



Bus Rapid Transit: MD 355 South/North (P502309)

Category	Transportation	Date Last Modified	04/13/23
SubCategory	Mass Transit (MCG)	Administering Agency	Transportation
Planning Area	Countywide	Status	Preliminary Design Stage

EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE (\$000s)

Cost Elements	Total	Thru FY22	Rem FY22	Total 6 Years	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	Beyond 6 Years
Planning, Design and Supervision	12,496	-	-	12,496	-	5,117	5,379	1,000	1,000	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	12,496	-	-	12,496	-	5,117	5,379	1,000	1,000	-	-

FUNDING SCHEDULE (\$000s)

Funding Source	Total	Thru FY22	Rem FY22	Total 6 Years	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	Beyond 6 Years
Op Lanes Maryland Transit Funding	2,000	-	-	2,000	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	-	-
State Aid	10,496	-	-	10,496	-	5,117	5,379	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES	12,496	-	-	12,496	-	5,117	5,379	1,000	1,000	-	-

APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE DATA (\$000s)

Appropriation FY 24 Approp. Request	5,646	Year First Appropriation	FY23
Cumulative Appropriation	4,850	Last FY's Cost Estimate	9,700
Expenditure / Encumbrances	-		
Unencumbered Balance	4,850		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will complete design for the Southern and Northern segments of the MD 355 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridor. The Southern segment is from Montgomery College - Rockville to Bethesda Metro station. The Northern segment is from Montgomery College - Germantown to Clarksburg. This is part of the larger MD 355 BRT corridor that extends from Bethesda to Clarksburg. The Central segment will be designed and constructed as a separate project. Planning conducted by the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA) resulted in several alternatives retained for detailed study in 2017. In 2019, MCDOT completed the planning phase. MCDOT has been working on preliminary engineering and project phasing since 2020. The project includes dedicated BRT lanes, new BRT stations with level boarding and off-board payment, Transit Signal Priority (TSP), purchase of new zero-emission BRT buses, and other associated pedestrian and bicycle improvements along the corridor. In addition, the project will consider the inclusion of a new transit center in the Clarksburg area to facilitate connections between different transit services as demand increases. Preliminary engineering of the BRT project is currently being completed.

LOCATION

MD 355 between Rockville and Bethesda in the south and Germantown and Clarksburg in the north. Master plan areas include:

Bethesda, North Bethesda, Garrett Park, White Flint, Germantown, and Clarksburg. The project also includes the city of Rockville.

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE

Preliminary engineering will be completed in 2023 (see fiscal note). Final design will begin in FY24 and is anticipated to be completed by FY26. Planning and design for the Clarksburg Transit Center will occur in FY26 and 27. The construction schedule is unknown at this time.

COST CHANGE

Cost increase due to design cost escalation and addition of planning and design for Clarksburg Transit Center.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

The project will transform mobility options with the completed implementation of a 22-mile, premium, branded, limited-stop BRT service along MD 355 between Clarksburg and Bethesda. This new service will improve transit travel time and increase opportunity for a broad range of users along a highly congested corridor. The project will improve passenger transit mobility by connecting riders to high density housing and employment centers. The project is being phased to accelerate delivery. The first phase will implement BRT between Rockville and Germantown. Extensions to Bethesda and Clarksburg will be completed as a second phase.

FISCAL NOTE

Programming of funds through final design improves the project's eligibility for potential entry into the Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment Grant program. Preliminary engineering for this phase is funded in the MD 355 Central project (P502005). This project will utilize Op Lanes Maryland revenue proceeds, which have been pledged by the Maryland Department of Transportation to fund high priority public transit projects in Montgomery County. State aid in FY24-25 includes State grants for capital projects in Montgomery County programmed during the 2023 State General Assembly session. Op Lanes Maryland funding was deferred in FY23 to allow the new State administration time to move the project forward.

DISCLOSURES

A pedestrian impact analysis will be performed during design or is in progress. The County Executive asserts that this project conforms to the requirement of relevant local plans, as required by the Maryland Economic Growth, Resource Protection and Planning Act.

COORDINATION

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), Maryland DOT State Highway Administration & Maryland Transit Administration, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Permitting Services, Washington Gas, Pepco, Verizon, Comcast, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and Federal Transit Administration (FTA), City of Rockville, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, Commission on People with Disabilities, Transit Advisory Group, Neighborhood and Civic Associations, and MD 355 BRT Corridor Advisory Committee

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