



**FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS
TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**AGENDA
Friendship Heights Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee Meeting – Teams Format
March 14, 2023**

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

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

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- | | | |
|--------------|---|---|
| 8:30 | 1. Introductions/Agenda Review | Jim Carlson/All |
| | 2. Review of Meeting Minutes
Tabled | All |
| | 3. Presentation: Friendship Heights Alliance | Rachel Davis
Walnut Street Creative |
| | 4. Metro Update | Gary Erenrich
MCDOT-Special Assistant to the Director |
| | 5. Employer TDM Annual Reports
Summary (©5) | Jim Carlson/All |
| | 6. Marketing Outreach Update | David Proctor
Shelley Monique Mann
TMD Outreach Staff |
| | 7. Remembering Leonard Grant
Obituary (©7) | |
| 10:00 | Adjourn
<i>Next meeting: May 9, 2023</i> | |

Information Items

MCDOT Go Montgomery! Flash Edition

MC offers adult bike and scooter classes – April, May, June

Metro developing fix for wheels on 7000-series cars

Metro now welcomes strollers on Metrobus

Montgomery County Completes \$74 Million White Flint West Workaround Project

In-person public workshop – Norfolk Ave shared street planning study, March 16

Friendship Heights TMD
Traffic Demand Management Plan Summary
March 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	Employees	Status	Recommend to MCDOT
Microsoft (voluntary plan)	12 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



OBITUARY

Leonard Joel Grant

OCTOBER 6, 1925 - JANUARY 16, 2023



IN THE CARE OF

Joseph Gawler's Sons, LLC

Leonard achieved his Bachelor of Science in Engineering from George Washington University. During his senior year, he was invited to join the editorial staff of the National Geographic Society, where he served for 40 years, retiring as Vice President.

Leonard and Gloria, his wife, met during their college years. After marrying in 1951, they went on to have two children. One of their favorite things was to travel. They visited countless countries.

Throughout the years, he served on the National Board of Directors for American Youth Hostels, on the Board of Directors and served as Treasurer for the Barker Adoption Foundation and served on the Cultural Affairs Committee of the Washington Board of Trade. He was also a member of the National Press Club and the Explorers Club. Leonard joined the Cosmos Club and became president in 1983.

After retiring from National Geographic, Leonard became more involved in the Friendship Heights community. He assisted the Village Council with the establishment of the Police Field Station on N Park Ave and while doing so, attended the County Police Academy. In 2002, the Village Council invited Leonard to serve on the Advisory Committee. In his later years, Leonard served on the Board of Directors for his condominium association, and eventually became the president.

Leonard and Gloria, co-owned the Grapevine Ltd in Bethesda and he spent countless hours restoring antiques.

Leonard is survived by his wife Gloria, of 71 years. He was preceded in death by his son Richard. Also surviving is his daughter Susan Grant, daughter-in-law Sarah Grant, grandchildren Joel and Jacqueline Van Goor, and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial Service will be held on Thursday, March 2, 2023 from 3:00PM until 5:00PM at Joseph Gawler's Sons Funeral Home, 5130 Wisconsin Avenue NW Washington, DC 20016.

Past Services

THURSDAY, MARCH 02, 2023

Memorial Service

In Memory Of Leonard Joel Grant



Help tell the story of your loved one's unique life. Leave a memory or share a photo or video below to show your support.



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

For Immediate Release: Friday, February 17, 2023



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

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

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

Learn more at ridetheflash.com.

RIDERS LOVE FLASH



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

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

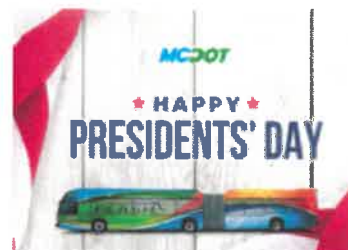
Riders are encouraged to post pictures on their Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts using the hashtag #LoveFlash with the reasons they love riding the Flash bus.

MCDOT FLASH BUS



Ready to Ride the Flash on US29?

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



Transportation Schedule for Presidents Day, Monday, Feb. 20

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



CURRENT FLASH PROJECTS



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

VEIRS MILL ROAD BUS RAPID TRANSIT

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

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

MD 355 BUS RAPID TRANSIT

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

US 29 PHASE 2

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

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

View more transportation schedules [here](#).



Flash Feature Story in Greater Greater Washington Publication

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



Flash US 29 Featured in Architecture DC Magazine

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



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

BETTER ACCESS TO CASTLE BOULEVARD & BRIGGS CHANEY FLASH STATION

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

NORTH BETHESDA BUS RAPID TRANSIT

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

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

NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE BUS RAPID TRANSIT

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



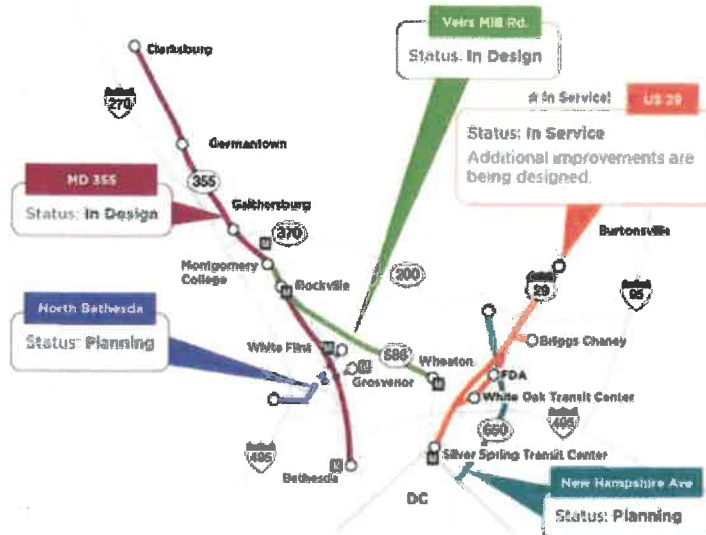
Wheels Welcome

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



MCDOT Is Hiring Bus Operators

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



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

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

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



TRANSIT EQUITY



Proclamation for Transit Equity Day, Feb. 4

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

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

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

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

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



A Comprehensive Review of the
Montgomery County Bus Network

MCDOT

Ride On



FLASH 2022 FALL OUTREACH



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

Sep. 24 - Burtonsville Day

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

Oct. 30 - HalloWheaton - Monster Flash

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

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

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



MCDOT's Ride On Reimagined Study

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

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



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

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



Nov. 19 - Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade

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



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

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

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



Dec. 1 - Jan. 3 - FLASHlights

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



Here's What Riders Are Saying



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

Go Montgomery is distributed by **Montgomery County Government Department of Transportation.**

Release ID: 23-019

Media Contact: Emily DeTitta, 240-372-2282



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Montgomery County Will Offer Adult Bike and Scooter Classes in April, May and June

For Immediate Release: Thursday, March 2, 2023



The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT), in collaboration with the Washington Area Bicycle Association (WABA), will offer adult bike classes in April, May and June. The classes include a learn to ride and a basic skills class. MCDOT also will offer four free scooter classes in spring.

Participants in the bicycle classes will learn how to start and stop, balance, glide, pedal and steer a bike. Each student will progress at their own pace. The classes will be led by experienced WABA instructors.

Advance registration is required to participate in the bicycle classes and cost \$10 for Montgomery County residents. There is no charge for WABA or Capital Bikeshare For All members.

The classes are open to residents 18 and over, are limited to 25 people and fill up quickly.

Online registration is currently open for April classes. Registration for May classes will open at 9 a.m. on Monday, March 27 and June class registration will open at 9 a.m. on Monday, April 24.

The schedule for Adult Learn to Ride bike classes:

- Saturday, April 1. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Upper County Recreation Center, 8201 Emory Grove Rd., Gaithersburg. *Free scooter class to follow.
- Saturday, April 16. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Westfield Montgomery Mall (former Sears parking lot), 7101 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda. *Free scooter class to follow.
- Sunday, April 30 (Spanish Class). 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Wheaton Ice Arena (back parking lot), 11717 Orebaugh Dr., Wheaton.
- Saturday, May 13. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Montgomery College (parking lot 13), 850 Hungerford Dr., Rockville. *Free scooter class to follow.
- Saturday, June 17. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. GEICO Chevy Chase Building, 5260 Western Ave., Chevy Chase.

The schedule for Adult Basic Skills bike classes:

- Saturday, May 6. 10 a.m.-noon. Burtonsville Park & Ride Lot (behind Burtonsville Crossing Shopping Center), 15701 Columbia Pike, Burtonsville.
- Sunday, June 3. 10 a.m.-noon. Wheaton Ice Arena, (back parking lot), 11717 Orebaugh Dr., Wheaton. *Free scooter class to follow.

Bicycles and helmets will be provided at no charge for the Adult Learn to Ride class participants and can be rented from WABA, if needed, for the Basic Skills class participants.

The free two-hour adult scooter classes are being offered on a drop-in basis on four select days immediately following the bike classes on April 1, April 16, May 13 and June 3. Scooter classes do not require pre-registration. Anyone 18 or over with a valid driver's license or ID can join.

For more information and to register, visit MCDOT's website at tinyurl.com/cycleclass or call 240-777-8380.

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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Release ID: 23-024

Media Contact: Emily DeTitta, 240-372-2282



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For immediate release: February 28, 2023

Metro developing plan to fix wheels and return 7000-series fleet to normal service

National Transportation Safety Board docket release provides road map to fleet restoration

Metro's plan to change the way it presses wheels on 7000-series rail cars (7Ks) is under development, based on technical data released today by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).

"We appreciate the NTSB making the technical reports available so that we can develop our plan to begin repressing wheels on these trains at a higher standard, including the fit onto the axles," said Chief Operations Officer Brian Dwyer. "We are preparing the technical documents and training plan, while we collaboratively advance the next version of our return to service plan for approval by the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission."

NTSB's investigation docket release today makes it possible for Metro to transparently work towards addressing the cause of the wheel movement with a revised Return to Service Plan (version 4). While a cause has not been formally announced by NTSB, among the documents released today was a report from experts at engineering firm Hatch-LTK which identified a technical issue – microslip due to reduction in contact pressure. Metro's internal and external engineering experts agree that an increase to the fit and press tonnage used to mount rail wheels onto axles is required for the 7Ks. As a preliminary estimate, it will take up to 36 months at a cost of approximately \$55 million to repress all 7K wheels.

"The process of changing all 5,984 wheels on 2,992 axles for 748 railcars may take a couple of years to complete," said Dwyer. "We thank our customers for their patience and want them to know that the good news is we will be able to fix about 20 cars a month to safely build up more trains and restore the safe, frequent and reliable service the region needs."

The latest phase of Metro's Return to Service Plan was activated on January 28, 2023. The current phase marks a move to measuring the wheels every 7 days instead of every 4 days, and will remain in effect until Metro receives concurrence from WMSC on the revised plan. Metro will continue its rigorous inspections of wheels with measurements for every 7000-series rail car until its wheels are reassembled at the new, higher standard.

"Process changes must be safe and deliberate," said Chief of Safety and Readiness Theresa Impastato. "We will take the time needed to get this right because every single rail car must undergo a rigorous process to be ready to serve our customers and support our employees."

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For immediate release: March 6, 2023

Metro now welcomes open strollers on Metrobus

Metro's youngest customers and those traveling with them now have one less barrier to a stress-free ride on Metrobus. Metro today announced that effective immediately, open strollers are welcome on Metrobus, replacing a policy that required strollers to be folded before boarding.

The public is invited to learn more about the policy and enjoy kid-friendly giveaways tomorrow, March 7, from 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. near Eastern Market Station at Pennsylvania Avenue and 8th St. SE. Metrobus employees and Metro General Manager and CEO Randy Clarke will provide coloring books, snacks, and other handouts while supplies last.

"Metro is committed to making transit accessible and convenient for everyone, and that includes those traveling with young children," Clarke said. "This family-friendly initiative relieves a hardship many parents told us they face when riding Metrobus, and we hope it encourages more families to choose Metro."

The policy change follows feedback from customers, consultation with Metro employees, Local 689, Local 922, and engagement with the Riders Advisory Council and the Accessibility Advisory Council. Metro reviewed best practices for open stroller policies at other transit agencies, including the District's Circulator, Montgomery County's Ride On, and DASH.

Metro estimates that about five percent of trips – around 18,000 a day – involve customers using Metrobus to take their children to and from daycares and schools or running errands to grocery stores. Allowing open strollers makes Metrobus an even better transit option for families and everyone traveling with young children.

Those traveling on Metrobus with strollers should utilize the priority seating area with the stroller brakes locked while the bus is in motion. Strollers must not block aisles or doorways, and should be held on to at all times.

People with disabilities and seniors will continue to have first priority in the priority seating area. Metrobus operators will maintain discretion to ask that a stroller be moved or folded if they determine it is compromising the safety of other passengers.

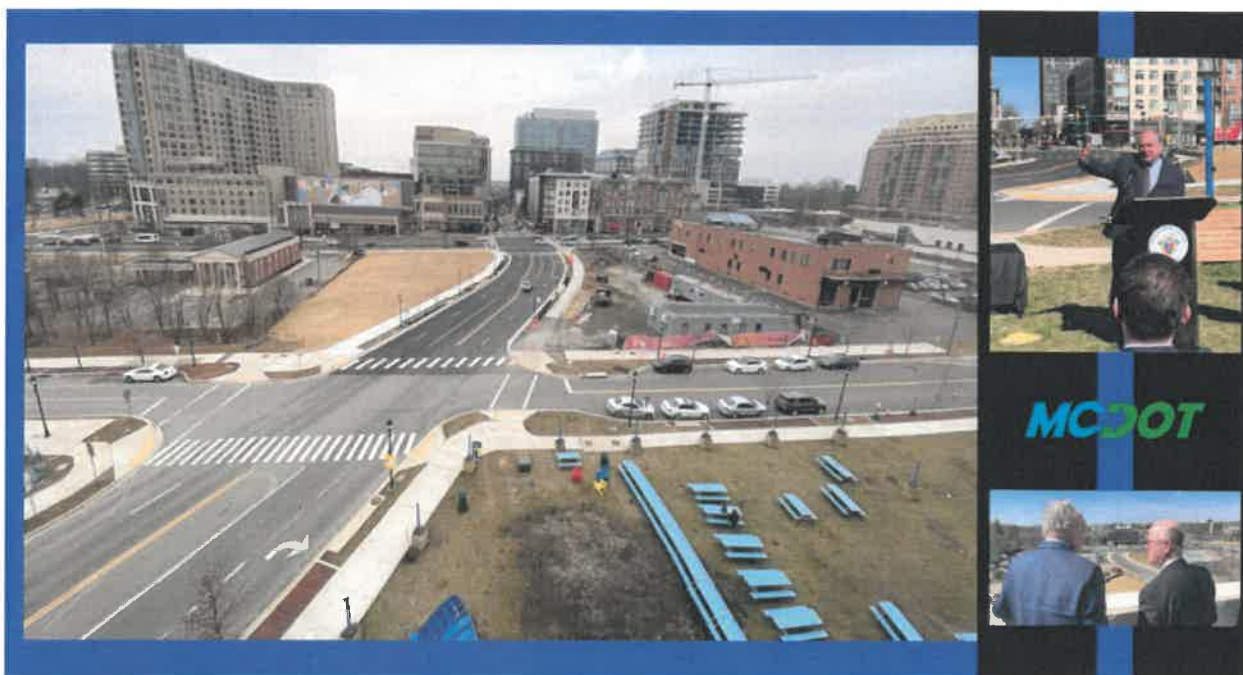
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Montgomery County Completes \$74 Million White Flint West Workaround Project

For Immediate Release: Thursday, March 9, 2023



Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich, County Council President Evan Glass, County Councilmembers, County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) Director Chris Conklin, other County officials and community groups today joined ceremonies at Grand Park Avenue and Banneker Street in North Bethesda to announce the completion of the White Flint West Workaround project. The \$74 million construction project supports the future development plans of the Pike District as a walkable, bikeable, public transit-focused epicenter for health computing.

"The completion of the White Flint West Workaround has long been awaited by pedestrians, bicyclists and residents who live in the community," said County Executive Elrich. "The completion of this project reflects the progress and transformation around the North Bethesda Metro Station, Pike District and the former White Flint Mall site into a dynamic transit-focused community to live, work and

play. Our announcement last fall of the incoming University of Maryland—Institute for Health Computing, along with our forthcoming BRT route on 355, has helped establish the Pike District as one of the most exciting areas for growth, development and job creation in the County, State and region.”

The announcement was made at the new crossroad of Grand Park Avenue and Banneker Street. Also joining today’s event were County Councilmembers Andrew Friedson and Kate Stewart, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Office Director Pete Fosselman and Pike District Partnership Board Chair Matt Herrmann.

“We must invest in transportation infrastructure that connects people to the places where they want to be. This project and the Bus Rapid Transit network that will follow are key to unlocking North Bethesda’s potential,” said Council President Glass, who chairs the County Council’s Transportation and Environment Committee. “Creating walkable communities and expanding our public transit network is critical to the success of Montgomery County and our region.”

The project, managed by the County Department of Transportation, transforms the road network in the Pike District into more navigable city blocks.

The majority funding source for the project came from the County’s White Flint Special Taxing District tax revenues and related special obligation bonds. Capital Improvement Project funding provided for improvements including shared-use paths, a separated bicycle lane, on-road bicycle lanes, sidewalks, undergrounding of utilities, stormwater management, streetlights and landscape.

MCDOT headed up the design, land acquisition, site improvements, utility relocations and managed construction for the project.

“We are pleased that this project is complete and is an asset that supports future growth in North Bethesda,” said MCDOT Director Conklin. “We’re looking to integrate additional bike connections and a Bus Rapid Transit corridor, known as Flash, along 355 and Old Georgetown Road as well. The White Flint West Workaround construction creates city blocks that will support urban development and are walkable. If you think about what an urban neighborhood looks like, it’s not immense swaths of land with large parking lots along a wide road. It is shorter blocks with cross streets that are walkable and attract businesses that create street fronts. That is what we have now—an infrastructure that will support a new community.”

The local business community and advocacy groups were heavily involved in providing feedback for the project.

“The local community was involved every step of the way,” said Pike District Partnership Board Chair Herrmann. “Community involvement made a big impact on the final design and on the beautiful and highly functional bike and pedestrian paths in the immediate area. We are happy with the result.”

The project realigned the southern portion of Executive Boulevard to connect with Grand Park Avenue, created a new east/west business street Banneker Avenue (previously Main and Market streets) adjacent to the conference center, continued Towne Road (previously Hoya Road) from Montrose to Old Georgetown Road and relocated and reconfigured the intersection of Old Georgetown Road and Executive Boulevard.

“North Bethesda is on the verge of being the leading hub for science and technology in the region, with amazing food, retail, and entertainment for everyone,” said Councilmember Stewart. “This project is a huge investment that makes it easier for everyone to get to and from the Pike District so they can enjoy this jewel of Montgomery County whether they are on the clock or enjoying their free time. On behalf of our residents, thank you to all who worked hard to realize this critical part of the future of Montgomery County. We can’t wait to see what’s next in the Pike District!”

The complex project was constructed in two phases. The first phase of construction, which ran from November 2016 to 2017, built Banneker Street and a portion of Grand Park Avenue in front of the Bethesda Marriott North Hotel and Conference Center. The simultaneous construction of a new parking garage on the conference center parking lot, owned by the Montgomery County Revenue Authority, made room for the realigned road.

In 2018, the County acquired the necessary property and finalized plans for the second phase, which ran from January 2019 to December 2022. This phase relocated the intersection of Old Georgetown Road and Executive Boulevard, connected Executive Boulevard to Montrose Parkway via Towne Road and realigned Old Georgetown Road to connect to Banneker Street. It also built the final portion of Grand Park Avenue, completing the link to Old Georgetown Road.

"I was serving as the Councilmember for this area during the planning stages and construction of this project," said Councilmember Friedson. "It is exciting to see something you were so involved in for so long finally complete. Thank you MCDOT for your work on this project. The vision for the area has grown into something we could not have imagined a decade back, and none of it would have been attainable if not for the foresight MCDOT's planners and engineers had. The partnership the department created to pull it together was really something that should be a model with infrastructure builds."

The project area is a hub for major utilities and required extensive relocation of gas, water, electricity and communication lines. Coordination and land swaps with the Maryland Department of Transportation allowed the work to advance. As a result, the County now owns a small stretch of Old Georgetown Road in front of the Pike and Rose development where it connects to Rockville Pike/Route 355. The land was exchanged for Towne Road after the County connected it to the newly configured crossroad at Executive Boulevard and Old Georgetown Road.

The project also integrated wide sidewalks with permeable surfaces to support trees, shared-use paths and sections of protected bike lanes, with curbs that will be painted green this spring.

"The County did a great job with this project because we were able to facilitate community involvement from the onset," said Bethesda Chevy Chase Regional Office Director Fosselman. "It is so important to have the public involved in the process. Changes were made based on that feedback. When you work together, you get to celebrate together, and that is what today is all about."

For more information, visit the [White Flint West Workaround Project Page](#).

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

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Release ID: 23-031

Media Contact: Emily DeTitta, 240-372-2282



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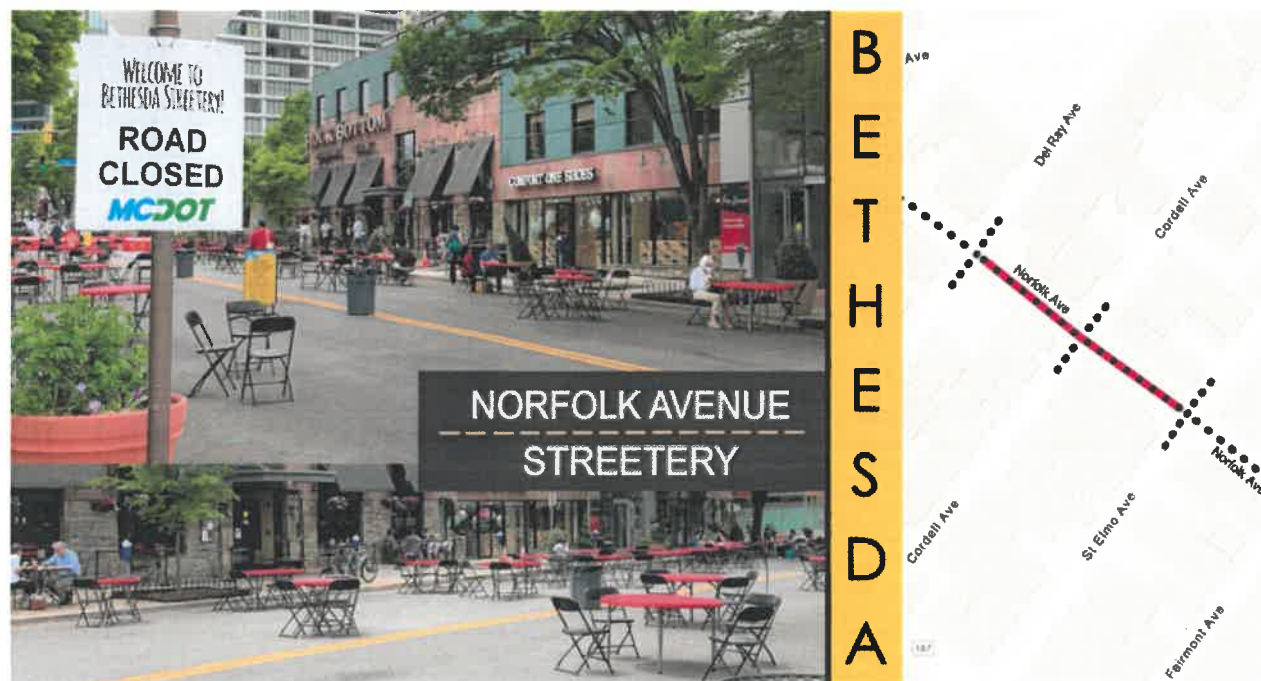
Ride On Alerts

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In-Person Public Workshop on the Norfolk Avenue Shared Street Planning Study to be Held on Thursday, March 16

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, March 8, 2023



On Thursday, March 16 starting at 6:30 p.m., the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) will hold an in-person public workshop at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center located at 4805 Edgemoor Lane in Bethesda to discuss the Norfolk Avenue Shared Street Planning Study.

Norfolk Avenue is a lively street with a mix of uses in the Woodmont Triangle area of downtown Bethesda. During the pandemic, and continuing today, a portion of Norfolk Avenue was closed to vehicle traffic to create a "streeter". This temporary space is being operated and maintained by the Bethesda Urban Partnership who is currently working on plans to enhance and expand this temporary streeter.

MCDOT is also looking several years into the future and is seeking feedback from the public on what Norfolk Avenue should look like and whether it should remain as a streetery. The County's study will examine the possibilities of physical changes to the roadway and will complement, not replace the Bethesda Urban Partnership work. MCDOT will use this feedback and recommend alternatives for the longer-term project in Fall 2023.

Feedback and questions may be submitted to Matt Johnson by email at Matt.Johnson@montgomerycountymd.gov. All information provided including questions and public feedback will become a matter of public record.

Prior to the meeting, the public is encouraged to review the proposal files on the project website [here](#).

Interpreter services will be provided upon request with five business days advance notice by contacting Matt Johnson.

Learn more about MCDOT's engineering and construction projects by visiting the website [here](#).

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