CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITIES

MCDOT'S VISION FOR TRANSPORTATION IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD
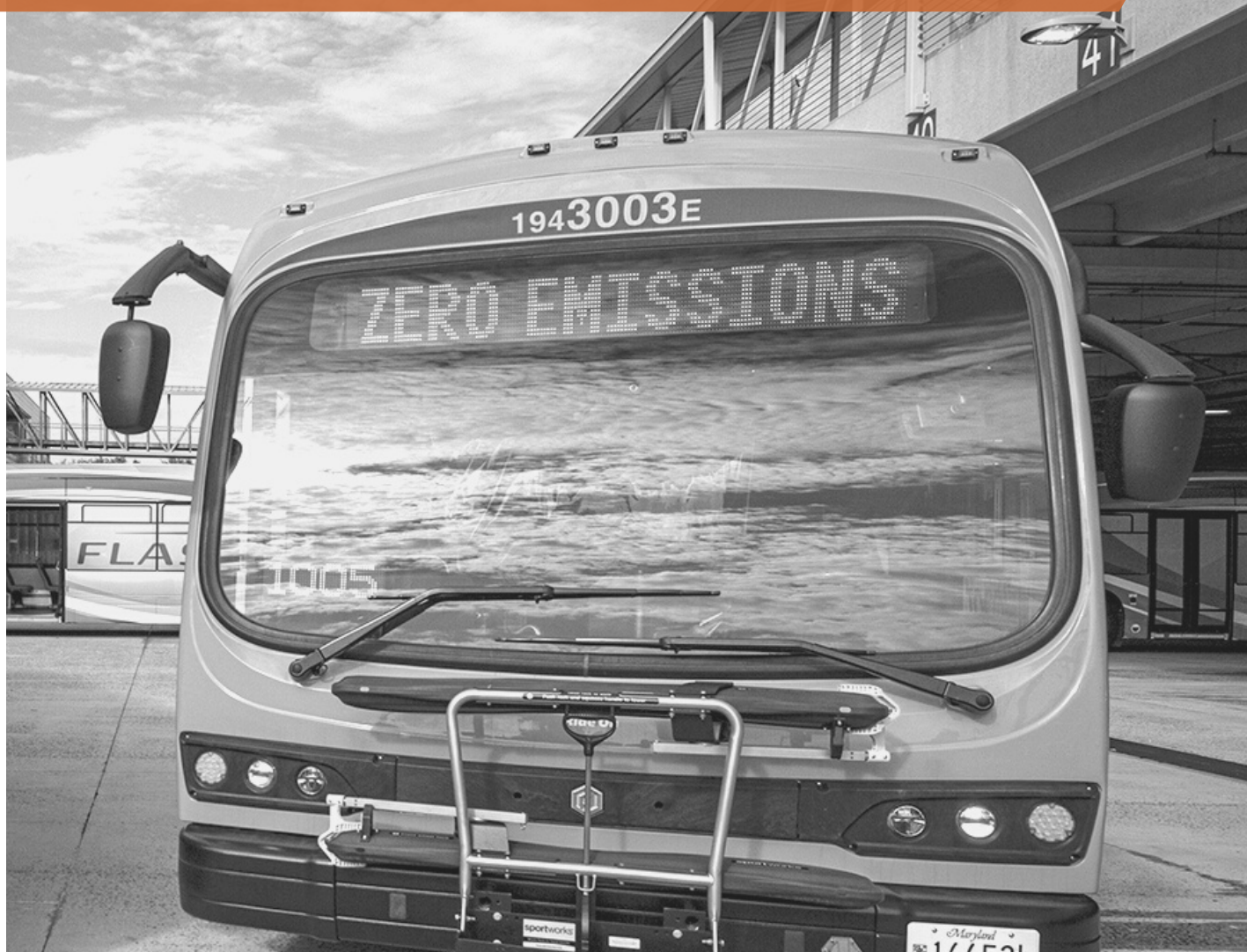
MCDOT

Here are just a few of the things MCDOT's 1,300 employees do every day to keep you moving.

GIVING YOU A SMOOTH RIDE

1,100 arterial road lane miles maintained

5,350 county-wide lane miles maintained (includes residential and rural roads)

MAINTAINING THE BRIDGES OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

515 highway bridges inspected on a regular basis

DOZENS OF BRIDGES rehabilitated every year

RUNNING ONE OF THE BUSIEST BUS SYSTEMS AROUND

2ND LARGEST transit system in the region

390 ADA-accessible Ride On buses with bike racks,

75% of which use alternative fuels

71,000 passenger pick-ups a day

16 million riders each year

5,405 bus stops

KEEPING TRAFFIC FLOWING WITH OUR TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT CENTER

860 managed traffic signals

240 traffic safety cameras

PARKING MADE EASIER

22,600 County-managed parking spaces

2,410 on-street parking meters

40 County-managed parking lots and garages

MAKING SURE IT IS ALWAYS A GOOD DAY TO WALK AND BIKE

1,645 miles of sidewalk maintained

67,000 streetlights

110 miles of bike lanes

MCDOT Montgomery County Department of Transportation

ABOUT MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County is the most populous county in the state of Maryland, with over one million residents. Located adjacent to Washington, D.C., and lined on one side by the Potomac River, the interlocking trails, parks, and transit systems are integrated into the metropolitan area where it resides. However, portions of the County further out from the city border are quite rural and have a rich history of agriculture.

Montgomery County has endless art and entertainment attractions within its 510 square miles and some of the nation's most beloved historical sites are nearby. Portions of Montgomery County are integrated with the Capital's Metro system for easy access to historical sites, museums, galleries, and nightlife. Also known for outdoor recreation, the County has endless trails, bike paths, and parks.

Montgomery County is unique for its rich diversity. According to a recent study, four of the top ten most diverse cities in the country are within Montgomery County, outranking New York and San Francisco.

Montgomery County residents are well educated with 32% of residents holding a master's degree or higher, compared to the National average of 12%. The public schools are excellent and an added attraction for families.

Montgomery County hosts many major U.S. government offices, scientific research centers, and large employers which support jobs and provide revenue for the County.

WHO WE ARE: MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Our transportation system is one of our most important resources. Supporting Montgomery County residents and visitors with transit options and infrastructure, we are a large organization with about 1,300 employees and a dedicated County budget of $230 million.

We own and operate nearly 400 buses and have been supporting residents with free fare throughout the pandemic. We have committed to offering free fare to seniors and persons with disabilities long-term. We are responsible for building and maintaining the County's infrastructure such as roads, paths, lighting, crosswalks, sidewalks, bus shelters, and drainage systems. MCDOT also provides oversight of major engineering projects such as the Wheaton redevelopment project that saw the building of a 310,000 square foot LEED-certified office building, underground parking garage, and plaza.

Our transportation systems and infrastructure overlap with multiple other transit agencies. The department works closely with regional partner agencies such as the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

The department has five divisions, ranging from 50 to 800 employees. These divisions include Highway Services, Parking Management, Transit Services, Traffic Engineering, and Operations and Transportation Engineering. These divisions work together to provide seamless service to the public.

MOVING PEOPLE AND CONNECTING PLACES IS OUR CORE BUSINESS

At MCDOT we strengthen our communities by connecting them through the best transportation choices and services possible. Having a range of high-quality transportation options - including bicycles, pedestrian walkways, and transit facilities - benefits everyone, including people who do not drive, those looking to reduce their household transportation spending, and those frustrated by congested commutes.

By increasing travel alternatives, we can move more people in fewer vehicles. This works to move goods and services more easily and lessens the environmental impacts caused by single-occupancy vehicles. It's better for our economy, our community, and our environment.

MISSION

To move people and connect places with seamless, equitable transportation options that are safe, environmentally responsible, and support economic growth and vibrancy in Montgomery County.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR, CHRIS CONKLIN

We are actively planning for a future with more jobs, more people, and a growing economy. Transportation is key to accessing opportunities including employment, education, and health care. We are dedicated to meeting these needs with safe and equitable transportation options. It's a future that requires a first-rate, multi-modal transportation system.

With the impact of COVID-19, these last two years have been challenging times, but MCDOT has had the benefit of an amazing workforce. Our more than 1,250 employees have managed to keep people moving. They found creative solutions that are redefining how we use spaces and provide services. Our programs have had an overwhelmingly positive impact on our communities. You will learn about many of them in the pages that follow.

Moving forward, we are committed to seeking out dynamic ways to reach our goals within our three priority areas. Priority areas include safety and our Vision Zero plans to eliminate severe injuries and deaths along our roadways; implementing the County's climate action plans for transportation; and helping the County achieve its economic growth and development goals in an equitable way.

We also understand that when individuals flourish it benefits our community as a whole. Transportation allows for inclusion, connectedness, and advancement. We are continuously looking for better ways to provide great service because the daily transportation choices we make as a community impact our community. I look forward to moving forward together.

MCDOT has five divisions represented below by the three service categories.

$230M

ANNUAL BUDGET

Over 1,300 Full Time Positions

Parking 10%

Infrastructure 25%
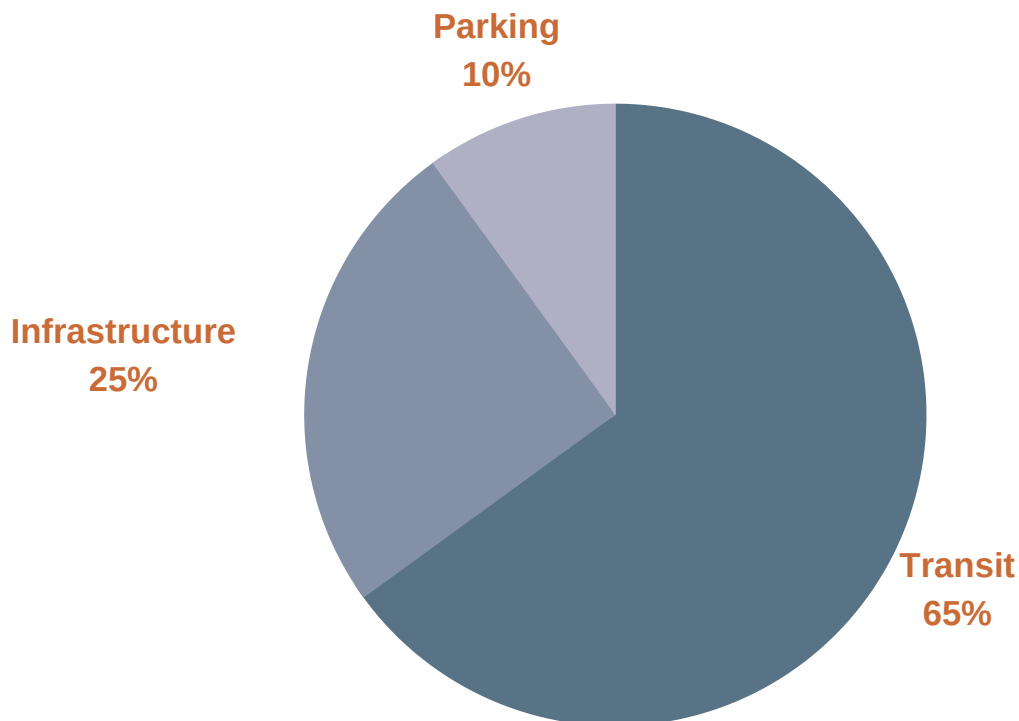
Transit 65%

The three categories represented above consist of the following:

Transit Operations: Includes transit services, community mobility services, and transit planning, training, and safety.

Infrastructure Development & Operations Maintenance: Includes infrastructure construction, roadway maintenance, right-of-way maintenance, transportation systems operations, emergency storm response, community transportation safety, transportation policy planning/project development.

Parking: Includes parking operations, parking fixed costs, parking enforcement and parking services administration.
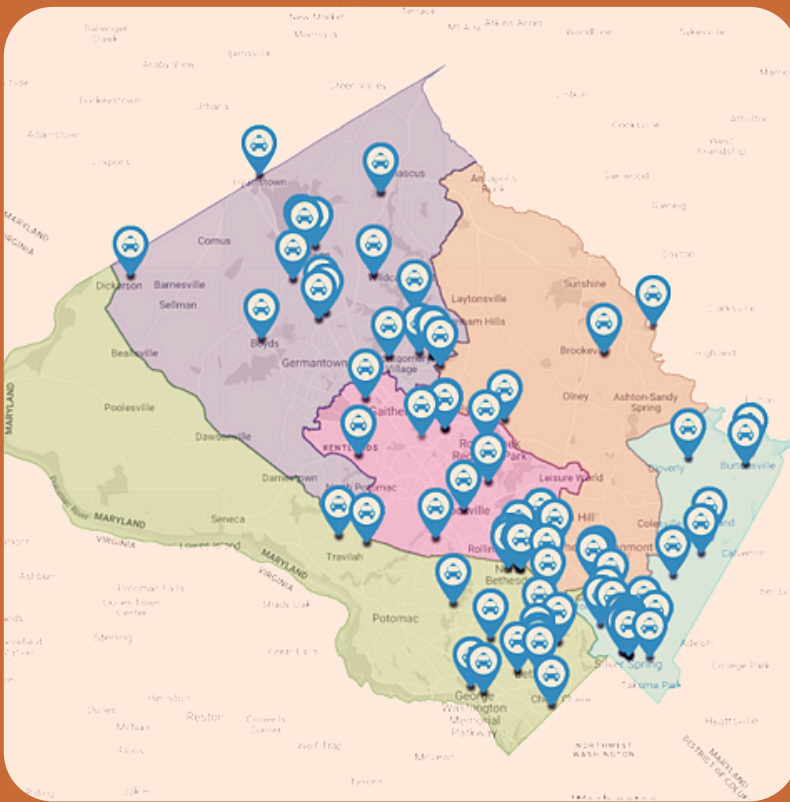
CAPITAL BUDGET FY2021-26

MCDOT has an approved 6 year capitol budget for major projects and long term investments.

$3.6B
6 YR CAPITAL BUDGET

125 Current Projects

Tap the map for project descriptions and bugets

Did you know?

Every year MCDOT applies for multiple large-scale grants to help fund transportation and infrastructure projects. In FY21 these funds helped pay for things like free transit fare during the COVID-19 pandemic, bridge rehabilitation projects, and purchasing zero-emission buses.

PRIORITY AREAS

SAFETY & VISION ZERO

Montgomery County has put resources in place to eliminate serious and fatal collisions on County roads for vehicle occupants, pedestrians, and bicyclists by the end of 2030. Montgomery County is one of the first county governments in the United States to initiate a Vision Zero plan.

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE RESILIENCY

Montgomery County has one of the nation's most aggressive climate action plans. Transportation related goals call for an emissions free fleet by 2035. To reduce our impact on the environment and carbon emissions, we need to be able to move people more efficiently than we do today.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & EQUITABLE ACCESS

Population and jobs are growing in this region. By building on our strengths and focusing on equity, inclusion, sustainability and a less impactful lifestyle, we can make investments that transform our infrastructure and services to better meet our needs now and in the future.

SAFETY & VISION ZERO

Safety is paramount to what we do. MCDOT works day-to-day to ensure the safety of streets, crosswalks, sidewalks, parking garages, bikeways, and bridges. There is a continual effort to maintain and build infrastructure to support and better connect our neighborhoods.

Montgomery County has put resources in place to eliminate serious and fatal collisions on County roads for vehicle occupants (drivers and passengers), pedestrians, and bicyclists by the end of 2030. Montgomery County is one of the first county governments in the United States to initiate a Vision Zero plan.
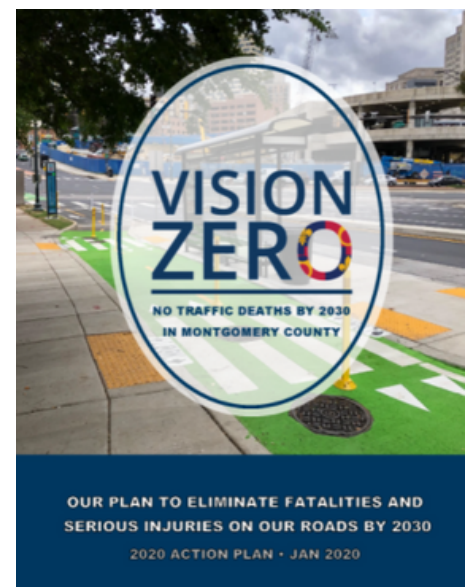
Local infrastructure was largely developed in the 1950's through 1980's with the goal of moving cars long distances at high speeds. And that is not our vision for the Montgomery County of the future.

We have been in transition for about 15 years from the earlier model to one where walking, biking and transit are emphasized. But that is a small amount of time compared to the 50-to-60-year investment made in the car-oriented system.

Remaking our infrastructure remains a big challenge – but MCDOT is committed to accelerating infrastructure changes that create a network that is less hazardous to people who are walking, biking, or using transit.

Worksite safety is paramount to our goals. Consistent safety training is utilized to ensure the safety of our employees.

While MCDOT has too many specialized safety programs to list, program highlights are listed on the next few pages.

VISION ZERO
NO TRAFFIC DEATHS BY 2030
IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

OUR PLAN TO ELIMINATE FATALITIES AND SERIOUS INJURIES ON OUR ROADS BY 2030
2020 ACTION PLAN · JAN 2020

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SAFETY & VISION ZERO PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

The **Twenty is Plenty Program** is a part of MCDOT's Vision Zero efforts to make the County safer for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists. The campaign sets the speed limit to 20 mph in designated areas as lower speeds lead to less-severe crashes.

Bus Driver Training is continuously given to assist in reducing crashes. The training emphasizes monitoring for pedestrians. The training works to meet vision zero objectives.

MCDOT has launched a **Real-Time Crash Data Pilot Program**. Using 100-200 cameras that collect data around the County, we are able to identify real-time near-crashes. These cameras will allow the department to study and correct safety issues.

Did you know?

MCDOT released a new roadway design guide to support people with vision disabilities. The document is a first-of-its-kind design guide, titled **Planning and Designing Streets to be Safer and More Accessible for People with Vision Disabilities**, that facilitates accessibility for people who are blind or have low vision by sharing strategies for public engagement, staff training, and improved pedestrian walkway design.

SAFETY & VISION ZERO PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

Highways are regularly evaluated to ensure a state of good repair to eliminate unexpected hazards, separation of users, speed management, and safe crossing.

We have identified multiple **Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Areas (BIPPA)**. These are geographical areas where the enhancement of bicycle and pedestrian traffic is a priority. The objective is to enhance safety, access and improve long-range connectivity.

We are continuously adding and maintaining beacons, crosswalks, and lighting to busy streets. Sidewalks and road diets are also implemented regularly to keep pedestrians and bicyclists safe. We also proactively add **safety measures** to eliminate low visibility issues surrounding County-owned garages.

The **Bridge Program** inspects County bridges a minimum of every two years. Older structures are inspected more frequently to ensure safety. Annually a number of County bridges are replaced.

SAFETY & VISION ZERO PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

MCDOT is currently **auditing Ride On bus stops** to correct for accessibility, visibility, and safety issues. Look out for improvements near you.

The **Complete Streets Design Guide** is a one-stop-shop for general planning and design guidance, unifying a number of policies, regulations, and other guidance from across multiple agencies. Complete Streets are roadways that are designed and operated to provide safe, accessible, and healthy travel for all users.

Part of Montgomery County's ongoing Pedestrian Safety Program, the **Annual Sidewalk Program** is set up to retrofit sidewalks on roadways where none have previously existed. Sidewalks increase pedestrian safety.

The **Bikeway Program** provides for the planning, design and construction of bikeways, trails, and bike route wayfinding signage throughout the County to develop the bikeway network.

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE RESILIENCY

Montgomery County has launched one of the nation's most aggressive climate action plans. MCDOT is doing its part by committing to a zero-emissions bus fleet by 2035.

To reduce our impact on the environment and carbon emissions, we need to be able to move people more efficiently than we do today. We are directing our future through actions and strategies that make transit easier, and equitable while reducing the environmental impact.

This year we rolled out our first four all-electric transit vehicles, and they have been exceeding the department's expectations. Ten more electric buses will be in circulation in the upcoming months. We are constructing a microgrid at the Silver Spring Depot that will support the transition of one-third of that depot's buses to all-electric vehicles.

Well-planned infrastructure such as bike lanes, paths, and last-mile transportation options support alternative modes of transportation. We are expanding the role of our Commuter Services office to actively promote alternative transportation options and incentives to communities for all types of travel. We also manage development reviews to assist businesses with development and redevelopment and to ensure that public facilities are appropriately designed.

In addition, we are encouraging public and commercial adoption of electric/zero-emission vehicles and fleets and implementing transportation demand management strategies to significantly reduce the use of single-occupancy vehicles.

We are actively working towards a future where one lives and works in a community that is connected to others without the use of energy-intensive transportation modes.

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ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE RESILIENCY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The **Tree Management program** includes street tree preservation, maintenance, and pruning trees in neighborhoods. MCDOT plants approximately 1,800 trees each year in the public right of way by public request.

The **Leaf Collection program** recycles 100,000 yards of leaves annually and composts them to make LeafGro, a fertilizer sold to local retailers.

MCDOT provides 40 **Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations** for public use. The department is working with industry leaders to add EV charging stations as demand rises.

Did you know?

With the four electric buses operating in Montgomery County, we are reducing greenhouse gasses by 9,668 tons in comparison to the use of standard diesel buses. A $1.75 million grant from the Federal Transit Administration Low or No Emission Competitive Program helped to fund our first electric buses.

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ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE RESILIENCY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

We have an RFP out for 75 additional **electric busses**. This will take us from 15 in 2022 to 90 zero-emissions vehicles in 2023. We are also looking at hydrogen fuel technology to power buses on our longer-distance routes and are installing a Solar Canopy Project in Silver Spring to charge our electric buses.

We are expanding the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) program, **Flash**, to 10 corridors. These corridors include Rockville Pike/355, Viers Mill Road, North Bethesda, and Randolph Road.

We wash and degrease each of our **parking facilities** twice a year to proactively reduce the amount of petroleum and silt reaching our streams and waterways.

Did you know?

MCDOT managed the Wheaton Redevelopment Project consisting of a 310,000 square foot LEED Platinum office building and parking garage. The project also included an outdoor plaza. The project was completed on time and on budget.

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ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE RESILIENCY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

We changed out over 35,000 streetlights, traffic signals, and parking garage lights to **LED lights** and the impact is an estimated annual energy savings of about 1.7M.

To address the increase in storm frequency and rainfall intensity, we have two assistance programs pertaining to **surface runoff drainage**. One is for maintenance of existing systems and the other is for addressing communities' requests for drainage improvements.

Our **Advanced Transportation Management Systems (ATMS)** manage the flow of traffic more efficiently and decrease congestion, idling, and greenhouse gas emissions.

Did you know?

We developed a program for Electric Vehicle (EV) charging in the public right of way to assist EV owners who don't have a garage or a driveway and drivers who may beed to recharge away from home.

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Population and jobs are growing in this region. Reliable and predictable funding for transportation services and infrastructure allows us to make the investments we need for our economy to be successful.

Transportation projects and services have a vast impact on the economy, connecting people with jobs, services, businesses and providing parking to support commerce. Transportation availability determines where people live, where businesses locate and impact residents' overall quality of life. Infrastructure has a primary role to play in development projects and land use.

Our team works to meet community goals while keeping doors open for future growth. We are creative thinkers, willing to try new things to better meet needs. During COVID-19, we implemented short-term strategic measures to assist businesses and create safe spaces to gather, such as Shared Streets and greenways. We are now assessing the impact of adopting some of these programs permanently.

By incorporating inclusive community feedback in decision-making, we are able to consistently evolve and better serve our diverse community. We are continuously finding ways to improve our transit systems, increase transportation access, and build infrastructure that is inclusive of multi-modal transportation. We view all of our services through a lens of equity to better connect our communities.

By building on our strengths and focusing on equity, inclusion, and sustainability we are making investments that are transforming our infrastructure, and services, to better meet community needs now and in the future.

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ECONOMIC GROWTH & EQUITABLE ACCESS

The **Shared Streets** program temporarily closes streets to cars to allow for in-street activities such as biking, walking, outdoor dining, and retail activity. Instated during the COVID-19 health crisis, many of these popular gathering areas are being evaluated for long-term use.

In partnership with BUP, the **Paint the Town program** brings murals to County-owned parking garages in Bethesda. Downtown beautification projects such as this draw in people and businesses.

The more efficient we make our parking garages, the more people we bring into an area. **Parking** directly impacts businesses and is an incentive for a business' location. Parking facilities help us build vibrancy.

Did you know?

Our Commuter Services Office has a FareShare Program that encourages the use of transit and vanpooling by employees working in Montgomery County by matching employer contributions. The county will reimburse the employer for any amount provided over the minimum $25 contribution, up to the full $270/month.

ECONOMIC GROWTH & EQUITABLE ACCESS

The **White Flint Project** is a development project reconfiguring disconnected suburban streets to create a grid that supports compact, urban, transit-oriented redevelopment to transform 20th-century suburban shopping centers into a nationally recognized 21st-century community.

We are continuously **building and maintaining infrastructure**. Well built infrastructure allows for people to get to employment, and gives people access to places. Safety brings businesses and pedestrians. Additional signals are added around businesses to facilitate foot traffic and support vibrancy.

Ride On Reimagined is a study of the County's bus system to ensure needs are being met to support economic growth and improve equitable access for our communities. There are currently 79 bus routes.

We are conducting a **pedestrian access study to all County public schools**. Equity emphasiss areas will be given priority for improvements. These areas have been historically underserved.

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ECONOMIC GROWTH & EQUITABLE ACCESS

We have been supporting the community throughout COVID-19 with **free bus fares** to boost the economy and ensure essential workers have transportation access. Kids, seniors, and people with disabilities will ride free long term. Our **fare equity study** is looking at recommendations for the long term.

Flex is an on-demand bus service that provides local accessibility on demand. For people in wheelchairs, the Flex offers door-to-door service.

Freight deliveries and commercial properties can be hindered by weight-limited bridges causing equity issues. We **eliminated posted bridges** with accelerated bridge construction.

Did you know?

We have created an internal Racial Equity and Social Justice Committee to ensure that transportation services, programs, and infrastructure planning are designed through a lens of equality. The committee also guides an internal culture and public interaction.

MCDOT's organization:

The Director's Office manages business operations, personnel, and the budget. It also manages transportation policy that includes coordinating with regional and state transportation systems and agencies and developers on land use and development proposals, traffic mitigation agreements, master and sector plans, and regional transportation priorities; plans and constructs a Bus Rapid Transit system; and manages commuter services, taxicab regulation and community outreach programs.

The Division of Highway Services maintains and repairs the County's transportation infrastructure. It rebuilds and repairs roadways, sidewalks, curbs and gutters; cleans and rebuilds storm drains and culverts; maintains and plants trees; removes snow from roadways and sidewalks; provides vacuum collection of leaves; and cares for right-of-ways by removing litter and mowing.

The Division of Parking Management helps Montgomery County achieve its economic development and transportation management goals by creating and managing public parking in commercial areas.

The Division of Traffic Engineering manages the County's road network to enhance safety for all users. It ensures safe and efficient traffic flow; provides crosswalks and roadway markings; installs and maintains traffic signs, streetlights and traffic signals; and improves pedestrian and traffic safety using traffic calming and other measures.

The Division of Transit Services operates the County's Ride On bus system; improves bus stops to meet accessibility standards and maintains them; and manages transportation services for seniors, persons with disabilities and low income residents.

The Division of Transportation Engineering designs and constructs transportation systems and infrastructure, including bikeways, sidewalks, transit facilities, ADA ramps, roads and storm drains; inspects, maintains and builds bridges; oversees the County's Bikeshare program; and acquires property for projects.

To request MCDOT services, please call 311 and place a service request.

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Montgomery County
Department of Transportation

September 2021