

# **Maryland Avenue 4-to-3 Lane Conversion Trial**

Open House  
July 31, 2019

## Presentation Overview

- Lane reductions in Ramsey County
  - Core transportation principles
  - 2020 study and evaluation
  - Benefits and trade-offs
- Maryland Avenue 4-to-3 Lane Conversion Trial
  - Background
  - Three-lane trial impacts
  - Schedule



# Ramsey County

## Core Transportation Principles\*

- Ensuring **equitable access** to people of all abilities to use the County transportation network
- Ensuring **safety** for all when using the County transportation network
- Implementing an integrated and fully **interconnected transportation system** utilizing a variety of modes
- Aligning all transportation **principles and policies** with comprehensive planning
- Incorporating **sensitivity to environment** and context in all transportation planning
- Incorporating **meaningful engagement** with communities

\* from Ramsey County's All Abilities Transportation Network Policy

---

# Ramsey County Lane Reduction Study and Evaluation

An evaluation of undivided four-lane roads in the County to determine whether a lane reduction would have a positive impact is expected to be completed in 2020. Criteria to be considered:



Average daily traffic



Right-of-way



Traffic speed



Transit and freight operations



Number of pedestrians



Driveways and intersections



Bicycle access



Parking



Road width



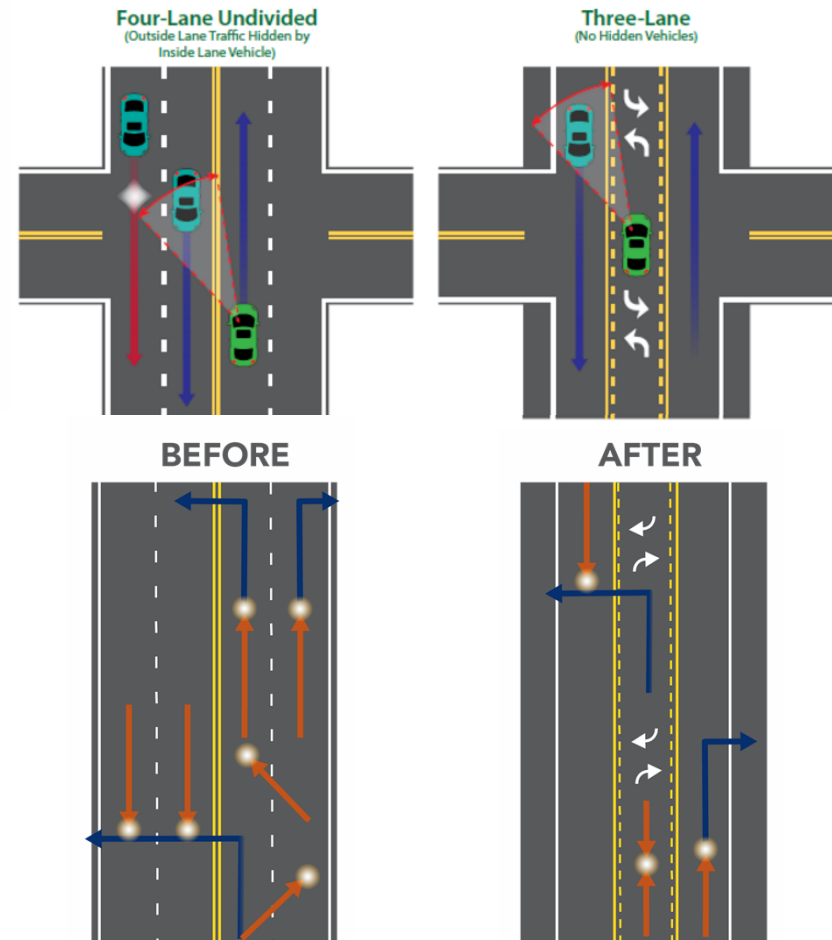
# 4-to-3 Lane Conversions: Benefits and Trade-offs

## Benefits

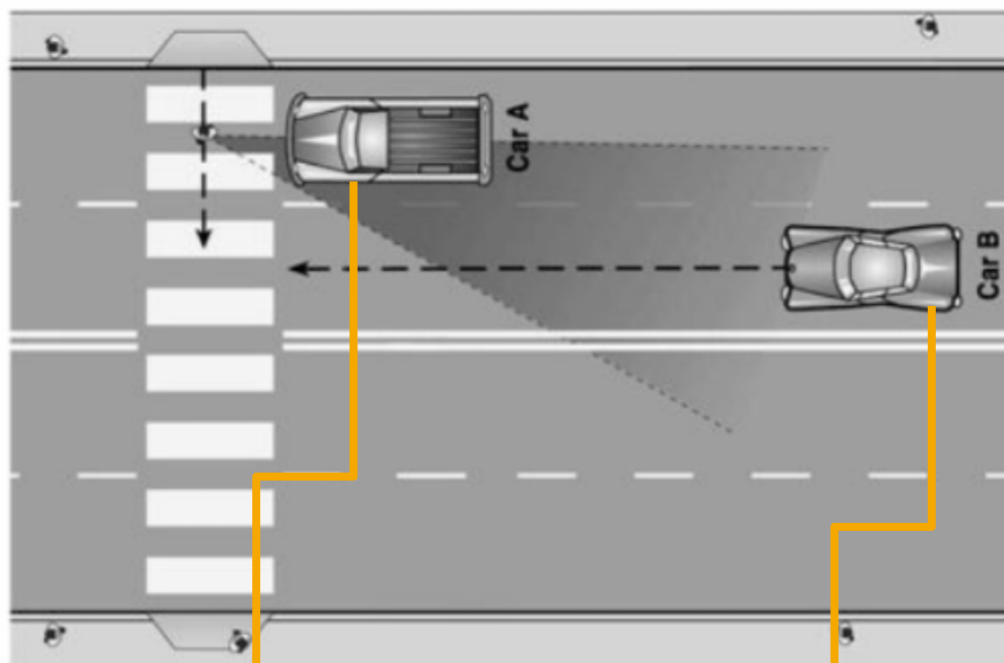
- Safer and easier crossings for pedestrians
- Reduced vehicle speed
- Left turns separated from through traffic
- Reduced crash severity

## Trade-offs

- Increased travel time
- Longer lines of vehicles at traffic lights
- Fewer gaps between vehicles: difficult for vehicles to cross or make left turns



## Multiple-Threat Crash



### Car A

- Stops for a pedestrian in the near lane

### Car B

- Approaches in the far lane with view of pedestrian obstructed by Car A
- Unable to stop in time to avoid crash with pedestrian





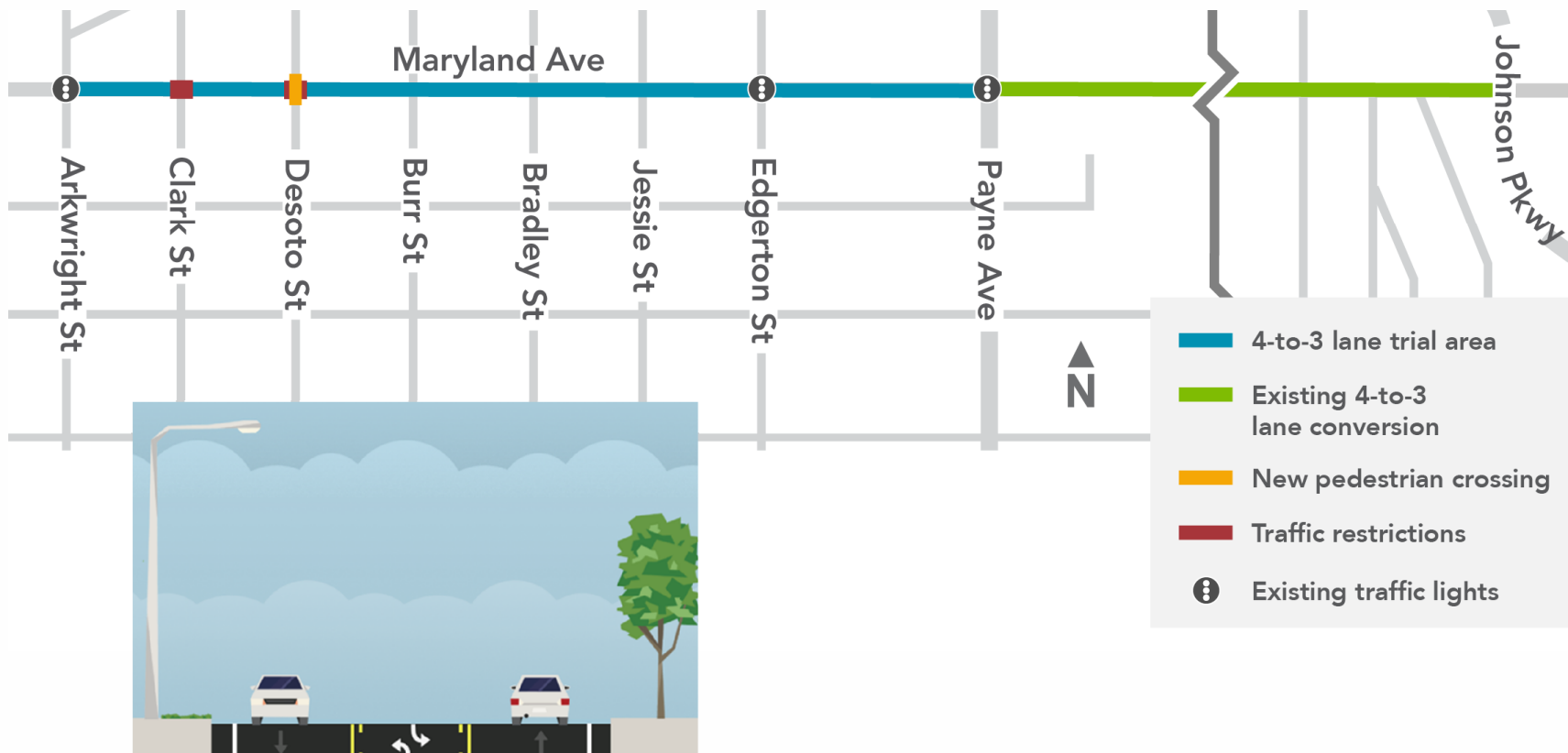
# Maryland Avenue 4-to-3 Lane Conversion Trial

## Background



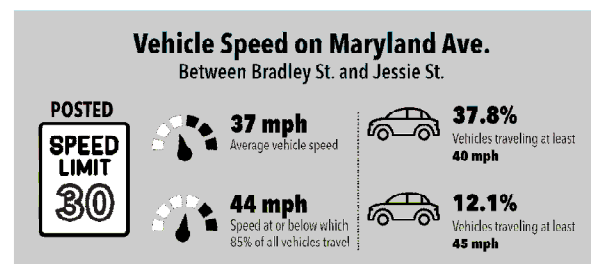
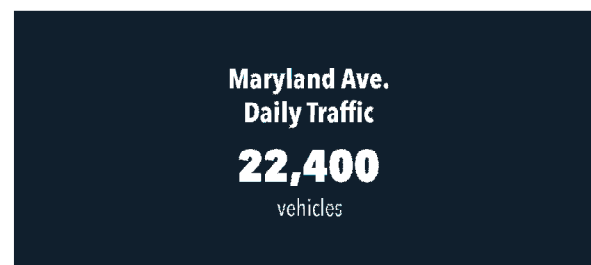
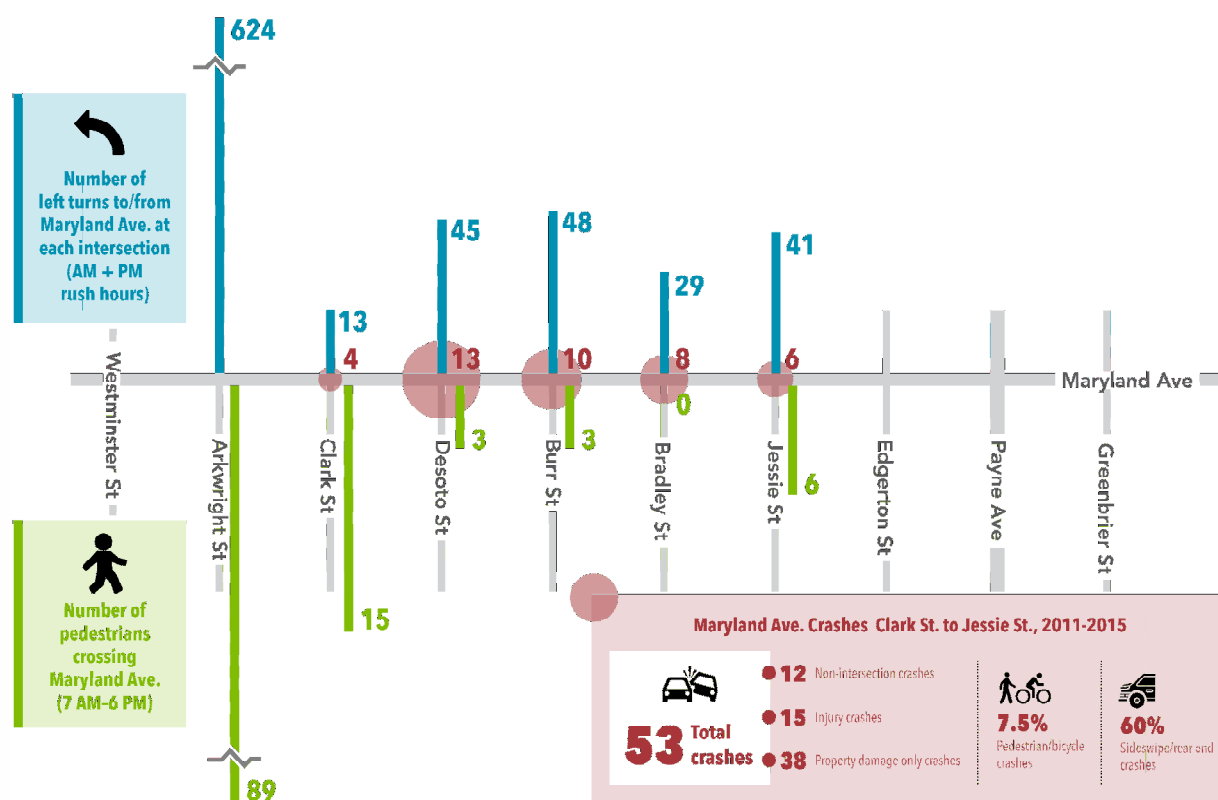
- 2017** Three-lane trial from Payne Avenue to Johnson Parkway
  - 2018** Three-lane road permanently installed
  - 2019** Study of three-lane road between Arkwright Street and Payne Avenue
-

# Three-lane Trial Layout





# What is happening on Maryland Avenue between Arkwright Street and Payne Avenue?



# Enhanced pedestrian crossing and median refuge at Desoto Street

## Benefits

- Eliminates multiple-threat crash
- Safer and easier pedestrian crossing: two stages with a single lane of traffic to cross in each stage

## Trade-offs

- No left turns to/from Maryland Avenue at Desoto Street
- Vehicles on Desoto Street cannot cross Maryland Avenue



## Three-Lane Trial Key Factors



# What changes are expected during the three-lane trial?



## Improved safety

- Decreased vehicle speeds
- Decreased injury crashes
- Decreased rear-end/sideswipe crashes
- Increased pedestrians crossing



## Impacts to vehicle movements

- Increased travel time/delay/back ups during rush hour
- Fewer gaps between vehicles
- Potential increased use of nearby streets



## Improved quality of Life

- Improved driver/pedestrian comfort

## What won't change during the three-lane trial:

### **Maryland Avenue will remain open to vehicles**









- During restriping to a three-lane road:  
may be some delays

### **No impacts to driveways**



### **No change to the posted speed limit**

## How will the three-lane trial be evaluated?

-   
**Community feedback**
-   
**Number of pedestrians crossing**
-   
**Vehicle gaps**
-   
**Number of vehicles**
-   
**Vehicle speeds**
-   
**Vehicle delay/  
back-ups**
-   
**Travel time**
-   
**Injury crashes**



# Schedule

## Week of August 19

Restriping for lane conversion will occur week of August 19, 2019

## Through November

Three-lane trial will be evaluated through November 2019



*If trial is successful, the three-lane configuration will remain in place*

## Summer/Fall 2020

Design modifications and permanent installation would occur in summer/fall 2020

Thank you!

For more information:

Contact Ramsey County Project Manager:

Rachel Broughton, PE

[rachel.broughton@ramseycounty.us](mailto:rachel.broughton@ramseycounty.us)

651-266-7140

[ramseycounty.us/marylandlaneconversion](http://ramseycounty.us/marylandlaneconversion)