



**FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS
TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

AGENDA

**Friendship Heights Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee Meeting – Teams Format
November 8, 2022**

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Chair: Barbara Condos Vice Chair: John Mertens
Staff Contact: Jim Carlson / (301) 318-0328
james.carlson@montgomerycountymd.gov

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- | | | |
|--------------|--|---|
| 8:30 | 1. Introductions/Agenda Review | Barbara Condos |
| | 2. Review of Meeting Minutes
Joint TMD Meeting Sept. 28 (©2) | All |
| | 3. Metro Operating and Capital Budget | Charlie Scott
WMATA Sr. Government Relations Officer, MD |
| | 4. Marketing Outreach Update | David Proctor
Shelley Monique Mann
TMD Outreach Staff |
| | 5. TMD/DOT/Other County Updates
Walk & Ride Challenge
Employer / Resident Commuter Survey | Jim Carlson |
| 10:00 | 6. Adjourn
<i>Next meeting: January 10, 2024</i> | |

Information Items

Rockville Metrorail Station Westside - Temp Bus Stop Closures

Go Montgomery! Newsletter

Metro greenlighted to return more trains to service

Silver Line extension operationally ready to open for passengers by Thanksgiving

**Joint Meeting
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
Teams Format**

September 28, 2022

Item 1 – Welcome/ Introductions: Jim Carlson called meeting to order, and introductions were tabled to allow time for presentations.

Item 2 – Presentation: MC Pedestrian Master Plan: Eli Glazier, Project Manager for the Montgomery County Pedestrian Master Plan since 2019, discussed the draft policy design and recommendations of the Plan. With the objective of making the County safer, comfortable, and more accessible, all short distance trips should make walking a realistic viable option along with crossing connections and countywide transportation options. In 2017, the plan was requested as part of the Vision Zero initiative to reduce traffic fatalities to zero. The Plan’s goal is to increase walking or rolling using a mobility device and addressing disparities with targeted investment to provide equitable transit options to those traditionally underserved.

- The plan’s kick off and community engagement meetings resulted in an existing conditions report issued in March detailing baseline pedestrian conditions-pedestrian comfort level, public school coordination travel tally
- There was a countywide survey on pedestrian experience
- Recommendations of the plan include where improvements should be made, pedestrian shortcuts, shared bicycle & side paths, categorizing streets for the Complete Streets design guide
- Recommendations will be implemented over time broken out into six themes that include monitoring progress of the plan – 34 high level recommendations and 94 key actions to achieve those recommendations
- The County is building sidewalks faster in places where they are most needed and providing proper lighting along pathways and crossings – creating a County sidewalk inspection/repair system
- Assuming County control of State roadways for easier improvements and design will allow for local accountability- not including municipalities - which has the potential for better connectivity issues
- County is looking at purchasing of smaller vehicles to ensure safer navigation on narrow roads for pedestrians and redesigning streets
- Must improve driver educations for large vehicles and a establish a license renewal process
- Safer conditions for walking to school are a high priority
- There are planning and recommendations for pedestrian/ vehicle separation – however, it is not a part of this plan
- The Plan includes keeping pedestrian right-of-way clear and providing longer crossing times for those with mobility or vision disabilities – installing pedestrian push buttons
- Improving work zone accessibility
- Monitoring of the plan by providing performance measures on a public website and producing a report every two years
- Funding projects include identifying revenue sources, market pricing, levying taxes

- Higher fees for larger and more dangerous vehicles
- The County prioritizes capital projects using a tool (the pedestrian prioritization tool) to identify areas needing improvement, by assigning points based on importance of Community input – visualize button shows where areas are prioritized
- The website allows for feedback in what’s working or what needs improvement
- The Plan’s timeline includes a public hearing in early 2023

The Q & A discussion included:

- How to coordinate the Pedestrian Master Plan with the Thrive 2050 plan to redesign suburban neighborhoods to accommodate population growth and ped safety – using the Complete Streets design guide to reimagine neighborhoods for ped safety access
- Some sidewalks in the North Bethesda /Rockville area don’t provide an adequate buffer between the pedestrian and vehicular traffic as this may be due to ped masterplans being designed before the Complete Streets design 2021 implementation – the ped right of way increased overtime as traffic grew preventing better connection opportunities, Rockville Pike for example to accommodate traffic than pedestrian access
- Marketing program for public buy in regarding creating safety for walker/ driver mindsets-
- How this plan fits with Vision Zero- As VZ is a visionary document that sets ped safety priorities, the Planning Department’s, Pedestrian MP the goal is combine recommendations from both programs to the safety and design of pedestrian access
- Equity assessment for Masterplans – used survey information to identify disparities in pedestrian satisfaction found that disabled persons are less satisfied with ped conditions, equity focus areas showed disparities in ped fatalities, and poor shading in low areas
- More of an emphasis on being proactive rather reactive in using County resources

Item 3 - Presentation: COG State of the Commute Survey: Nick Ramfos, Transportation Operations Director, discussed data collected from the COG State of the Commuter (SOC) Survey. Conducted every three years starting in 2001, the survey asks questions regarding commuting and travel in the region. This survey covers additional travel impact questions related to the pandemic. The Regional Travel Survey (RTS) is conducted every 10 years over a 15-month period; however, the SOC covers a 3-month period. Details of the survey included:

- The SOC is employee focused vs the RTS, which is household focused
- The SOC used randomly selected employees mailed postcards and was conducted online only
- 8400 workers interviewed with a 95% confidence level
- Jurisdictional results were adjusted to match worker populations for race, ethnicity & age
- The Survey was designed by LDA Consulting & Cutter at the University of Florida among others
- Survey topics included: ease of commute & covid impacts, telework satisfaction, HOV/Toll lanes and commute advertising influence
- New questions included telework frequency before and after the pandemic and associated commuting changes

Mr. Ramfos discussed Covid impacts on commutes that saw an increase in teleworking, drive alone and transit use decline. Mileage use was stable with shorter commute times and decreased knowledge of commute ads.

Commute patterns included:

- Increase in telework (expected) and changed commuting days - 1 in 3 made changes in work arrangements
- For 2022, the 48% weekly commute trips were teleworked, which is a fivefold increase from 2019
- When telework is factored out, drive alone increased as trips made to outside work locations with a steep drop in transit
- Drive alone rates were twice the rate in the middle and outer core regions
- Discussion regarding the dramatic drop in transit usage some reasons included- service availability & access
- Carpool occurred mostly with family members; 76% drop in slug lines
- HOV lanes were used more in Virginia than Maryland
- Commuters using HOV lanes saved an average of 16 minutes of commute time

Mr. Ramfos said that 40% of all workers telework on average 3.37 days a week. Also discussed:

- 80% of workers were able to concentrate on work at home – however, 40% found it difficult to unplug at day’s end
- Commuting satisfaction remained about the same in 2019 & 2022 – bike & walk most satisfied with their commute, with transit users somewhat less so
- Commute ease was more for car/vanpoolers than transit users
- 84% respondents had at least one account with a trip info app
- Familiarity of driverless vehicles was higher among males in higher income brackets. There are concerns over safety due to unreliable technology
- Brand awareness for Commuter Connections dropped slightly, but is still high with ad recall at 45% - mostly pandemic related
- Free parking increased at the worksite before the pandemic

Mr. Ramfos discussed next steps, which include a public report in 2023 and data sets for the jurisdictions

The Q & A discussion followed:

- Confidence in reaching workers not having internet access - adjust results for demographics
- Factoring in responses from workers who can’t telework
- The survey did not look at telework impacts on electric & sewer infrastructure
- Commuting via MARC & VRE rail is also included in the report
- The 220-page report is on the COG website – link sent

Item 4 – County Updates: Sande Brecher announced:

- Walk & Ride Challenge registration is open and running Oct. 17th – Nov. 4th
- MC DOT Bike Donation Drive Oct. 14th – Bike Match MoCo is ongoing
- Commuter & Resident Travel Survey coming in October
- FareShare program is ongoing, and funds are available to assist employers in buying down the cost of transit

Adjourn



Press Releases - Department of Transportation

[MCDOT Home](#) » [Press Releases](#) » [Release](#)

Rockville Metrorail Station Westside Will Experience Temporary Bus Stop Closures, Effective Monday, Oct. 31 – Tuesday, Dec. 27

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, October 26, 2022



Temporary Bus Stop Closures (Westside) Cierres temporales de paradas de autobuses (lado oeste)

Bus stops on the west side of the station will temporarily relocate for 2 weeks at a time.

Bus stops on the west side of the station will temporarily relocate for 2 weeks at a time to bus stops.

Phase 1: Oct. 31 – Nov. 14

- E board at/aborda en T5
- F board at/aborda en T6

Phase 2: Nov. 15 – Nov. 28

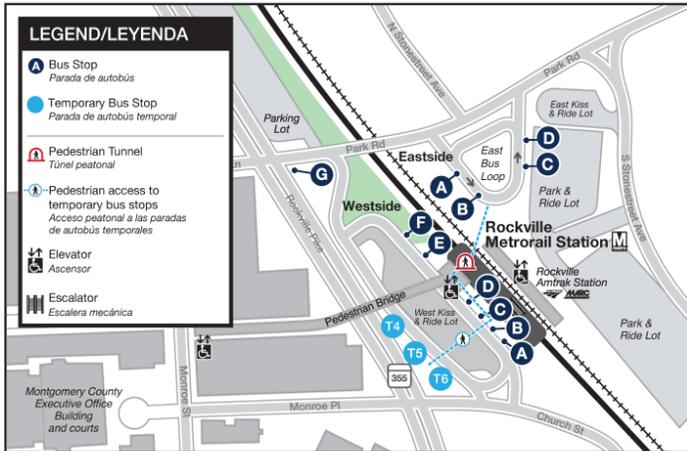
- D board at/aborda en T6

Phase 3: Nov. 29 – Dec. 12

- C board at/aborda en T6

Phase 4: Dec. 13 – Dec. 27

- A board at/aborda en T5
- B board at/aborda en T6



Questions? • ¿Tiene preguntas? wmata.com/alerts
 질문이 있으신가요? • 有疑问? • Des questions ? 202-637-1328

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) bus shelter closures will begin on Monday, Oct. 31 on the west side of the Rockville Metrorail Station for the installation of bus shelter replacements. The shelter replacements will cause closures that will take place in phases, with each phase lasting two weeks. Ride On and WMATA bus locations will be temporarily moved closer to Rockville Pike/355 to maintain access. Closures and temporary bus locations will be as follows:

- Phase 1:
Monday, Oct. 31 – Monday, Nov. 14
 - Bay E (Ride On Routes 54, 56, & 63) will use T5
 - Bay F (Ride On Routes 44, 47, & 81) will use T6
- Phase 2:
Tuesday, Nov. 15 – Monday, Nov. 28
 - Bay D (WMATA Routes Q1, Q2, Q4, Q5, Q6) will use T6
- Phase 3:
Tuesday, Nov. 29 – Monday, Dec. 12
 - Bay C (Ride On Route 101) will use T6

• Phase 4:

Tuesday, Dec. 13 – Tuesday, Dec. 27

- Bay A (Ride On Route 46) will use T5
- Bay B (Ride On Route 55) will use T6

Fare collection resumed on all Montgomery County Ride On buses on Aug. 1. The one-way pre-pandemic fare, which was \$2 per ride, is now \$1 for all Ride On buses including the Flash. Monthly passes, which were \$45 per rider, are now \$22.50.

Passengers using Montgomery County's Ride On buses are encouraged to wear a mask but are no longer required to wear them. Masks are available on all buses for riders who need them.

Bus interiors will continue to be cleaned by the County's Department of General Services with hospital-grade disinfectant. Bus filter and ventilation systems are also treated with a disinfectant.

For the most up-to-date service information, riders should follow @RideOnMCT on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram. In addition, information is available at RideOnBus.com, by subscribing to receive email alerts at montgomerycountymd.gov/govdelivery, or texting MONTGOMERY RIDEON to 468311 to receive text alerts.

For more information on MCDOT programs and services visit montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdot, follow @MCDOTNow on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and subscribe to MCDOT's "Go Montgomery!" newsletter.

#

Release ID: 22-129

Media Contact: Emily DeTitta, 240-372-2282



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Go Montgomery

Ride On Alerts

Tweets from @MCDOTNow



Go Montgomery

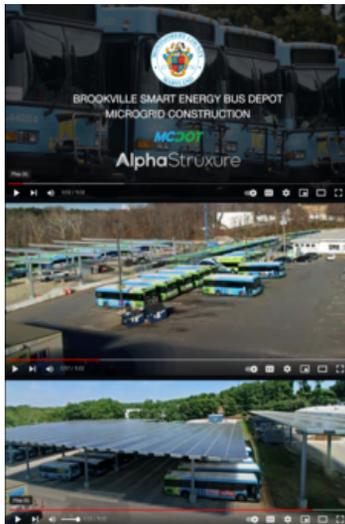
News and information about transportation, including roads, transit, hiker-biker trails and pedestrian safety.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2022

MCDOT's Go Montgomery! Transportation Newsletter - Thursday, Nov. 3, 2022



Subscribe To Newsletter



Montgomery County Completes Nation's Largest Bus Microgrid and Charging Infrastructure Project in Silver Spring

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich, U.S. Sen. Chris Van Hollen, Congressman Jamie Raskin, County Council President Gabe Albornoz, Council Vice President Evan Glass, Federal, State and local

officials and corporate partners including AlphaStruxure celebrated the completion of the Brookville Smart Energy Depot located at 8710 Brookville Road in Silver Spring with a ribbon-cutting event. The nation's largest solar bus charging infrastructure project will supply clean energy to the MCDOT's growing Ride On electric bus fleet.

The project was completed through a partnership between the County's Department of General Services (DGS) and AlphaStruxure, a leader in Energy as a Service (EaaS) solutions. It is the third microgrid in the U.S. that will use solar power to charge buses for public transportation. The first of its kind project will help move Montgomery County closer to meeting its goal of reducing GHG emissions to zero by 2035.

This resilient microgrid will provide uninterrupted power to MCDOT's Ride On transit electric buses. Transitioning 70 buses from diesel to electric, powered by the on-site clean energy microgrid, will reduce lifetime emissions by 62 percent equivalent to more than 160,000 tons of greenhouse gas reduction over the next 25 years.

Learn more [here](#) and view event photos [here](#).

November 3, 2022



Follow us @MCDOTNow on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.



Transportation Schedule for the Veterans Day Holiday, Friday, Nov. 11

- MCDOT offices - Closed.
- Ride On and extRa bus service - Operates on Holiday schedule.
- Flash bus service - Orange Line operates on weekend schedule.
- Flex on-demand bus service - Operates on normal service.

LABELS

311 (3) Adopt A Road (8) Adopt-A-Road (12) Aging & Disability (7) Award (42) Bethesda (15) bicycle (93) Bikepath (30) Bikeshare (86) Biking (100) Bill (2) BRAC (6) Bridge (13) Bridges (11) Budget (28) Bus Rapid Transit (48) Calendar (6) Call-n-Ride (7) Campaign (164) car sharing (8) CIP (3) Clarksburg (4) Closure (33) Commuter Services (142) Contest (25) County Council (63) County Executive (126) COVID-19 (3) Culvert (3) Data (8) DHS (26) Emergency Management (1) Enforcement (41) Environmental Protection (13) Events (74) EVs (1) Facility (10) FHWA (2) Flash (14) Garages (14) GRAB (1) Green (24) Green Streets (5) Highway Services (162) Holiday Schedule (13) ICC (4) Improvements (355) JARC (1) K9 (1) KMCB (11) Leaf Collection (18) MARC (3) Maryland State Highway (77) MC311 (19) MCDOT (628) MCPS (11) Metro (82) MNCPPC (8) MTA (21) News (770) Parking (92) Parks (9) Pedestrian (245) Pedestrian Safety (323) Photo (8) Police (17) pothole (39) Projects (230) Public Forum



MCDOT's Leaf Vacuum Collection Begins Monday, Nov. 7

MCDOT will begin its annual leaf vacuuming program on Monday, Nov. 7, and will continue collections through December in specified leaf collection areas. There will be two collections on each collection district street.

Residents can find the collection schedule online by entering a street address.

The leaf vacuum collection district is bounded by I-495; I-270; the Rockville City limits; Norbeck, Bel Pre and Bonifant roads; Northwest Branch Park; and the District of Columbia and Prince George's County lines.

Before collection begins in a neighborhood, MCDOT will post signs along streets directing residents to the online leaf collection map for collection date information.

Residents are asked to pile leaves near the street, but off the road. They should avoid placing leaves on road shoulders, bike lanes and rain gardens as leaves in these areas can disrupt traffic, negatively impact stormwater drainage, hamper snow removal operations and become a fire hazard for automobiles parked over them. Leaf piles also limit the availability of residential parking and, especially when wet, can pose a hazard for cyclists and pedestrians.

Since 1983, the County has been composting the leaves it collects at a County-operated facility in Dickerson. The compost produces a fertilizer called Leafgro, which is sold in retail stores. Learn more here.



MCDOT Sponsors Free Electric Scooter Clinic for Those 18-and-Older

Participants will be able to take a test ride, learn safety tips and get details on basic scooter laws. Those interested in e-scooters can stop in at

any time during the clinic this Saturday, Nov. 5. 12:30-2:30 p.m. at the Wheaton Ice Arena, 11717 Orebaugh Dr., Wheaton (back left parking lot).

Participants must have a valid driver's license or ID. No registration is required to attend a clinic and walk-ups are welcome. Check tinyurl.com/5n8adjaj for cancelations due to inclement weather. Learn more here.

Montgomery County High School Students Can Apply to MCDOT's 'Vision Zero Youth Ambassadors' Program to Improve Traffic Safety

Go Montgomery

- TRIPS Commuter store at the Silver Spring Transit Center - Open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- TRIPS Mobile Commuter store - Closed.
- Parking at Bethesda, Silver Spring and Wheaton public garages, lots and curbside meters - Free.
- Metrobus - Operates on Saturday Supplemental schedule.
- Metrorail - Operates on Saturday Holiday schedule.
- MTA Local bus - Operates on normal Weekday schedule.
- MARC train service - Brunswick/Washington line operates on R schedule.
- MTA Commuter bus - Route 201 operates on Weekend Holiday schedule.
- MTA Transit store - Closed.



MCDOT Sidewalk Project Update

The listed sidewalk repair projects below include removing and replacing the sidewalk between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday through Friday throughout November:

- Kings Bridge, Damascus
- Forest Brook, Germantown

Traffic will be maintained at all times utilizing alternate one-way traffic patterns, when necessary. Minor traffic delays may be experienced as flaggers manually direct traffic safely through the work zone. There may also be temporary parking restrictions. Signs will be posted in advance. The construction will wrap up at the end of this month for the winter and will resume in Spring 2023.

- (105) Purple Line (31)
- Rapid Transit System (33)
- Reports (8) Resident's Guide (4)
- RFP (2) Ride On (157) Ride On Flex (4) Road Transit (90) Road Construction (150) Road Transit (53) Roads (217) Rustic Roads (10) SafeSpeed (11) SafeTrack (22) Safety (198) Schools (4) Seniors (40) SHA (31) Sidewalks (17) sign (3) Silver Spring (19) SmarTrip (11) Snow (50) SoberRide (4) SRTS (19) SSTC (2) Storm (35) Stormwater (20) Street Smart (12) Street Sweeping (12) Sustainability (65) Task Force (11) Taxi (3) Teen (30) TeleWork (9) texting (6) Traffic (116) Traffic Engineering (53) Trail (13) Transit (311) Transit Centers (3) Transportation (478) Transportation Engineering (67) Tree (8) Trees (7) Twitter (1) Video (5) visionzero (1) Volunteer (49) Water Main (6) Watersheds (4) Wheaton (17) Wheaton MCDOT (3) White Flint (4) WMATA (36) WSSC (2)

BLOG ARCHIVE

▼ 2022 (27)

▼ November (1)
MCDOT's Go Montgomery! Transportation Newsletter -...

► October (2)

► September (2)

► August (2)

► July (3)

► June (4)

► May (4)

► April (3)

► March (2)

► February (2)

► January (2)

► 2021 (20)

► 2020 (28)

► 2019 (24)

► 2018 (25)

► 2017 (108)

► 2016 (281)

► 2015 (281)



MCDOT is seeking up to 45 Montgomery County high school students to serve as "Vision Zero Youth Ambassadors." The project-based learning program teaches teens leadership skills, the importance of roadway design, law enforcement, outreach and engagement techniques to address traffic safety needs in their community. Applications are now being accepted through Wednesday, Nov.

30.

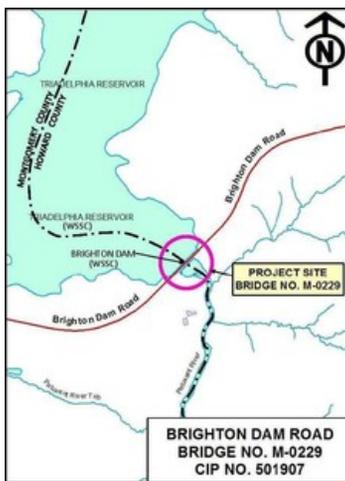
Interested public, private and home-schooled high school students can learn about the program and apply [here](#). The program received 100 applications last year.

The program supports the County's [Vision Zero Initiative](#), whose goal is to eliminate traffic-related severe injuries and deaths. Youth Ambassadors have an opportunity to help the County work toward the goal by becoming road safety leaders in their communities while earning 40 Student Service Learning credit. Learn more [here](#).



Ride On and Metro Bus Routes Available to Take Residents to Montgomery County's 14 Early Voting Centers

Today, Thursday, Nov. 3, is the last day for early voting in Montgomery County for the 2022 Gubernatorial Primary and General Elections. Ride On bus routes are available for transportation to the 14 early voting centers from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. MCDOT Ride On bus service has several routes available to transport voters to the early voting centers located throughout the County. Learn more [here](#).



Virtual Public Hearing on the Rehabilitation of the Brighton Dam Rd. Bridge in Brookeville to be Held on Wednesday, Nov. 30

On Wednesday, Nov. 30 starting at 7 p.m., MCDOT will hold a virtual public hearing to discuss the proposed construction to rehabilitate the [Brighton Dam Road, Bridge No. M-0229](#), over Brighton Dam.

At the virtual hearing, MCDOT will present the project details, costs and schedules and obtain public testimony. The 602-foot long 15-span bridge is in need of repairs to the concrete parapets, bridge



National Drowsy Driving Prevention Week is Nov. 6-13

[Drowsy Driving Prevention Week](#) is held every year during the first full week of November. The goal of this annual campaign is to reduce the number of drivers who drive while sleep-deprived.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 1 in 25 adult drivers report having [fallen asleep while driving](#) in the previous 30 days, and many more admit to driving when they were sleep-deprived. Drowsy driving is responsible for more than 6,400 U.S. deaths annually.



Flash Bus Attends 2nd Annual 'HalloWheaton' Event

MCDOT's Monster Flash bus attended the 2nd annual HalloWheaton event this past Sunday afternoon at the Marian Fryer Town Plaza in downtown Wheaton. Arriving in full costume, the Flash bus was decorated inside and out. Families lined up to tour the bus and receive treats from MCDOT's [Safe Routes to School](#) and [Flash Bus Rapid Transit](#) system teams.

- ▶ 2014 (133)
- ▶ 2013 (177)
- ▶ 2012 (56)

LINKS

- [Archive \(till 5-2012\)](#)
- [Archive \(till 7-2009\)](#)
- [Montgomery County Website](#)
- [Ride On](#)
- [Department of Transportation](#)
- [Pedestrian Safety](#)
- [Council's 10yr Plan \(PDF\)](#)

SEARCH THIS BLOG

deck joints, prestressed concrete beams, concrete abutment backwalls, streetlights, asphalt approach roadways and concrete sidewalks to enhance the safety of the traveling public and the integrity of the dam. Public input is encouraged and may influence final design plans.

[Online registration](#) is required to attend. Learn more [here](#).



Virtual Public Hearing on Old Baltimore Road Sidewalk Proposal in Olney to be Held on Wednesday, Nov. 9

On Wednesday, Nov. 9, at 7 p.m., MCDOT will hold a virtual public hearing to discuss the proposed construction of a sidewalk on Old Baltimore Road from Menden Farm Drive to the path at the lake.

At the virtual hearing, MCDOT will present the project details, costs, schedules and obtain public testimony. If approved, the completed project will enhance safety for pedestrians and bicyclists as they travel to nearby schools and facilities. Public input is encouraged and will influence whether MCDOT constructs any, all or a portion of the proposed sidewalks.

[Online registration](#) is required to attend. Learn more [here](#).



Schools Can Participate in MCDOT's Walking Wednesdays

Every Wednesday during the school year, MCDOT's Safe Routes to School team is available to visit schools to conduct a walking audit. Teams also distribute educational materials and safety giveaways. Educators can register their school to participate in a Walking Wednesday event [here](#).

MCDOT visited Arcola Elementary School on Wednesday, Nov. 2 and is scheduled to visit the New Hampshire Estates Elementary School on Tuesday, Nov. 15.



As Daylight Saving Time Ends this Weekend, MCDOT Promotes Pedestrian Safety

The end of Daylight Savings Time begins overnight this Sunday, Nov. 6 and clocks will need to be turned back one hour. Getting

darker earlier raises [safety risks](#) for pedestrians and bicyclists.

As the days become shorter, with less daylight, it's important that drivers take extra caution while commuting during morning and evening rush hours, particularly in areas with high pedestrian traffic.

To address the changing conditions, MCDOT urges residents to [look out for each other](#) and obey the rules of the road.

Safety tips:

- Drivers, reduce speed, turn on headlights earlier and be alert.
- Drivers, never pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk. There may be people crossing where you can't see them.
- Drivers, slow down and be prepared to stop when turning or otherwise entering a crosswalk.
- Drivers, never pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk. There may be people crossing where you can't see them.
- Never drive under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
- Pedestrians, use sidewalks and signals if they are available. If there are no sidewalks, walk against traffic and wear reflective clothing and/or carry a flashlight.



Is Your School Interested in Hosting a Bike Rodeo?

The in-person [bike clinic](#) includes hands-on bike safety instruction, a discussion about the rules of the road and bike safety tips including the proper fitting and importance of wearing a bike helmet. Sign up [here](#).

- Pedestrians, watch for cars entering or exiting driveways or backing up in parking lots.



The State's Deadline for Civil Penalty Waiver for Outstanding Video Tolls Ends Wednesday, Nov. 30

Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) customers

are reminded that the [Customer Assistance Plan](#) offering a civil penalty waiver grace period for Video Tolls will expire after 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 30. The MDTA Board approved the nine-month Customer Assistance Plan in February. Since then, for every video toll transaction paid in full while the plan is in place, the corresponding civil penalty is waived. In addition, toll bill referrals to Central Collection Unit and the MDOT Motor Vehicle Administration have ceased until Thursday, Dec. 1.

With time running out, the MDTA encourages customers to check their account [here](#) and pay their tolls before the opportunity for a civil penalty waiver ends at 11:59 p.m. November 30.

METRO UPDATES

Get Ready to Ride the Silver Line, Six New Stations Opening Tuesday, Nov. 15



Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) will connect Metrorail customers to Washington Dulles International Airport and Loudoun County for the first time. The [announcement](#) came from Metro Board Members and employees in a [video](#) touting "We're Ready," marking the opening for customers and culmination of the [largest expansion](#) of Metrorail since the system's inception.

On opening day, customers who visit the six new Silver Line stations - Reston Town Center, Herndon, Innovation Center, Washington Dulles International Airport, Loudoun Gateway, and Ashburn - will be greeted by Metro teams handing out commemorative pennants, a Metro tradition that started when the first station opened in 1976.

Metro Exploring Short-Term Fare Hikes and Long-Term Fare Overhauls

Looking to navigate both short and long-term budget crunches, Metro's board heard a variety of fare and service concepts to help meet those budget gaps. The transit agency is grappling with what service will look like after the pandemic reshaped ridership and many workers are now staying home instead of taking the train or bus to work. In the short term, Metro is exploring ways to increase revenue by raising Metrorail prices anywhere from 5 to 25%. Read the DCIST article [here](#).

Metro Begins Fare Enforcement

On Tuesday, Nov. 1, Metro Transit Police officers began issuing [fare evasion citations](#), following a [monthlong awareness and warning](#)



MCDOT Wraps up Garage Washing and Degreasing This Month

MCDOT concludes garage washing at [Wheaton](#) garages this Friday, Nov. 4. Completing the [annual cleaning](#) of all its County-owned parking garages also in [Silver Spring](#) and [Bethesda](#).



MCDOT Participates in Senior Resource Fair in Silver Spring

MCDOT's Ride On and Enhanced Mobility Services were exhibitors at the [Beacon 50+ EXPO Resource Fair](#) on Sunday, Oct. 30 at Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center.

Seniors and members of the disability community can ride MCDOT's Ride On buses for free by using a [Senior SmartTrip](#) card.



Montgomery Parks Opens Fairland Bike Park This Weekend in Burtonsville

The Fairland Recreation Park will open a new area for biking,

[campaign](#). Citations with associated fines may be issued to anyone jumping fare gates, improperly using emergency gates, or not tapping fare boxes on Metrobuses.

Fare evasion is responsible for significant revenue losses and is part of the focus to close a shortfall of nearly \$185 million in the upcoming budget. Using data from Metrobus and pre-pandemic industry averages for Metrorail, Metro estimates revenue losses due to fare evasion totaling tens of millions of dollars in fiscal year 2022.

Georgia Avenue Bus Lanes Public Information Meeting Was Held on Tuesday, Nov. 1

In partnership with the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) and Montgomery County, WMATA is designing a quick-build bus lanes demonstration project to improve bus reliability and speeds in Silver Spring, Maryland.

The Tactical Bus Lane (TBL) Demonstration Project aims to implement one-mile tactical bus lanes in both directions along the high-ridership corridor of Georgia Avenue (MD 97), between Wayne Avenue and 16th Street, and evaluate changes in speed and reliability for all vehicles prior to permanent installation.

WMATA held the [online session](#) on Tuesday, Nov. 1.

Rockville Metrorail Station Will Experience Temporary Bus Stop Closures, Effective Monday, Oct. 31 – Tuesday, Dec. 27

WMATA has closed some bus shelters at the Rockville Metrorail Station for the installation of shelter replacements. Ride On and WMATA bus locations will be temporarily moved closer to Rockville Pike/355 to maintain access. Closures and temporary bus locations are posted [here](#).

Glenmont Metrorail Station Phase 2 of Bus Bay Relocations to Begin Monday, Nov. 21

Starting Monday, Nov. 21, bus Bays C and D will be closed for Phase 2 of the glass canopy replacement project through mid-January 2023.

Alternative bus bay locations will be:

- Metrobus Routes Y2 (Silver Spring), Y7 (Silver Spring), and Y8 (Silver Spring) normally at Bus Bay D will be relocated to Bus Bay E
- Metrobus Route C8 (College Park and North Bethesda) normally at Bus Bays E & F will be relocated to bus bay H.
- Metro Access and Metrobus Shuttle will be available at Bus Bay E
- Ride On Route 10 (Hillandale and Twinbrook) normally at Bus Bay F will be relocated to Bus Bay E
- Ride On Routes 31 (Wheaton) and 49 (Rockville) normally at Bus Bay C will be relocated to Bus Bay F

View the map [here](#)

Wheaton Metrorail Station Phase 2 of Temporary Bus Bay Relocations to Start on Monday, Nov. 21

Starting Monday, Nov. 21, and lasting for approximately five weeks, sections of the bus loop at the Wheaton Metro Station will be [closed for pavement rehabilitation](#). During Phase 2, Bus Bays F, G, H, J, and K will be closed. View the map [here](#).

Metro Greenlighted to Return More Trains to Service

Go Montgomery

called [The Pit](#), on Saturday, Nov. 5 at the intersection of Green Castle Ridge Terrace and Green Castle Road in Burtonsville. Residents are welcome to bring their own bike or borrow a bike from a Bikeshare station to try out the new mountain bike skills park, which includes rollers, kicker ramps, wall rides, drops and skinnies.

Did You Know?

MCDOT has installed 90 Capital Bikeshare [stations](#) throughout Montgomery County. Find the one close to you [here](#). Stations are also visible on the [Capital Bikeshare App](#), the [Lyft App](#), and on [Google Maps](#).



Here's What to Do if You Hit a Deer With Your Vehicle

Fall across the D.C. region means motorists need to keep an extra close eye out for deer in the roadways. Deer activity typically increases during the autumn season as the animals primarily mate and migrate in the months of October, November and December.

If you hit a deer:

- Move your vehicle to a safe location off the road
- Make sure to turn on your hazard lights
- Inspect your vehicle for damage
- Use flares or reflective warning devices to alert other drivers to your vehicle
- Note important information and photograph damage for insurance
- Report the crash to police

Learn more [here](#).

The revised railcar return to service plan allows Metro to place more 7Ks into passenger service. The increased availability of 7Ks will support opening the Silver Line extension before Thanksgiving and reduce crowding on the Red Line. The plan identifies specific timeframes and well-defined steps for Metro to return all trains for safe, reliable passenger service. Learn more [here](#).

ROAD PROJECTS AND CLOSURES



MCDOT Begins Signal Modifications and Pedestrian Improvement Projects in North Bethesda

MCDOT has begun traffic signal modifications and improvements to pedestrian amenities to improve pedestrian safety on Tilden Lane and Nicholson Lane along Old Georgetown Road by adding accessible pedestrian signals and installing sidewalks, sidewalk ramps and crosswalks. Work will take place between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily. The project will be completed by the end of December.

The construction zone will be within the existing public right-of-way. The area will be graded and restored to its original condition after construction is complete. The road will remain open to traffic during construction and traffic impacts are expected to be minimal.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Project Manager, Devang Dave at 240-777-2190 or devang.dave@montgomerycountymd.gov.

A Portion of Edgemoor Lane in Bethesda is Closed Through Monday, Nov. 28

Verizon work will close the southbound lane of Edgemoor Lane near Commerce Lane and Old Georgetown Road from 9 p.m. to 4 a.m., Sundays through Thursdays. A contractor, Baseman Utility Consulting Services, will be performing the work for Verizon.

Night work is required to minimize traffic congestion due to existing construction activities during daytime hours, pedestrian safety concerns, and impacts to local businesses. Drivers and pedestrians should travel undistracted through the work zone and be aware of changing vehicular and pedestrian traffic patterns. For questions contact Gregory Baseman at 443-244-0882.

DC DOT Closes a Portion of Wisconsin Avenue in Bethesda

On Saturday, Nov. 5, the DC Department of Transportation's (DOT) [Open Streets](#) event will take place in the District of Columbia. Wisconsin Avenue from Western Avenue to Tenley Circle, NW will be closed to vehicular traffic between 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. and Emergency No Parking between 2 a.m. - 2 p.m. Residents will be able to access their homes if they live east or west of Wisconsin Avenue by using alternative routes other than Wisconsin Avenue.

For timely traffic information, visit twitter.com/DCPoliceTraffic.

MDOT's Major State Road Construction and Lane Closures

The following Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) [projects](#) have planned lane closures:

- [I-270 \(Eisenhower Pkwy\) I-70 to I-495 Innovative Congestion Management](#)



Staying Safe on the Roads This Winter

Winter is right around the corner — and depending on where you live, so in inclement weather. Warming up your car before driving, de-icing your vehicle, and keeping some essentials on hand can help you travel safer this winter. Learn more [here](#).



5 Charts That Shed New Light on How People Charge EVs at Home

A new report draws on 10 years of detailed data to chart charger use patterns, as well as how they can work as home backup and grid-balancing tools. Read the Canary Media article [here](#).



Region Surpasses 2020 Climate Goal

At an October meeting, area leaders on the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Board of Directors were presented with preliminary results revealing the region met and surpassed its [climate goal](#) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent below 2005 levels by 2020. COG staff told the board that emissions decreased at least 24 percent between 2005 and 2020.

- MD 28 (Norbeck Rd) and MD 198 (Spencerville Rd / Sandy Spring Rd)
- MD 97 (Georgia Ave) Brookeville Bypass
- MD 97 (Georgia Ave) MD 390 (16th St) to MD 192 (Forest Glen Rd)
- MD 108 (Olney Sandy Spring Road) from Olney Mill Road to Brooke Road
- MD 185 (Connecticut Ave) at Jones Bridge Rd/Kensington Pkwy (BRAC Phase 3)

MDOT SHA Begins Safety and Resurfacing Project at the Olney Shopping Center

As part of the MD 108 Safety and Resurfacing project, MDOT SHA is doing concrete and asphalt work during the weekdays from sunrise to sunset at the Olney Shopping Center located at 3414-3484 Olney Laytonsville Road in Olney.

Construction will impact shopping center parking and store deliveries may be directed to alternate plaza entrances and exits through mid-November. For questions contact David Coleman, MDOT SHA Project Engineer, at 202-924-6994.

For a list of all major MDOT SHA projects, visit the [Project Portal](#). For real-time traffic conditions, visit md511.maryland.gov.

Here's Where We Really Need Microgrids in the US

If you're wondering why interest in microgrids is growing at a rapid clip, look no further than a new report "Billion Dollar Losses, Trillion Dollar Threats: The Cost of Climate Change."

Published by PSE Healthy Energy, a nonprofit policy research institute, and Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2), a nonprofit economic and environmental group, the report offers a state-by-state analysis of the cost of disasters, including hurricanes, storms, drought, flooding, wildfires and extreme freezes. Read the MicroGridKnowledge.com article [here](#).



Inflation Reduction Act and Microgrids Resource Page

In August, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) into law. The law establishes a 30% tax credit through 2032 for the technologies used within microgrids, including solar, energy storage and microgrid controllers. It's expected that the IRA will significantly reduce the cost of microgrids and drive rapid growth in the industry. Read the Microgridknowledge.com article [here](#).



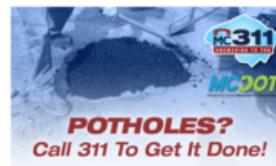
New EV Charging Station Infrastructure Begins Next



Bike Ride to Capitol Hill Pushes for Safer Streets After Cyclist's Death

It's been eight weeks since Sarah Langenkamp, an avid cyclist, was killed while riding along River Road in Bethesda, Maryland. A ghost bike now memorializes the place where she lost her life, but her husband and other cycling enthusiasts are turning their efforts to preventing future tragedies — beginning with a ride to Capitol Hill. Riders will retrace the route Sarah took the day she was killed, past her crash site at 5244 River Road, and continuing to the lawn in front of Congress.

"Ride for Your Life" will depart from Wood Aces Elementary School on Cromwell Drive in Bethesda at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19. Learn more [here](#).



Call 311 to Get it Done

MC311 is Montgomery County Government's Customer Service Center for all non-emergency County inquiries and services.

Dial 311 in the County or 240-777-0311, 711 for MD Relay TTY, Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. - 7 p.m., follow on Twitter @311MC311 or submit your request online at montgomerycountymd.gov/311.

Year

The District, Maryland and Virginia are getting \$186 million in federal funding to improve electric vehicle infrastructure as part of a \$5 billion nationwide program.



Hundreds of new electric vehicle charging stations will open as soon as next year along highways in the greater Washington region and nationwide as part of a multibillion-dollar plan to deploy fast-charging systems for a growing fleet of electric cars. The District, Maryland and Virginia are launching plans to add fast-charging ports along major corridors, including interstates 95, 66, 270 and 295, using \$186 million allocated to the region in federal infrastructure money. Read the Washington Post article [here](#).

The Federal Highway Administration Releases Guidance to Reduce Traffic Fatalities

The Federal Highway Administration recently released guidance to help states address roadway deaths as part of the



National Roadway Safety Strategy. Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the assessment identifies areas of high risk to vulnerable road users and determines safety improvements that would mitigate safety risks. Read the Transportation Today article [here](#).



For more information on MCDOT programs and services, visit montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdot and [subscribe](#) to receive MCDOT news to your email inbox or mobile phone.

Interested in receiving MCDOT's "Go Montgomery!" newsletter? [Subscribe here](#).

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Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

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For immediate release: October 25, 2022

Metro greenlighted to return more trains to service

Statements from Metro Board Chair Paul C. Smedberg and Metro General Manager and Chief Executive Officer Randy Clarke

“Metro leaders welcomed the concurrence today of the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission to gradually return all 7000-series railcars to passenger service,” said Metro Board Chair Paul C. Smedberg. “This is a win for customers, and we are grateful to Senators Warner and Kaine for their leadership to reach an agreement that will safely return more 7Ks to service.”

“With this approval and close collaboration on the Silver Line extension safety report, Metro will be able to set an opening date in the near future,” said General Manager and Chief Executive Officer Randy Clarke. “I want to thank the Safety Commission for their collaboration on reaching this important safety milestone, so we have a clear path forward.”

The [revised railcar return to service plan](#) allows Metro to place more 7Ks into passenger service. The increased availability of 7Ks will support opening the Silver Line extension before Thanksgiving and reduce crowding on the Red Line. The plan identifies specific timeframes and well-defined steps for Metro to return all trains for safe, reliable passenger service.

Since Metro began its industry-leading inspection process in June, 694 rail cars have been inspected more than 72,000 times and have operated safely over 3 million miles.

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Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

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For immediate release: October 19, 2022

Silver Line extension operationally ready to open for passengers by Thanksgiving

Date for opening now rests with Safety Commission concurrence on both Silver Line certification and new 7K Return to Service Plan

After successfully completing two weeks of simulated service, Metro leaders said today that they will be able to open the extension to Dulles Airport Station in time for the start of busy Thanksgiving travel, subject to approvals this week from the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission (WMSC) of two submissions -- a data-driven Return to Service Plan for 7000-series railcars, and a safety certification report of the Silver Line extension.

“We committed for the Silver Line extension to being operationally ready for the Silver Line extension in October, and we have met our deadline,” said General Manager and CEO Randy Clarke. “Since control of the extension was turned over to Metro, we and our partners at the Airports Authority, Fairfax, and Loudoun have worked diligently to complete all of the steps needed for Metro to offer safe and reliable service for rail travel to Dulles Airport and Loudoun County, and we are just awaiting concurrence from our Safety Commission partners.”

Metro took custody and control of the extension from the Airports Authority on June 23 and is finalizing its safety certification report to WMSC this week. WMSC has worked alongside Metro for months and has stated that it expects to add their concurrence to Metro’s within hours or days after receiving the report from Metro’s Chief Safety Officer. Metro does not view the final Silver Line safety certification report as a barrier to preparing for the opening of passenger service before Thanksgiving holiday travel.

More Trains Needed to Open

Last month, Metro’s senior safety and operations officials expressed safety concerns about moving cars from other crowded lines for new service, and that more trains were needed to support the extension. Unfortunately, WMSC notified Metro Monday afternoon that it objects to Metro’s new (phase three) Return to Service Plan for the 7000-series rail cars, following Metro’s submission of additional data analysis Friday. (The plan was first submitted on September 28 and was not approved citing “lack of data” to support changing multiple variables at once).

The [latest rejection letter](#) continues confusing direction provided to Metro:

- WMSC permits Metro to run trains inspected every seven days on any line, with employees operating and onboard. However, trains inspected every four days are only permitted to run with customers on the Red, Green and Yellow lines;

- The letter indicates that there are differences in the track interface with trains on Blue/Orange/Silver lines that require monitoring, then indicates permission to run on those lines temporarily, but offers no metrics for successful completion;
- The letter implies that Metro could swap axles to increase the fleet; however, that is operationally infeasible and would impact Metro's ability to safely and efficiently manage its fleet, as well as changes many variables at once;
- WMSC approved in December 2021 the use of the 7K fleet on all rail lines, and is now using the same data analysis to justify fleet restrictions, with no definitive root cause identified in the NTSB investigation.

“Metro recognizes the important role safety oversight plays and we are absolutely committed to compliance,” said EVP and Chief Operating Officer Brian Dwyer. “Respectfully, after a year-long investigation, we would welcome a directive based on a root cause finding. Meanwhile, we have developed an industry-leading inspection process in which we have high confidence. At the end of the day, all we’re asking is for our customers to be able to ride on the same trains as our employees.”

Metro needs the WMSC's concurrence this week to safely transfer trains into the various yards to support the restoration of service for stations south of National Airport, and to mobilize trains for the start of passenger service at Dulles Rail Yard. Additionally, Metro needs to align real-time communications systems and finalize other details to support passenger service. Local bus service providers have also requested a minimum of three weeks' notice to provide connecting service to new rail stations.

The phase three return to service plan is needed for both increased service frequency for customers systemwide and the Silver Line extension.

The plan seeks to reconcile two current processes – one for test trains carrying Metro employees, the other for customer trains -- and to implement a single standard for trains carrying employees and customers on all lines with 7-day inspections. It should be noted that for months, Metro has operated 7K trains for testing and training purposes under the exact terms included in its phase three proposal, which demonstrates the safety of its approach.

“We have provided all of the available data and analysis we have after safely running 2.7 million miles, however WMSC has provided confusing direction,” said EVP and Chief Safety Officer Theresa Impastato. “We simply ask for clear guidance on what is required to satisfy them as to the integrity of our process.”

[For more information, reference (<http://WMATA.com/7Kblog>)7K blog authored by Metro Chief Operating Officer and Chief Safety Officer]

While the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigation has not yet identified a root cause for the derailment, Metro is seeking WMSC's concurrence to adjust its fleet management while continuing the most robust program of wheel measurements in the transit industry by deploying:

- **All 748 7000-series railcars for passenger service (first time since October 2021)**
- **7000-series trains in service on all rail lines**
- **Protocols to measure wheels every seven days**

“As I said publicly at our September Board meeting (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_-AG9yNOWY) with only half of our 7Ks available, we cannot meet all of the region's needs for Metrorail,” Clarke said. “It's simple math. As we seek crowding solutions, support increasing ridership, and work to extend service, the equation of doing more with less no longer works, and we must ramp up the 7K trains which have operated safely without us putting a train in service that didn't meet our industry-leading safety requirements.”

Metro remains committed to safely returning all 748 railcars to passenger service and believes its 7000-series railcars are the safest, most reliable trains available to move customers throughout the region.

Metro encourages customers to sign up for [MetroAlerts \(https://wmata.com/rider-guide/subscribe/index.cfm\)](https://wmata.com/rider-guide/subscribe/index.cfm) text or e-mail messages to receive updated service information or follow us on Twitter [@wmata \(https://twitter.com/wmata\)](https://twitter.com/wmata), [@Metrorailinfo \(https://twitter.com/metrorailinfo\)](https://twitter.com/metrorailinfo), and [@Metrobusinfo \(https://twitter.com/MetrobusInfo\)](https://twitter.com/MetrobusInfo). To reach the customer service center, call 202-637-7000 or use the chat feature at [wmata.com \(https://wmata.com/\)](https://wmata.com/).

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