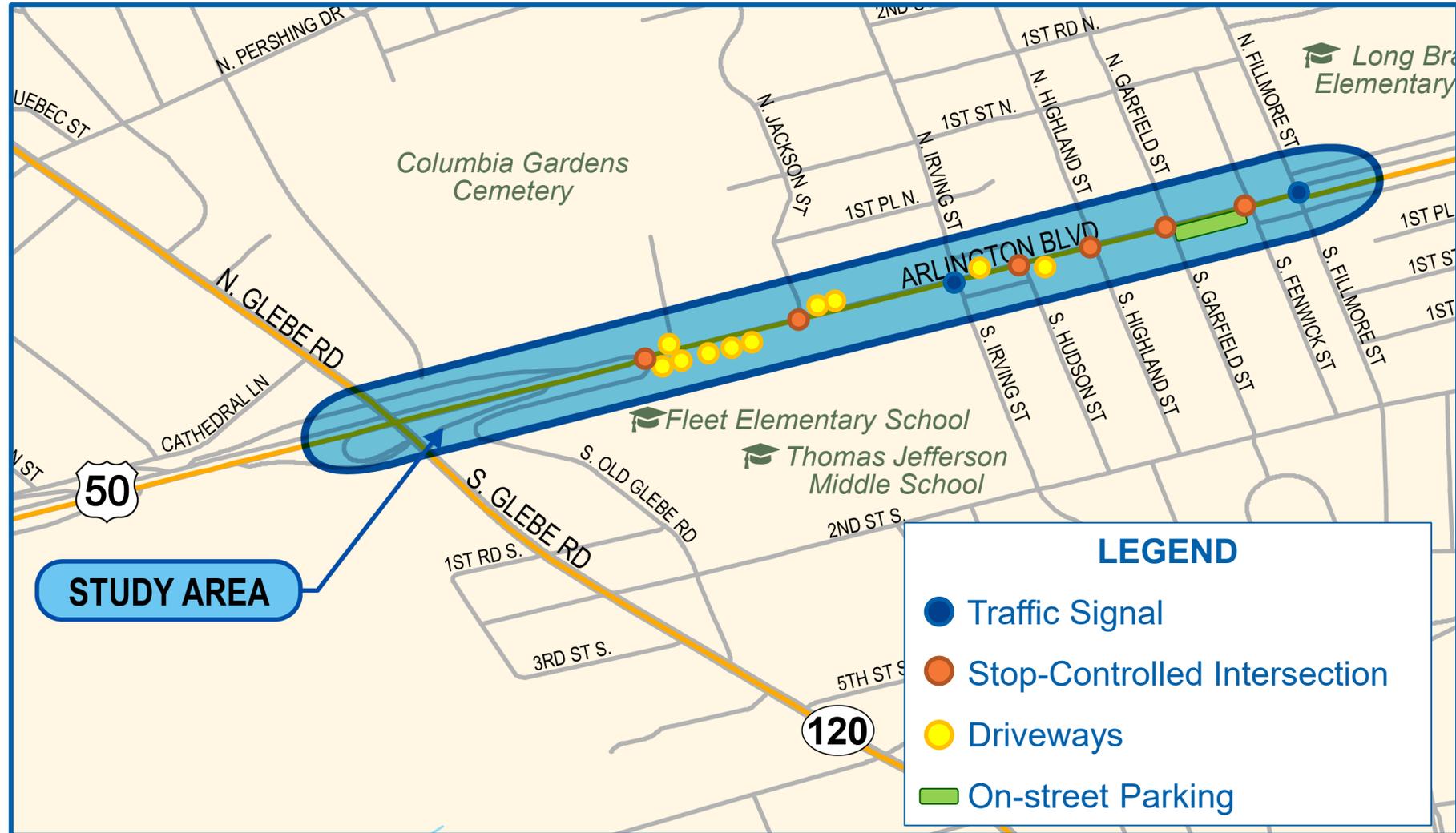
- 0.7-mile corridor
- 62,000 vehicles per day
- 45-mph speed limit
- Six lanes without a median
- No turn lanes at most intersections
- On-street parking between Garfield Street and Fenwick Street
- Frontage roads (segments)
- Recent signal and pedestrian improvements at Irving Street and Fillmore Street



Study Area Features

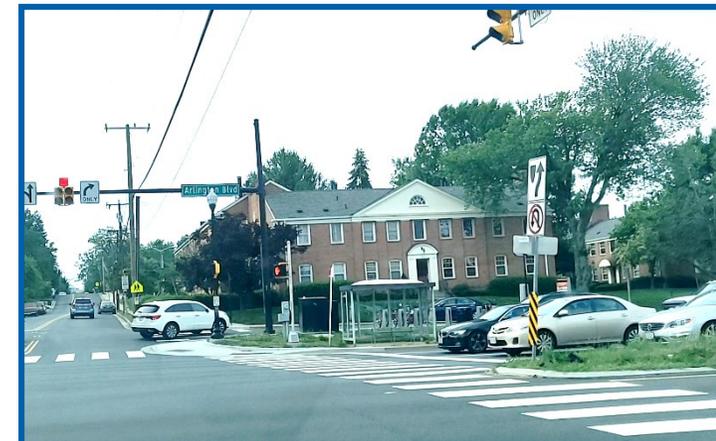
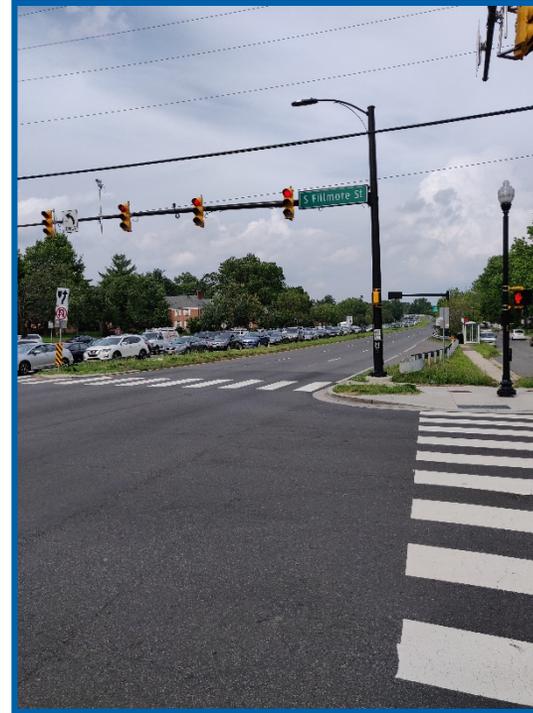
Intersections

- **2 traffic signals (with recent improvements)**
 - Irving Street
 - Fillmore Street
- **6 stop-controlled**
 - S. Old Glebe Road
 - Jackson Street
 - Hudson Street
 - Highland Street
 - Garfield Street
 - Fenwick Street
- **10 driveways**
 - 4 on the north side
 - 6 on the south side



Multi-Modal Accommodations

- **Arlington Boulevard Trail along north and south sides (along frontage roads in some areas)**
- **Route 50 at Irving St – 4 crosswalks**
 - 10 pedestrian and bike crossings of Route 50 in peak hour
- **Route 50 at Fillmore St – 4 crosswalks**
 - 35 pedestrian and bike crossings of Route 50 in peak hour
- **Pedestrian bridge east of Jackson St**
- **6 bus stops per direction (WMATA 4A); 30 buses per day**

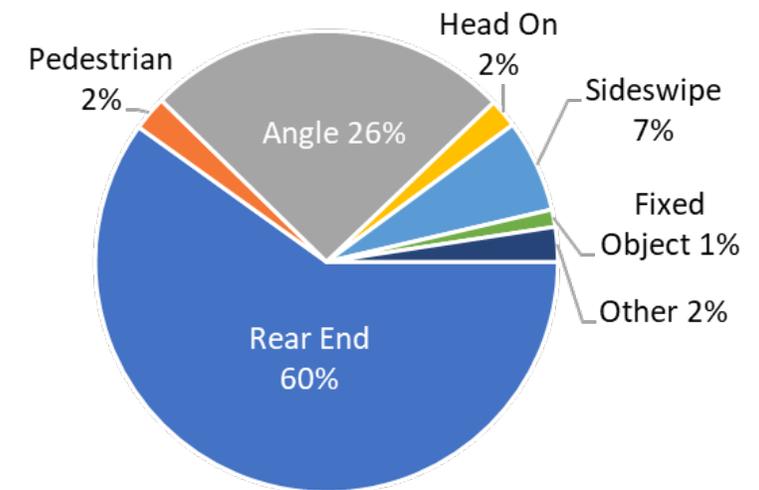


Safety Conditions

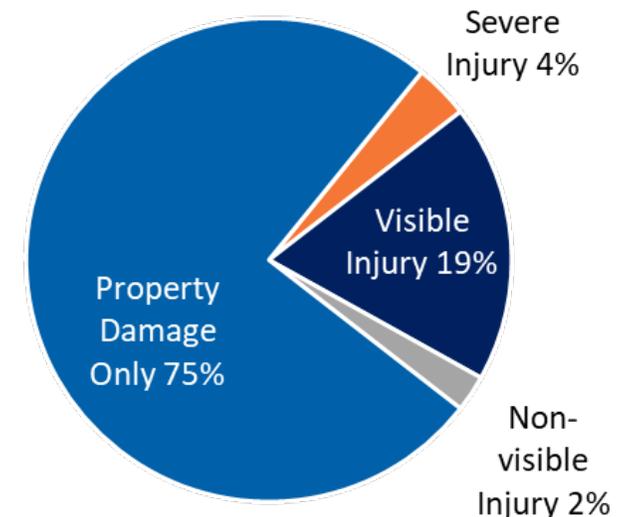
- **Five year crash study period (2014 – 2018)**
- **247 total crashes within the study area**
 - **61 injury crashes / 0 fatal crashes**
 - **6 pedestrian/bicycle crashes**
 - **1 on Glebe Road at westbound Route 50 ramps**
 - **5 near Fillmore Street**
 - **Crashes are concentrated at intersections**

Crashes will be evaluated by location, severity, type, time of day, and circumstances to examine contributing factors and develop appropriate improvements

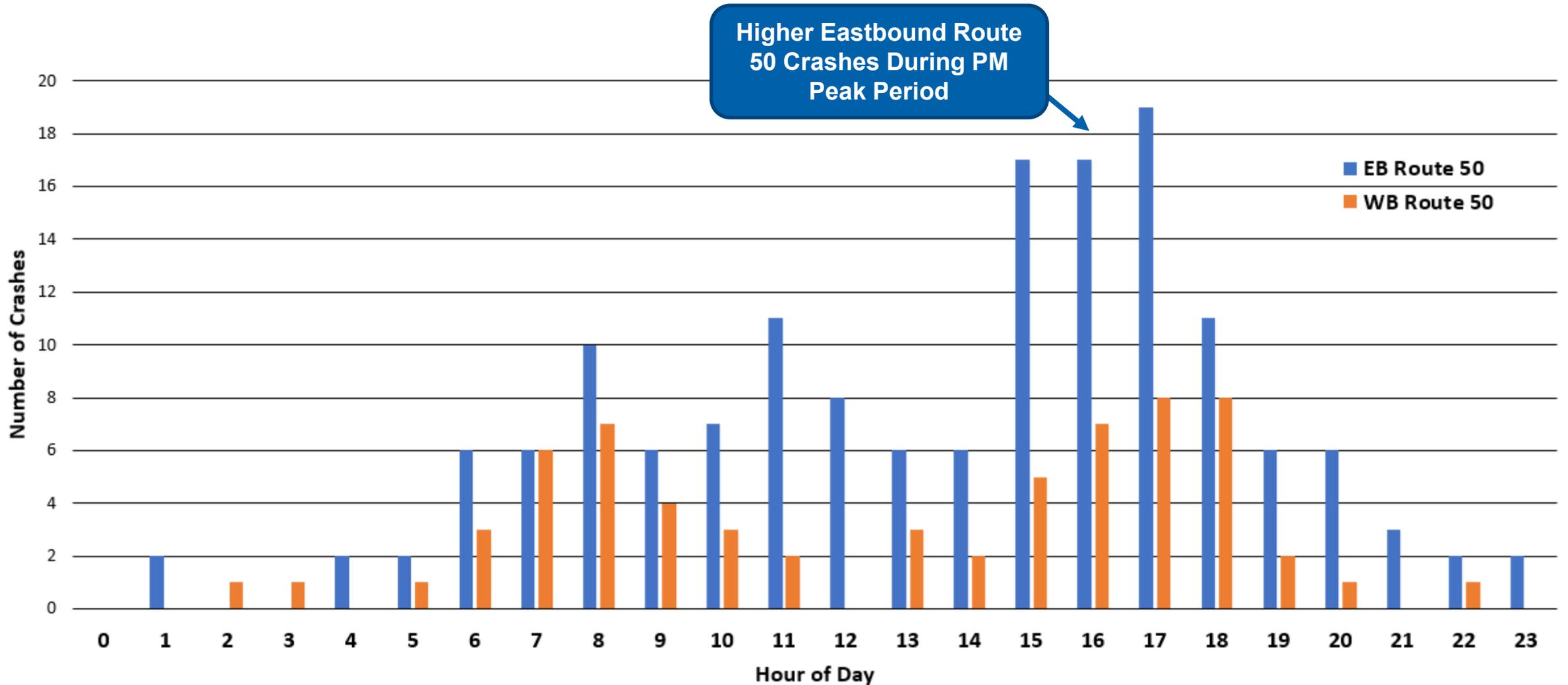
CRASH TYPES



CRASH SEVERITY



Route 50 Crashes by Time of Day (2014 – 2018)

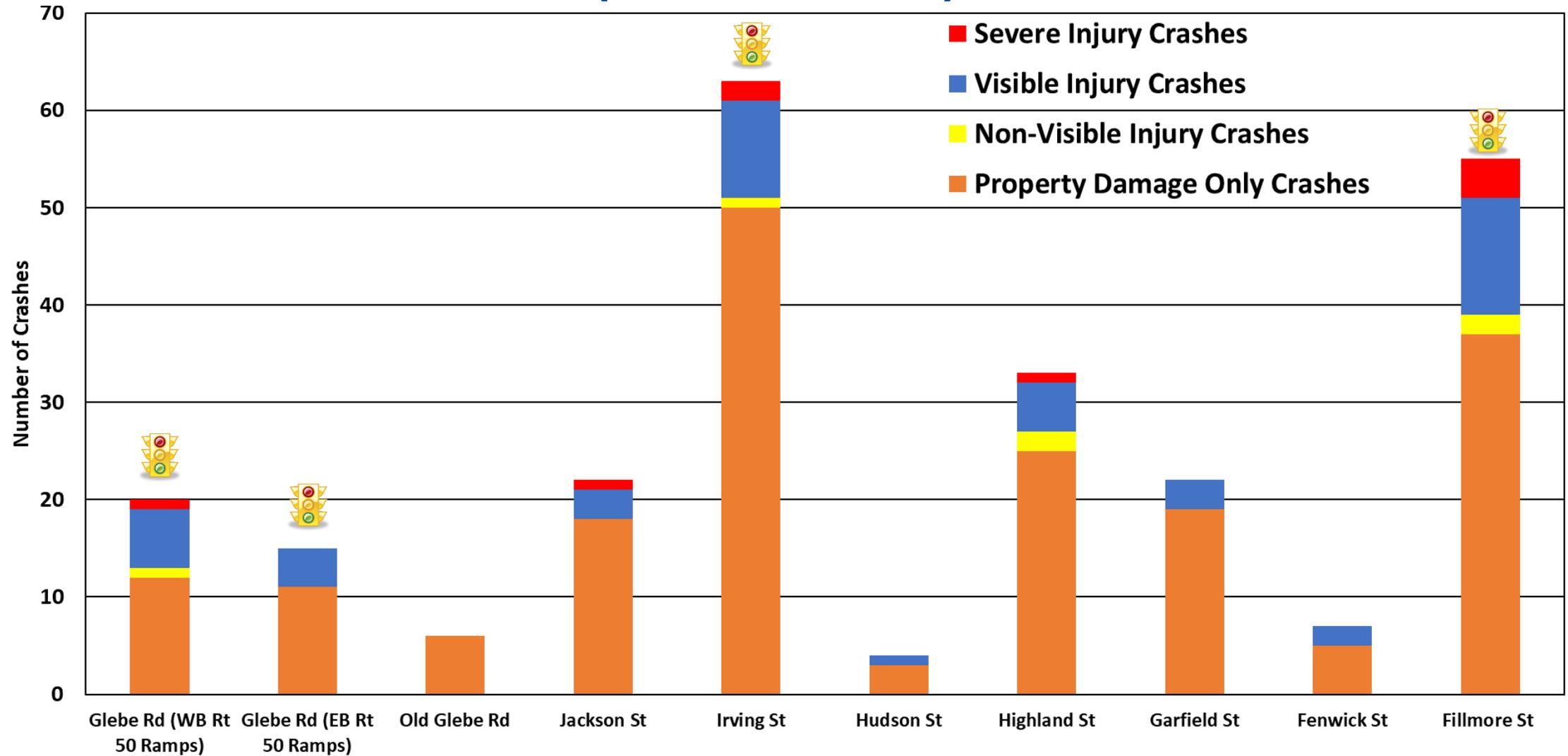


Safety Conditions (2014 – 2018)

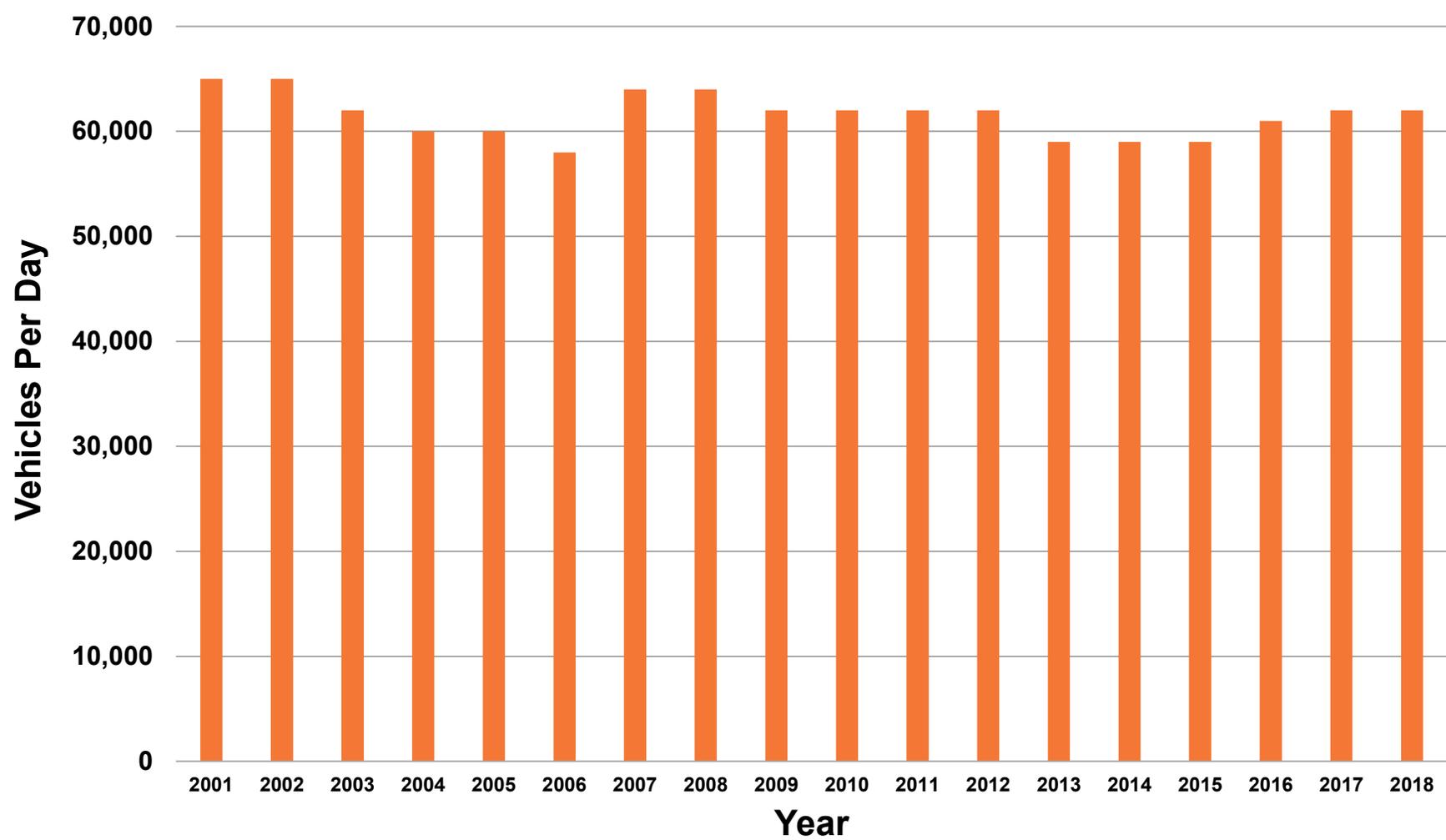


- Highest crash density at Irving Street, Highland Street, and Fillmore Street intersections
- Many crashes are the result of long queues at intersections and vehicles stopping to make left turns

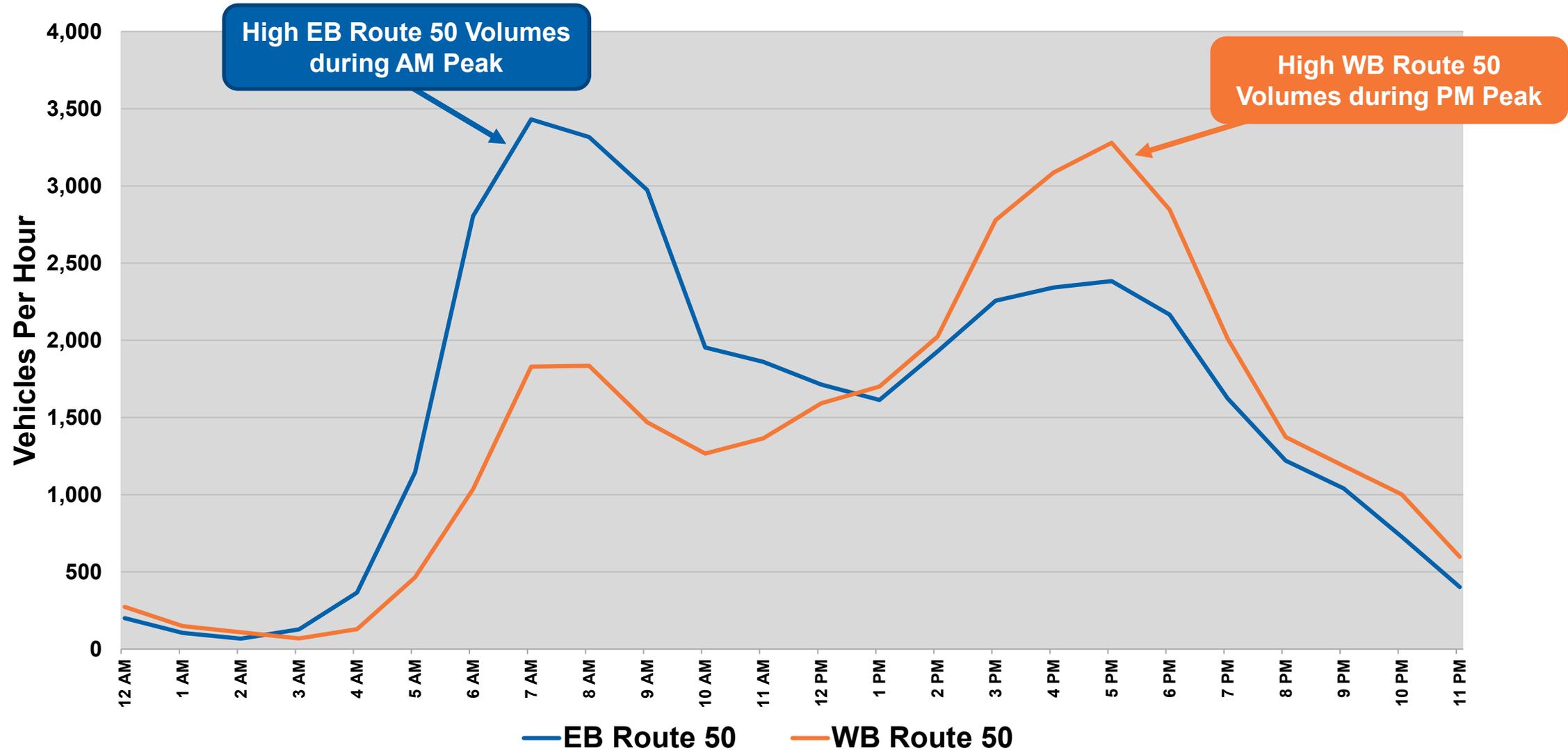
Intersection Crashes (2014 – 2018)



Route 50 Daily Traffic Volumes – East of Glebe Road (2001 – 2018)

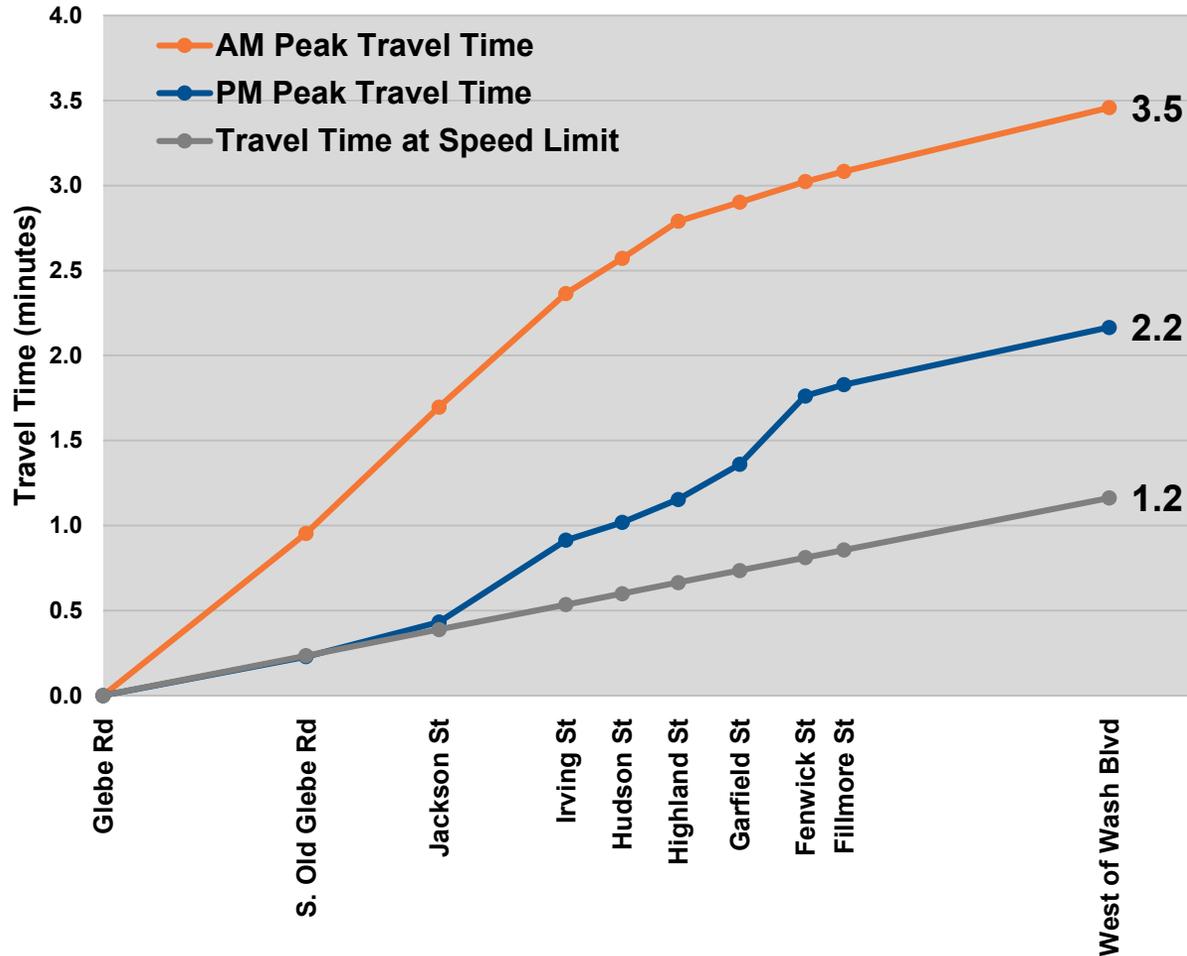


Route 50 Hourly Traffic Volumes – East of Glebe Road

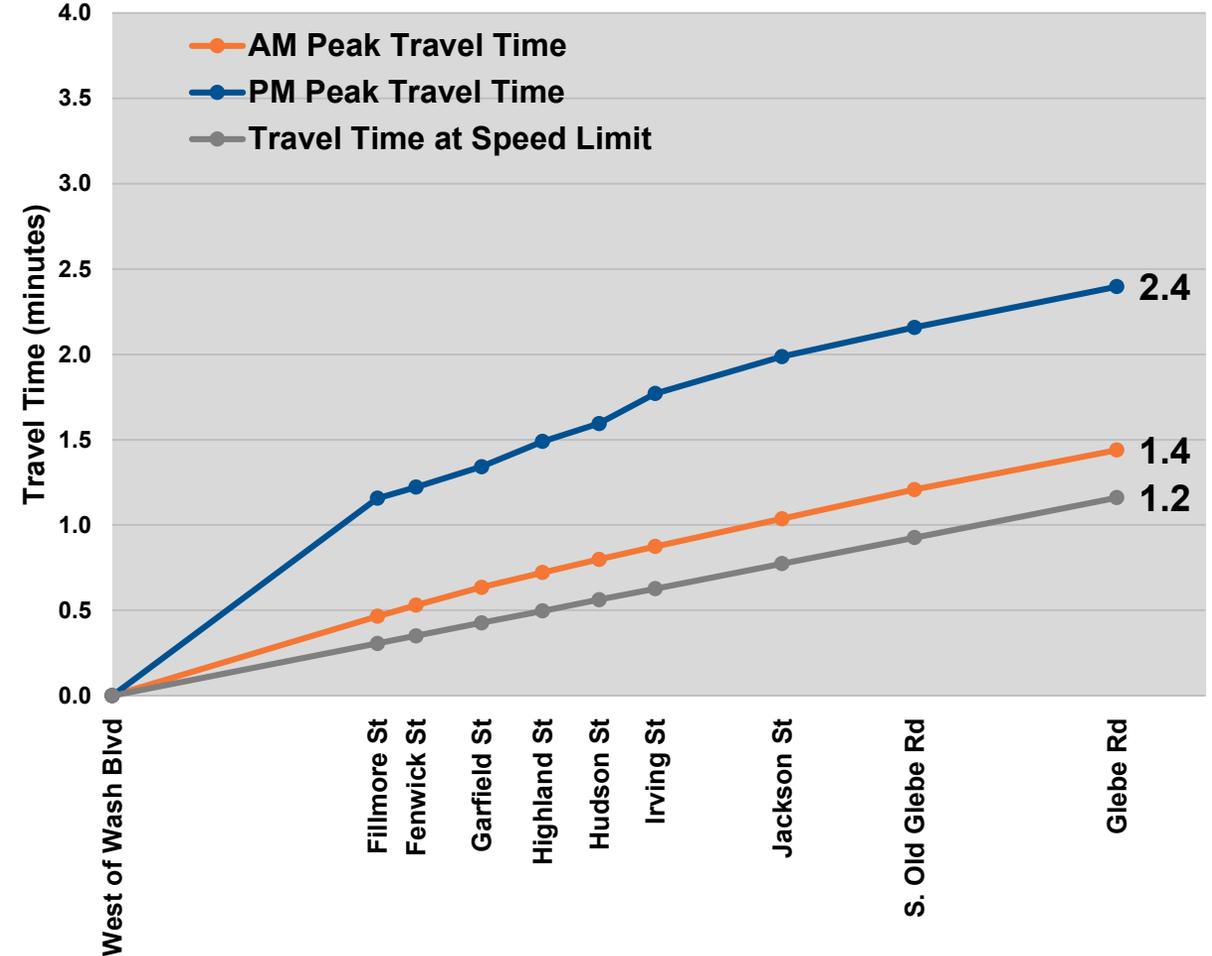


Route 50 Peak Hour Travel Times

Eastbound



Westbound



AM Peak Period Operations

NB Irving Street



Route 50 at Irving Street



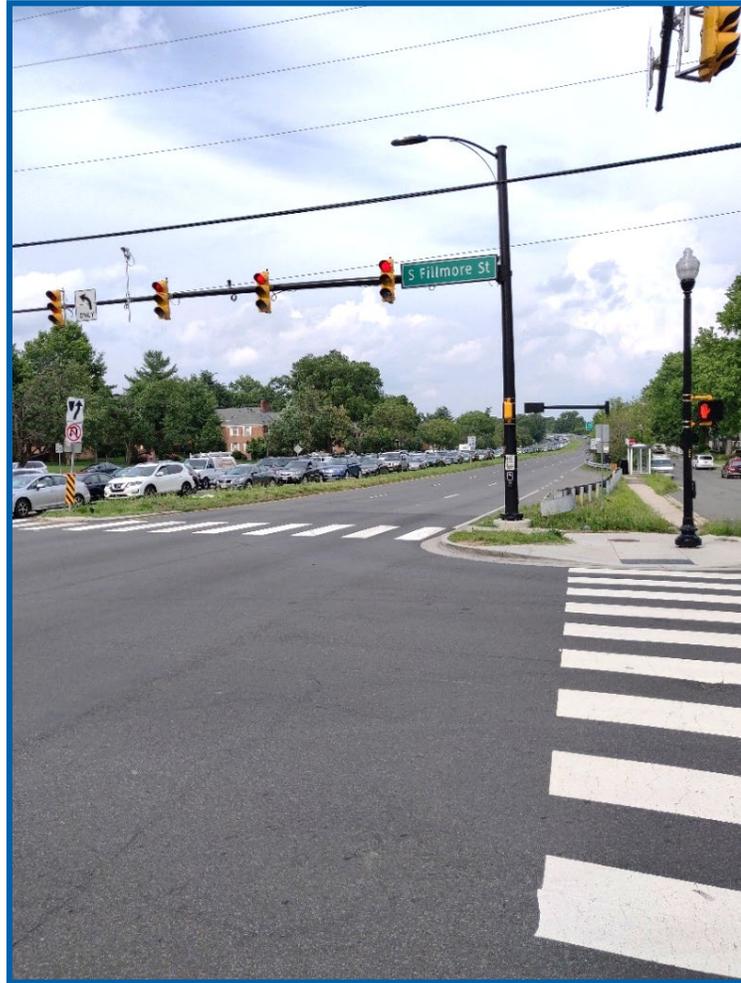
Route 50 at Fillmore Street



Route 50 at Irving Street

PM Peak Period Operations

Route 50 at Fillmore Street



Route 50 at Fillmore Street



NB Fillmore Street

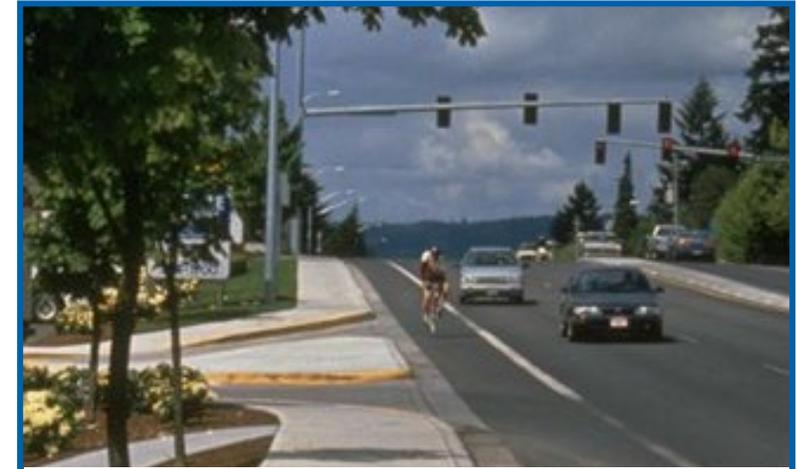


Route 50 at Irving Street

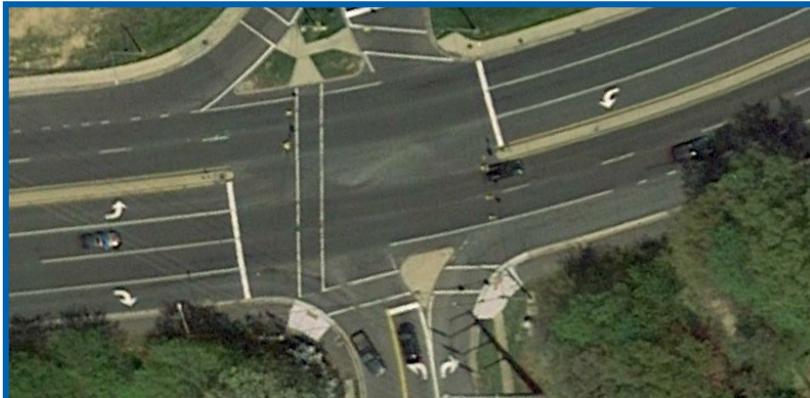
Potential Improvement Options

Access Management

- Consolidate and/or reduce access points
- Add channelizing islands at intersection (right-in/right-out)
- Directional median openings (allow only certain turn movements)
 - Prohibit left turns
 - Prohibit through movements from side streets



Channelizing island



Prohibit through movements



Right-in/right-out

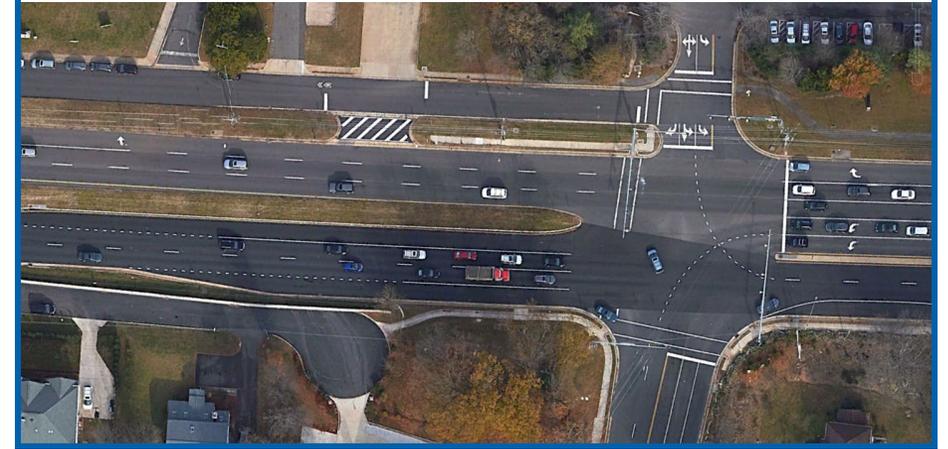


Channelizing island

Roadway Network Improvements

- Prohibit left-turn movements at selected intersections and redirect to other intersections
- Modify roadways to one-way connections to Route 50
- Modify operation of frontage roads

Modify operation of frontage road



Prohibit left-turn and redirect to other intersections



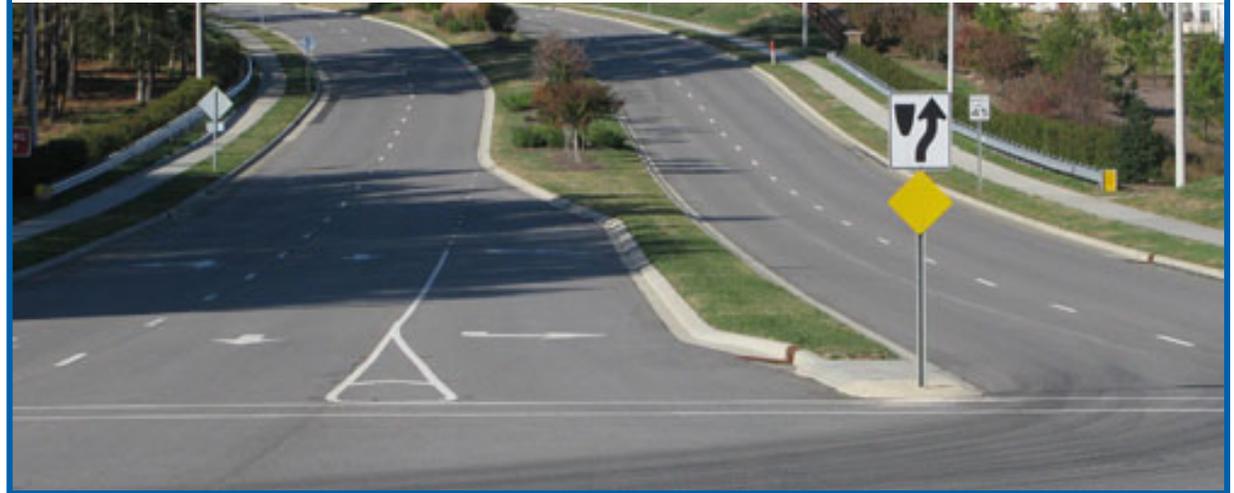
Roadway Improvements

- Add/extend turn lanes along Route 50 or side streets
- Extend/modify frontage roadways
- Construct curbed median
- Remove roadside ditches and install curb and gutter

Extend/modify frontage roadways



Curb and gutter with a curbed median



Innovative Intersections

- Innovative intersection designs modify movements at conventional intersections to provide new options to reduce delay, increase efficiency and provide safer travel for all road users

Median U-Turn (MUT)

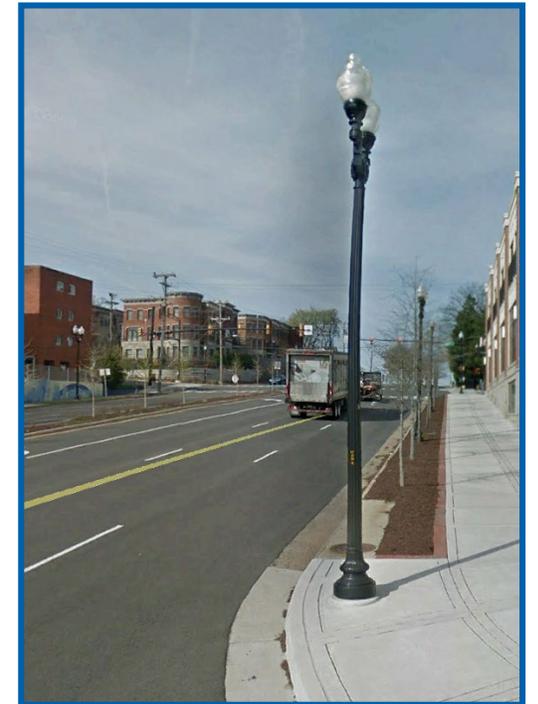
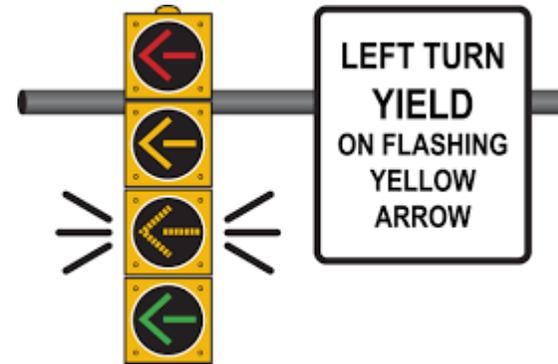


Restricted Crossing U-Turn (RCUT)



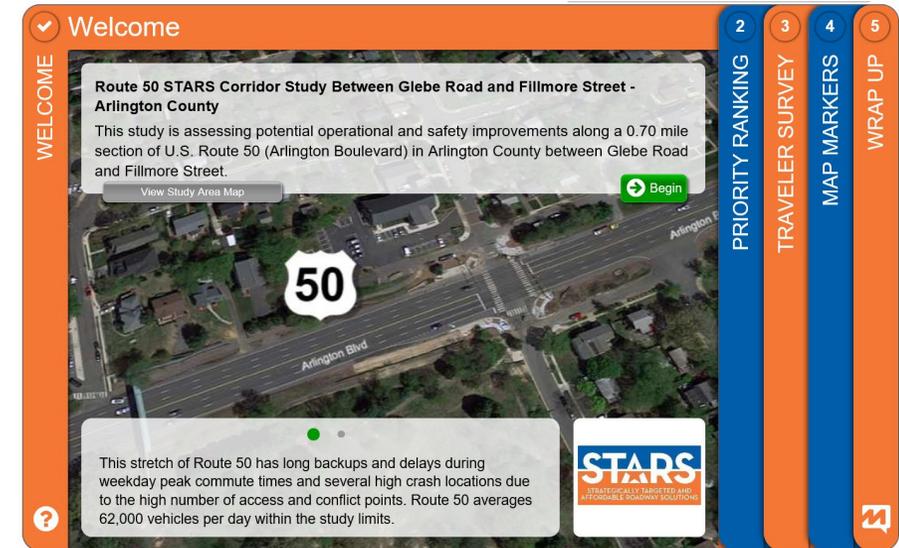
Traffic Signal Operations/Lighting Improvements

- Implement flashing yellow arrows
- Modify phasing by time-of-day
- Turn prohibitions for selected left turns
- Changes to signal timing and phasing
- Additional roadway lighting
- Signal timing optimization



Next Steps

- Provide comments using the following link:
www.virginiadot.org/route50arlingtonstudy
- Comment Period Closes – November 25, 2019
- Second Public Information Meeting – Early 2020
- Study Completion – Spring 2020
 - Identify final recommendations
 - VDOT to work together with Arlington County to identify funding



THANK YOU!

Your input is essential as we evaluate potential improvement options.

Study Website: www.virginiadot.org/route50arlingtonstudy