



**FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS
TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**AGENDA
Friendship Heights Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee Meeting – Teams
July 13, 2021**

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 (additions/deletions) | Barbara Condos |
| | 2. Review of Meeting Minutes
January (©2a) / March (©2b) | |
| | 3. Metro Update | Gary Erenrich
MCDOT-Special Assistant to the Director |
| | 4. Employer TDM Reports
Summary (©4) | Jim Carlson |
| | 5. Marketing Outreach Update | David Proctor
Nadiya Kutishcheva
TMD Outreach Staff |
| | 6. TMD/DOT/Other County Updates | Sandra Brecher
Kevin Simpson
Iftin Thompson
Jim Carlson |
| 10:00 | 7. Adjourn
<i>Next meeting date: September 14, 2021</i> | |

Information Items

- County Executive Elrich, Council President Hucker Join Department of Transportation's Launch of '20 is Plenty' Pilot Program
- Metro riders will soon see new, upgraded faregates as testing gets underway at six pilot stations
- Metro advises Red Line customers of safety and capital improvements in July, including closures of Rockville @ Shady Grove stations
- Metro Board targets zero-emission bus fleet by 2045
- MCDOT Reminder: Federal Regulations Continue to Require Face Coverings on Public Transportation Including Taxis, Ride Sharing, Ride On, Ride On Extra and Flash Bus
- Commuter Connections honors employers for excellence and innovation in commute alternative programs

**Friendship Heights
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
January 12, 2021**

2a

Voting Members

Barbara Condos (Chair)	Town of Somerset
Christopher Itteilag	Somerset House Management Association
Bob Banach	Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights
Afua Ofori	Polinger Co./Large Employer
Ahkeia Payne	GEICO
Elizabeth Demetra Harris	Friendship Heights Village
John Mertens (Vice Chair)	Friendship Heights Village

Non-Voting Members

Sandra L. Brecher	MCDOT/Transportation Policy-Commuter Services
Derrick Harrigan	B-CC Services Center
Iftin Thompson	M-NCPPC

TMD Staff

Jim Carlson	MCDOT/Transportation Policy-Commuter Services
Nakengi Byrd	MCDOT/Transportation Policy-Commuter Services

Absent

Chief John Fitzgerald	Chevy Chase Village Police
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Guests

Nate Bath	Regency Centers
Gary Erenrich	MCDOT
Kevin Johnson	Regency Centers
Bob Joiner	The Agenda News
Nadiya Kutishcheva	TMD Outreach
Julian Mansfield	Friendship Heights Village
David Proctor	TMD Outreach
Mayor Jeffrey Slavin	Town of Somerset

Item 1 & 2 – Introductions/Minutes: Barbra Condos opened the meeting, members and guests introduced themselves. Meeting minutes were tabled.

Item 3 – Metro Update: Gary Erenrich briefed the Committee on Metro operations and the Washington Post article discussing Metro Board of Directors decision to halt pending budgetary cuts. Also reported:

- The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act will provide additional funding for transit due to the pandemic
- Third amendment to retain current service levels with additional funding for supplemental service in areas underserved by transit

- Metro's budget is balanced until July 2021, then additional funding will be needed to fill budget gaps
- Frozen local subsidies for Metro operating subsidy cannot increase more than three percent a year
- Silverline Phase II initiation to be the first budget item for FY22, which will be a huge hit to Maryland funding
- For the second half of FY22 Metro will need to receive funding to fill budget gap or increase revenue from ridership
- Ridership projections are conservative due to difficulties in forecasting and the inability to request more funding once it has been distributed
- Metro resumed charging in January – Ride On fee collection on hold until plexiglass barriers are installed
- Uptick in fare media sales at the TRiPS and Mobile commuter stores
- Buses currently have greater ridership than Metrorail

Item 4 – Westbard Shopping Center Redevelopment Update: Nate Bath, Sr. Investments Manager, Regency Centers, presented an update on the Westbard project. It is a phased plan beginning with the Giant site, which has submitted a site plan and is working toward permits. Construction will start on the site this year and next to follow:

- Road alignment for Westbard Avenue – currently replying to comments for approval
- The Kensington Senior Living in the Westwood II Shopping Center has received site plan approval and is working toward permits
- The Manor Care site – no work started to this phase of townhome sites

Kevin Johnson, Regency Centers, reported they are working with MC Department of Environmental Protection for storm drain & paving permit and State Highway Administration (SHA) for access permit for Westbard realignment – hopeful of plan approval in the next months. Giant will be kept open while construction of the new site for zero downtime; however, the associated shops may see some downtime for the Westwood II site. He suggested coming back in May to give an update with a definitive construction timetable.

Item 5 – Marketing Outreach Updates: David Proctor reported:

- Increasing employer outreach to retailers – larger retailers more difficult to reach due to reduced staffing
- Sending e-blast to employers asking for feedback in how communication should be done, sending individual emails to prevent going to spam
- Searching for nominees for the COG Employer Recognition Awards
- Outreach information for Bike To Work Day, TDM Plans – employers have been less response due to holidays
- Walk & Ride Challenge was a success – winning team: Washington Eye Physicians & Surgeons, with average with 513,817 steps
- Starbucks showed interest in joining the TMD AC – meetings open to public and interested companies

Item 6 – County Updates:

- All-TMD meeting on the Climate Action Plan (CAP) will be either Feb. 10th or 17th

- CAP draft is on the County's website @ www.montgomerycountymd.gov/climate. The draft is 400 pages – pg.114 starts the Transportation Section and also included is a virtual meeting room
- Electric vehicle (EV) group buy co-op to reduce the cost of vehicle purchasing
- Implementation of Vision Zero 10 year plan goals
- New Capital Bikeshare corporate plan approach to reduce employee membership fees
- Commuter Services Telework webinar next week
- Bike Match program is looking for bike donations – children's bikes also accepted
- Plan review of conversion of Wisconsin Place retail to medical office
- Winterization efforts in Bethesda to stabilize restaurant business as there is no indoor dining; outdoor dining provided by "Shared Streets" initiative

Around the Room: Julian Mansfield reported on turning one lane of Willard Avenue into a dedicated right lane at Friendship Blvd. he will forward more information regarding the request.

Adjourn: Next Meeting March 9, 2021

**Friendship Heights
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
March 9, 2021**

2b

Voting Members

Barbara Condos (Chair)	Town of Somerset
Christopher Itteilag	Somerset House Management Association
Bob Banach	Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights
Afua Ofori	Polinger Co./Large Employer
Ahkeia Payne	GEICO
Elizabeth Demetra Harris	Friendship Heights Village
John Mertens (Vice Chair)	Friendship Heights Village

Non-Voting Members

Sandra L. Brecher	MCDOT/Transportation Policy-Commuter Services
Derrick Harrigan	B-CC Services Center
Iftin Thompson	M-NCPPC

TMD Staff

Jim Carlson	MCDOT/Transportation Policy-Commuter Services
Nakengi Byrd	MCDOT/Transportation Policy-Commuter Services

Absent

Chief John Fitzgerald	Chevy Chase Village Police
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Guests

Gary Erenrich	MCDOT
Peter James	Crystal Clear Automation
Bob Joiner	The Agenda News
Nadiya Kutishcheva	TMD Outreach
Julian Mansfield	Friendship Heights Village
David Proctor	TMD Outreach
Mayor Jeffrey Slavin	Town of Somerset

Item 1 & 2 – Introductions/Minutes -Members and guests introduced themselves. Meeting minutes were tabled.

Derrick Harrigan announced that this is his last meeting as he has taken another position with the Office of Management & Budget. **Kevin Simpson** will fill in until a replacement is found.

Sande Brecher placed today's presentation in context explaining that Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) is not a substitute for the MD 355 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system. The PRT system has not been evaluated by the County; however, MD 355 BRT has been through preliminary design & engineering review. PRT is being presented as a transportation alternative as a first mile-last mile solution.

Item 3 – Presentation-Personal Rapid Transit PRT: **Peter James** from Crystal Clear Automation, a robotics company in Gaithersburg, explained the benefits & operation of the system and how PRT using genetic algorithms to solve transportation problems. He said PRT, as the Dallas/Fort Worth area demonstrates, alleviates traffic congestion by removing vehicles same as the function of the Transportation Management District (TMD). Also discussed:

- Maryland Transit Administration is studying PRT along two corridors
- Because of its design, PRT does not intersect with other vehicular and pedestrian traffic, thus meeting Vision Zero goals of no roadway fatalities or serious injuries
- PRT contributes to greenhouse gas reduction, as vehicles are equipped with a solar roof

Mr. James explained the need for the PRT, saying that Maryland was voted second worse traffic, and Baltimore received a grade of “F” for job access. The PRT offers a new paradigm of a transportation option:

- Vehicles are lighter than the older models that were heavier due to the lead acid batteries
- Self-driving “pods” are calibrated to avoid collisions
- PRT has the same carrying capacity as heavy rail and freight
- Increase accessibility as one can drive pods home
- Lowest transit times and point to point without stops
- Cost reducing, as a 1000-mile network cost the same as toll roads
- Can be elevated, lowering environmental impact – pods are four feet wide, and three can fit on a 12-foot-wide lane
 - Would not have to widen the American Legion Bridge to accommodate traffic volume
- Lowers the cost of design planning, as genetic algorithms synthesize data for construction design
- Shared parking in the Ft. Worth/Dallas area to get people to park their cars and ride PRT- origin data is needed to find out where spaces should be placed. GEICO is an option for the Friendship Heights area

Q & A discussion:

- Baltimore Senator **Cory McCray** excited about the project and helping to secure funding – local currency (B notes) and transportation lottery as funding options
- Getting people to understand the PRT system is a major obstacle
- The vehicles can be owned by jurisdictions or a third party
- The City of Jacksonville has received a \$12 million grant to replace their monorail system with an Autonomous Bus Guideway and also in Rotterdam
- New York is retrofitting one subway lines with PRT system
- **Councilmember Craig Rice** trying to secure the old Public Safety lot for a testing track, also looking at using Fairgrounds instead
- **Mr. James’** company developed a robotic mower with a centimeter accuracy
- A main control system keeps pods separated
- The PRT can have large vehicles as well
- Vehicles can be both autonomous and a smart car hybrid
- The PRT system can be used to benefit transit equity in neighborhoods where a high percentage of residents without a car – vehicles autonomously return to a central recharging station on off hours
- PRT can be integrated into the Ride On Flex system

Item 4 – Metro FY22 Budget: **Gary Erenrich** reported that Metro will hold public hearings for each jurisdiction regarding proposed budget cuts; however, the new CARES funding looks promising to pass which will eliminate cuts. Public comment is greatly encouraged. Also reported:

- Ride On to receive funds if third Cares Act is approved
- Ride On to collect fares in April due to barrier installations

Item 5 - Employer TDM Reports: **Jim Carlson** reported one company, Microsoft, up for review. Microsoft meets the requirements.

The Committee voted to recommend approval to the MCDOT Director to approve the TDM Report.

Item 6 – Marketing Outreach Update:

- Outreach to Employers for TDM plans answering questions - technical issues with portal
- Weekly e-blast giving information regarding schedule changes and shutdowns

Item 7 – TMD/DOT/Other County Updates: **Sande Brecher** reported:

- Bike to Work Day on May 21st will not be in-person for the 20th anniversary. Bike shops will be t-shirt pick up stations; registration required-Chevy Chase Athletic Club will be the t-shirt location in Friendship Heights
- Comments are being reviewed by work pods for the Climate Action Plan. The Plan will be released sometime this Spring with Thrive 2050 included in plan actions

Adjourn: Next meeting date – TBD

Friendship Heights TMD
Traffic Demand Management Plan Summary
July 2021

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	Employees	Status	Recommend to MCDOT
JBG Smith	405 FT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre-tax benefit• Bike racks / lockers• New employee info• Flexible schedules	Yes
Microsoft (voluntary plan)	14 FT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flexible schedules	Yes
Washington Eye Physicians & Surgeons	62 FT 1 PT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre-tax & direct benefit - \$270• Capital Bikeshare membership subsidy• New employee info• Flexible schedules	Yes

Montgomery County Executive Elrich, Council President Hucker Join Department of Transportation's Launch of '20 is Plenty' Pilot Program

For Immediate Release: Thursday, June 17, 2021

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) today launched the Vision Zero pilot program "20 is Plenty" in North Bethesda. The program will lower speed limits to 20 miles per hour on targeted streets to promote safer roadways for pedestrians and bicyclists.

County Executive Marc Elrich, County Council President Tom Hucker and Councilmembers Andrew Friedson and Evan Glass participated in the ceremonies near Woodglen Drive in North Bethesda. It is one of five local roads that are included in the start of pilot program.

"As we continue to reopen, traffic will increase, which will lead to more cars on the road and pedestrians crossing streets," said County Executive Elrich. "This is why we must focus on increasing safety measures throughout Montgomery County communities so that we reduce the number of fatalities. In 2019, Montgomery County saw 1,200 speed-induced crashes resulting in 32 lives lost, which is far too many. The 20 is Plenty effort is designed to engage residents and save more lives."

Over the last few years, the 20 is Plenty campaign has set new normal speed behaviors internationally in nations including Canada, Sweden, Scotland and the United Kingdom. Nationally, Montgomery County will be joining approximately six other locations, primarily on the West Coast, which have lowered speed limits to 20 mph on select streets.

"I'm hopeful that this program will be the beginning of a much larger push to slow speeds and save lives," said Council President Hucker. "We are committed to improving safety on our roadways and taking sensible, repeated steps to meet our Vision Zero goals."



MCDOT Director Chris Conklin said: "Speed is a major factor in serious injuries and fatalities on our roadways. The 20 is Plenty approach is intended to encourage lower speeds in areas where motor vehicles mix with pedestrians and cyclists. Lower speed limits and additional signage is intended to make drivers aware of the need to drive slowly and cautiously in these areas and on streets surrounding the designated 20 is Plenty locations."

During its 2021 session, the Maryland General Assembly passed House Bill 562, sponsored by the Montgomery County House Delegation. The bill authorizes Montgomery County and its municipalities to decrease the maximum speed limit to not less than 15 miles per hour on highways, but only after performing an engineering and traffic investigation.

"20 is Plenty is an important way to build awareness about the dangers of driving at dangerous speeds," said Councilmember Friedson. "Together with physical changes to the roadway that slow down drivers, this initiative can help make our roadways safe for all users—pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers."

Streets included in the pilot program are designated in the Montgomery County Road Code as Urban Roads. The five pilot roadways include:

- Century Boulevard – Germantown
- Executive Boulevard – North Bethesda
- Greenwood Avenue – Long Branch
- Pinnacle Drive – Germantown
- Woodglen Drive – North Bethesda

The program results will be used to determine how, where and if the program should be expanded.

The pilot program falls under the County adopted Vision Zero action plan to eliminate serious and fatal collisions on County roadways for vehicle occupants, pedestrians and bicyclists by 2030.

"Slower speeds provide a safety buffer by shortening stopping distances and lessening the impact of crashes," said Director Conklin. "When crash impact speeds rise from 20 to 30 miles per hour, the risk of fatality to a pedestrian increases eight-fold. Safety is at the center of all of our work. We are constantly asking ourselves what can be done to better protect the public and this pilot program falls in alignment with these values."

For more information on MCDOT's programs visit, <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot>.

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Release ID: 21-473

Media Contact: Emily DeTitta 240-372-2282



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For immediate release: June 25, 2021

Metro riders will soon see new, upgraded faregates as testing gets underway at six pilot stations

Metro today began public testing at six rail stations of new, modernized faregates that will replace Metro's aging faregate technology. The new faregates will include enhanced safety features, larger displays, and faster processing that will make passing through the gates quicker and easier.

As part of a month-long pilot project, test faregates have been installed at Clarendon, Dunn Loring, Gallery Place, Glenmont, Waterfront and West Falls Church stations for customers to try out. Once testing is complete, Metro will begin the systemwide replacement as early as next month.

"Metro's faregates are more than 25 years old and at the end of their useful life," said Metro General Manager and Chief Executive Officer Paul J. Wiedefeld. "Modernizing our fare payment technology will take Metro into the future. Customers can already pay with their mobile devices and soon new and improved faregates will make it quicker, and easier for anyone to ride."

The faregate replacement project is part of Metro's overall investment in improving the customer experience and fare payment system. Today, Metro customers have the option of contactless fare payment with [SmarTrip mobile pay](#) for iOS and Android. Customers can pay, buy passes and manage their accounts from their mobile devices.

Beginning this fall, Metro will replace approximately 2,500 parking meters with pay stations that will offer more convenient payment options, so customers can ditch their coins. Next year, Metrobus customers will also benefit from new fareboxes that will be installed across Metro's fleet of more than 1,500 buses.

The new faregates are made with high-quality, brush-finished stainless steel and will replace more than 1,200 faregates across all 91 stations. Installation systemwide is expected to take approximately one year, with Metro working on clusters of four to six stations at once during overnight and non-business hours. Each cluster of stations will take one to two weeks to complete with the Potomac Ave, Eastern Market, Capitol South and Federal Center SW stations being the first to get the new faregates. Stations will remain open to customers during the replacement process.

In modernizing the faregates, Metro's first-generation SmarTrip cards, issued in 2012 or earlier, will not be compatible with the new faregates and will need to be replaced once full installation begins at stations you use. Beginning today, SmartBenefits participants who are actively using Metro or a Regional Bus Partner may also begin to replace their first-generation SmarTrip cards using the online, self-service replacement process. To learn more and determine if your card needs to be replaced visit [wmata.com/cardreplacement](https://www.wmata.com/cardreplacement) (<https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwmata.com%2Fcardreplacement&data=04|01|SLLy%40wmata.com|3d479cc56fcd4c617efb08d937e2ec58|ad5836f40d7443cd83c5>)

Additional information can be found on Metro's [Fare System Modernization](#) page. For details and schedule updates on the faregate replacement view the [Faregate Replacement Project](https://www.wmata.com/initiatives/plans/fare-modernization/faregate-replacement.cfm) (<https://www.wmata.com/initiatives/plans/fare-modernization/faregate-replacement.cfm>) page.

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For immediate release: June 11, 2021

Metro advises Red Line customers of safety and capital improvements that will affect service starting in July

Mejoras de capital de Línea roja; 紅線資本改善; 레드 라인 자본 개선

Español	中文 (简体)	한국어
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As part of Metro's investment in safety and reliability, construction will begin in July on the first of two major capital projects on the Red Line that will upgrade the tunnel ventilation system and repair platform canopies. The work is expected to cause significant impacts for customers, with around-the-clock single tracking and station closures.

"It is important that we continue with this safety critical work so that we are ready and able to resume normal operations as the region reopens," said Metro General Manager Paul J. Wiedefeld. "We will be working around the clock, seven-days a week, to maximize efficiencies and allow us to get the work done more quickly."

On Saturday, July 17, and continuing through Sunday, August 29, Metro and its contractor will begin a project that will allow the installation of new, more powerful fans in the tunnels adjacent to Woodley Park and Cleveland Park as part of a pilot project to improve station and tunnel safety in the event of a smoke or fire emergency.

The 24/7 schedule will help Metro reduce the duration of the project and minimize the impact to customers. During construction, trains will continuously single track between Dupont Circle and Van Ness. Crews, working in the tunnels more than 100 feet below Connecticut Avenue, will build the infrastructure necessary to add new evacuation fans at the base of the ventilation shafts.

Two weekend shutdowns will also be needed, with free shuttle buses replacing trains this summer. Additional weekend closures will be necessary in 2022 to complete the fan installation, commissioning and safety testing.

The tunnel ventilation project was developed in response to a National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) directive to upgrade tunnel ventilation after the 2015 smoke incident at L'Enfant Plaza.

As the oldest line in the Metrorail system, the Red Line ventilation shafts and fans were installed prior to the establishment of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) safety standards for transit systems.

Following the ventilation project construction, Metro will begin work in September to replace the platform canopy at Rockville where the concrete beam structures, original to construction in the 1980's, are deteriorating.

The canopy project will take three months and require the closure of the Rockville and Shady Grove stations from September 11 through December 4. Free shuttle bus service will be provided to/from the closed stations.

Replacing the canopy at Rockville Station will require heavy equipment and the demolition of the existing structure, section by section. The new canopy structure will be pre-fabricated and lifted into place for installation.

Additional customer improvements will also be made to the canopy, including new, more efficient LED skylights, upgraded speaker system for station announcements, new digital screens for passenger information and new CCTV cameras for improved security among others.

During this time, Metro will also make repairs to the aging canopy roof at Shady Grove Station and perform other safety critical work to enhance service for customers.

The ventilation improvements and canopy rehabilitation projects are funded through Metro's 6-year, \$9.7 billion Capital Improvement Program, which invests in system safety, reliability and the region's economy.

Service Information:

July 17 – August 29

- Continuous single tracking between Dupont Circle and Van Ness stations.
- Trains will operate every 18 minutes between Shady Grove and Glenmont.
- Additional trains will operate between Glenmont and Farragut North from opening until 7 p.m. on weekdays only to provide more frequent service.
- Customers may also wish to use Metrobus Route L2 which runs along Connecticut Ave between Chevy Chase Circle and Farragut Square as an alternative.

Weekends of August 7-8 and August 28-29

- Red Line trains will operate in two segments: Shady Grove to Van Ness; and Dupont Circle to Glenmont.
- Free shuttle buses replace trains between Dupont Circle and Van Ness stations.
- Cleveland Park and Woodley Park stations closed.

Additional weekend shutdowns and single tracking may be necessary in 2022 to allow for safety testing.

September 11-December 4

- Red Line trains will operate normal service between Glenmont and Twinbrook only.
- Free shuttle buses replace trains between Shady Grove and Twinbrook stations.

- Shady Grove and Rockville stations closed.
- Park & Ride customers at Shady Grove and Rockville may wish to use Twinbrook or White Flint as an alternative.
- MARC and Amtrak service will continue to operate at Rockville, with no disruption to service.
- Due to the staging of heavy equipment and construction materials, Metrobus and other bus service will be rerouted. Additional details will be provided at a later date.

Additional information about service and how to stay informed can be found on the [Ventilation Project page](#) and the [Rockville Canopy page](#) (<https://wmata.com/initiatives/plans/Rockville-Canopy/index.cfm>) on wmata.com.

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For immediate release: June 24, 2021

Metro Board targets zero-emission bus fleet by 2045

Approves Sustainability Policy Principles to Guide Metro's Future

Today, Metro's Board of Directors approved a major change to its Metrobus fleet that supports the region's clean air goals, establishes guidelines for more sustainable business practices, and re-elected its Chairman to a third term in office.

Reflecting back on the turbulence of the pandemic and the economy, with a concurrent national discourse on equity, Board Chair Paul C. Smedberg said, "It's been a challenging time for all of us at Metro, and I am proud that our leadership and absolutely essential workforce continued to support our customers and the communities we serve every day. With the approval of new sustainability principles, commitment to zero bus emissions, and recovery service and fare plans, we have flipped challenges to opportunities. We are committed to providing better, more equitable, and more affordable transit service than ever before at a time when the region's economic and social recovery depends on Metro."

The Board took a major step toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving local air quality with the approval of a new [Metrobus fleet strategy](#) that would create a 100% zero-emission bus fleet by 2045, with a full transition to electric or other zero-emission bus purchases by 2030. Metro's upcoming Electric Bus Test and Evaluation, which includes the procurement of approximately 12 electric buses in FY2023, will provide data and experience with electric bus performance in Metro operating conditions. The fleet strategy approved today proposes a phased conversion of the 1,500-vehicle Metrobus fleet as zero-emission technologies develop, as well as needed investments in compatible facilities, infrastructure and work force in the coming years.

The Board also approved Sustainability Vision and Principles, which provide a new framework to help guide long-term policy and investment decisions. The vision and principles recognize that Metro's investments and operational decisions have immediate and significant impacts on health, equity, economic prosperity, and the overall social and economic wellbeing of the region.

Gidigbi-Jenkins & Goldman depart Board; Letourneau to chair Safety & Operations Committee

"I want to thank Board Member Stephanie Gidigbi-Jenkins for her leadership on the Board since 2019," Smedberg said. "Her voice has been an important one as the Board engaged in major policy initiatives, especially as an advocate for low-income and minority customers."

Smedberg began his Board service in January 2016 as the alternate member appointed by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) to represent Alexandria. In 2019, he was appointed by the Governor of Virginia and Virginia Secretary of Transportation through NVTC as a principal member representing the Commonwealth of Virginia. He was elected Chairman in June 2019, and re-elected in 2020. During his tenure as Chair, the Board has adopted tougher ethics rules, established an equity framework, and developed multiple budget and service plans in support of Metro's Covid-19 pandemic response and recovery efforts.

The Board also announced that, beginning in July, Board Member Matt Letourneau would begin serving as chair of the Safety and Operations Committee. Michael Goldman, who has chaired the Safety and Operations Committee for the past two years, is retiring from the Board after eight years of service.

"We are grateful for Michael Goldman's leadership as chair of the Safety and Operations Committee at what has really been a period of intense maturation of our safety culture," Smedberg said. "Mr. Goldman invested extraordinary time to ensure that the Board engaged deeply, consistently, and transparently in the tough safety issues Metro has confronted."

The Board also elected the District's Deputy Mayor for Operations and Infrastructure Lucinda Babers as First Vice Chair and Maryland Transportation Secretary Greg Slater as Second Vice Chair.

"The combination of Secretary Slater's continuing leadership on financial and service policies, and the experience Deputy Mayor Babers has quickly brought to the Board, position us to address some complex issues this fall including our complicated fare structure, and our need to be responsive with rail and bus service as the region reopens," Smedberg said.

Donald G. Drummer joins the Board next month as the new Principal Member from Maryland. A Prince George's County resident and solar energy entrepreneur, Drummer retired as a senior executive from the Federal Aviation Administration and as a Colonel from the U.S. Army.

"We look forward to welcoming Mr. Drummer to the Board this summer, and to benefitting from his expertise and participation in policy discussions on sustainability and fare structure, among other important topics," Smedberg said.

Press Releases - Department of Transportation

MCDOT Home » Press Releases » Release

MCDOT Reminder: Federal Regulations Continue to Require Face Coverings on Public Transportation Including Taxis, Ride Sharing, Ride On, Ride On Extra and Flash Bus

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, June 30, 2021



The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) is reminding residents that even though many COVID-19 restrictions are easing, Federal guidelines continue to require face coverings when traveling by public transportation. The regulation covers County Ride On buses, Ride On extra, Flash, Metrobus, Metrorail and when taking taxis or on-demand car services.

All MCDOT buses have a supply of face coverings for those who do not have their own.

Most statewide restrictions regarding COVID-19 will end on July 1 and Maryland's state of emergency will legally lift on Aug. 15. However, Federal guidelines are still in place for public transit through at least Sept. 13.

All Ride On, Ride On extRa and Flash buses will remain free to all passengers through at least September. Fees were suspended during the onset of the pandemic.

Social distancing continues to be strongly recommended on board the buses and trains and at bus stops and shelters. Riders are asked to make their best effort to maintain maximum physical distance between themselves and other riders who are not from the same household.

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



For the most up-to-date service information, riders should follow @RideOnMCT on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. In addition, information is available at rideonbus.com or by subscribing to "Ride On Services" email alerts. Riders also can receive text alerts by texting MONTGOMERY RIDEON to 468311.

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

Media Contact: Emily DeTitta, 240-372-2282 or emily.detitta@montgomerycountymd.gov

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Recordatorio del Departamento de Transporte: Las regulaciones federales continúan exigiendo que se use cobertura facial en el transporte público, incluidos taxis, viajes compartidos, y en los autobuses Ride On, Ride On Extra y Flash

El Departamento de Transporte del Condado de Montgomery (MCDOT, por sus siglas en inglés) les recuerda a los residentes que, aunque muchas restricciones de COVID-19 se están suavizando, las pautas federales continúan exigiendo que se cubra la cara cuando se viaja en transporte público. La regulación cubre los autobuses Ride On del condado, Ride On Extra, Flash, Metrobus, Metrorail y cuando se toman taxis o servicios de automóviles a pedido.

Todos los autobuses MCDOT tienen un suministro de cubiertas faciales para aquellos que no tienen la suya propia.

La mayoría de las restricciones estatales con respecto a COVID-19 terminarán el 1 de julio y el estado de emergencia de Maryland se levantará legalmente el 15 de agosto. Sin embargo, las pautas federales siguen vigentes para el transporte público hasta al menos el 13 de septiembre.

Todos los autobuses Ride On, Ride On Extra y Flash seguirán siendo gratuitos para todos los pasajeros hasta al menos septiembre. Las tarifas se suspendieron durante el inicio de la pandemia.

Se sigue recomendando encarecidamente el distanciamiento social a bordo de los autobuses y trenes y en las paradas y casetas de autobuses. Se les pide a los pasajeros que hagan su mejor esfuerzo para mantener la máxima distancia física entre ellos y otros pasajeros que no pertenecen al mismo hogar.

El Departamento de Servicios Generales del Condado sigue limpiando el interior de los autobuses dos veces al día con desinfectante de grado hospitalario. Los filtros y los sistemas de ventilación de los autobuses también se tratan cada noche con un desinfectante.



Para obtener la información de servicio más actualizada, los pasajeros deben seguir a @RideOnMCT en Twitter, Facebook, Instagram y YouTube. Además, la información está disponible rideonbus.com o subscribiéndose a las alertas por correo electrónico de "Ride On Services". Los pasajeros también pueden recibir alertas de texto enviando un mensaje de texto con la frase MONTGOMERY RIDEON al 468311.

Para más información sobre los programas y servicios de MCDOT visite: montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdot, siga a @MCDOTNow en Twitter, y suscríbase al boletín de MCDOT 'Go Montgomery!'.

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Release ID: 21-089

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NEWS RELEASE

Commuter Connections honors employers for excellence and innovation in commute alternative programs

Jun 29, 2021



Commuter Connections Employer Award winner National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases with TPB Vice Chair Pamela Sebesky.

Commuter Connections proudly recognized local employers Tuesday for their outstanding commute alternative programs, hosting the 24th annual Employer Recognition Awards ceremony at the National Press Club in the District of Columbia.

Commuter Connections is a program of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG).

Commuter Connections recognized the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), GEICO, and the American Speech–Language–Hearing Association (ASHA), with awards for their incentives, marketing, and telework programs, respectively. In addition, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) received the 2021 Employer Services Sales Team Achievement Award and the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) received the 2021 Employer Services Organization Achievement Award.



TPB Chair Charles Allen and representatives from the Fairfax County Department of Transportation.

“The employers we are honoring today have implemented innovative and successful commuter and telework programs,” said Charles Allen, District of Columbia Councilmember and TPB Chair. “We hope that through their example, other organizations will embrace similar initiatives, creating more opportunities to maximize the efficiencies of shared commutes.”

A selection committee evaluated a wide pool of employers, all of which focused on improving their community through commute alternative programs. Ultimately, the selection committee chose the winners based on their ability to offer measurable commuter benefits that reduce gasoline consumption and emissions through fewer vehicle trips and miles traveled, and for implementing policies that have improved the commutes of their employees. By incentivizing and marketing these policies and programs, employers help the region reduce traffic congestion and emissions.

“We are thrilled to honor ASHA, GEICO, and NIAID for their ongoing dedication to promoting commuting alternatives for their employees,” said Nicholas Ramfos, Commuter Connections Director. “I look forward to seeing how these organizations continue to grow and develop their programs, inspiring other employers to do the same.”

The 24th 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

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) received the 2021 Employer Recognition Award for commuter incentives. NIAID offers a variety of commuter incentives, including carpool and vanpool parking, electric vehicle charging stations, secure bike parking, a bike trail, and showers and lockers. NIAID offers employee health and wellness classes and on-site fitness areas, as well as a cafeteria, coffee shop, and two outdoor dining areas that encourage employees to stay on campus for lunch. Of its 4,500 regional employees, 40 percent telework up to eight days a month, supported by NIAID’s flexible scheduling. NIAID is located just a half-mile from a Metrorail station and 37 percent of employees receive a transportation subsidy up to the federal limit. As a result of its various commuter benefits and amenities offered, NIAID has saved an average of 11,700,000 employee vehicle miles and an estimated 534,000 gallons of gasoline annually.

Marketing Award

GEICO received the 2021 Employer Recognition Award for the marketing of its commuter benefits program. GEICO matches employee contributions to the Metrorail SmartBenefits up to \$110 per month and encourages bike commuting through its installation of bike racks, lockers, and showers. GEICO promotes its commuter benefits program to employees through new hire orientations, bi-annual benefits fairs, its intranet, emails, and brochures within the cafeteria and break rooms. GEICO also partners with Montgomery County Commuter Services to promote participation in annual events such as the Walk and Ride Challenge and Bike to Work Day. Through marketing its commuter programs to its employees, GEICO has helped reduce employee vehicle miles by 1,384,000 and save an estimated 62,910 gallons of gasoline annually.

Telework Award

The American Speech–Language–Hearing Association (ASHA) received the 2021 Employer Recognition Award for its telework program. Since 2004, ASHA has grown its telework program from one of every six employees to one of every two employees teleworking up to 66 percent of their total workdays. Entirely remote throughout the pandemic, ASHA provided equipment such as laptops, home monitors, and desk chairs and provided each employee with \$500 to purchase home-office supplies. ASHA's "Wellbeing Navigator" provided ergonomic sessions so employees remain comfortable within a home/office setting. The organization has also maintained a flextime program that allows staff to manage their individual work schedule arrangements. ASHA's telework and work schedule alternatives programs have helped reduce employee vehicle miles by 700,650 and save an estimated 31,848 gallons of gasoline annually.

Employer Services Sales Team Achievement Award

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) won the 2021 Employer Services Sales Team Achievement Award. During the past year, with just three full-time sales representatives, DDOT made more than 3,200 contacts with employers in the District of Columbia and its goDCgo staff held 88 webinars and virtual meetings. Selection of the award was based on information provided by the sales teams as part of their required monthly reporting to COG and TPB and through ongoing database verifications. DDOT's goDCgo program is proudly supported by Foursquare ITP, Steer, and Clark Concepts.

Employer Services Organization Achievement Award

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) received the 2021 Employer Services Organization Achievement Award for its tireless efforts in aiding Fairfax County employers through the impacts of the Metrorail Platform Reconstruction Projects. FCDOT coordinated with local, regional, state, and federal partners to engage with more than 1,400 Fairfax County employers in its customized planning to help prepare essential employees and vulnerable transit users to rethink their commutes during the service disruptions.

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