



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

DASH-ACPS Coordination Recommendation

June 24, 2025



Summary of Recommendations

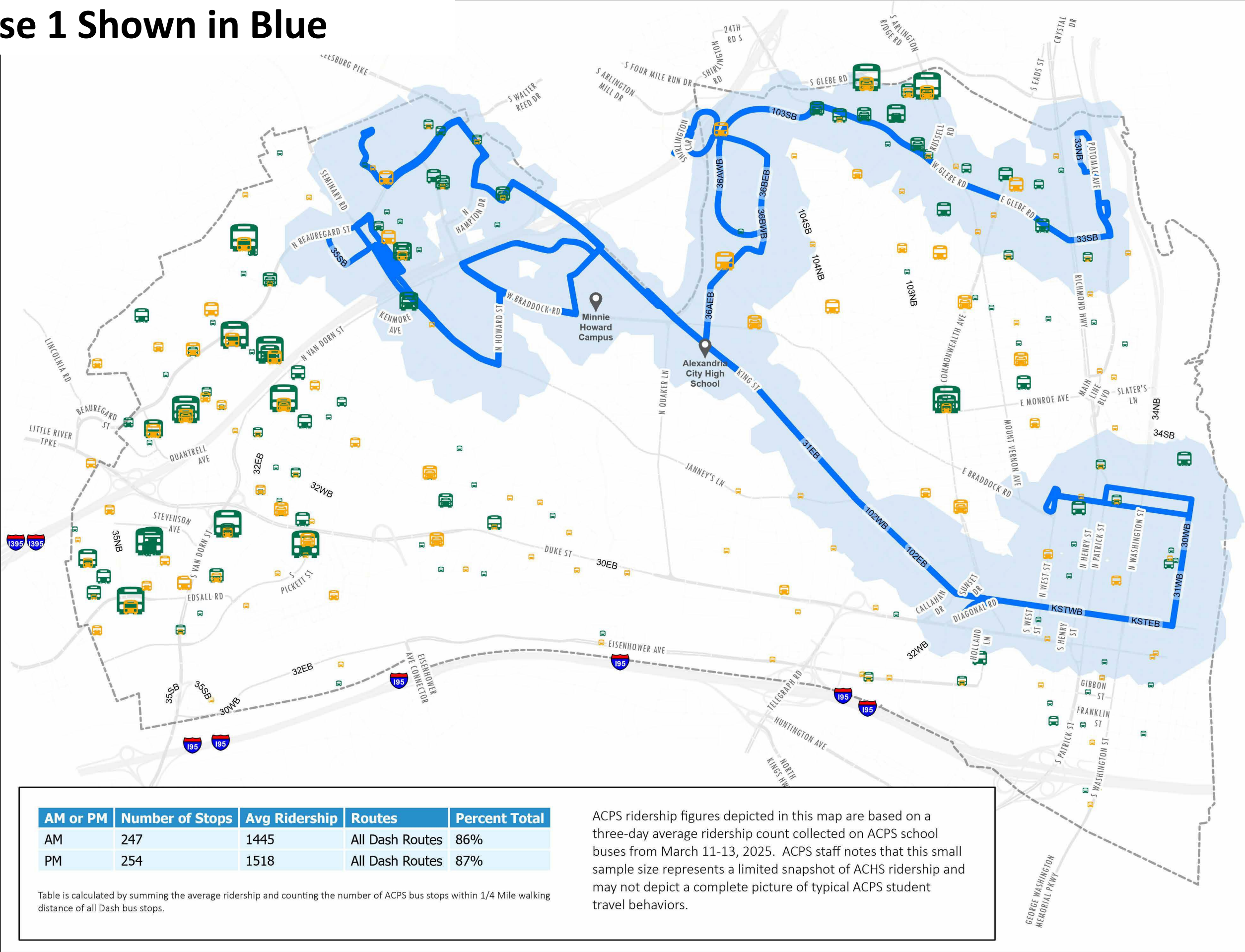
- Over the past five months, the City & ACPS explored the feasibility of a phased approach to using the DASH public transit system as a transportation option for Alexandria City High School (ACHS) students in lieu of typical ACPS school buses.
- The initiative's primary goal is to provide student transportation that is:
Safe, Reliable, Effective, Efficient, Supportive of environmental goals
- ACPS would continue to provide:
 - Specialized transportation services
 - After-school and event transportation
 - Standard bus transportation for elementary and middle school students
 - school bus transportation for high school students that are not within ¼ mile of DASH routes
- This City Manager recommendation will require:
 - Further discussion by City Council and the School Board
 - Community engagement and feedback before any action is taken
- This is a **phased approach**, with the following recommendation:

Summary of Recommendations

- **Phase 1** (2026-27 SY) would transition a portion of Alexandria City High School bus riders to DASH service, capitalizing on and utilizing existing, higher frequency Lines 31 and 36A/B, with some supplemental trips added to these lines.
- **Phase 2** (2027-28 SY) would provide additional resources to add more trips to DASH Line 35 to improve frequency and improve choice for ACHS students in the West End, serving the highest density of current school bus riders.
- **Phase 3** (TBD) envisions broader route changes so that any student within a ¼-mile of a DASH stop could use DASH instead of school buses, potentially covering most current riders. It would require service expansions, new bus purchases, and increased operating subsidies.

For all three phases, ACPS would continue providing yellow bus service for students requiring accommodation or specialized transportation services and for elementary and middle school students

Phase 1 Shown in Blue



AM or PM	Number of Stops	Avg Ridership	Routes	Percent Total
AM	247	1445	All Dash Routes	86%
PM	254	1518	All Dash Routes	87%

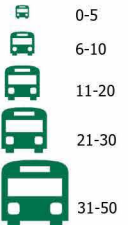
Table is calculated by summing the average ridership and counting the number of ACPS bus stops within 1/4 Mile walking distance of all Dash bus stops.

ACPS ridership figures depicted in this map are based on a three-day average ridership count collected on ACPS school buses from March 11-13, 2025. ACPS staff notes that this small sample size represents a limited snapshot of ACHS ridership and may not depict a complete picture of typical ACPS student travel behaviors.

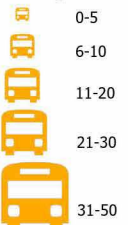
Dash Routes with Ridership

AH and MH
AH and MH

Alexandria High School
Average Student Per Stop



Minnie Howard
Average Students Per Stop



Dash Bus Route
Bus Route Name

Dash Route 31&36

Dash Bus Stop 1/4 mile Walksheds
(Routes 31, 35 and 36)

BusRoute
One Seat Ride to ACHS

Data Notes
-School Bus Stops Provided by ACPS Spring 2025
-Dash Stops 1/4 Mile Walkshed areas were created using the City Walking network calculated at .25 miles from Route 31, 35 and 36 Dash Bus Stops
-Ridership Table calculated using Ridership data from ACPS Spring 2025 survey

This map was produced by the GIS Division of the Department of Information Technology Services, City of Alexandria, Virginia

Pursuant to Section 54.1-402 of the Code of Virginia, any determination of topography or contours, or any depiction of physical improvements, property lines or boundaries is for general information only and shall not be used for the design, modification or construction of improvements to real property or for flood plain determination.

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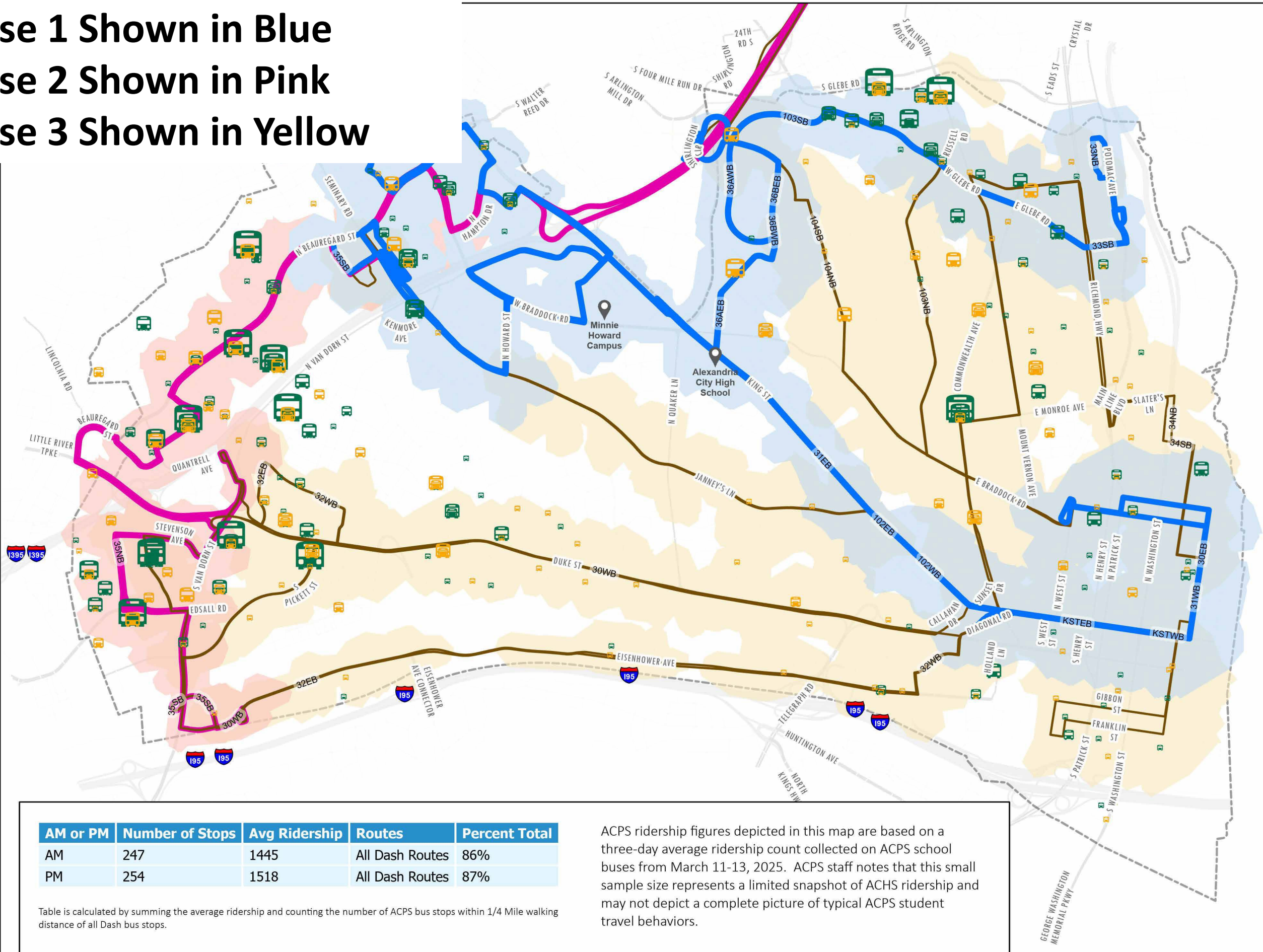
Mapping Standards:
Coordinate System - NAD83 State Plane Virginia North
Projection - Lambert Conformal Conic
Map Units - Feet



Map Produced:
6/6/2025
1:30,000



Phase 1 Shown in Blue
Phase 2 Shown in Pink
Phase 3 Shown in Yellow



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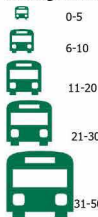
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Dash Routes with Ridership

AH and MH



Alexandria High School
Average Student Per Stop



Minnie Howard
Average Students Per Stop



Dash Bus Route

Bus Route Name
Dash Route 31&36
Dash Route 35
Other Dash Routes

Dash Bus Stop 1/4 mile Walksheds
(Routes 31, 35 and 36)

BusRoute
One Seat Ride to ACHS
<30 min to/from ACHS via DASH
Dash Bus Stops 1/4 mile Walksheds (not 31, 35 or 36)
Accessible to DASH service

Data Notes
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Mapping Standards:
Coordinate System - NAD83 State Plane Virginia North
Projection - Lambert Conformal Conic
Map Units - Feet



Map Produced:
6/4/2025
1:30,000



Vehicle Safety Standards & Incident Response

- Buses undergo rigorous safety inspections and preventative maintenance per FTA & Manufacturer guidelines.
- Real-time GPS tracking and onboard surveillance enhance security.
- Emergency response procedures involve coordination with the Alexandria Police Department.
- Supervisors are dispatched for any safety or security concerns.

Fiscal Year	Total Ridership	Total Incidents	Total Incident Rate (per 100,000 boardings)	Estimated Annual Student Boardings	Student-Involved Incidents	Student-Involved Incident Rate (per 100,000 boardings)
2023	4.5m	14	0.31	429k	4	0.93
2024	5.3m	20	0.38	398k	1	0.25

DASH Incident Response Highlights



**19 FIELD SUPERVISORS
ON DUTY FOR IMMEDIATE RESPONSE**



**8 – 10 CAMERAS ON EACH BUS
(14 ON AN ARTICULATED BUS)**



**CENTRAL DISPATCH COORDINATED
FOR FIELD SUPERVISORS AND
POLICE/EMS**



**VIRGINIA TRANSIT LIABILITY POOL
(VTLP)
FULL INSURANCE COVERAGE**

Public Transportation is a universally safe transportation service.

Next Steps

Summer 2025

- Finalize route and capacity analysis to identify students DASH can reliably serve
- Complete detailed cost/funding study aligned with long-term City goals
- Ensure safety and legal compliance

Fall 2025

- Continue robust student and parent engagement (surveys, bus ride-alongs, pop-ups, forums)
- Host discussions at ACPS events, recreation centers, and with youth-serving organizations
- Schedule joint ACPS–City Council work session

Winter 2025/26

- Integrate DASH updates into ACPS communication systems
 - Establish incident/delay protocols
 - Finalize phased implementation plan for 2026–27
 - City Manager submits proposed budget including Phase 1
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