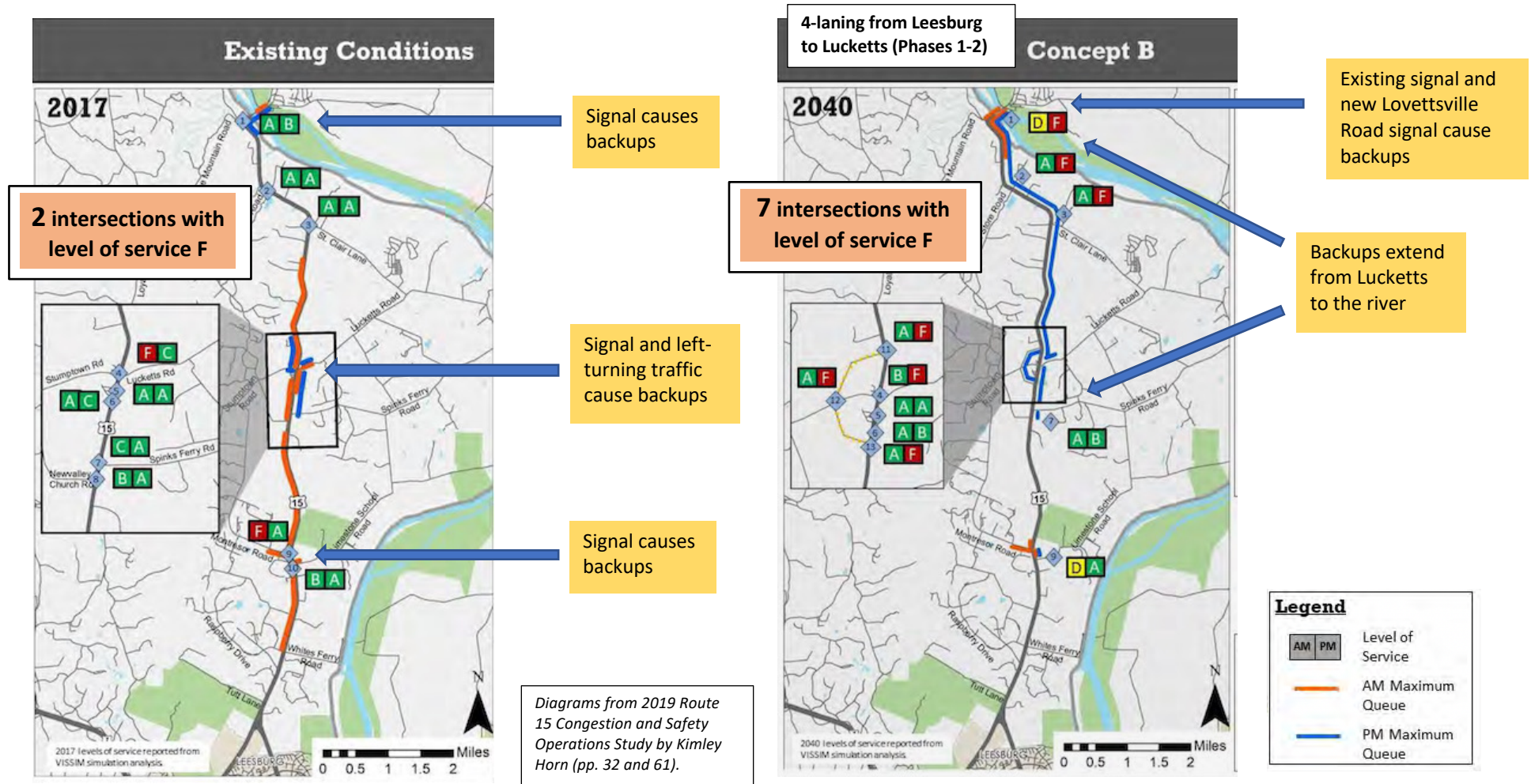


# Following completion of \$400+ million Route 15 widening projects, congestion just moves north



Loudoun County’s two projects to 4-lane Route 15: **Phase 1** widening from Leesburg to Montessor Road (initial estimated cost \$81 million, now at \$110 million—NVTA Authority and county-funded), and **Phase 2** (estimated by VDOT at \$300 million—funded solely by Loudoun taxpayers) will just move congestion north and will more than triple the number of intersections with level of service F. The 2018 Smart Mobility Inc. analysis submitted to the county (“Route 15 North: A Closer Look at the Effects of Widening”) describes what these diagrams show: **“Once one portion is widened to four lanes, the new bottlenecks it generates upstream will generate pressure to widen the next segment. This pushes the county into a wasteful and repetitive cycle of successive and expensive widening projects that yield unsatisfactory results. Route 15 becomes a larger and more dangerous highway primarily designed for regional travelers, while the historic character of the corridor is destroyed, local access is limited, and congestion remains.”**