Virginia Transit Equity and Modernization

HJ542 - Virginia Transit Equity and Modernization Study

CVTPO - Transportation Technical Committee (TTC)
December 9, 2021

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How Did We Get Here?

- HJ 542 (2021) bill passed
- The resolution requires exploring a variety of topics that will create recommendations to advance transit equity and modernization efforts
- Emphasis on engagement opportunities for underrepresented communities

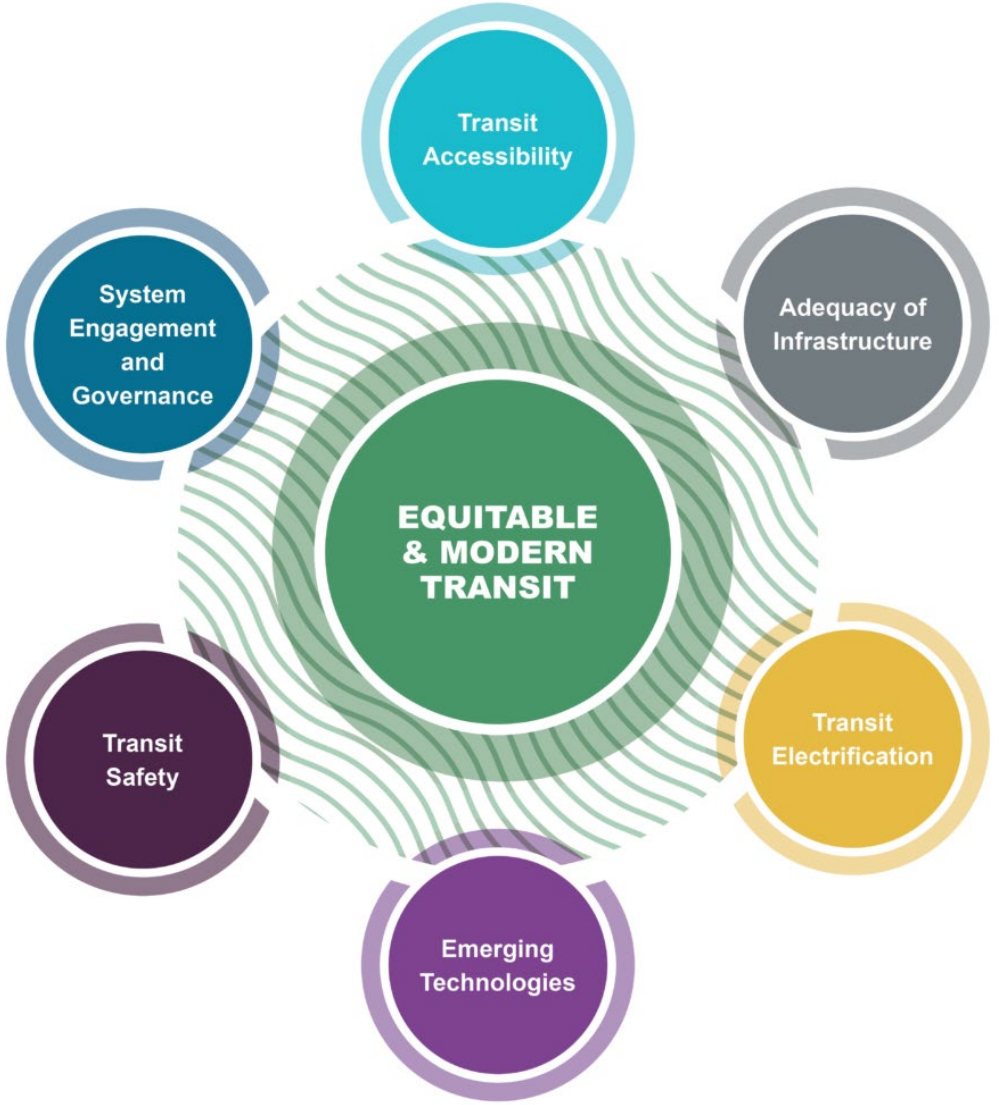
Study Goals

What will this study accomplish?

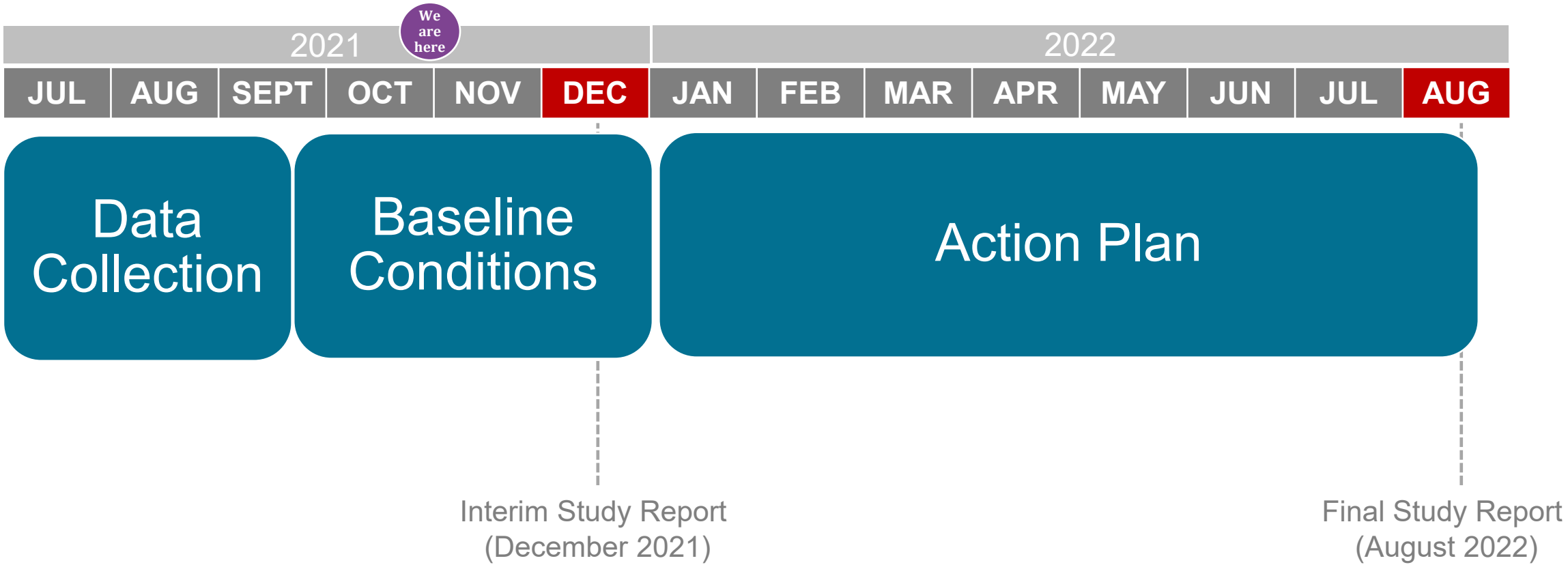
- ✓ Will identify transit agency, rider, and stakeholder needs
- ✓ Will develop an action plan to address those needs
- ✓ Define underrepresented and underserved communities

The study will address:

- Opportunities/Gap Assessment of transit service and accessibility
- Needs and barriers to improve transit infrastructure
- Opportunities to reduce carbon footprint through bus electrification
- Strategies to inform priorities of implementing emerging technologies
- Opportunities to enhance passenger and transit employee safety
- Framework for identifying and engaging disadvantaged populations and underserved communities



Study Process & Timeline



Key Study Activities

	Completed	In Progress	Upcoming
Study Phase	✓ Data Collection	○ Baseline Conditions	○ Action Plan
Study Activities	✓ Review Plans, Policies, and Data ✓ Transit Agency Survey ✓ Rider Focus Groups ✓ Transit Agency Outreach Kits	○ Transit Equity Committee (TEC) ○ Technical Working Groups (TWGs) ○ Stakeholder Meetings ○ Agency Briefings	○ Interim Study Report ○ Virtual Transit Forum ○ Final Study Report

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Baseline Conditions: Initial Themes

- Many bus stops are poorly placed and not well-connected to sidewalks
- Basic transit infrastructure (shelters, benches, lighting, etc.) is lacking
- Most transit agencies do not have rider advisory boards or committees
- Equity can be incorporated more in state guidance, requirements and funding programs for public transit
- There is a significant interest from Virginia's transit agencies to electrify fleets and adopt newer transit technologies, but additional resources are required (funding, skilled workforce, training, technical assistance, etc.)
- Many transit agencies are interested in piloting zero-fare service to overcome barriers to transit access

Study Action Plan

- Findings from the Baseline Conditions Assessment and Interim Study Report will inform the development of a Study Action Plan

- The Study Action Plan will include recommendations and implementation strategies that address barriers by topic area and will describe specific actions, next steps, coordination required, timeline for implementation and responsible agencies.

- DRPT anticipates that the Study Action Plan will advise changes to DRPT funding programs and policies, and the development of future plans.

Get Involved

Spread the word to sign up for our email list at:

www.vatransitequity.com

Questions?

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Thank You!

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