



**GREATER SHADY GROVE
TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

AGENDA

**Greater Shady Grove Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee Meeting – Teams Format
Wednesday March 1, 2023**

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Staff Contact: Jim Carlson / (301) 318-0328
james.carlson@montgomerycountymd.gov

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|--------------|---|--|
| 8:30 | 1. Welcome & Introductions | Jim Carlson |
| | 2. Minutes Review
January (©2) | All |
| | 3. Metro Budget Update | Charlie Scott
WMATA Sr. Government Relations Officer, MD |
| | 4. Great Seneca Plan Update | Maren Hill, AICP
Mid-County Planning, M-NCPPC |
| | 5. Marketing Outreach Update | Jennifer Bolick
TMD Outreach Team |
| | 6. Updates: Police/TMD/DOT/Other County Updates
Employer / Resident Commuter Survey – analysis underway
Employer TDM Plan notice to go out this week
New Bike To Work Day pit stop – Thomas Farm Community Center | |
| 10:00 | Adjourn | |

Information Items

MCDOT's Go Montgomery Special Flash Edition

**Greater Shady Grove
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
January 4, 2023**

Voting

Steve Kelley / NIH – National Cancer Institute

McClellan Quinn / EYA

Benjamin Garcia / Westside at Shady Grove Metro

Ex Officio

Jake Adler / Upcounty Regional Services Center

Sandra Brecher / Representing MC Dept. of Transportation (MCDOT) Director

Greg Wims / Upcounty Regional Services Center

Kirk Eby / City of Gaithersburg

Michael Wahl / Universities at Shady Grove

Staff

Nakengi Byrd / Montgomery County Commuter Services

Jim Carlson / Montgomery County Commuter Services

Absent

Paul Yanoshik / RE/MAX Realty Services

Guests

Deanna Archey / MCDOT – Ride On

Jennifer Bolick / Van Eperen

Gary Erenrich / MCDOT

Gehmelle Johnson / NIH-National Cancer Institute

Laura Van Eperen / Fovndry

Item 1 & 2 – Introductions/Minute Review: Members and guest introduced themselves. November minutes reviewed.

Item 3 – Ride On Reimagined- Update: **Deanna Archey** updated the Committee on the Ride On Reimagined project, which is a comprehensive evaluation of the transit network to improve existing and future transportation needs of Montgomery County focusing on racial equity and climate change. The project coordinator's team consists of various divisions within the County government and the project was divided into two phases - 1st phase evaluated existing conditions and the 2nd phase developed concepts and recommendations, which will be continuing until June 24th.

Other discussion:

- The future planning of bus rapid transit (BRT)
- Establishing the goals of Vision Zero, the County's Climate Action Plan, and equitable access for outcomes and measures of the Ride On reimagined project

- Ridership was evaluated for pre-Covid and existing commutes near Metro stations; and areas not near transit hubs also saw an increase in ridership
- A map was presented showing areas with short commute times

As part of the public engagement process, there was a kick off and four pop-up promotional events with interactions of 600 individuals and 260 survey responses. Some of the comments were on topics such as safety & ADA concerns. Focus groups were divided into five groups of up to eight individuals, representing five areas – groups mark the areas where they would like to see expanded transit options.

Q &A / Discussion:

- The importance of micromobility in the survey results - results posted on website and finalizing language translations
- Evaluating Ride On & Metro's fare structure for equity
- Survey results revealed that 67% respondents own a vehicle
- Bus ridership is up to 80% of pre-Covid levels
- 58% of survey respondent income is less than \$75k annually, and both users and non-users of transit were surveyed
- Although two focus groups have been completed, there are members needed on focus group four for the Wheaton area
- Looking at the cost of Uber & Lyft and expanding the neighborhood Flex service
- Discussion regarding free fare evaluation – MC Council decided on 50% reduced fare of \$1
- Conducted an existing conditions analysis of Ride On bus stops & shelters
- A top priority of survey respondents was safety at bus stops
- Working on using Ride On extra to service the Great Seneca Science Corridor and establishing four new bus routes planned for 2024

Item 4 – Marketing Outreach Update:

- **Jennifer Bolick** is working with employers and residential properties in the TMD on the Commuter Survey, which is conducted every two years to assist MCDOT in allocating transportation resources – survey ended December 30th
- The County has six Bike To Work Day pit stops-the event takes place the last Friday in May
- Conducting employer commuter events where news and information is provided on-site to employees
- Transportation related information is sent weekly to businesses and residential properties
- Seeking applicants for the Council of Governments Employer Recognition Awards – June event

Item 5 – Metro Update: **Jim Carlson** update on Metro:

- **Michael Goldman** to replace **Chris Zappi** as the alternative Metro Board Member for Montgomery County
- Red Line service frequency will move from 10 minutes to eight minutes, and proposed funding in the budget will improve service to 5-minute headway during peak period
- Dulles Airport is operating on the Silver Line
- Potomac Yard Station to open sometime during 2023
- The Metro Board is holding public comment on the proposed budget February – March
- Redline turnbacks have been dropped from the GM proposed budget plan

- A new maximum fare increase of \$6.50 threatens to penalize long distance riders
- Other proposals include – \$2 night & weekend fare, eliminate peak fares, a low-income fare program based on SNAP eligibility, 50% fare reduction
- Bus ridership continues to be higher than rail-“Q” bus routes are up 40% from same time last year

Item 6 – Updates: Jim Carlson announced:

- Commuter Survey- last conducted in Fall of 2019
- Tentative calendar dates sent for the TMD Advisory Board meetings

Item 7- Meeting Adjourned: Next meeting March 1, 2023



Press Releases - Department of Transportation

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

MCDOT's Go Montgomery Special Flash Edition is now Available! Thursday, Feb. 16

For Immediate Release: Friday, February 17, 2023



Flash on US 29 is one of the Most Popular Bus Routes

Have you seen the Flash bus on Colesville Road? Ride On's Flash buses run along Colesville Rd/Columbia Pike (US 29) between the Silver Spring Transit Center, Briggs Chaney and Burtonsville, with stops along the way. The County-operated bus line began in 2020 and offers fast, convenient service running every 15 minutes all day and more frequently during rush hour.

The US 29 Flash has been a popular option, providing more than 750,000 rides in 2022. Transporting an average of 2,200 riders each day, it is one of the County's most-utilized bus routes. Flash bus corridors are different from the County's other Ride On buses in that they operate large articulated buses with level boarding, they stop at each station, have free wi-fi, and, where possible, run in their own designated bus lanes to bypass traffic.

Learn more at ridetheflash.com.

MCDOT FLASH BUS



RIDERS LOVE FLASH



Montgomery County residents are feeling the love from their local transportation department. MCDOT decorated some US 29 Flash buses with pink neon heart-shaped lights in honor of Valentine's Day. The buses will remain decorated throughout February.

"We hope anyone who is looking to try the Flash service will be drawn to do so with this family-friendly promotion," said MCDOT Director Chris Conklin. "Riding the decorated buses is a fun experience for everyone and has been well received by riders. We are working to expand the Flash service to several additional corridors within the County. On the current US 29 Flash route, we are working with Howard County to expand the line north to Columbia and are working on adding more dedicated lanes for even faster service."

Riders are encouraged to post pictures on their Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts using the hashtag #LoveFlash with the reasons they love riding the Flash bus.

Ready to Ride the Flash on US29?

This video describes the features and amenities of the new Flash service.



Transportation Schedule for Presidents Day, Monday, Feb. 20

- County offices - Closed.
- Ride On, extRa and Flex - Holiday schedule.
- Ride On Flash Orange Line - Holiday schedule.
- TRiPS Commuter Store at Silver Spring Transit Center - Open 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.
- TRiPS Mobile Commuter Store - Closed.

CURRENT FLASH PROJECTS



MCDOT is working to expand the Flash service to several additional corridors within the County. MCDOT will host multiple opportunities for residents to learn more about these projects and provide feedback this spring.

VEIRS MILL ROAD BUS RAPID TRANSIT

In September, the Federal Transit Administration officially accepted the project into its Small Starts Project Development program. This is the first step in eligibility for federal funds through the Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program. The grant program is the major funding source for nationwide rail and bus expansion projects.

The Veirs Mill Road BRT project will reach the 65% (semi-final) design milestone in August 2023. The project, which will bring limited-stop bus service and twelve stations to Veirs Mill Road, is fully funded through the final design phase and partially funded for construction. The Montgomery County Planning Board will review the project as part of the Mandatory Referral process this spring.

MD 355 BUS RAPID TRANSIT

Flash BRT on MD 355 will be implemented in phases, starting with the central part of the corridor, between Montgomery College-Rockville and Montgomery College-Germantown. MCDOT shared preliminary design plans with community members and other stakeholders this summer. The design plans show where the Flash BRT lanes will go, where the roadway will be widened, where the stations will be located, and what pedestrian and bicycle facilities will be available at different locations along MD 355. The County will use the public's input and environmental analysis to finalize these roadway design decisions in the next project phase.

US 29 PHASE 2

MCDOT is working to add more dedicated bus lanes for faster service. This fall, MCDOT completed its dedicated bus lanes study and recommended a new dedicated bus lane on US 29. The County Executive proposed, and the Council approved funding to advance the project to the design phase in December. The project team is

- Parking at Bethesda, Silver Spring and Wheaton - Free.

View more transportation schedules [here](#).



Flash Feature Story in Greater Greater Washington Publication

Pop-up events let riders voice their preferences for Flash BRT on Route 355. Read the [article here](#).



Flash US 29 Featured in Architecture DC Magazine

A feature story on the Flash station's sustainable and welcoming design. View the winter edition, starting at page 46, [online here](#).



initiating survey work and design activities over the next few months and will complete the preliminary engineering phase in the summer of 2024.

BETTER ACCESS TO CASTLE BOULEVARD & BRIGGS CHANEY FLASH STATION

MCDOT received State funding to make it easier and safer to walk and bike to the Castle Boulevard and Briggs Chaney Flash stations near the US 29 corridor. The project team is getting input from stakeholders, reviewing previous studies, and analyzing data. Over the next few weeks, the team will visit the stations to identify additional safety issues before developing a list of potential improvements. MCDOT will meet with stakeholders in spring 2023 to determine the next steps and develop an implementation strategy.

NORTH BETHESDA BUS RAPID TRANSIT

When the North Bethesda BRT study kicked off in 2022, MCDOT worked with local stakeholders to develop project goals and objectives. After analysis and community input, the North Bethesda Metro Station was selected as the eastern terminus for the service.

This fall, the team began analysis using multiple metrics, including ridership forecasts, traffic impacts, potential environmental impacts, right-of-way needed, multimodal connectivity, and other factors that align with the project goals and objectives. This spring, MCDOT will review the methodology and results with the public and other stakeholders, and determine the best alternative to move forward with a preferred alternative for further development.

NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE BUS RAPID TRANSIT

The New Hampshire Avenue BRT service will run between the Fort Totten Metro Station and the Colesville Park and Ride just north of Randolph Road, with key connections to the Purple Line at University Boulevard and the US 29 Flash BRT at White Oak. This fall, the project team identified alternatives for further analysis. The alternatives include 1) optimizing transit in mixed traffic, 2) repurposing curbside lanes for dedicated bus lanes south of Piney Branch Road and optimizing transit in mixed traffic north of Piney Branch Road, and 3) repurposing median lanes for dedicated bus lanes south of Piney Branch Road, adding one dedicated transit lane between Piney Branch Road and Lockwood Drive, and optimizing transit in mixed traffic north of Lockwood Drive. The team will analyze each alternative using metrics that align with the project goals and objectives. This spring, the team will review the results with the public and other stakeholders, and determine the best alternative to move forward with into design.



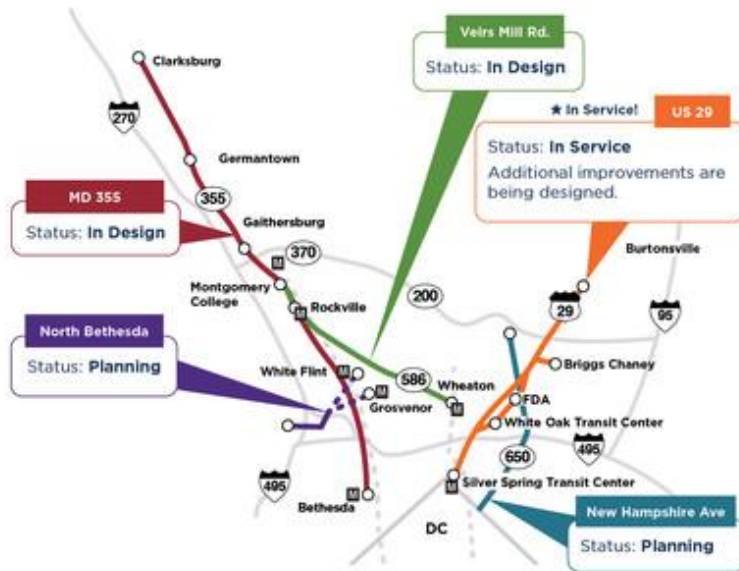
Wheels Welcome

Flash provides full accessibility for wheelchairs, persons with disabilities, strollers, bikes, and carts. Wheelchairs should enter through the front door. Bikes should be walked on through the backdoor, and can be easily secured on board the Flash.



MCDOT is Hiring Bus Operators

MCDOT is looking for dynamic individuals with a passion for public service at any stage of their career. MCDOT offers applicants 21 and over paid Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training, a comprehensive benefits package and a fun, supportive atmosphere. Learn more and apply here.



Free Bus Rides on MCDOT's Ride On, Most Metrobuses for all Seniors 65+ and Youth

Seniors age 65+ and youth under 19 (older if still in high school) can ride all Ride On buses and most Metrobuses within the county for free at all times by using Senior SmarTrip and Youth Cruiser SmarTrip cards.

MCDOT has updated fareboxes and asks that those riders tap the fare box with their special smart cards when entering the bus, which will provide an accurate count of senior and youth ridership. With that data, Ride On can work to further improve service for senior and youth riders.



TRANSIT EQUITY



Proclamation for Transit Equity Day, Feb. 4

Last week, MCDOT received a Proclamation from the County Council for Transit Equity Day.

Thanks to Councilmembers Evan Glass, Kate Stewart and Marilyn Balcombe for the proclamation and for supporting transit. Watch the proclamation here.

Over the past year, MCDOT has been working to reassess its transit system to best meet the needs of residents through its Ride On Reimagined Study. The study, influenced by public engagement and feedback, will bring system-wide changes to better serve one million County residents.

Equitable transportation in Montgomery County includes investing in clean transportation options and infrastructure. In September 2020, MCDOT launched its first four electric buses and ordered 10 more, to reduce greenhouse gases from the transportation sector. The goal is to convert the entire fleet of buses to zero-emission by 2035, reducing the County's carbon footprint.

To learn more about what MCDOT is doing to ensure transit equity and view resources for low-income transportation programs, visit montgomerycountymd.gov/TransitEquity.



FLASH 2022 FALL OUTREACH



Fall 2022 has been busy with many opportunities to engage with the public. Over 51,000 people visited a Flash bus at outreach events while learning what Flash offers our community.

Sep. 24 - Burtonsville Day

Flash participated in this great East County event and informed people about service on US 29, and a knowledgeable bus operator was on hand to answer questions.



Oct. 30 - HalloWheaton - Monster Flash

Monster Flash was a huge success at the 2nd Annual HalloWheaton Event! Adults and children alike enjoyed boarding the bus and checking out the kid-friendly monster decorations. One child couldn't get enough of Flash! He went through the bus FIVE times! The event was great fun, and we look forward to participating again next year.



Oct. 21 - 22 - Montgomery Park's Fairland Briggs Chaney Placemaking Event

You might have seen Flash at Fairland Briggs Chaney Placemaking Event. The weather was perfect for people to learn more about Flash, board the bus, and see all it offers.



MCDOT's Ride On Reimagined Study

The Ride On Reimagined Study is a comprehensive, forward-looking assessment of the bus network that will result in significant recommended changes to how transit operates in Montgomery County based on current and future needs. This study takes an in-depth look at Montgomery County's existing and planned transit systems, including Metrobus services that operate within the County limits and the future Purple Line, through data analysis and community engagement.

The study will have the primary goal of recommending system-wide changes that address the current and future needs of the community it serves for both Ride On and Metrobus services.



GreenFest in the City, Sunday, April 23 in Downtown Wheaton

Flash will be available to tour during GreenFest in the City from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Marion Fryer Town Plaza on Reedie Drive. For event updates visit montgomerycountyg reenfest.org.



Nov. 19 - Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade

The decorated Flash bus debuted at the Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade, with the Flash balloon leading the way! Parade-goers got a first look at the festive Flash bus in all its glory.



Lose something on the Flash bus or want to give feedback? Contact MC311 by calling 311 (or 240-777-0311) or online at montgomerycountymd.gov/311.

Nov. 18 Gaithersburg's Winter Festival S'mores Lights

We kicked off the holiday season with Gaithersburg's Winter Festival S'mores Lights Event! An extension of the Winter Lights Festival at Seneca Creek State Park, attendees of this two-day sold-out event enjoyed seeing Flash dressed up for the holidays inside and out.



Dec. 1 - Jan. 3 - FLASHlights

Three holiday-decorated Flash Buses hit the streets. The inside of the bus was festively decorated with snow, snowmen, lights, and gingerbread houses.



Here's What Riders Are Saying





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, or by texting MONTGOMERY RIDEON to 468311 to receive text alerts.

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