

GREATER SHADY GROVE TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Greater Shady Grove Transportation Management District Advisory Committee Meeting – Teams Format Wednesday July 19, 2023

8:30 – 10:00 a.m. Staff Contact: Jim Carlson / (301) 318-0328 james.carlson@montgomerycountymd.gov

8:30 1. Welcome & Introductions Jim Carlson 2. Minutes Review All March (©2) 3. Montgomery County Bicycle Master Plan Update **David Anspacher** M-NCPPC 4. Metro Update **Gary Erenrich MCDOT** 5. Employer TDM Plans Jim Carlson/All Summary (©4) 6. Marketing Outreach Update Jennifer Bolick **COG Employer Recognition Awards** TMD Outreach Team 7. Updates: TMD/DOT/Other County Updates Sandra Brecher Jim Carlson 10:00 Adjourn Information Items

Commuter Connections Awards Employers for Innovation & Excellence in Commuter Benefit Programs Metro Launching MetroMeter- Real Time Tracking Tool Metro Opening Doors for Business, Opportunities at Metro Procurement Fair, July 15 MCDOT Seeks Bike Donations for BikeMatchMoCo WMATA Income-Qualified 'Metro Lift' Fare Program Brings More Consistency to Fares

Greater Shady Grove Transportation Management District Advisory Committee March 1, 2023

Voting

Steve Kelley / NIH – National Cancer Institute Benjamin Garcia / Westside at Shady Grove Metro Paul Yanoshik / RE/MAX Realty Services

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

McClean Quinn / EYA

Guests

Jennifer Bolick / Van Eperen
Gary Erenrich / MCDOT
Gehmelle Johnson / NIH-National Cancer Institute
Michael Hackman / City of Gaithersburg
Maren Hill / M-NCPPC
Charlie Scott / WMATA

Item 1 & 2 – Introductions/Minutes: Jim Carlson called meeting to order, and members and guests introduced themselves. Minutes were reviewed.

Item 3 – Metro Budget Update: Charlie Scott reported that public comment period for the WMATA FY24 budget is on-going with opportunity for public comment closing in two weeks. The budget will be approved in April. Although the Redline turnbacks are no longer included in the budget, **Mr. Scott** discussed simplifying the zone fare structure and other proposed items:

- Five percent rail fare increase of \$3.83 to \$6.50 with no increase in five years- impacting mostly riders at Shady Grove station
- Creating a low-income pilot program tied to SNAP benefit eligibility which may affect a half million riders across the region; however, only about a third may enroll in the program
- Redline service plan to improve ridership with six-minute frequency

• Increases will only affect the fares, not the passes

Q & A and discussion continued:

- Purple Line construction on the Redline will see some weekend closures
- No layoffs projected in the budget looking to hire
- Blasting for Purple Line construction at Bethesda station southern entrance
- The Corridor Cities Transitway project resubmitted application for Purple Line funding

Item 4 – Great Seneca Plan Update: Maren Hill updated the Committee on the Great Seneca Plan reporting. Planning is in the "envisioning phase" with preliminary recommendations and will be conducting a virtual meeting in Spanish on March 9 and an open house at the Universities at Shady Grove. Other meetings include the Planning Board to refine recommendations and with MCDOT. Aaron Savage will fill in for Ms. Hill while she is on maternity leave in April. Gary Erenrich commented that there needs to be an update on the Non-Auto Driver Mode Share (NADMS). Also reported:

- The Trammel Crow Co. has a ground lease on the northern half of the site for life science development with a park and some retail application under review for the Planning Board on March 30.
- Her team does not have the best way of measuring NADMS; however, her team members are pushing for infrastructure to assist in reaching NADMS goals
- Some parts of the project will never be built out completely, which calls for a need to be realistic about connectivity

Discussion continued regarding the effect of the CCT since its construction was halted and the need to find an alternative to best serve the area. As the CCT was part of the Corridor Forward plan, bus routes are being used as a substitute for the transitway. Also discussed:

- Providing connections between Shady Grove station to Belward campus
- **Deanna Archey**, Ride On, is hosting a pop-up event at Shady Grove Metro and Rio for Ride On reimagined, a bus reorganizing project for better service

Item 5 – Marketing Outreach Update: Jennifer Bolick reported:

- Worked on the commuter survey gathering responses
- COG Employer recognition awards finding and assisting employers to apply for awards
- Conducting employee and residential events FareShare program
- Scheduling Transportation Demand Management (TDM) meetings for online plan submittals
- Bike to Work Day pit stop new location at the Thomas Farm Community Center
- Mr. Carlson will send notices to employers to file or update their TDM plans

Item 6 – Updates: Sande Brecher announced:

- DOT received a federally funded grant to conduct an e-cargo bike pilot to reduce short car trips
- The disparity of TDM fees only being charged to commercial buildings and not residential dwellings needs to be addressed, although they both receive services from TDM fees
- Resuming Learn to Ride and urban riding bike classes hosted by WABA
- Ride On Reimagined study is ongoing have Deanna Archey speak to the Committee for an update

Adjourn

Greater Shady Grove TMD Employer Transportation Demand Management Plan Summary July 2023



Code Requirements:

- 1. Contact person designated to receive and distribute commuter information to employees
- 2. Information on transit and other commute alternatives distributed/ posted regularly (furnished by Commuter Services/CSS)
- 3. Facilitate CSS/TMD staff presentations and commuter information events for employees and HR/administrative staff. This could include benefits fares and other employer-sponsored events
- 4. Guaranteed Ride Home Promotion (free regional program offering emergency rides)
- 5. Annual Commuter Survey distributed to employees (short survey of transportation—supplied by CSS/TMD)
- 6. ADA information provided (transportation services for people with disabilities)
- 7. Permanent display area for bus schedules and other transportation information
- 8. Compile information on yearly TDM activities and submit annual report

Employer	Employee Total	Status	Recommend to MCDOT
Advanced Surgery Center (voluntary plan)	14 FT 5 PT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Carpool matching	Yes
American Red Cross Holland Lab	43 FT 2 PT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Transit benefit - \$119 • Reserved carpool parking • Telework – 28 participating • Bike racks / lockers • Flexible & compressed schedule	Yes
Arthritis & Rheumatism Associates	48 FT 2 PT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Telework – 20 participating • New hire information • Garage bike rack	Yes
Bioqual, Inc.	265 FT 8 PT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Telework – 39 participating • New hire information	Yes
BLH Technologies, Inc.	64 FT 21 PT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: Pre-tax deduction Telework Real time transit display Carpool matching Flexible schedule	Yes
Centers for Advanced ENT Care	33 FT 2 PT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Carpool matching	Yes

Cisco Systems, Inc.	78 FT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Telework – 78 participating • Pre-tax deduction • Bike racks / lockers • Flexible & compressed schedule • Job sharing	Yes
Connection	43 FT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Telework – 43 participating • Flexible schedules	Yes
Crossroads Live North America	21 FT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Direct benefit • Flexible schedule	Yes
Dimensional Marble & Tile	50 FT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Flexible schedule	Yes
FINRA	2400 FT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Pre-tax deduction • Car sharing spaces – 4 • Telework – all participate • New hire information • Flexible & compressed schedule • Bike racks / lockers	Yes
GlycoMimetics, Inc.	36 FT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Telework – 29 participating • New hire information • Bike racks / lockers • Flexible & compressed schedules	Yes
Goodman-Gable- Gould/Adjusters International	27 FT 1 PT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Bike racks / lockers • Flexible schedules	Yes
GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)	350 FT 137 PT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Bike racks / lockers • Flexible & compressed schedules • Carpool matching	Yes
Herson's Honda	109 FT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Carpool matching	Yes
Hub International Mid- Atlantic Inc.	71 FT 2 PT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Pre-tax deduction • Telework – 68 participating • Bike racks / lockers • Flexible & compressed schedule	Yes

Intelligent Automation, Inc.	243 FT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures:	Yes
JLG RICA - Maryland Department of Health	153 FT 13 PT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Telework – 1 participating • Bike racks / lockers • Flexible & compressed schedule	Yes
Johns Hopkins Community Physicians	25 FT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Telework – 2 participating • Hybrid remote work • Carpool matching	Yes
Keystone Title Settlement Services (voluntary plan)	10 FT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Telework • Bike racks / lockers	Yes
Lonza	25 FT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Flexible schedule	Yes
MacroGenics	391 FT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Flexible schedule • Telework – 185 participating	Yes
Matthews Media Group, Inc. (voluntary plan)	22 FT 2 PT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures:	Yes
Montgomery Hospice	185 FT 80 PT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures:	Yes
National Electrical Benefit Fund	94 FT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Flexible schedule	Yes
Nauticon Office Solutions	70 FT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Telework – 35 participating • Flexible schedule • Carpool matching	Yes
Roberts Oxygen	34 FT 1 PT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Telework – 35 participating • Flexible schedule	Yes

Savantage Financial Services	117 FT 2 PT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Pre-tax • Telework – 40 participating • Carpool matching • Flexible & compressed schedules	Yes
SCA Montgomery Surgery Center	20 FT 23 PT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Bike benefit	Yes
Shady Grove Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation	134 FT 30 PT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Carpool matching	Yes
Shadygrove Road KinderCare	39 FT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Pre-tax deduction	Yes
Supernus Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	652 FT 1 PT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Direct benefit - \$280 • Telework – 300 participating • Bike racks / lockers • Carpool matching	Yes
The Arc of Montgomery County	272 FT 39 PT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Telework – 48 participating • Flexible schedule	Yes
Treatment and Learning Centers/Katherine Thomas School	80 FT 20 PT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Bike racks / lockers • Flexible & compressed schedules	Yes
Wellstat Therapeutics Corporation	39 FT 5 PT	Meets requirements - has no voluntary measures (yet)	Yes
Westat	1293 FT 220 PT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: • Pre-tax deduction • Telework – 1280 participants • Bike racks / lockers • Flexible schedule • Carpool matching	Yes



Home > Newsroom > Commuter Connections awards employers for innovation and excellence in commuter benefits programs

NEWS RELEASE

Commuter Connections awards employers for innovation and excellence in commuter benefits programs

Jun 30, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 30, 2023) – The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' (COG) Commuter Connections program proudly recognized five local employers and organizations today for their outstanding commute alternative programs at the 26th annual Employer Recognition Awards ceremony at the National Press Club in Washington, DC.

Commuter Connections recognized George Mason University (GMU), Fairfax County, VA, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Company (Freddie Mac), Fairfax County, VA, and Abt Associates, Montgomery County, MD, with awards for their incentives, marketing, and telework programs, respectively. In addition, COG's signature commuter program honored Montgomery County Commuter Services with the 2023 Employer Services Sales Team Achievement Award and Reston Town Center Association (RTCA) with the 2023 Employer Services Organization Achievement Award.

"The employers we are honoring today have implemented innovative and successful commuter and telework programs. We hope that through their example, other organizations will embrace similar initiatives, creating more opportunities to maximize the efficiencies of shared commutes and telework," said Reuben B. Collins II, Esq, Chair of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board at COG and President of the Charles County Board of County Commissioners.

Commuter Connections received nominations from employers throughout the region, all of which focused on improving their employee morale and reducing carbon footprint through innovative commute alternative programs. A selection committee evaluated these nominations and chose the winners based on their dedication and capability to reduce gasoline consumption and greenhouse gas emissions through fewer vehicle trips and miles traveled —while creating measurable and sustainable commuter benefits for employees. By incentivizing and marketing these commute alternative programs, employers have contributed to the improvement of regional air quality and the reduction of traffic congestion.

"We are thrilled to honor George Mason University, Freddie Mac, Abt Associates, Montgomery County Commuter Services, and the Reston Town Center Association – some of which are now repeat winners of Employer Recognition Awards – for their implementation of innovative commute alternative programs and their ongoing commitment to reducing air emissions and traffic congestion in the region," said Nicholas Ramfos, Director of Commuter Connections. "I look forward to seeing how these organizations continue to grow their programs, while serving as a model for other employers throughout the region who are looking to develop their own commute alternative programs."

The 26th annual Employer Recognition Awardees are listed below, along with a summary of their efforts to improve employee commuting and advocate for commuting alternatives.

Incentives Award

George Mason University received the 2023 Employer Recognition Award for commuter incentives. Since last winning an award in 2006, GMU has developed a unique incentives program centered around a robust bicycle commuting initiative, online tools to connect employees to transit options, and a modern work environment for teleworking. The University has invested in online resources to encourage employees to explore alternative forms of transportation and to make alternatives more accessible. Of those employed on campus, 822 use alternative transportation methods to and from campus. There are 1,764 staffers who telework, and an additional 1,467 faculty members telework informally based on class schedules. Among many benefits offered for non-traditional commuting, GMU has a Bike Commuter Choice Program that offers financial support and benefits based on biking frequency. The University also offers free shuttle services with wi-fi, connecting riders to transit stops. A pre-tax benefit of up to \$300 per month is available to help cover the cost of public transit or vanpools. Flextime and compressed work weeks are made available, as are bike racks and showers, and preferred parking is available for carpools and vanpools, along with rebates for formal carpools. GMU has produced online resources to inform faculty of their transportation options. In 2022, these incentive programs have led to an estimated reduction of 9,876,600 vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and saved about 448,900 gallons of gas.

Marketing Award

The Federal Home Loan Mortgage Company (Freddie Mac) received the 2023 Employer Recognition Award in marketing. Since 2015, their Commuter Benefits Program has offered a transit/vanpool subsidy of up to \$300 per month, a direct shuttle to and from the McLean Metro station, preferred parking for vanpools, and bike racks, showers, and lockers for cyclists. Freddie Mac uses a variety of internal communications platforms to promote commuter benefits to employees. Its marketing tactics include messages in a daily employee newsletter, in-person presentations, advertisements on digital signage across the campus, and easy-to-access content on the company's

intranet. Freddie Mac has also promoted apps that help employees make decisions about commuting alternatives, which offer live tracking of the shuttle service. In 2022 the Freddie Mac commuter and telework programs reduced employee vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by nearly 250,000 miles.

Telework Award

Abt Associates received the 2023 Employer Recognition Award for the telework offering of its commuter benefits program. Since winning the Incentives Award in 2020, Abt has responded to the pandemic and changes in work conditions with a robust hybrid and remote work strategy. As a result, of the 530 people employed by Abt at its work site in the Washington metropolitan region, 60 percent of the staff work fully remote (five days per week), and 40 percent are either hybrid (three or four remote days per week) or primary on-site (up to two remote days per week). Abt also introduced a two-week flextime schedule and compressed work weeks for additional support and employee well-being. Abt has enhanced its virtual private network, digital collaboration tools, and file storage capabilities to improve and ease remote collaboration. Monthly public transit subsidies for staff who commute on-site, and home technology and ergonomics stipends for hybrid and fully remote employees are also provided. New employees receive Quick Start Guides on the program during onboarding, and the benefits are outlined on the Abt intranet and internal chat platform. The telework program has led to the reduction of nearly 1,720,330 vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and saved nearly 78,200 gallons of gas annually.

Employer Services Sales Team Achievement Award

The Montgomery County Commuter Services received the 2023 Employer Services Sales Team Achievement Award, a recognition given to the Commuter Connections Employer Services sales team that most successfully met its goal of partnering with employers to develop and expand commute benefit offerings. During this past year with six sales representatives, the team made over 13,300 contacts and held over 200 meetings with employers in Montgomery County. Selection of the award recipient was based on information provided by the sales teams as part of their required monthly reporting to COG and through on-going database verifications. Montgomery County Commuter Services is in the Office of Transportation Policy of the Montgomery County Department of Transportation and appreciates the support of its contractors with outreach and related efforts, including Bethesda Transportation Solutions, North Bethesda Transportation Center, Fovndry by Van Eperen, Sharp & Company, and McAndrew Company.

Employer Services Organization Achievement Award

The Reston Town Center Association received the 2023 Employer Services Organization Achievement Award for bringing transit services to those who work, live, and spend time at the Reston Town Center, a transit-oriented hub of community, cultural, and economic development in the Dulles Corridor. Since its launch in fall 2022, the Reston Town Center's free shuttle service, linkRTC has become a new way to travel for the approximately 10,000 workers within its circulation route. Running Monday through Friday from 7:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M., at 10-minute intervals, the route has six stops, including the Reston Town Center Metro Station. This convenient and reliable service is funded by Reston Town Center properties under a cost-sharing agreement. The shuttle is gaining fast momentum. During its fifth month of service, linkRTC reported a 42 percent increase in total boardings over the previous month. The service includes two 14-passenger vans and a mobile app that allows passengers to track the shuttle's whereabouts and arrival time. linkRTC is operated by Reston Limousine under the authority of the association's board of directors.

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Tags: Awards, Commuter Connections

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TPB NEWS

March 2023 TPB meeting recap: FY 2024 Work Programs and Environmental Justice analysis

May 10, 2023

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TPB NEWS

February 2023 TPB meeting recap: Visualize 2050, TPB and Commuter Connections Work Programs

March 15, 2023

TPB approved the TPB's Technical Inputs Solicitation document to kick off Visualize 2050 and received briefings on the draft Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Unified...

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Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Metro Home

For immediate release: June 30, 2023

Metro launching MetroMeter, a new real-time rail service tracking tool

Metro is launching a new tool to give customers better access to Metrorail performance information. Late next week, MetroMeter will be available to the public providing information similar to MetroHero, a third party application that has become popular with customers since its launch in 2015. The developers of MetroHero recently announced that the application will no longer be updated after July 1.

MetroMeter, a new web application, will provide easy access to real-time data on headway adherence, schedule adherence, the number of trains in service, and more.

"MetroHero was popular with customers for good reason, and Metro is excited to provide our customers with a similar tool to track our performance in real time and bring more transparency to our operations," said Metro General Manager and Chief Executive Officer Randy Clarke. "Metro thanks the creators of MetroHero for their years of service to our customers, and we're proud to continue their work to shine light on our progress providing excellent service to the region."

MetroMeter will complement other performance tracking tools available at <u>wmata.com</u>, including quarterly reports and scorecards detailing on-time performance and customer satisfaction. A recent survey of active Metrorail customers found 84 percent were satisfied with their Metro experience, an increase of 16 percent compared to one year ago. Metro is now running more train service than at any other time in our 47-year history, with 58 percent more trains in service on weekdays compared to last July and 73 percent more train trips.

Metro is also working on real-time performance tracking tools for Metrobus and MetroAccess, and will continue to refine reporting tools available to the public based on feedback from customers.

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Skip to main content

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Metro Home

For immediate release: June 30, 2023

Metro is opening doors for business, opportunities for companies large and small

Metro is open for business and looking to expand its regional opportunities and partnerships. With more than 18,000 purchase orders awarded annually, qualified vendors support a wide range of departments, including information technology, construction, facility maintenance, real estate, and inventory for day-to-day operations. Companies interested in doing business with Metro are invited to <u>register</u> now to attend Metro's Procurement Fair, Tuesday, August 15.

The event will give business leaders an opportunity to meet with Metro's procurement team, network with other vendors and government contractors, and attend workshops geared toward business growth and expansion.

"Each year we award an average of \$2.2 billion in contract awards. We have large prime contractors and sub-contractors for major construction projects, service contracts, and opportunities for small, minority and disadvantaged businesses," said Senior Vice President and Chief Procurement Officer T. Suzette Moore. "We welcome companies large and small around the region to see what Metro has to offer."

During the one-day fair, Metro expects to have up to 40 vendor booths from both the private sector and government contracting. Workshops will include break-out sessions on how to get your foot in the door, building your business, bonding, and opportunities across Metro's different program areas.

Metro's popular speed networking session will return to help match prime contractors with small businesses through 15-minute match-making meetings.

The Procurement Fair will be held Tuesday, August 15, from 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. at:

The Hotel at the University of Maryland Calvert Ballroom 7777 Baltimore Avenue College Park, MD 20740

Participants must register by Saturday, July 15, at 5 p.m. Space is limited to 400 attendees.

Small, minority and disadvantaged business enterprises (DBE) are encouraged to attend. Metro recently implemented a new Women and Minority Business Program (WMBE) and maintains a robust DBE program. Last year Metro's annual DBE spend overwhelmingly exceeded the target goal of 25 percent with over 33 percent of contract dollars going to DBEs.

Contracting opportunities are available as part of Metro's six-year, \$12 billion Capital Improvement Program, in addition to Metro's annual operating budget.

Learn more about doing business with Metro at wmata.com/business



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Press Releases - Department of Transportation

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Montgomery County Department of Transportation Seeks Bicycle Donations for Bike Match Program

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, June 14, 2023



The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) is asking residents to donate extra or unused bicycles in good condition to the County's BikeMatchMoCo program.

The free Bike Match program, which launched in June 2020, matches donated bicycles with requests from individuals in need who live or work in Montgomery County. BikeMatchMoCo has distributed more than 500 bicycles so far, but demand is still high. The program currently has a list of more than 200 adults hoping to receive bikes.

"By donating your unused bicycle, you can provide someone locally with a means of transportation, which can improve their access to employment, education, healthcare and other essential services," said County Executive Marc Elrich. "A donation also can help you reduce clutter at your home, put your unused bike to use and boost the quality of life for someone else in our community."

The bike match program also accepts donations of and requests for children's bikes. Donated bikes must be in ready-to-ride condition and should be cleaned and sanitized before drop-off.

"We have seen an incredible demand for adult bicycles," said MCDOT Director Chris Conklin. "More people are choosing to use bicycles for recreation, fitness and transportation. The expanded network of bicycle lanes, and safety improvements implemented as part of Vision Zero have made bicycling a viable alternative to cars when running errands or commuting. The bike match program is instrumental to getting bicycles in the hands of people who otherwise could not afford one."

Residents who wish to donate or receive a bike can do so by filling out the online form on MCDOT's BikeMatchMoCo website. Once a donated bike has been matched to a recipient, a MCDOT representative will facilitate the donation and pickup. The bike donation deliveries are conducted separately, and all information is confidential.

For 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.

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Para Difusión Inmediata: miércoles 14 de junio de 2023

El Departamento de Transporte del Condado de Montgomery busca donaciones de bicicletas para el programa Bike Match

El Departamento de Transporte del Condado de Montgomery (MCDOT, por sus siglas en inglés) está pidiendo a las personas que donen bicicletas adicionales o sin usar en buenas condiciones al programa BikeMatchMoCo del Condado.

El programa gratuito Bike Match, que se lanzó en junio de 2020, combina bicicletas donadas con solicitudes de personas necesitadas que viven o trabajan en el condado de Montgomery. BikeMatchMoCo ha distribuido más de 500 bicicletas hasta el momento, pero la demanda sigue siendo alta. El programa actualmente tiene una lista de más de 200 adultos que esperan recibir bicicletas.

"Al donar una bicicleta que usted no use, puede proporcionarle a alguien localmente un medio de transporte, lo que puede mejorar su acceso al empleo, la educación, la atención médica y otros servicios esenciales," dijo el Ejecutivo del Condado Marc Elrich. "La donación también puede ayudarle a reducir el número de artículos sin usar en su hogar, poner en uso su bicicleta sin usar y mejorar la calidad de vida de otra persona en nuestra comunidad."

El programa Bike Match también acepta donaciones y solicitudes de bicicletas para niños. Las bicicletas donadas deben estar listas para ser usadas y deben limpiarse y desinfectarse antes de dejarlas.

"Hemos visto una demanda increíble de bicicletas para adultos," dijo el director del MCDOT, Chris Conklin. "Más personas eligen usar bicicletas para recreación, ejercicio y transporte. La red ampliada de carriles para bicicletas y las mejoras de seguridad implementadas como parte de del programa Visión Cero han hecho el andar en bicicleta una alternativa viable cuando se hacen recados o se desplazan al trabajo. El programa Bike Match es fundamental para poner bicicletas en manos de personas que de otro modo no podrían pagar una."

Las personas que viven en el condado y que deseen donar o recibir una bicicleta pueden hacerlo completando el formulario electrónico en el sitio web BikeMatchMoCo de MCDOT. Una vez que una bicicleta donada se haya asociado con un destinatario, un representante de MCDOT facilitará la donación y la recogida. Las entregas de donación de bicicletas se realizan por separado y toda la información es confidencial.

Para obtener información adicional sobre los programas y servicios de MCDOT visite montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdot, siga a @MCDOTNow en Twitter, Facebook e Instagram y suscríbase al boletín "Go Montgomery!" de MCDOT.

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Contacto para los Medios de Prensa: Emily DeTitta 240-372-2282



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Press Releases - Department of Transportation

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WMATA's Income-Qualified 'Metro Lift' Fare Program Brings More Consistency to Bus Fare in the Washington Metro Region

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, June 21, 2023



The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA, or Metro) will begin offering reduced fares to low-income riders through its new "Metro Lift" program, which launched on June 20. The program offers a 50 percent discount for travel on Metrorail and Metrobus for customers in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia who are enrolled in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP).

The reduced fare for Metro buses will be \$1 per ride, matching the post-COVID-19 rate charged for Montgomery County's Ride On buses.

"We are pleased to work with WMATA to help promote SNAP beneficiaries and ensure that public transportation is accessible and available to our most vulnerable citizens," said Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich. "With the new Metro Lift program, economically disadvantaged customers will be able to ride any bus in the County for only \$1. By keeping fare costs to a minimum for those who can least afford it, we can ensure more people are able to travel for employment opportunities, medical care and other essential services."

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) commissioned a study in 2021 to examine the Ride On bus fare structure with the goal of improving access to the Ride On transit system, particularly among low-income and economically vulnerable residents after the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ride On Zero & Reduced Fare Study found that most riders would benefit from reduced fares, but that developing and maintaining a program for low-income riders was not cost-effective. With County Executive and Council support, MCDOT reduced rates to 50 percent of the pre-pandemic \$2 fare for all riders. The \$1 reduced fare was implemented on Aug. 1, 2022.

Online enrollment information for the program can be found at wmata.com/Metro Lift. In-person enrollment, allowing for immediate access to the program for those qualified, will begin at designated locations in Montgomery County and at three sites in Washington area starting on Monday, June 26.

The fare discount will be valid for one year after enrollment and will be available up to 48 hours after online enrollment. In addition to reduced fare, enrolled customers will receive a free SmartTrip® card.

Approved by Metro's Board of Directors in its Fiscal Year 2024 budget, the program advances transit equity and affordability in a region considered one of the most expensive in the nation and where low-income households face the greatest economic disparities.

"We know that public transportation plays an instrumental role in equity," said MCDOT Director Chris Conklin. "Working together to ensure that we have an affordable and well-integrated transportation network is one of our highest priorities. Metro Lift brings fare to \$1, matching our current reduced fare. This consistency is important for riders; they need to know what to expect when traveling in the region."

Metro will continue to refine the program based on customer feedback and is working to expand enrollment locations over time, including within Montgomery County. Currently, County residents who qualify for the program and wish to enroll can do so online here. Online enrollment will take up to 48 hours to activate.

Enrollment Information:

Needed to Enroll

- If you have one, bring your SmarTrip® card for you and each member of your household enrolled. SmartTrip cards will be provided if you do not already have them.
- Active SNAP EBT (Electronic Benefits Transfer) card.
- Copy of your SNAP proof of benefits (if you are applying for members of your household).
- Current photo identification (ID) card issued by the U.S., D.C, Maryland or Virginia.
- Phone number.

How to Enroll:

Online (now available)

- · Go to wmata.com/MetroLift.
- Complete the enrollment form for you and/or members of your SNAP household.
- Discount will be loaded to SmarTrip card up to 48 hours after enrollment.
- Use your SmarTrip card and go.

In-person (starting Monday, June 26)

- Schedule an appointment to visit one of WMATA's in-person enrollment centers. Appointment booking is now available:
 - Online at wmata.com/MetroLift; or

- By Phone at 1-888-SmarTrip (888-762-7874).
- In-person enrollment will be available at the following locations:
- Metro Center Metro Station. 12th & F Street NW Entrance. Mezzanine Level.
- Metro Headquarters. 300 7th Street SW, Washington, D.C.
- New Carrollton Metro Office. 4100 Garden City Dr, Hyattsville
- Bring the required materials for you and/or your SNAP household members.
- Use your SmarTrip card and go.

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