



**SILVER SPRING
TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

AGENDA

**January 13, 2022 / 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.
Teams Meeting**

Staff Contact: Jim Carlson / (240) 777-8382; (301) 318-0328
james.carlson@montgomerycountymd.gov

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|-------------|--|---|
| 8:00 | 1. Introductions/Agenda Review/Chair Comments | Jim Carlson |
| | 2. Minutes Review
Minutes tabled | All |
| | 3. Metro Update | Gary Erenrich
MCDOT-Special Assistant to the Director |
| | 4. Employer TDM Plans
Summary (©4) | Jim Carlson/All |
| | 5. Employer Outreach Update | Jennifer Bolick
TMD Outreach Team |
| | 6. Updates: Police/TMD/DOT/Other County Updates | Sandra Brecher
Sgt. Kerry Moore
Iftin Thompson
Jim Carlson |
| 9:30 | Adjourn / Next Meeting: TBA | |

Information Items:

Montgomery County Launches 2021 Biennial Online Resident Survey

Metro takes measures to combat omicron variant; Announces service adjustments and protections for customers and employees

Montgomery County Will Reduce Ride On Bus Service Starting on Sunday, Jan. 16, Due to Bus Operator Shortage

County to Provide Rapid At-home Test Kits at Libraries Beginning Monday, Jan. 10

**Silver Spring TMD
Traffic Demand Management Plan Summary
January 2022**

Code Requirements:

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

Employer	Employee Total	Status	Recommend to MCDOT
AmeriWell Clinics	38 FT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates in COG pool matching 	Yes
Eagle Protection Agency, LLC	25 FT 5 PT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carpool matching • Formal telework program / 2 participating • Flexible schedules 	Yes
Nando's Peri-Peri (voluntary plan)	22 FT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-tax deduction • Bike racks/lockers • Flexible schedules • Carpool matching 	Yes
Starbucks (voluntary plan)	1 FT 25 PT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-tax deduction • Carpool matching 	Yes
T.J. Maxx	11 FT 49 PT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carpool matching • Flexible schedules 	Yes

Montgomery County Launches 2021 Biennial Online Resident Survey, With Response Deadline of Jan. 17

For Immediate Release: Monday, December 27, 2021

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich today announced that the County has started conducting its biennial online survey of County residents. The survey is available on the County website and is designed to get residents' assessment of the local government, its services and their quality of life. The survey will be open until 11:59 p.m. on Jan. 17.

The survey is available [here](#).

"I encourage all residents of Montgomery County to take this survey," said County Executive Elrich. "We want to ensure that the feedback we get is inclusive and reflects the County's diversity and we want everyone to have an opportunity to share their opinions with County Government on the services we provide. The pandemic required us to make some significant changes to the way we deliver some services. This survey is one way for us to assess how we are doing, what people think of the changes we made, and identify areas for improvement."

The 39-question survey asks residents age 18 or older to rate how they feel about the quality of life, County services, use of existing amenities and facilities, whether they take advantage of County programs, their impression of County employees, how well the County communicates with its residents, and various household practices such as recycling. It is recommended that respondents use a browser other than Internet Explorer to minimize problems accessing the survey.

To generate a more equitable sample, the survey was mailed to 5,000 randomly selected households with instructions in English, Spanish, Chinese, French, Korean, Vietnamese, Persian/Farsi and Amharic. However, the survey is open to all residents. Households that received the mailed survey should use the link and access code contained in the mailer.

This biennial survey was last conducted by the County in 2019. This survey is an important tool to create better customer service, more transparency, and provide ideas and feedback to help the government make better budget and policy decisions to create a more effective and efficient service.

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Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

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Metrobus operating a Severe snow service level, today, January 4. Routes on major roads only.

[Read More \(https://wmata.com/rider-guide/weather/bus/severe.cfm\)](https://wmata.com/rider-guide/weather/bus/severe.cfm)

For immediate release: January 4, 2022

Metro takes measures to combat omicron variant; Announces service adjustments and protections for customers and employees

Metro's Pandemic Taskforce is taking swift actions to protect the health and safety of its customers and employees against the recent surge in COVID-19 variants. Due to growing absenteeism rates across service areas related to COVID illness and exposures, Metro is reducing service schedules and implementing new workforce actions **effective Monday, January 10**.

"Scaling back service will ensure customers who rely on Metrobus, Metrorail and MetroAccess for transportation have a more reliable schedule," said CEO/GM Paul Wiedefeld. "Metro employees live in some of the neighborhoods hardest hit by the pandemic and are exposed to the surge in the region and throughout the nation. It's important that the taskforce take steps to make Metro operationally sound to meet the needs of our customers."

Metro service levels will operate as follows:

- **Metrorail** will continue to operate on all lines as scheduled, with customers experiencing more frequent service at stations served by multiple lines.
- **Metrobus** will reduce service on weekdays to a Saturday schedule with additional trips on some routes, which is roughly 75 percent of regular Metrobus service and protects key routes that serve hospitals, grocery stores, and other essential destinations.
 - Bus operators will be permitted to bypass customers not wearing masks for their health and safety.
 - Metrobus customers are advised to consider alternative sources of transportation like Metrorail to travel throughout the region.
- **MetroAccess** will reduce shared rides and increase accessibility rides. For more information about MetroAccess, please visit wmata.com/metroaccess.

Metro's customer service call center operators will work remotely due to the recent increase in COVID cases, but there will be no changes in hours of operation. As Metro continues to monitor

COVID conditions throughout the region, employees will be held to vaccine or testing policy compliance to help combat serious illness and the spread of COVID-19 variants.

The following protocols have been communicated with all employees and will apply beginning **Monday, January 10**:

- Weekly testing requirements will remain in place for unvaccinated employees as more frequent testing requirements are evaluated and test availability improves.
- Beginning **Sunday, January 16**, employees who have failed to comply with Metro's testing and vaccination policies will be placed on unpaid suspension until compliant. Employees will have 30 days to comply or be subject to termination of employment.

On **Monday, January 31**, employees subject to eligibility will be required to enter booster shot information into Metro's portal as part of their fully vaccinated status. All efforts and precautions are being taken to reduce serious illness and transmission of the Omicron variant to vaccinated employees and riders.

Metro will update customers through [MetroAlerts text and email messages](#), on the Status and Alerts page at wmata.com, and through Twitter [@MetrobusInfo](#) [@MetrorailInfo](#). Customers are encouraged to sign up for [MetroAlerts](#) to receive the latest service information.

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Montgomery County Will Reduce Ride On Bus Service Starting on Sunday, Jan. 16, Due to Bus Operator Shortage

For Immediate Release: Friday, January 7, 2022

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) will temporarily reduce Ride On bus service beginning Sunday, Jan. 16, due to a growing number of employees sick from, or exposed to, COVID-19.

The schedule changes offer considerably more service than the previous pandemic-related cuts, but the system will have fewer trips on about half of its routes while maintaining the same span of service. Overall, service will be reduced by about 9 percent from the current schedule.

The service changes will be revisited in six to eight weeks or once bus operator availability begins to return to normal levels.

“We have not yet fully returned to pre-pandemic bus service levels and hate to pull back,” said Dan Hibbert, MCDOT chief of transit. “These temporary changes will be fairly minimal from where we currently are, but riders need to be able to plan. With these changes, we will be operating at about 80 percent of pre-pandemic levels. We just don’t have the drivers available to maintain our current schedule and be dependable.”

The temporary service change schedule will be released early next week. It will maintain capacity for students and continue the Senior Program Transportation service. The change will suspend the Ride On Flex and extra bus services. The Flash weekday service will operate on a Saturday schedule and will continue to include service to the Food and Drug Administration campus in White Oak.

“We are doing all we can to ensure consistency within our transit system for our community members who depend on it,” said MCDOT Director Chris Conklin. “It is imperative that riders know what to expect. This service change will provide a more reliable service.”

The surge in COVID-19 caseloads arrived as transit agencies around the region have been struggling to attract operators. Montgomery County is actively recruiting bus operators.

Montgomery County requires that bus operators are 21-and-over. It offers paid CDL license training, a competitive benefits package and a fun, supportive atmosphere, with ongoing professional development opportunities. Potential applicants can get more information and apply at bit.ly/3C2fIRl. Search “Bus” or “operator” under the job search tab.

Ride On will operate under the new reduced schedule for the MLK holiday on Monday, Jan. 17, instead of the typical holiday schedule. Trip planning and real time bus arrival information is available by specific routes at <https://rideon.app/directions>. Passengers can view the bus map to see in real-time if a bus is approaching their bus stop.

Ride On bus service remains free for all riders until at least July 2. Protective barriers are still in place for drivers. Bus operators have mandated COVID-19 vaccinations or a weekly test process—as do all County employees.

Bus interiors will continue to be cleaned by the County’s Department of General Services on a nightly basis with hospital-grade disinfectant. Bus filter and ventilation systems are also treated each night with a disinfectant.

All passengers are required to wear face coverings when traveling by public transportation. Riders must continue wearing the covering for the entire time of their trip. All MCDOT buses have a supply of face coverings for those who cannot provide their own.

For the most up-to-date service information, riders should follow [@RideOnMCT](https://twitter.com/RideOnMCT) on Twitter, visit [Ride On MCT](https://www.facebook.com/RideOnMCT) on Facebook, go to [RideOnBus.com](https://www.rideonbus.com) or [subscribe](#) to MCDOT news releases.

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Categories: Transportation



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County to Provide Rapid At-home Test Kits at Libraries Beginning Monday, Jan. 10

For Immediate Release: Friday, January 7, 2022

To make COVID-19 testing more available, Montgomery County residents can pick up free, rapid at-home test kits at any one of 19 Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) beginning Monday, Jan. 10. The iHealth COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test kits will be available on a first come, first served basis until supplies run out. Residents can receive a maximum of two test kits per person (each containing two tests) per visit.

The tests are recommended for asymptomatic people. People showing symptoms of COVID-19 should NOT go to a library distribution site and should contact their health care provider or make an appointment for a PCR test at one of the many locations providing testing throughout the community.

Library branches distributing kits from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Saturday are:

- Aspen Hill
- Chevy Chase
- Damascus
- Davis
- Gaithersburg
- Little Falls
- Potomac
- Silver Spring
- White Oak

Library branches distributing kits from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday – Thursday and 2 to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday are:

- Connie Morella (Bethesda)
- Germantown
- Kensington Park
- Long Branch

- Marilyn Praisner (Burtonsville)
- Olney
- Quince Orchard
- Rockville
- Twinbrook
- Wheaton

“Securing these tests, that are currently in great demand, will help our County mitigate community transmission from the Omicron variant surge,” said County Executive Marc Elrich. “We appreciate the District of Columbia assisting us and thank our procurement team for their diligence to track down and acquire these tests. We are going to make sure these tests will be given out equitably and fairly throughout the community.”

The kits being distributed at County libraries were purchased directly by the County and deliveries will be ongoing for as long as supplies last and the Omicron surge continues. So far, the County has ordered nearly two million kits and 500,000 kits have been received so far.

“Rapid home tests for COVID-19 are important public health tools to help control the transmission of the virus and are more important than ever given the current spike in cases we are experiencing in our community,” said Council President Gabe Albornoz, who also serves as chair of the Council’s Health and Human Services Committee. “We encourage our residents to get tested and get boosted, while Councilmembers continue working with County Executive Elrich and our public health and emergency management teams to provide the resources needed to get our community through this latest phase of the pandemic.”

The iHealth Rapid Antigen test is an at-home test that enables a person to collect a specimen which shows whether the person has the nucleocapsid protein antigen from the virus which causes COVID-19. Test results are available in 15 minutes. Rapid test specimens are collected using a nasal swab. A swab is inserted into each nostril, one side at a time, the swab is then rotated around the inside of each nostril, to gather mucous. Detailed instructions on how to perform the self-test are included with each test kit.

In late November 2021, the County received 10,000 rapid test kits from the Maryland Department of Health and those kits were distributed to specific community-based organizations to be used for individuals identified as having an increased risk of exposure to COVID-19 or decreased access to available test sites because of their occupation, such as food service workers; their vaccination status or who live in areas of the community with lower vaccination rates; limited access to other testing resources due to access to health care, transportation or work hours; or due to a physical or developmental disability.

More information is available on the County’s COVID-19 testing page at www.MoCoCOVIDtesting.org.

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