



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

**AGENDA**

**Greater Shady Grove Transportation Management District  
Advisory Committee Meeting – Teams Format  
Wednesday January 4, 2023**

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

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

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- |              |                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                 |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>8:30</b>  | <b>1. Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Jim Carlson</b>                                              |
|              | <b>2. Minutes Review</b><br>November (©2)                                                                                                                                                   | <b>All</b>                                                      |
|              | <b>3. Ride On Reimagined – Update</b>                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Deanna Archey</b><br>Senior Planner, MCDOT                   |
|              | <b>4. Metro Update</b>                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Gary Erenrich</b><br>MCDOT Special Assistant to the Director |
|              | <b>5. Marketing Outreach Update</b>                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Jennifer Bolick</b><br>TMD Outreach Team                     |
|              | <b>6. Updates: Police/TMD/DOT/Other County Updates</b><br>FY23 Commuter Survey Wrap-up: Dec. 30 / 538 responses from approx. 20 employers<br>Omitting minimal responses (1-3) from analysis |                                                                 |
| <b>10:00</b> | <b>Adjourn</b>                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                 |

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Information Items

*WMATA Begins Phase 3 of Temporary Bus Bay Relocations at the Wheaton Metro Station*  
*Metrobus customers now saved from the frustration of “ghost buses”*  
*Go Montgomery! Newsletter*  
*Join Metro to help ‘Fill-A-Bus’ to feed families in the National Capital Region*

**Greater Shady Grove  
Transportation Management District  
Advisory Committee  
November 2, 2022**

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2

**Voting**

**Benjamin Garcia** / Neighborhood Representative  
**Steve Kelley** / NIH – National Cancer Institute

**Ex Officio**

**Jake Adler** / Upcounty Regional Services Center  
**Sandra Brecher** / Representing MC Dept. of Transportation (MCDOT) Director  
**Catherine Matthews** / Upcounty Regional Services Center  
**Kirk Eby** / City of Gaithersburg

**Staff**

**Nakengi Byrd** / Montgomery County Commuter Services  
**Jim Carlson** / Montgomery County Commuter Services

**Absent**

**McClellan Quinn** / EYA  
**Paul Yanoshik** / RE/MAX Realty Services

**Guests**

**Steve Augustine** / MC Resident  
**Jennifer Bolick** / Van Eperen  
**Gary Erenrich** / MCDOT  
**Maren Hill** / M-NCPPC  
**Gehmelle Johnson** / NIH-National Cancer Institute  
**Alex Rixie** / M-NCPPC  
**Charlie Scott** / WMATA

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**Item 1 & 2 – Introductions/ Minutes Review:** **Jim Carlson** opened the meeting; member and guest introductions. September's joint TMD AC meeting minutes were approved.

**Item 3 – Great Seneca Plan: Connecting Life and Science:** **Maren Hill** from MC Park and Planning gave an update to the amended Great Seneca Plan, explaining that they are doing two phases of the minor masterplan amendment. In 2010 the County Council approved and adopted the Great Seneca Science Corridor Master Plan, and Planning has since reevaluated the staging requirements and barriers to implementing the 2010 plan. They are also incorporating the Corridor Forward & Great Seneca Transit network projects into the master plan. Also discussed:

- Looking at emerging travel trends using cell phone data, telework and rideshare to create new connections
- The plan is updated to include new County policies such as racial justice & equity, Vision Zero and Thrive 2050

- The timeline for the plan has been pushed back four months to conduct a study that will contribute to final recommendations
- The current visioning & analysis is the largest part of the planning phase as it incorporates community outreach and engagement
- The Planning Board hopes to have the Great Seneca Plan adopted by Fall 2024

**Ms. Hill** discussed the boundaries of the Plan area which resemble Swiss cheese plan due to its noncontiguous layout however the Plan focuses on the eastern section as it is where development is occurring the most. The Plan is broken into sections called the whole plan area, a focus area and the Life Sciences Center which was the focus of the 2010 plan. The Life Sciences Center is the focus of the staging requirements of the 2010 plan and has twice as many life science jobs as the rest of the County as a whole. Also discussed:

- Working closely with the Cities of Gaithersburg & Rockville who have their own planning authorities for plan recommendations

**Alex Rixey**, Transportation Planner for the project, discussed the existing conditions that include many four- to six-lane roadways, which make up the main landscape. Also reported:

- Rethinking past recommended interchanges that are rarely built
- Looking more into the pedestrian experience and comfort walking level in the area, focusing on crossings, sidewalks with buffers separating traffic from pedestrians
- Crossing issues include having to cross too many lanes of traffic, unmarked or low visibility treatments – safer crossings have island refuges
- Equity Focus areas have concentrations of low income or minority groups with language barriers have more uncomfortable walkways than more affluent areas
- The plan area is 275 acres and currently has only one protected crossing
- Predictive safety assessment looks at the likelihood of crashes on a variety of County roads and shows that increased lanes contribute to more crashes
- Transit operating in the area include eight Ride On routes, two Metro stations and a private shuttle operated by National Cancer Institute
- The average commute time to the Life Sciences Center is about 44 minutes for automobiles and over one hour for transit

**Q & A Discussion:**

- The Corridor Connectors are deciding whether to remove the staging requirements tied to the Corridor Cities Transitway since development has stalled due to the requirements- currently none of the staging requirements have been changed
- Staging requirements will be examined for the Life Science Loop Trail; however, funding for its completion comes from private developers and the CIP
- Discussion regarding the private NCI shuttle that has increased ridership to 75% of pre-Covid numbers; however, picks up passengers who are not NCI/NIH employees – Ride On service is available for those not authorized to ride the shuttle
- Metro only has control over the shuttles it has granted permission to operate; unauthorized shuttles can use the Kiss & Ride section at Shady Grove Station
- The NCI shuttle does not check for ID; however, they will start again when Covid ridership picks up due to employees teleworking less

- Although some buildings in the area have mostly teleworking employees, there are some labs and medical centers that have many employees still coming in to work as they do not fall within the typical commuting hours

**Item 4 – Metro Operating and Capital Budget:** **Charlie Scott**, WMATA, gave an update on Metro’s operating budget. The new General Manager will propose a budget to the Metro Board in December for final approval in March for July implementation. Also discussed:

- Changing the complex fare system to increase rail ridership
- Some improvements to the system include free rail-to-bus transfers, weekend flat fares and lowering 7-day bus pass price to \$12.00
- Ridership is currently 45%, which is below pre-pandemic levels, resulting in decreased revenue for Metro’s budget
- Rail service has remained largely the same due to the shortage of 7000 rail cars
- Using a zone fare system is being considered; also a low-income program pilot
- Metro is studying parking fees, reducing bus fares, and having a free fare system
- A free fare system would leave a half billion-dollar burden on the three funding jurisdictions - DC, MD & VA
- A flat fare system causes issues due to more revenue needing to be covered by jurisdictions that fund Metro or loss of riders because of high prices
- Zone fares include problems with calculations and making them more equitable
- Fare prices specific at every station show the fares for that station only
- Making the whole Metro system accessible to the low-income population is a priority as most low-income riders use Metrobus more than rail – Metro is piloting a low-income program in DC
- The heaviest ridership is in the core of the system as Metro looks to improve connections and travel flow throughout the system
- Pocket tracks can stage extra trains to use to increase service when ridership is high
- Metro is looking at reinstating turnbacks on the red line to even out service to improve time travel for riders.
- Discussion regarding MCDOT disapproval of reversing the train turnbacks at Grosvenor and how to organize a response to Metro’s Board, including Maryland’s governor support of the turnbacks-the coming opportunity lanes will increase ridership to Shady Grove, which will be complicated by the turnbacks
- **Mr. Erenrich** asked for a response from the Committee members to oppose the turnbacks and also to present to the County Executive

**Item 5 – Metro Update:** **Gary Erenrich** reported that Metro’s Board member **Chris Abby**, who was appointed by the County Executive, submitted a resignation letter due to not being able to do the job effectively

**Item 6 – Employer TDM Plans:** **Mr. Carlson** asked the Committee to review 10 employer TDM plans.

**The Committee recommended approval for TDM plans submitted by the following employers:**

- Alta IT Services
- Always Best Care Senior Services
- BLH Technologies
- Integrated Biotherapeutics
- Johns Hopkins Community Physicians Heart Care

- Presidential Exteriors
- SPS Consulting
- Tetracore
- Connection
- Nutricia North America

**Item 7 – Marketing Outreach Update: Jennifer Bolick reported:**

- Staff is conducting outreach to the public on events such as Car Free Day, the Bike Donation Drive, and the Walk & Ride challenge
- The Commuter Survey is underway and there are weekly prize giveaways – new QR code directs smartphones to the survey site
- Promoting the scooter and bike classes- scooter classes are free

**Item 8 – Updates: Mr. Carlson** announced the west side temporary bus stop closures at Shady Grove Metro.

**Adjourn**



# ***Press Releases - Department of Transportation***

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## WMATA Begins Phase 3 of Temporary Bus Bay Relocations at the Wheaton Metro Station on Jan. 9, 2023

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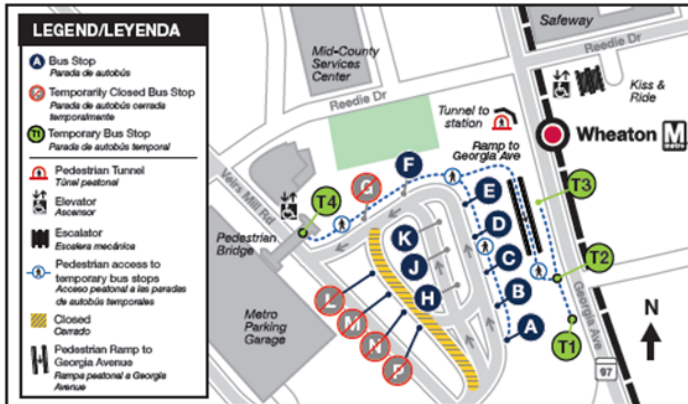
**For Immediate Release: Tuesday, December 27, 2022**

Starting Sunday, Jan. 9 and lasting approximately five weeks, WMATA will close five bus bays at the Wheaton Metro Station for Phase 3 of pavement rehabilitation. Bus Bays G, L, M, N, and P will be closed. Additionally, all buses will use the north exit. Temporary bus boarding locations can be found in the map below.

**EFFECTIVE: Monday, January 9, 2023**  
**for approximately five weeks**  
*A partir del lunes, 9 de enero de 2023*  
*durante aproximadamente cinco semanas*

## Temporary Bus Boarding Locations

*Lugares temporales de abordaje para autobús*



Route Ruta	Destination Destino	Bus Stop Parada de autobús
4	Silver Spring	
37	Potomac	
38	North Bethesda	
48	Rockville	

Questions?

▼ [wmata.com/alerts](https://wmata.com/alerts)

¿Tiene preguntas?

☎ 202-637-1328

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 at [montgomerycountymd.gov/govdelivery](https://montgomerycountymd.gov/govdelivery), or texting MONTGOMERY RIDEON to 468311 to receive text alerts.

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

Release ID: 22-165

Media Contact: Emily DeTitta, 240-372-2282



[Skip to main content](#)

## Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

[Metro](#)  
[Home](#)

For immediate release: December 16, 2022

# Tired of being ghosted? Metrobus customers now saved from the frustration of “ghost buses”

Nobody likes to be ghosted, especially by a bus. So, it's good news for Metrobus customers that “ghost buses” have been banished by recent technology upgrades at Metro.

Today, Metrobus customers have more certainty that the location of a bus displayed on busETA is accurate. Previously, all scheduled buses were displayed on busETA regardless of whether a bus was in service or not, meaning that a bus taken out of service for a mechanical issue, operator availability, or other issue would be displayed on busETA but would not show up for an expecting customer.

“These upgrades to busETA are part of our commitment to listen to customer concerns and work as hard as possible to improve their experience using Metro,” said Metro Senior Vice President of Bus Services Leroy Jones. “Ghost buses are one of the biggest frustrations we hear about the Metrobus experience, and this change will help take the guesswork out of planning your trip.”

Customers using busETA whether on their desktop computer or mobile web application will already notice the improvements. Customers that rely on displays at bus stops will see similar improvements in the coming weeks.

Metro's improved data is also available to third party applications such as Google Maps, Transit App, and others, and an update to the new data on those applications will be determined by each app provider.

If a bus's GPS tracker is having technical or network issues, a customer may notice a bus arrive at their stop that is not displayed on busETA. When buses are identified with this issue, the Metrobus team will work to resolve the problem as quickly as possible.

The elimination of ghost buses comes in the same week [Metrobus made service improvements](#) to reduce crowding and improve reliability on some of the busiest bus routes in the District. Additionally, Metro is hard at work engaging the public and developing Metrobus improvements through the ongoing <https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wmata.com%2Finitiatives%2Fplans%2FBetter-Bus%2Findex.cfm&data=05|01|Jannetta%40wmata.com|833fe4745ee54dab087708dadedf89f5|ad5836f40d7443cd83c57e69eaa67915|0|0|6380673489126> Bus initiative.

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# ***Press Releases - Department of Transportation***

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## MCDOT's Latest Go Montgomery! Newsletter - Thursday, Dec. 15, 2022

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For Immediate Release: Thursday, December 15, 2022





### Montgomery County and WSSC Water to Detail 'Salt Wise' Campaign, Using Less Salt and Keeping People Safe During Winter Storms

Montgomery County could experience the first winter weather mix of the season this week. The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), MCDOT and WSSC Water are emphasizing the impact excessive salt use can have on the environment.

Salt runs off into storm drains, local streams and eventually, to the Potomac and Patuxent rivers. Those waterways are drinking water sources for 1.9 million residents in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. Salt can corrode concrete and masonry, harm pets, damage surrounding plants and lawns and adversely impact the water supply. Learn more here.



December 15, 2022



### HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM MCDOT

We wish you and your families a wonderful winter holiday season!



### Sign Up for Alert Montgomery to Stay Current on Changing Weather Conditions

Sign up for Alert Montgomery, the County's emergency warning system that sends alerts to your cell phone, email or via text message.



SIGN UP to receive the latest MCDOT news and follow @MCDOTNow on Twitter and Facebook for frequent Montgomery County storm operations updates.

## New Hampshire Avenue

Do you live, work or travel along New Hampshire Avenue?

*Join our online meeting!*

**Thursday, December 15, 7:00 p.m.**



Hampshire BRT study.

Register online here.

## MCDOT Hosts Virtual Meeting on New Hampshire Flash Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Study Today, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m.

Join MCDOT's online meeting to learn about and provide input to the New



## Get Snow Updates from MCDOT's Snow Portal

MCDOT's Snow Portal provides information about preparing for the storm, status of plowing operations and other snow-related information, visit:

[montgomerycountymd.gov/snow](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/snow).

## Ride On Reimagined



**A Comprehensive Review of the Montgomery County Bus Network**

**MCDOT**

**Ride On**

## MCDOT's Ride On Reimagined Study - Call for Focus Group Members

MCDOT is recruiting community members for focus groups.

Participants will be asked to attend two, two-hour focus group sessions held from 6 to 8 p.m. on

weeknights.

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 will take 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. Learn more here.



## Away From Home for the Holidays; AAA Expects Nearly 113 Million Americans will Travel to End 2022

'Tis the season to travel, and AAA estimates 112.7 million people will journey 50 miles or more away from home from Dec. 23 to Jan. 2, an increase of 3.6 million people over last year.

Other modes of transportation are also rebounding in a big way. AAA estimates that travel by bus, rail and cruise ship will rise to 3.6 million this holiday season. This is a 23% increase from last year and nearly 94% of 2019's volume. Learn more here.





### **Public Invited to Virtual Forum on Proposed Ride On Bus Route 51 Extension in Olney on Thursday, Jan. 5**

MCDOT will hold a virtual public forum on Thursday, Jan. 5, starting at 6:30 p.m., to discuss the proposed extension of the current bus route 51 to provide service to the ICC Park and Ride lot in Olney. The new proposed extended bus route 51 will operate between the ICC Park and Ride lot and Glenmont Metrorail Station with no additional changes to current stops.

Attendees will have an opportunity to provide comments and ask questions. Learn more [here](#).

### **Transportation Schedule for Sunday, Dec. 25 and Monday, Dec. 26:**

- MCDOT offices - Will be closed.
- Ride On bus service - Will operate on a Sunday schedule. Will operate on a Saturday schedule until 10 p.m. on Dec. 24.
- Flash rapid bus service - Will operate on a Weekend schedule (Orange line only).
- Ride On extRa and Flex bus service - Not in service.
- TRiPS Commuter Store at Silver Spring Transit Center - Will be closed.
- TRiPS Mobile Commuter Store - Will be closed.
- Public parking, lots and curbside meters - Free on Dec 26. Obey posted rates and restrictions on Dec. 24 and 25.



### **Public Invited to Virtual Hearing on Proposed Sidewalk Proposal in Silver Spring on Wednesday, Jan. 18**

On Wednesday, Jan. 18, starting at 7 p.m., MCDOT will hold a virtual public hearing to discuss the proposed construction of a sidewalk in

the Roscoe Nix Elementary School community on Oakview Drive from Dilston Road to New Hampshire Avenue in Silver Spring.

At the virtual hearing, MCDOT will present the project details, costs, schedules and obtain public testimony. If approved, the completed project will enhance safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and people with disabilities as they travel to nearby schools and facilities. Public input is encouraged and will influence whether MCDOT constructs any, all or a portion of the proposed sidewalks.

Online registration is required to attend. The public is encouraged to review the proposal files on the project website.

### **For Sunday, Jan. 1 and Monday, Jan. 2:**

- MCDOT offices - Will be closed.
- Ride On bus service - Will operate on a Sunday schedule.
- Flash rapid bus service - Will operate on a Weekend schedule (Orange line only).
- Ride On extRa and Flex bus service - Not in service.
- TRiPS Commuter Store at Silver Spring Transit Center - Will be closed.
- TRiPS Mobile Commuter Store - Will be closed.
- Public parking, lots and curbside meters - Free on Jan. 1. Obey posted rates and restrictions on Dec. 31.





### MCDOT Completes Leaf Collection This Week

MCDOT crews finished leaf collection on Wednesday, Dec.

14.

Year-round options are available for bagged leaf collection with paper lawn bags on your recycling day or by bringing leaves to the Shady Grove Transfer Station. Another option is mowing them into your lawn and leaving them in place to fertilize your yard. Watch this video to learn what we do with the collected leaves.

Learn more at [montgomerycountymd.gov/leafing](https://montgomerycountymd.gov/leafing).



### Beware of Slippery Roads – Black Ice

As temperatures continue to lower, black ice becomes a concern for travelers. Due to increased airflow, bridges and overpasses cool much quicker and develop black ice earlier than typical roadways.

- Slow down and brake gradually. Avoid aggressive braking or steering.
- Double your following distance. The increased distance between your vehicle and other vehicles allows for safe stops if a vehicle begins to skid or has to make a stop.



### Update on Gaithersburg Plane Crash

The National Transportation Safety Board released its preliminary report on the small plane that crashed into power lines in Gaithersburg near the Montgomery

County Airpark on Sunday, Nov. 27.

The plane struck and severed power lines and dangled about 100 feet in the air before Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service could rescue the two people trapped inside the plane. The crash left 120,000 without power. The power outage affected approximately 125 traffic signal lights, phone lines and Metro's Red Line. Montgomery County schools were closed the following day.

MCDOT's Gaithersburg East depot managed emergency road closures and detours. While many of the traffic signals were connected to battery backup systems MCDOT's Transportation Management Center worked to identify and reboot traffic signals that were offline due to the power interruption. MCDOT's Sign Shop helped set up safe traffic routing around the collision site.



### Look Out for MCDOT as we Raise Awareness on Pedestrian Safety at Westfield Montgomery Mall This Weekend

MCDOT's Pedestrian Safety Team will be inside the Westfield Montgomery Mall all day this Saturday, Dec. 17 and Sunday, Dec. 18. Stop by the MCDOT table for safety education materials and giveaways and to view the Street Smart's "Lives Shatter on Impact" wall exhibit and to hear testimonials from those that have been impacted



## MCDOT's Storm Operation Staff Partners with National Weather Service

On Tuesday, Dec. 13, MCDOT's Storm Operations Center (SOC) staff joined

other neighboring agencies and jurisdictions that are involved in snow removal operations, including SHA, VDOT, and Prince Georges County, to discuss short and long-range forecasting, snow season preparations and snow removal best practices at the National Weather Service (NWS) Baltimore-Washington Forecast Office in Sterling, VA.

NWS hosts monthly meetings to assist in weather discussions and provide forecasting tools. At this particular meeting, tabletop exercises were conducted to prepare the agencies for various types of winter weather events.

While there, Chris Strong with the NWS gave a tour of the facility. The following photos include the forecast office, regional radar and weather balloon launching station.

MCDOT's SOC activates during snow events and acts as a central hub to monitor weather conditions and the County's response.

by a pedestrian or bicyclist crash. View photos from our visit to Westfield Wheaton Mall last weekend here.



## MCDOT Posts Placards On Ride On Buses Throughout December to Honor Rosa Parks

Learn more here.



## Electric Vehicles, County Incentives and Charging Stations - Next 'What's Happening MoCo' Podcast Shares Information for Current and Future EV Owners

Learn more here.



## Montgomery County's Solar-Powered Bus Depot Adds New Energy to Maryland Transit

Montgomery County opened the nation's largest solar-powered microgrid depot, capable of charging



## MCDOT Welcomes New Ride On Bus Operators

MCDOT is continually hiring and training new bus operators. The latest class of Ride On bus operators graduated on Friday, Dec. 9. The next training class starts on Tuesday, Jan. 3.

MCDOT's Bus Operator training is a 6-week course that covers a variety of topics. In order to pass the course, aspiring operators must achieve a passing grade on the "Skills Pad" driving course and master customer service skills.

Congratulations to the recent graduates. MCDOT is appreciative of the work that all our operators do to provide the best transportation service possible.

up to 70 electric buses at its Brookville Smart Energy Depot in Silver Spring. Read the Mass Transit article [here](#).



## MCDOT Welcomes 53 High School Students to be Vision Zero Youth Ambassadors

MCDOT received 140 student Vision Zero Ambassador applications, from 19 high schools. MCDOT will rank and notify 53 students that they were chosen as Vision Zero Ambassadors. These students will help the County achieve its Vision Zero goals as road safety leaders in their communities. Students commit to an 8-week program where they will create and implement a safety campaign.

The County's Vision Zero initiative aims to eliminate traffic-related severe injuries and deaths.



## 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



**Montgomery County Launches Maryland's First 'EV Purchasing Co-op Dealership Incentive Program' to Share Information and Reduce Cost of Buying Electric**

**Vehicles**

DEP will be helping residents find discounts on electric vehicles (EVs) with the launch of its new "EV Purchasing Co-op Dealership Incentives" web page. The program is the first in Maryland where a local jurisdiction is partnering directly with local automobile dealerships to provide incentives and discounts for EV purchases.

Residents and businesses can join the EV Purchasing Co-op and pledge to make their next vehicle electric. Since launching the first phase of the Co-op in January 2022, more than 1,000 residents and businesses have made the pledge. Learn more here.

Did you know?

MCDOT has 22 ChargePoint EV charging stations in County garages that allow motorists to add 10 to 20 miles of range to their vehicle for every hour of charge time. Charging stations are in Garages 11, 31, 35, 40, 47 and 57 in Bethesda; Garages 5, 7, 9, 60, 61 and Lot 29 in Silver Spring; and Garage 13 and 45 in Wheaton.

Pepco EV charging stations are coming soon in Garages 40 and 57 in Bethesda; and Garage 58 in Silver Spring. Learn more here.

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.



**MCDOT's Bike Match Program Seeks Bike Donations**

Are you purchasing a new bike to replace an old one during the holidays? Wondering what to do with the old one? Consider donating it to MCDOT's Bike Match program and providing a person in need with a reliable transportation option. Learn how to donate your bike here.







## Free Sober Rides Offered for the Winter Holidays

Preparing to combat that time of year when, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, nearly half of all U.S. traffic deaths involve drunk drivers (39%, Christmas; 49%, New Year's Day – NHTSA, 2020), a local

nonprofit organization is offering free safe rides to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington Metropolitan area during the winter holidays beginning on Friday, Dec. 16.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the 2022 Holiday SoberRide® program will be in operation nightly from 10 p.m. until 4 a.m. from Dec. 16 to Jan. 1, as way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday period.

Each evening during this six-hour period, area residents ages 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a SoberRide® code in the app's 'Promo' section to receive their no-cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. A separate Holiday SoberRide® promo code will be posted at 9 p.m. on Dec. 16, 23 and 31 on SoberRide.com.

Last December, 461 persons in the Washington-metropolitan area used the free safe ride service rather than possibly driving home impaired. The charity also offers its SoberRide® program on St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Independence Day and Halloween. Learn more here.

## Buckle Up, Seatbelts Save Lives

Don't worry — a seat belt will go just fine with your favorite ugly sweater.



## How About Giving the Gift of Capital Bikeshare this Holiday Season?

An Annual Membership is only \$95 and includes unlimited 45-minute classic bike rides for a whole year. Plus, you can use any of the Capital Bikeshare stations in D.C., Maryland and Virginia areas. Learn more at [capiabikeshare.com](http://capiabikeshare.com).

## Visit Brookside's Garden of Lights in Wheaton



Watch this video on Brookside's Garden of Lights

View a list of holiday activities around the DC Region here.





### **New HOV 3+ Requirement on I-66**

With the final section of the I-66 Express Lanes corridor completed, both inside and outside the beltway, the HOV requirement for toll-

free travel now requires three or more travelers to ride in one vehicle to use the express lanes free of charge. [Learn more here.](#)

### **Contact 311 to get it Done**

Want more information about the status of County programs and services? Want to report unshoveled sidewalks, downed trees or other weather-related issues?

Contact Montgomery County's Customer Service Center by calling 311 (or 240-777-0311 if outside the County) or visiting 311 online at [montgomerycountymd.gov/311](https://montgomerycountymd.gov/311)



### **REAL ID Deadline Extended Again: What It Means for MD Residents**

The Homeland Security Department has once again extended the deadline for REAL ID enforcement, moving

it from May 2023 to May 2025.

Officials said the extension is needed, in part, because of lingering problems from COVID-19 that caused backlogs in state agencies charged with issuing driver's licenses. [Learn more here.](#)

Congress passed the REAL ID Act in 2005, following a recommendation from the 9/11 Commission, which established minimum security standards for driver's licenses and identification cards. Now, under a new regulation, people 18 and up will need a REAL ID compliant card for domestic air travel.

## **METRO UPDATE**

### **Metrorail Weekend Service for Saturday, Dec. 17 Through Sunday, Dec. 18**

Metro crews will be working on the Red Line between Glenmont and Forest Glen to replace the switch in the interlocking that allows trains to transfer from one track to another. Learn more [here](#).



### **Make Metro Your Safe Trip on New Year's Eve**

Are you planning to celebrate New Year's Eve in the region? #YourMetro today announced Metrorail and Metrobus service will be extended until 2 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 1. Additionally, all trips will be free for customers who choose Metro after 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 31.

### **WMATA Asks for Public Input on Five-Year Strategic Plan *#YourMetro, The Way Forward***

This week Metro released an update for customers and stakeholders on the development of a new strategic plan, *#YourMetro, The Way Forward*. The plan will provide a long-term strategy and direct Metro's day-to-day decision making over the next five plus years. The update outlines draft goals focused on service excellence, regional opportunity and partnership, sustainability and talented teams.

The public is encouraged to provide comments on the plan development by Thursday, Jan. 5 using an online form [here](#).

Feedback will be incorporated into the initial draft presented to Metro's Board of Directors in January 2023. After that, the final draft will be shared in early 2023 for additional public review and input. Learn more at [wmata.com/strategicplan](https://wmata.com/strategicplan).

### **WMATA Began Phase 4 of Temporary Bus Stop Relocations at Rockville Metrorail Station on Wednesday, Dec. 7**

Due to WMATA performing bus shelter replacements at the Rockville Metrorail Station, the Westside of the station is experiencing temporary bus stop relocations. Closures and relocations take place in phases. Phase 4 of the closures impact Ride On Routes 46 and 55 through Tuesday, Dec. 20.

- Bay A (Ride On Route 46) will use T5
- Bay B (Ride On Route 55) will use T6

### **Rockville Metro Station Escalator Replacement Began**

On Monday, Nov. 28, Metro began replacing the two platform escalators at the Rockville Metro Station. While the escalators are being replaced, access to the platform will only be available using one escalator as a two-way staircase or via elevator. All elevators, as well as the staircases and tunnel used to access the station, will remain open. The replacement of both escalators is expected to take approximately eight months. [Learn more here.](#)

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### **DC Council Moves to Make Metrobus Free in the District**

D.C. Councilmembers unanimously voted in favor of a bill that would make hopping on a Metrobus in

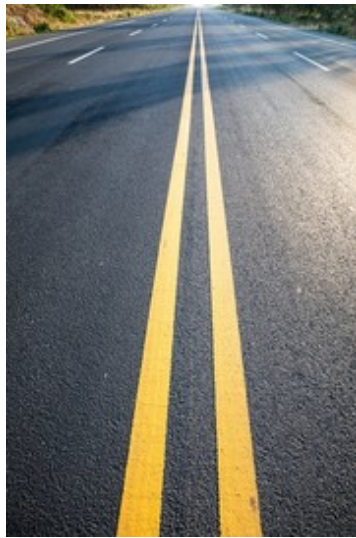


D.C. free. [Read the Washington Post article here.](#)

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## **Safety Advocates Release Roadway Safety Recommendations**

On Tuesday, U.S. Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) joined Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety and other safety leaders to release the 2023 Roadmap to Safety report outlining ways to reduce deaths and injuries on U.S. roads. The advocates hope the report will serve as a guide for state legislatures, Congress, and the U.S. Department of Transportation when reversing the nation's skyrocketing roadway traffic fatality and injury rate.



According to the group, on average, more than 115 people died on America's roads every day in 2021. Speeding, impaired driving, and failure to use seat belts are among the causes of those deaths, the group said. Statistics show that traffic fatalities have increased by 19 percent since before the pandemic and that deaths among pedestrians and bicyclists have increased 62 percent in the last decade.

The 20th edition of the report outlines 16 countermeasures to make roads safer, primarily through legislation. Additionally, it rates states for their progress in achieving safer roads through legislation on occupant protection, child passenger safety, teen driving, impaired driving, distracted driving, and automated enforcement to curb speed. Five states – Louisiana, Maryland, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Washington – received green ratings. Read the Transportation Today article [here](#).

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## **A Strong Rebound for Shared Bikes and Scooters**

The popularity of "micromobility" services – such as shared bikes and scooters – surged after the first year of the pandemic, with 2021 becoming the second-busiest year on record, according to a new report.



Last year's ridership on scooters and bike shares hit 112 million trips, according to the National Association of City Transportation Officials. That was nearly double the number of trips in 2020. Read the Route Fifty article [here](#).

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## Scientists Thought Carbon Emissions Had Peaked. They've Never Been Higher

Near the end of 2020, as the covid-19 pandemic continued to rage, a few climate scientists and energy experts made a prediction. They estimated that emissions from fossil fuels — which had



just plummeted thanks to the global pandemic — might never again reach the heights of 2019. Perhaps, they speculated, after over a century of ever more carbon dioxide flowing into the atmosphere, the world had finally reached “peak” emissions. Read the Washington Post article [here](#).

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*Media Contact: Emily DeTitta, 240-372-2282*





[Skip to main content](#)

## Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

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For immediate release: December 30, 2022

# Join Metro to help 'Fill-A-Bus' to feed families in the National Capital Region

Metro customers and the community are invited to drop off donations in the fight against hunger as part of fifth annual food drive

In the new year, Metrobuses will be picking up more than just customers. Metro is inviting customers to join Metro employees in collecting food to 'Fill-A-Bus' to help drive out hunger and food insecurities in the region.

This is Metro's fifth year supporting the Capital Area Food Bank and first year inviting the public to join the agency by filling a bus with unopened, nonperishable food items. Customers can drop off the unopened, nonperishable food items at designated Metro stations starting on Tuesday, Jan. 3.

The 'Fill-A-Bus' locations and times are as follows:

### Tuesday, Jan 3, 2023

- Anacostia Station, W2, W3 bus stop, outside station on Howard Road, 6 to 10 a.m.
- Ft. Totten Station, Bus Bay K, 2 to 6 p.m.

### Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023

- Friendship Heights Station, Bus Bay K, 6 to 10 a.m.
- Silver Spring Station, Bus Bay J, 2 to 6 p.m.

### Monday, Jan. 9, 2023

- Pentagon City Station, 7A & 22A bus stop at South Hayes & 12th streets next to the Nordstrom entrance, 6 to 10 a.m.
- Tysons Station, Bus Bay G, 2 to 6 p.m.

You can also provide a monetary donation to the Capital Area Food Bank through Metro's 'Fill-A-Bus' campaign. [Go online to donate](#). Every \$1 donated provides two meals.

"Metro remains committed to our partnership with the Capital Area Food Bank in helping families with food insecurities," said Metro General Manager and CEO Randy Clarke. "For the past four years, Metro employees have collected thousands of boxes of food, canned goods and monetary donations to help families experiencing food insecurity. We know with the support of the community we can ensure more families across the region have access to a nutritious meal."

Metro employees' donations have provided more than 27,000 meals to our neighbors in need through food donations and financial contributions and with the support of our customers, in the coming year, we can reach our goal of providing 32,000 meals to families.

All locations are conveniently located near grocery or retail stores. Bring your donations from home or stop at the store on your way to Metro and drop off your donations before taking the train or bus.

On Monday, Jan. 16, Martin Luther King, Jr., National Day of Service, items collected from 'Fill-A-Bus' will be delivered to the Capital Area Food Bank. There, Metro employee volunteers will assist with unloading, sorting and packing food boxes to be distributed to families.

'Fill-A-Bus' is Metro's official day of service.

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