

**MEMORANDUM**

April 29, 2015

TO: Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee  
FROM: <sup>GO</sup> Glenn Orlin, Deputy Council Administrator  
SUBJECT: Review of Department of Transportation grant applications

As mentioned at an earlier T&E Committee meeting, the County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) is intending to pursue several transportation-related grants. Committee Chair requested that the Committee have the opportunity to review the applications before they are submitted.

MCDOT is pursuing a Federal grant via the TIGER 7 program, two grants via the State of Maryland's Transportation Alternatives (TA) program, and one grant via the Transportation Planning Board (TPB). These grants are in addition to the normal capital and operating grants that are annually requested for the Ride On system. MCDOT is requesting letters of support from the Council for them.

**USDOT Tiger 7** (\$10 million-\$200 million available)

Project: Ride On Plus – Lakeforest Mall Transit Center to Grosvenor Metro. Request will be for \$17,000,000 in Federal funds for a limited stop bus service including 14 electric buses, electric bus charging stations, stop improvements, transit signal priority and bikesharing (15-20 stations, primarily in White Flint/Grosvenor area) along the corridor. A description of the application is on ©1-2. The County match of \$4,250,000 would be funds already programmed in the Ride On Bus Fleet project. The pre-application is due on May 4; the final application is due June 5. Grant awards will be announced in late September.

**MD Transportation Alternatives** (\$2 million-\$9 million available in Federal Funds administered by Maryland State Highway Administration).

Projects:

- (1) Design of MD 355/Frederick Road Shared Use Path: Stringtown Road to Snowden Farm Parkway. Design and construction of a shared use path is already programmed along MD 355 from Germantown to Stringtown Road in Clarksburg; these funds would provide for the design of an extension north to Snowden Farm Parkway. The application would be for \$512,000, to be matched from \$128,000 from County funds.
- (2) BikeShare expansion for White Flint and Wheaton (~10 stations in each area). The application would be for \$2,000,000 to be matched by \$500,000 that would be generated primarily from contributions.

Applications are due on May 15. Grant awards will be announced in August or September.

**National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) Transportation Land Use Connections Program** (\$30,000-\$80,000 in regional funds available for transportation planning and design projects) 100%

Project: Bethesda Metro Station Area Wayfinding Design (\$50,000). There is no County match. The final application is due June 3. Grant awards will be announced in late June or July.

The abstract sent to TPB prior to the application reads:

“The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) is requesting funds for the planning and design of wayfinding improvements to improve access and information in and around the Bethesda Metro Station. The existing Metro Station area and bus bays and surrounding streets represent a challenging environment for visitors both arriving and departing from the station area. Because of the underground nature of the rail station and bus bays, access from surrounding blocks would be improved by signage and marking at key decision points. Improvements would result in both increased ridership and improved pedestrian and cyclist flows to and from the station area and nearby destinations. Project funding should provide concept level designs, standards and guidance for install, recommended signage locations and destination points, as well as unit installation, fabrication and construction costs.”

“The work would be completed in partnership with the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce, the Bethesda Urban Partnership, WMATA and MCDOT. The existing Bethesda Metro Improvements Task Force would play a key role in stakeholder review and provide support for the project as needed.”

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# USDOT TIGER FY 2015 **DRAFT** GRANT APPLICATION

## MD 355 RIDE ON PLUS TRANSIT IMPROVEMENTS

APPLICANT/SPONSOR: Montgomery County Maryland

DRAFT TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$21,250,000

DRAFT GRANT FUNDING: \$17,000,000

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

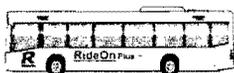
The MD 355 Ride On Plus Transit Improvements Project (ROP) will enable the implementation of a premium limited stop bus service improving transit travel time and frequencies in the corridor. The corridor improvements support the master planned vision of dedicated right-of-way bus rapid transit for the corridor while allowing for service improvements in the short-term. Funding for the ROP project will enable the purchase of fourteen low emissions electric busses; related infrastructure improvements including bus stop improvements; electric charging stations; accessible pedestrian improvements; real time travel passenger information; transit signal priority improvements; and bicycle sharing.

The project would improve transit mobility and accessibility while connecting riders to high density housing and employment centers, including major private and government job centers, and education centers in the County including connections to the National Naval Medical Center, National Institute of Standards, Nuclear Regulatory Commission and National Institutes of Health.

The project will improve mobility and transit travel times in the MD 355 corridor as well leveraging lessons learned from the region's USDOT Tiger One grant award that provided the pilot framework and funding for real time passenger information and associated bus technologies in the corridor.

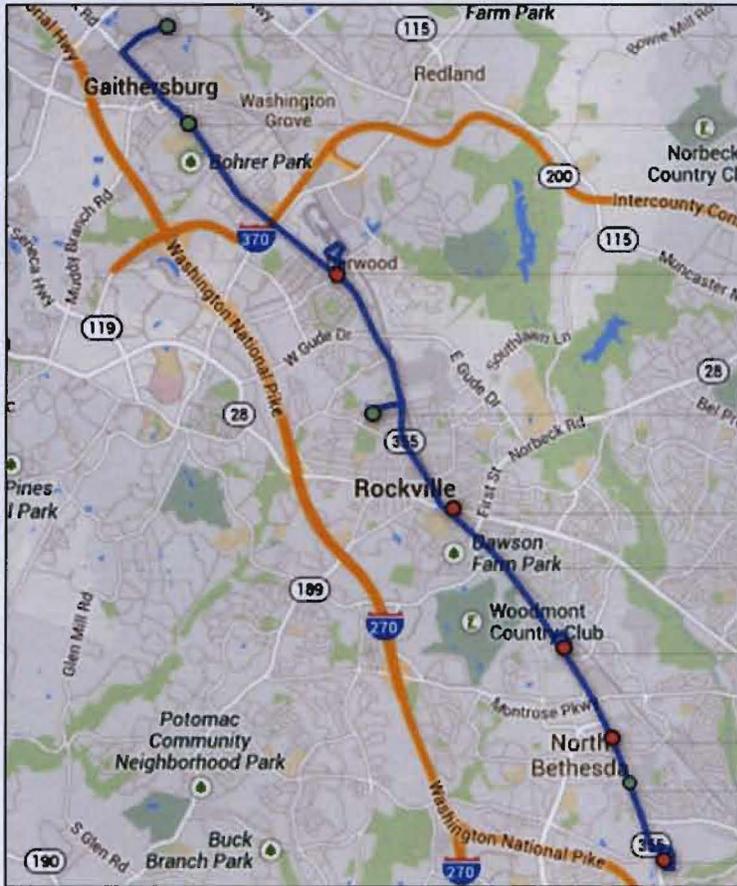
### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- The service will serve 10 stops along the 11 mile route between the Lakeforest Transit Center in Gaithersburg, Maryland and the Grosvenor Metrorail station near Interstate 495 south of Rockville and White Flint.
- The service will connect to 6 Metrorail stations, numerous existing local and regional bus routes, MTA commuter bus and MARC commuter rail.
- The service is expected 7 days per week running 10 minute peak headways increasing average speeds 25% - 50% over the existing Ride On routes.
- Transit signal priority for the ROP busses at up to 31 signals along the route
- Bicycle share stations at key stops along the route along with a feeder network of stations to provide last mile service
- Enhanced passenger real time travel information screens at each stop along the route



PROJECT MAP

### 10 RideOn Plus + Stops



- 1.54 Miles Lake Forest Transit Center
- 3.05 Miles MD355 & Summit Ave
- 1.84 Miles Shady Grove Station
- 1.64 Miles Montgomery College
- 1.1 Miles Rockville Station
- 1.3 Miles Edmonston Drive
- 1.05 Miles Twinbrook Station
- .5 Miles White Flint Station
- 1.37 Miles MD355 & Edson Ln
- Grosvenor Station

