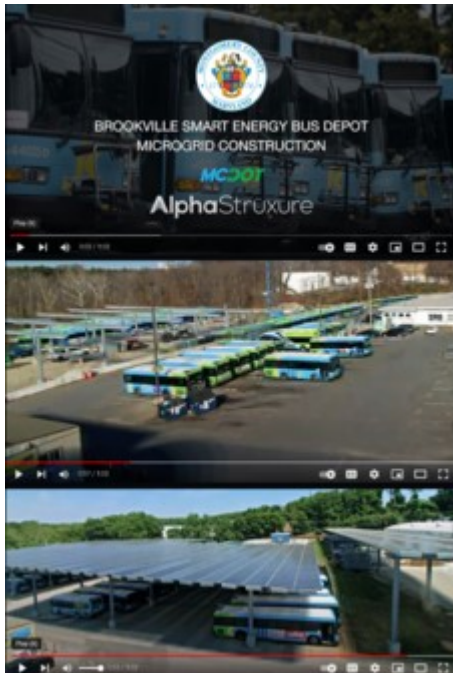


Main, Lori J.

From: Paquette, Roselle
Sent: Thursday, November 3, 2022 6:04 PM
Subject: MCDOT's Go Montgomery! Transportation Newsletter - Thursday, Nov. 3, 2022

Go Montgomery!

MCDOT
Montgomery County Department of Transportation



Montgomery County Completes Nation's Largest Bus Microgrid and Charging Infrastructure Project in Silver Spring

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich, U.S. Sen. Chris Van Hollen, Congressman Jamie Raskin, County Council President Gabe Alborno, Council Vice President Evan Glass, Federal, State and local officials and corporate partners including AlphaStruxure celebrated the [completion of the Brookville Smart Energy Depot](#) located at

8710 Brookville Road in Silver Spring with a ribbon-cutting event. The nation's largest solar bus charging infrastructure project will supply clean energy to the MCDOT's growing Ride On electric bus fleet.

The project was completed through a partnership between the County's Department of General Services (DGS) and AlphaStruxure, a leader in Energy as a Service (EaaS) solutions. It is the third microgrid in the U.S. that will use solar power to charge buses for public transportation. The first of its kind project will help move Montgomery County closer to meeting its goal of reducing GHG emissions to zero by 2035.

This resilient microgrid will provide uninterrupted power to MCDOT's Ride On transit electric buses. Transitioning 70 buses from diesel to electric, powered by the on-site clean energy microgrid, will reduce lifetime emissions by 62 percent equivalent

November 3, 2022

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Transportation Schedule for the Veterans Day Holiday, Friday, Nov. 11

- MCDOT offices - Closed.
- [Ride On](#) and [extRa](#) bus service - Operates on [Holiday](#) schedule.

to more than 160,000 tons of greenhouse gas reduction over the next 25 years.

Learn more [here](#) and view event photos [here](#).



MCDOT's Leaf Vacuum Collection Begins Monday, Nov. 7

MCDOT will begin its annual leaf vacuuming program on Monday, Nov. 7, and will continue collections through December in specified leaf collection areas. There will be two collections on each collection district street.

Residents can [find the collection schedule online](#) by entering a street address.

The leaf vacuum collection district is bounded by I-495; I-270; the Rockville City limits; Norbeck, Bel Pre and Bonifant roads; Northwest Branch Park; and the District of Columbia and Prince George's County lines.

Before collection begins in a neighborhood, MCDOT will post signs along streets directing residents to the online leaf collection map for [collection date](#) information.

Residents are asked to pile leaves near the street, but off the road. They should avoid placing leaves on road shoulders, bike lanes and rain gardens as leaves in these areas can disrupt traffic, negatively impact stormwater drainage, hamper snow removal operations and become a fire hazard for automobiles parked over them. Leaf piles also limit the availability of residential parking and, especially when wet, can pose a hazard for cyclists and pedestrians.

Since 1983, the County has been composting the leaves it collects at a County-operated facility in Dickerson. The compost produces a fertilizer called [Leafgro](#), which is sold in retail stores. Learn more [here](#).

- [Flash](#) bus service - [Orange Line](#) operates on weekend schedule.
- [Flex](#) on-demand bus service - Operates on normal service.
- TRiPS Commuter [store](#) at the Silver Spring Transit Center - Open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- TRiPS Mobile Commuter [store](#) - Closed.
- [Parking](#) at Bethesda, Silver Spring and Wheaton public garages, lots and curbside meters - [Free](#).
- Metrobus - Operates on [Saturday Supplemental](#) schedule.
- Metrorail - Operates on [Saturday Holiday](#) schedule.
- MTA [Local bus](#) - Operates on normal [Weekday](#) schedule.
- [MARC](#) train service - Brunswick/Washington line operates on [R](#) schedule.
- MTA Commuter bus - [Route 201](#) operates on [Weekend Holiday](#) schedule.
- [MTA Transit store](#) - Closed.



MCDOT Sidewalk Project Update

The listed sidewalk repair projects below include removing and replacing the sidewalk between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday through Friday throughout November:

- [Kings Bridge](#), Damascus
- [Forest Brook](#), Germantown



MCDOT Sponsors Free Electric Scooter Clinic for Those 18-and-Older

Participants will be able to take a test ride, learn safety tips and get details on basic scooter laws. Those interested in e-scooters can stop in at any time during the clinic this Saturday, Nov. 5. 12:30-

2:30 p.m. at the Wheaton Ice Arena, 11717 Orebaugh Dr., Wheaton (back left parking lot).

Participants must have a valid driver's license or ID. No registration is required to attend a clinic and walk-ups are welcome. Check tinyurl.com/5n8adjaj for cancelations due to inclement weather. Learn more [here](#).



Montgomery County High School Students Can Apply to MCDOT's 'Vision Zero Youth Ambassadors' Program to Improve Traffic Safety

MCDOT is seeking up to 45 Montgomery County high school students to serve as "Vision Zero Youth Ambassadors." The project-based learning program teaches teens leadership skills, the importance of roadway design, law enforcement, outreach and engagement techniques to

address traffic safety needs in their community. Applications are now being accepted through Wednesday, Nov. 30.

Interested public, private and home-schooled high school students can learn about the program and apply [here](#). The program received 100 applications last year.

The program supports the County's [Vision Zero Initiative](#), whose goal is to eliminate traffic-related severe injuries and deaths. Youth Ambassadors have an opportunity to help the County work toward the goal by becoming road safety leaders in their communities while earning 40 Student Service Learning credit. Learn more [here](#).

Traffic will be maintained at all times utilizing alternate one-way traffic patterns, when necessary. Minor traffic delays may be experienced as flaggers manually direct traffic safely through the work zone. There may also be temporary parking restrictions. Signs will be posted in advance. The construction will wrap up at the end of this month for the winter and will resume in Spring 2023.



National Drowsy Driving Prevention Week is Nov. 6-13

[Drowsy Driving Prevention Week](#) is held every year during the first full week of November. The goal of this annual campaign is to reduce the number of drivers who drive while sleep-deprived.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 1 in 25 adult drivers report having [fallen asleep while driving](#) in the previous 30 days, and many more admit to driving when they were sleep-deprived. Drowsy driving is responsible for more than 6,400 U.S. deaths annually.



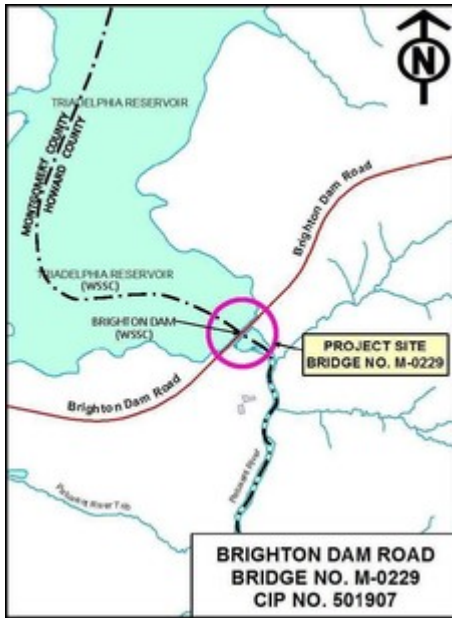
Ride On and Metro Bus Routes Available to Take Residents to Montgomery County's 14 Early Voting Centers

Today, Thursday, Nov. 3, is the last day for early voting in Montgomery County for the 2022 Gubernatorial Primary and General Elections. Ride On bus routes are available for transportation to the 14 early voting centers from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. MCDOT Ride On bus service has several routes available to transport voters to the early voting centers located throughout the County. Learn more [here](#).



Flash Bus Attends 2nd Annual 'HalloWheaton' Event

MCDOT's Monster Flash bus attended the 2nd annual HalloWheaton event this past Sunday afternoon at the Marian Fryer Town Plaza in downtown Wheaton. Arriving in full costume, the Flash bus was decorated inside and out. Families lined up to tour the bus and receive treats from MCDOT's [Safe Routes to School](#) and [Flash Bus Rapid Transit](#) system teams.



Virtual Public Hearing on the Rehabilitation of the Brighton Dam Rd. Bridge in Brookeville to be Held on Wednesday, Nov. 30

On Wednesday, Nov. 30 starting at 7 p.m., MCDOT will hold a virtual public hearing to discuss the proposed construction to rehabilitate the [Brighton Dam Road, Bridge No. M-0229](#), over Brighton Dam.

At the virtual hearing, MCDOT will present the

project details, costs and schedules and obtain public testimony. The 602-foot long 15-span bridge is in need of repairs to the concrete parapets, bridge deck joints, prestressed concrete beams, concrete abutment backwalls, streetlights, asphalt approach roadways and concrete sidewalks to enhance the safety of the traveling public and the integrity of the dam. Public input is encouraged and may influence final design plans.

[Online registration](#) is required to attend. Learn more [here](#).



Virtual Public Hearing on Old Baltimore Road Sidewalk Proposal in Olney to be Held on Wednesday, Nov. 9

On Wednesday, Nov. 9, at 7 p.m., MCDOT will hold a virtual public hearing to discuss the

proposed construction of a sidewalk on Old Baltimore Road from Menden Farm Drive to the path at the lake.

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 and bicyclists 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. Learn more [here](#).



As Daylight Saving Time Ends this Weekend, MCDOT Promotes Pedestrian Safety

The end of Daylight Savings Time begins overnight this Sunday, Nov. 6 and clocks will need to be turned back one hour. Getting darker earlier raises [safety risks](#) for pedestrians and bicyclists.

As the days become shorter, with less daylight, it's important that drivers take extra caution while commuting during morning and evening rush hours, particularly in areas with high pedestrian traffic.

To address the changing conditions, MCDOT urges residents to [look out for each other](#) and obey the rules of the road.

Safety tips:

- Drivers, reduce speed, turn on headlights earlier and be alert.
- Drivers, never pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk. There may be people crossing where you can't see them.
- Drivers, slow down and be prepared to stop when turning or otherwise entering a crosswalk.
- Drivers, never pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk. There may be people crossing where you can't see them.
- Never drive under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
- Pedestrians, use sidewalks and signals if they are available. If there are no sidewalks, walk against traffic and wear reflective clothing and/or carry a flashlight.
- Pedestrians, watch for cars entering or exiting driveways or backing up in parking lots.



Schools Can Participate in MCDOT's Walking Wednesdays

Every Wednesday during the school year, MCDOT's Safe Routes to School team is available to visit schools to conduct a walking audit. Teams also distribute educational materials and safety giveaways. Educators can register their school to participate in a Walking Wednesday event [here](#).

MCDOT visited Arcola Elementary School on Wednesday, Nov. 2 and is scheduled to visit the New Hampshire Estates Elementary School on Tuesday, Nov. 15.



Is Your School Interested in Hosting a Bike Rodeo?

The in-person [bike clinic](#) includes hands-on bike safety instruction, a discussion about the rules of the road and bike safety tips including the proper fitting and importance of

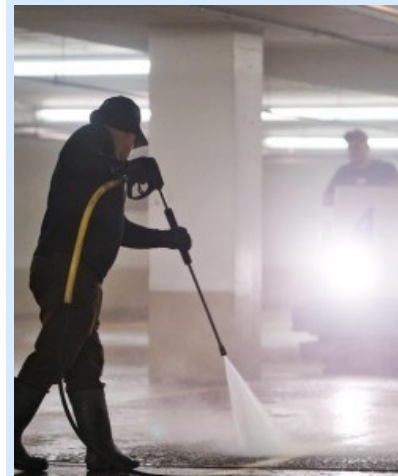


The State's Deadline for Civil Penalty Waiver for Outstanding Video Tolls Ends Wednesday, Nov. 30

Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) customers are reminded that the [Customer Assistance Plan](#) offering a civil penalty waiver grace period for Video Tolls will expire after 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 30. The MDTA Board approved the nine-month Customer Assistance Plan in February. Since then, for every video toll transaction paid in full while the plan is in place, the corresponding civil penalty is waived. In addition, toll bill referrals to Central Collection Unit and the MDOT Motor Vehicle Administration have ceased until Thursday, Dec. 1.

With time running out, the MDTA encourages customers to check their account [here](#) and pay their tolls before the opportunity for a civil penalty waiver ends at 11:59 p.m. November 30.

wearing a bike helmet. Sign up [here](#).



MCDOT Wraps up Garage Washing and Degreasing This Month

MCDOT concludes garage washing at [Wheaton](#) garages this Friday, Nov. 4. Completing the [annual cleaning](#) of all its County-owned parking garages also in [Silver Spring](#) and [Bethesda](#).

METRO UPDATES

Get Ready to Ride the Silver Line, Six New Stations Opening Tuesday, Nov. 15

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) will connect Metrorail customers to Washington Dulles

International Airport and Loudoun County for the first time. The [announcement](#) came from Metro Board Members and employees in a [video](#) touting "We're Ready," marking the opening for customers and culmination of the [largest expansion](#) of Metrorail since the system's inception.

On opening day, customers who visit the six new Silver Line stations - Reston Town Center, Herndon, Innovation Center, Washington Dulles International Airport, Loudoun Gateway, and Ashburn - will be greeted by Metro teams handing out commemorative pennants, a Metro tradition that started when the first station opened in 1976.

Metro Exploring Short-Term Fare Hikes and Long-Term Fare Overhauls

Looking to navigate both short and long-term budget crunches, Metro's board heard a variety of fare and service concepts to help meet those budget gaps. The transit agency is grappling with what service will look like after the pandemic reshaped ridership and many workers are now staying home instead of taking the train or



MCDOT Participates in Senior Resource Fair in Silver Spring

MCDOT's Ride On and Enhanced Mobility Services were exhibitors at the [Beacon 50+ EXPO Resource Fair](#) on Sunday, Oct. 30 at Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center.

bus to work. In the short term, Metro is exploring ways to increase revenue by raising Metrorail prices anywhere from 5 to 25%. Read the DCIST article [here](#).

Metro Begins Fare Enforcement

On Tuesday, Nov. 1, Metro Transit Police officers began issuing [fare evasion citations](#), following a [monthlong awareness and warning campaign](#). Citations with associated fines may be issued to anyone jumping fare gates, improperly using emergency gates, or not tapping fare boxes on Metrobuses.

Fare evasion is responsible for significant revenue losses and is part of the focus to close a shortfall of nearly \$185 million in the upcoming budget. Using data from Metrobus and pre-pandemic industry averages for Metrorail, Metro estimates revenue losses due to fare evasion totaling tens of millions of dollars in fiscal year 2022.

Georgia Avenue Bus Lanes Public Information Meeting Was Held on Tuesday, Nov. 1

In partnership with the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) and Montgomery County, WMATA is designing a quick-build bus lanes demonstration project to improve bus reliability and speeds in Silver Spring, Maryland.

The Tactical Bus Lane (TBL) Demonstration Project aims to implement one-mile tactical bus lanes in both directions along the high-ridership corridor of Georgia Avenue (MD 97), between Wayne Avenue and 16th Street, and evaluate changes in speed and reliability for all vehicles prior to permanent installation.

WMATA held the [online session](#) on Tuesday, Nov. 1.

Rockville Metrorail Station Will Experience Temporary Bus Stop Closures, Effective Monday, Oct. 31 – Tuesday, Dec. 27

WMATA has closed some bus shelters at the Rockville Metrorail Station for the installation of shelter replacements. Ride On and WMATA bus locations will be temporarily moved closer to Rockville Pike/355 to maintain access. Closures and temporary bus locations are posted [here](#).

Glenmont Metrorail Station Phase 2 of Bus Bay Relocations to Begin Monday, Nov. 21

Starting Monday, Nov. 21, bus Bays C and D will be closed for Phase 2 of the glass canopy replacement project through mid-January 2023.

Alternative bus bay locations will be:

- Metrobus Routes Y2 (Silver Spring), Y7 (Silver Spring), and Y8 (Silver Spring) normally at Bus Bay D will be relocated to Bus Bay E

Seniors and members of the disability community can ride MCDOT's Ride On buses for free by using a [Senior SmartTrip](#) card.



Montgomery Parks Opens Fairland Bike Park This Weekend in Burtonsville

The [Fairland Recreation Park](#) will open a new area for biking, called [The Pit](#), on Saturday, Nov. 5 at the intersection of Green Castle Ridge Terrace and Green Castle Road in Burtonsville. Residents are welcome to bring their own bike or borrow a bike from a Bikeshare station to try out the new mountain bike skills park, which includes rollers, kicker ramps, wall rides, drops and skinnies.

Did You Know?

MCDOT has installed 90 Capital Bikeshare [stations](#) throughout Montgomery County. Find the one close to you [here](#). Stations are also visible on the [Capital Bikeshare App](#), the [Lyft App](#), and on [Google Maps](#).



Here's What to Do if You Hit a Deer With Your Vehicle

Fall across the D.C. region means motorists need to keep an extra close eye out for deer in the roadways. Deer activity typically increases during the autumn season as the animals primarily

- Metrobus Route C8 (College Park and North Bethesda) normally at Bus Bays E & F will be relocated to bus bay H.
- Metro Access and Metrobus Shuttle will be available at Bus Bay E
- Ride On Route 10 (Hillandale and Twinbrook) normally at Bus Bay F will be relocated to Bus Bay E
- Ride On Routes 31 (Wheaton) and 49 (Rockville) normally at Bus Bay C will be relocated to Bus Bay F

View the map [here](#)

Wheaton Metrorail Station Phase 2 of Temporary Bus Bay Relocations to Start on Monday, Nov. 21

Starting Monday, Nov. 21, and lasting for approximately five weeks, sections of the bus loop at the Wheaton Metro Station will be [closed for pavement rehabilitation](#). During Phase 2, Bus Bays F, G, H, J, and K will be closed. View the map [here](#).

Metro Greenlighted to Return More Trains to Service

The revised railcar return to service plan allows Metro to place more 7Ks into passenger service. The increased availability of 7Ks will support opening the Silver Line extension before Thanksgiving and reduce crowding on the Red Line. The plan identifies specific timeframes and well-defined steps for Metro to return all trains for safe, reliable passenger service. Learn more [here](#).

ROAD PROJECTS AND CLOSURES



MCDOT Begins Signal Modifications and Pedestrian Improvement Projects in North Bethesda

MCDOT has begun traffic signal modifications and improvements to pedestrian amenities to improve pedestrian safety on Tilden Lane and Nicholson Lane along Old Georgetown Road by adding accessible pedestrian signals and installing sidewalks, sidewalk ramps and crosswalks. Work will take place between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily. The project will be completed by the end of December.

The construction zone will be within the existing public right-of-way. The area will be graded and restored to its original condition after construction is complete. The road will remain open to traffic during construction and traffic impacts are expected to be minimal.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Project Manager, Devang Dave at 240-777-2190 or devang.dave@montgomerycountymd.gov.

mate and migrate in the months of October, November and December.

If you hit a deer:

- Move your vehicle to a safe location off the road
- Make sure to turn on your hazard lights
- Inspect your vehicle for damage
- Use flares or reflective warning devices to alert other drivers to your vehicle
- Note important information and photograph damage for insurance
- Report the crash to police

Learn more [here](#).



Staying Safe on the Roads This Winter

Winter is right around the corner — and depending on where you live, so in inclement weather. Warming up your car before driving, de-icing your vehicle, and keeping some essentials on hand can help you travel safer this winter. Learn more [here](#).



A Portion of Edgemoor Lane in Bethesda is Closed Through Monday, Nov. 28

Verizon work will close the southbound lane of Edgemoor Lane near Commerce Lane and Old Georgetown Road from 9 p.m. to 4 a.m., Sundays through Thursdays. A contractor, Baseman Utility Consulting Services, will be performing the work for Verizon.

Night work is required to minimize traffic congestion due to existing construction activities during daytime hours, pedestrian safety concerns, and impacts to local businesses. Drivers and pedestrians should travel undistracted through the work zone and be aware of changing vehicular and pedestrian traffic patterns. For questions contact Gregory Baseman at 443-244-0882.

DC DOT Closes a Portion of Wisconsin Avenue in Bethesda

On Saturday, Nov. 5, the DC Department of Transportation's (DOT) [Open Streets](#) event will take place in the District of Columbia. Wisconsin Avenue from Western Avenue to Tenley Circle, NW will be closed to vehicular traffic between 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. and Emergency No Parking between 2 a.m. - 2 p.m. Residents will be able to access their homes if they live east or west of Wisconsin Avenue by using alternative routes other than Wisconsin Avenue.

For timely traffic information, visit twitter.com/DCPoliceTraffic.

MDOT's Major State Road Construction and Lane Closures

The following Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) [projects](#) have planned lane closures:

- [I-270 \(Eisenhower Pkwy\) I-70 to I-495 Innovative Congestion Management](#)
- [MD 28 \(Norbeck Rd\) and MD 198 \(Spencerville Rd / Sandy Spring Rd\)](#)
- [MD 97 \(Georgia Ave\) Brookeville Bypass](#)
- [MD 97 \(Georgia Ave\) MD 390 \(16th St\) to MD 192 \(Forest Glen Rd\)](#)
- [MD 108 \(Olney Sandy Spring Road\) from Olney Mill Road to Brooke Road](#)
- [MD 185 \(Connecticut Ave\) at Jones Bridge Rd/Kensington Pkwy \(BRAC Phase 3\)](#)

MDOT SHA Begins Safety and Resurfacing Project at the Olney Shopping Center

As part of the [MD 108 Safety and Resurfacing project](#), MDOT SHA is doing concrete and asphalt work during the weekdays from sunrise to sunset at the Olney Shopping Center located at 3414-3484 Olney Laytonsville Road in Olney.

Construction will impact shopping center parking and store deliveries may be directed to alternate plaza entrances and exits through mid-November. For questions contact David Coleman, MDOT SHA Project Engineer, at 202-924-6994.

5 Charts That Shed New Light on How People Charge EVs at Home

A new report draws on 10 years of detailed data to chart charger use patterns, as well as how they can work as home backup and grid-balancing tools. Read the Canary Media article [here](#).



Region Surpasses 2020 Climate Goal

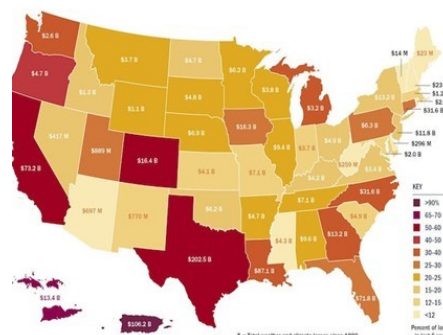
At an October meeting, area leaders on the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Board of Directors were presented with preliminary results revealing the region met and [surpassed its climate goal](#) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent below 2005 levels by 2020. COG staff told the board that emissions decreased at least 24 percent between 2005 and 2020.



For a list of all major MDOT SHA projects, visit the [Project Portal](#).
For real-time traffic conditions, visit md511.maryland.gov.

Here's Where We Really Need Microgrids in the US

If you're wondering why interest in microgrids is growing at a rapid clip, look no further than a new report "[Billion Dollar Losses, Trillion Dollar Threats: The Cost of Climate Change](#)." Published by PSE Healthy Energy, a nonprofit policy research institute, and Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2), a nonprofit economic and environmental group, the report offers a state-by-state analysis of the cost of disasters, including hurricanes, storms, drought, flooding, wildfires and extreme freezes. Read the MicroGridKnowledge.com article [here](#).



Inflation Reduction Act and Microgrids Resource Page

In August, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) into law. The law establishes a 30% tax credit through 2032 for the technologies used within microgrids, including solar, energy storage and microgrid controllers. It's expected that the IRA will significantly reduce the cost of microgrids and drive rapid growth in the industry. Read the Microgridknowledge.com article [here](#).



New EV Charging Station Infrastructure Begins Next Year

The District, Maryland and Virginia are getting \$186 million in federal funding to improve electric vehicle infrastructure as part of a \$5 billion nationwide program.



Hundreds of new electric vehicle charging stations will open as soon as next year along highways in the greater Washington

Bike Ride to Capitol Hill Pushes for Safer Streets After Cyclist's Death

It's been eight weeks since Sarah Langenkamp, an avid cyclist, was killed while riding along River Road in Bethesda, Maryland. A ghost bike now memorializes the place where she lost her life, but her husband and other cycling enthusiasts are turning their efforts to preventing future tragedies — beginning with a ride to Capitol Hill. Riders will retrace the route Sarah took the day she was killed, past her crash site at 5244 River Road, and continuing to the lawn in front of Congress.

"[Ride for Your Life](#)" will depart from Wood Acres Elementary School on Cromwell Drive in Bethesda at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19. Learn more [here](#).



Call 311 to Get it Done

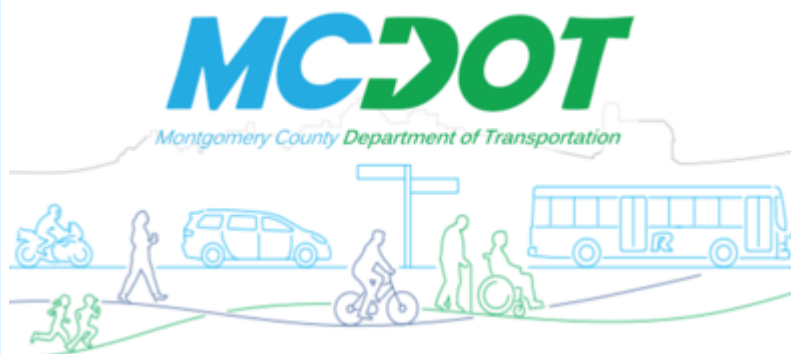
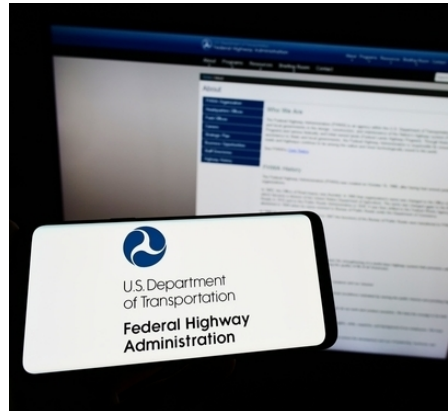
MC311 is Montgomery County Government's Customer Service Center for all non-emergency County inquiries and services.

Dial 311 in the County or 240-777-0311, 711 for [MD Relay TTY](#), Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. - 7 p.m., follow on [Twitter @311MC311](#) or submit your request online at montgomerycountymd.gov/311.

region and nationwide as part of a multibillion-dollar plan to deploy fast-charging systems for a growing fleet of electric cars. The District, Maryland and Virginia are launching plans to add fast-charging ports along major corridors, including interstates 95, 66, 270 and 295, using \$186 million allocated to the region in federal infrastructure money. Read the Washington Post article [here](#).

The Federal Highway Administration Releases Guidance to Reduce Traffic Fatalities

The Federal Highway Administration recently released guidance to help states address roadway deaths as part of the National Roadway Safety Strategy. Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the assessment identifies areas of high risk to vulnerable road users and determines safety improvements that would mitigate safety risks. Read the Transportation Today article [here](#).



For more information on MCDOT programs and services, visit montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdot and [subscribe](#) to receive MCDOT news to your email inbox or mobile phone.

Interested in receiving MCDOT's "Go Montgomery!" newsletter? Subscribe [here](#).

Go Montgomery is distributed by [Montgomery County Government Department of Transportation](#).

Visit [Go Montgomery](#) to view more news.



For more helpful Cybersecurity Resources, visit: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cybersecurity>

Main, Lori J.

From: Montgomery County, MD <montgomerycountymd@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 3:04 PM
To: Main, Lori J.
Subject: MCDOT's Go Montgomery! Transportation Newsletter - Thursday, Nov. 17

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]



November 17, 2022

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Holiday Season Marks Beginning of Dangerous Driving Period for Fatal Alcohol-Related Crashes

The extended Thanksgiving holiday is one of the most heavily traveled times of the year. Additionally, the evening before Thanksgiving has historically been one of the busiest nights for bars and restaurants, with high drinking rates. MCDOT and the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) are reminding residents that high-risk activities, combined with the sheer number of drivers on the road, make it an especially dangerous time for alcohol-related collisions.

Montgomery County annually implements a "[Holiday Task Force](#)" in which officers from multiple agencies devote full-time and attention to detecting alcohol-related offenses. The Holiday Task Force begins operations before Thanksgiving each year and runs through New Year's Day. County Police will establish sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols throughout the holiday period.

The night before Thanksgiving is especially dangerous. Called "Blackout Wednesday," "Drinksgiving" and "Whiskey Wednesday" by public safety agencies, the nicknames have come to describe a



Holiday Schedule for Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 24

- MCDOT offices - Closed.
- [Ride On](#) - [Sunday](#) schedule.
- Flash [Orange line](#) - Sunday scheduled.
- [extRa](#) and [Flex](#) - No service.

cultural phenomenon in which heavy drinking takes place, and as a result, drunk driving-related crashes increase.

“Although gas prices are higher than they were a year ago, they have fallen since the summer peak,” said MCDOT Director Chris Conklin. “That, coupled with pandemic fears waning, will have friends and families especially excited to gather around the Thanksgiving table this year. I wouldn’t be surprised if we see a record number of travelers taking to the road next week. That high number coupled with the fact that about 30 percent of all our roadway fatalities involve drunk drivers is staggering and the problem seems to be getting worse. Nationally, 2020 saw a 14 percent increase in drunk driving deaths compared to the year before. Impaired driving puts all roadway users at risk—and is completely preventable.”

The [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) reported that 185 people were killed during the 2020 Thanksgiving weekend (6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 25, through 5:59 a.m. Monday, Nov. 30). From 2016-20, nationally, 821 people died in alcohol-impaired crashes during the Thanksgiving holiday periods.

Each year, more than 20,000 people are arrested for driving under the influence (DUI) offenses in Maryland. Penalties for a first-time DUI conviction in Maryland could include jail time, significant fines, mandatory ignition interlock and license suspension.

The County’s Vision Zero effort to prevent death and injury on Montgomery County roadways offers a listing of local safe rides on its website [here](#).

The County is asking parents to emphasize to youth under age 21 that underage drinking can lead to serious consequences. Information about how to help prevent underage drinking, through communication and creating an action plan, is available from the Federal Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Prevention of Underage Drinking [website](#). Learn more [here](#).



MCDOT Wins Michael F. Dwyer Excellence in Preservation Award

MCDOT recently won the [Montgomery Preservation Incorporated](#) (MPI) 2021 Michael F. Dwyer Award for rehabilitating and preserving the historic Montevideo Road Bridge in Poolesville. MPI is Montgomery County’s nonprofit historic preservation organization dedicated to preserving, protecting, and promoting the county’s architectural

heritage and historic landscapes. MPI’s Board of Directors

- TRIPS [Commuter Store](#) at SSTC - Closed.
- TRIPS [Mobile Commuter Store](#) - Closed.
- Parking - [Free](#). Parking fees resume on Friday, Nov. 25.
- [Metrorail](#) - [Sunday Holiday](#) schedule (7 a.m. - midnight).
- [Metrobus](#) - [Sunday](#) schedule.
- [MetroAccess](#) - Closed.
- MTA [Local Bus](#) - Sunday Holiday schedule.
- [Marc Train](#) - No service.
- MTA [Commuter Bus](#) ([Route 201](#) Gaithersburg - BWI Business Dist.) - No service.
- [MTA Transit Stores](#) - Closed.



AAA’s 2022 Thanksgiving Travel Forecast

It’s turkey time. Are you planning on traveling for Thanksgiving? Whether you’re headed to family, friends or even a vacation destination, Thanksgiving travel is on the rise.

AAA [predicts 54.6 million people](#) will travel 50 miles or more from home this Thanksgiving, up 1.5% from 2021. This year is also projected to be the third-busiest Thanksgiving travel season since 2000. AAA defines the Thanksgiving holiday travel period as the five-day period from Wednesday, Nov. 23 to Sunday, Nov. 27.

announced the winners at an awards event held on Friday, Oct. 28 at the Kensington Armory.

The [Montevideo Road](#) bridge, constructed in 1910 across Dry Seneca Creek in Poolesville, is a one-lane Warren pony truss bridge on masonry abutments. While truss bridges were once standard in Maryland, this is the last remaining bridge of its kind in Montgomery County. It is in the National Register's Seneca Historic District and is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Montevideo Road is designated as an Exceptional [Rustic Road](#) and the bridge is a significant feature of the road.

After a routine inspection uncovered a critical defect, MCDOT worked to [repair the bridge](#) and preserve it for future generations.

MCDOT takes a systematic approach to [bridge maintenance](#) and performs routine maintenance on all 513 bridges in Montgomery County to discover, document, and correct structural vulnerabilities.

Watch the awards video [here](#).



Montgomery County High School Students Can Apply to MCDOT's 'Vision Zero Youth Ambassadors' Program to Improve Traffic Safety

MCDOT is seeking up to 45 Montgomery County high school students to serve as "Vision Zero Youth Ambassadors." The project-based learning program teaches teens leadership skills, the importance of roadway design, law enforcement, outreach and engagement techniques to

address traffic safety needs in their community. Applications are now being accepted through Wednesday, Nov. 30.

Interested public, private and home-schooled high school students can learn about the program and apply [here](#). The program received 100 applications last year.

The program supports the County's [Vision Zero Initiative](#), whose goal is to eliminate traffic-related severe injuries and deaths. Youth Ambassadors have an opportunity to help the County work toward the goal by becoming road safety leaders in their communities while earning 40 Student Service Learning credits. Learn more [here](#).



MCDOT to Participate in Montgomery County's Thanksgiving Parade at Veterans Plaza in Silver Spring, Saturday, Nov. 19

The [Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade](#) will usher in the holiday season on Saturday, Nov. 19, in Downtown Silver Spring. The [parade](#) kicks off at 10 a.m. for one mile along Ellsworth Drive, to and along Georgia Avenue, ending at Spring Street.

Come out and enjoy the marching bands, dancing groups, glittering floats and special appearance by Santa and his elves. Be sure to watch out for MCDOT's Flash bus, Mobile Commuter Store and Zeal the pedestrian safety Zebra!

NOTE: The Northbound and Southbound lanes of Georgia Avenue, from East-West Highway to Colesville Road will close between 6 a.m. and 1 p.m. Traffic should detour to East West Highway, learn more [here](#).



MCDOT



More Than 250 Montgomery County Residents Attended MCDOT-Sponsored Adult Bike and E-Scooter Safety Classes

MCDOT recently completed the fall series of Adult Learn to Ride and Basic Skills bike classes and E-scooter Safety training classes. Combined, more than 250 residents participated and learned basic skills to safely navigate on a bicycle or an electric scooter.

MCDOT partnered with the [Washington Area Bicyclists Association](#) (WABA) to lead six adult bike classes and with [Bird](#), [Lime](#) and [Spin](#) to conduct four free e-scooter classes. Classes were held at different locations throughout the County.

Classes will resume in spring 2023 and information will be posted on the MCDOT website at tinyurl.com/cycleclss in early February. Registration is required for the bike classes and spaces typically fill up fast. Walk-ups are welcome and no registration is required for the e-scooter trainings.



February 2023 Slots are Open for Schools to Participate in MCDOT's Walking Wednesdays

Every Wednesday in the school year, MCDOT's Safe Routes to School team will visit schools to conduct a 2-hour walking audit. Teams also distribute educational materials and safety giveaways to students. Educators can register their school to participate [here](#). View past walking event photos [here](#).

MCDOT is scheduled to visit Highland Elementary School on Wednesday, Nov. 30 at 8:30 a.m.



Virtual Public Hearing on the Rehabilitation of the Brighton Dam Road Bridge in Brookeville to be Held on Wednesday, Nov. 30

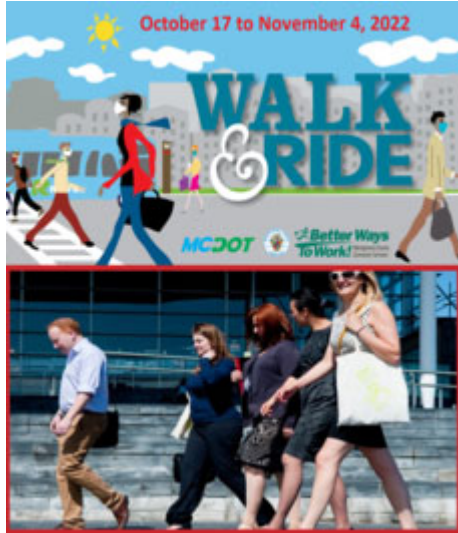
On Wednesday, Nov. 30 starting at 7 p.m., MCDOT will hold a virtual public hearing to discuss the proposed construction to rehabilitate the [Brighton Dam Road, Bridge No. M-0229](#), over Brighton Dam.



At the virtual hearing, MCDOT will present the project details, costs and schedules and obtain public testimony. The 602-foot long 15-span bridge is in need of repairs to the concrete parapets, bridge deck joints,

prestressed concrete beams, concrete abutment backwalls, streetlights, asphalt approach roadways and concrete sidewalks to enhance the safety of the traveling public and the integrity of the dam. Public input is encouraged and may influence final design plans.

[Online registration](#) is required to attend. Learn more [here](#).



MCDOT Sponsors Annual Walk & Ride Challenge, Oct. 17 – Nov. 4

This year, MCDOT's annual [Walk & Ride Challenge](#) had great results – more than 79 teams with nearly 290 participants completed 30,179,721 total steps, roughly 12,072 miles in the three-week challenge that raised morale, enhanced health and provided team-building benefits.

The annual event encourages teams of three to five employees who work in the County's [Transportation Management District's](#) (TMD) to incorporate walking into their daily routines.

This year's winners were:

- Friendship Heights, *Washington Eye* - 1,263,174 steps
- North Bethesda, *NIH* - 1,131,917 steps
- Silver Spring, *Regal Majestic* - 802,525 steps
- Greater Shady Grove, *ABL, Inc.* - 766,821 steps
- Bethesda, *ASHP Publishing* - 704,536 steps



MCDOT Installs Additional EV Chargers in Parking Garages for Public Use

MCDOT Parking currently has 44 charging spaces open to the public throughout the three Parking Lot Districts in [Bethesda](#), [Silver Spring](#) and [Wheaton](#). Pepco is in the process of installing another 8 dual-port stations in Bethesda and Silver Spring, for an additional 16 charging spaces. They will be



MCDOT and MCFRS Visited Select Bus Stops Near Local High Schools Following Daylight Savings Time Change to Promote Safety

To ensure students' safety while walking to bus stops and traveling to and from schools, outreach teams from MCDOT and Fire and Rescue Services visited select bus stops last week near local high schools following the daylight savings time change on Sunday, Nov. 6, after school, between 2 - 3:30 p.m. Outreach teams gave out free glow sticks and other giveaways for students to ensure they are seen by drivers when it's dark. Outreach teams visited Gaithersburg, JFK, Blair, Northwest, Wheaton, Northwood, Seneca Valley and Springbrook high schools.



MCDOT Continues Ride On Reimagined Efforts

The [Ride On Reimagined Study](#) is a comprehensive, forward-looking assessment of Montgomery County's transportation network. This

operational on a rolling basis, with an estimated completion date of early 2023.

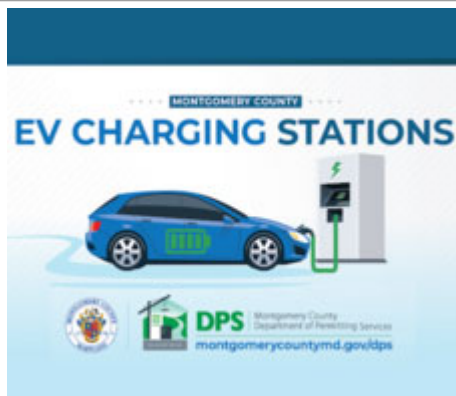
MCDOT Parking also purchased two stations for [Garage 7](#) in Silver Spring that is expected to be delivered by the vendor, ChargePoint, in the next four to six weeks with installation to follow.

For a list of available public EV charges within County facilities click [here](#).



Wheaton Streeterly Community Meeting to be Held on Monday, Dec. 6

An in-person community meeting will be held at 3 p.m. outdoors at the Wheaton Streeterly. Attendees should meet at the corner of [Price and Elkin Street](#). The Mid-County Regional Services Center and MCDOT are hosting the meeting to gather community feedback on the Wheaton Streeterly for possible short-term changes.



Residents May Be Able to Install an EV Charging Station in Front of Their Property

Residents who do not have a driveway or space on their property to create a parking pad may be eligible to install an electric vehicle (EV) charging station in the

[right-of-way in front of their property](#). Montgomery County DOT and Department of Permitting Services (DPS) worked together to draft guidelines and DPS is now accepting applications.

For more information visit the [DPS website](#) and review the guidelines [here](#). Prior to submitting an application, residents should email DPS Manager [Atiq Panjshiri](#), for a free consultation to determine eligibility.

current study is taking an in-depth look at the County's existing and planned transit systems, including Metrobus and the Purple Line. Through data analysis and community engagement, the study will provide recommendations for system-wide bus service changes, including Ride On and Metrobus routes operating in Montgomery County, to address the current and future needs of the community.

The Ride On reimagine team is currently conducting community focus groups throughout the County and is encouraging community feedback via the website [here](#).



MCDOT Completes Nation's Largest Bus Microgrid and Charging Infrastructure Project in Silver Spring

MCDOT [completed the Brookville Smart Energy Depot](#) located at 8710 Brookville Road in Silver Spring. The nation's largest solar bus charging infrastructure project will supply clean energy to the MCDOT's growing Ride On electric bus fleet. The first of its kind project will help move Montgomery County closer to meeting its goal of reducing GHG emissions to zero by 2035.

This resilient microgrid will provide uninterrupted power to MCDOT's Ride On transit electric buses.



Montgomery County Executive Elrich to Hold Hybrid Forums to Seek Input on FY 2024 Operating Budget

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich, the County's regional services offices and community

partners will host eight hybrid forums in November and December to seek input on the Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget. Residents can attend the forums in person or view them via the internet.

[Register](#) for the next forum that will be held on Monday, Nov. 21 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Gwendolyn E. Coffield Community Recreation Center's social hall located at 2450 Lyttonsville Road in Silver Spring. Learn more and view the forum schedules [here](#).



MCDOT Hosts Senior Driver Safety Presentations

Walking outside provides a lot of health benefits. With the weather changing and sunset coming earlier, it's important for seniors to be aware of how these changes may affect their walking and driving habits.

MCDOT's Pedestrian Safety team is visiting several community centers around the county this month to meet with seniors and share [information and resources](#) on how to identify the signs that make older drivers more vulnerable on the roads and how to travel more safely.

The team recently presented safety presentations at [Long Branch](#) community center, [Damascus](#) and [Margaret Schweinhaut](#) senior centers.



Maryland Declares Nov. 14-18 'Crash Responder Safety Week' as Part of Effort to Protect First Responders

Motorists are reminded of the new [Move Over Law](#) and urged to slow down when approaching traffic incidents or disabled vehicles.

November 14-18 has been proclaimed [Crash Responder Safety Week](#) in Maryland, in support of a national effort to raise awareness of the critical role motorists play in keeping first responders safe. The campaign reminds motorists to stay alert, move over and slow

down when approaching traffic incidents and first responders.

Nationally, an average of 23 highway workers and one law enforcement officer are killed each month while performing their duties at a crash scene or roadway incident. In addition, one tow truck driver is killed alongside a roadway every six days, according to [AAA](#).



MCDOT Bridge Projects

- [Brighton Dam Road Bridge \(M-0229\)](#)
- [Brookville Road Bridge \(M-0083\)](#)
- [Dennis Avenue Bridge \(M-0194\)](#)



Amtrak Avoids Thanksgiving Shutdown, as Rail Unions Delay Strike

Labor unions agreed to postpone strike action, averting disruption to travelers, commuters and shippers.

A threatened nationwide railroad strike that could have stranded Amtrak riders during Thanksgiving

— one of the busiest travel seasons of the year — has been averted for now.

The date of a potential strike was pushed back from Nov. 20 to at least Dec. 4 by the railroad workers union, the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. The union's members have rejected a settlement reached with freight railroads in September. [Learn more here.](#)



MDOT MTA Offers Free CharmPass Fares This Week, Nov. 14 - 18

Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) celebrates [Rider Appreciation Week](#). Whether you're a regular rider or new to taking transit, you can register to

have your free fares pushed to your [CharmPass](#), the mobile ticketing app for MDOT MTA transportation ([Local Bus](#), [Light RailLink](#), [MARC Train](#), [Metro SubwayLink](#) and [Commuter Bus](#)).

METRO UPDATES

- [Dorsey Mill Road Bridge](#)
- [Garrett Park Road Bridge \(M-0352\)](#)
- [Glen Road Bridge \(M-0148\)](#)
- [Mouth of Monocacy Road Bridge \(M-0043\)](#)
- [Pooks Hill Road over Rock Creek Tributary Bridge \(M-0357AX01\)](#)
- [Zion Road Bridge over Hawlings River \(M-0121\)](#)



MCDOT Begins Culvert Replacement Project on Alloway Drive in Potomac

Construction includes replacement of the existing storm drain culvert on [Alloway Drive](#) as well as headwall and wingwall replacement, stream restoration, landscaping, new asphalt paving and installation of a new chain link fence.

MCDOT crews will work to minimize disruptions to surrounding residents and business communities.

View the project [website](#) and [newsletter](#) for more details.

Alloway Drive is closed and [detours are in place.](#)



Metro Launches Silver Line Extension With Opening Ceremony; Welcomes Customers to #RideSilver to Six New Stations

New rail connections to Washington Dulles International Airport, Reston, Herndon, and Eastern Loudoun County

On Tuesday, Nov. 15 Metro celebrated the opening of the Silver Line Extension, connecting customers to six new stations, adding 11.4 miles of track to the Metrorail system, and beginning operations at a modern rail maintenance facility. The Silver Line Extension gives customers a new connection to Washington Dulles International Airport and new service between Reston, Va., and eastern Loudoun County. The grand opening also marks the completion of the Silver Line project, a generational infrastructure investment in Northern Virginia. Learn more [here](#).

Metro Explores Silver Line “Express” Train That Saves Six Minutes

Metro is looking at timing trains to create an “express” train that shaves five to six minutes off the total trip. Metro says an express train could only catch up with a train in front of it, not pass it, so it would have to time things correctly for it to work. Learn more [here](#).

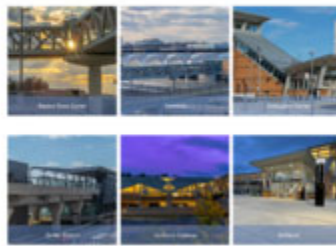
Metro Red Line Service Adjustments This Weekend, Saturday, Nov. 19 and Sunday, Nov. 20

The Red Line can [expect some slight disruptions](#) due to track work:

- Trains will run every 10 minutes.
- Due to switch replacement, there will be no train service between Friendship Heights and Grosvenor. Trains will operate in two segments, from Shady Grove to Grosvenor and from Friendship Heights to Glenmont.
- The Bethesda and Medical Center stations will be closed, with free shuttle buses running as a replacement

Metro Charts Course to Bring Rail Service Back to Normal

By early next month, transit customers should see Metrorail wait times decrease significantly for the first time in more than a year, followed by another drop in the spring, Metro officials said Thursday as they released a plan for boosting service to pre-pandemic levels.



The State’s Deadline for Civil Penalty Waiver for Outstanding Video Tolls Ends Wednesday, Nov. 30

Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) customers are reminded that the [Customer Assistance Plan](#) offering a civil penalty waiver grace period for Video Tolls will expire after 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 30.

With time running out, the MDTA encourages customers to check their account [here](#) and pay their tolls before the opportunity for a civil penalty waiver ends.



Electric Vehicle Sales Rise as Registrations Jump 57% Through September

A wider variety of EVs are now available from traditional automakers, with many more planned.

Through the first nine months of this year, [registrations for electric vehicles](#) rose 57% compared to the same period last year, according to data from Experian Automotive cited

The announcement came after last week's compromise between Metro and the regulatory Washington Metrorail Safety Commission over the use of the transit agency's troubled 7000-series rail cars. Transit officials mapped out how Metro could end a train shortage that has created long waits and led to overcrowding on some trains. Read the Washington Post article [here](#).

Temporary Closure of Takoma Park Bus Stop, Westbound on Philadelphia Avenue Near Cedar Avenue, Began Monday, Nov. 14

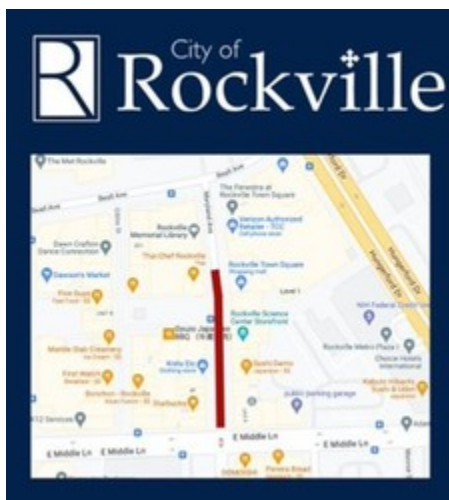
The bus stop located Westbound on Philadelphia Avenue (bus stop #24859), near Cedar Avenue at the Takoma Park Community Center, is [temporarily closed](#) for approximately one year for the Takoma Park Maryland Library [reconstruction project](#). Riders will be directed to the next nearest stops at Maple Avenue and Philadelphia Avenue ([F4](#) Metro bus) and Maple Avenue and Grant Avenue ([17](#) Ride On bus).

ROAD PROJECTS & CLOSURES

Rockville Town Square Street Closures for Tree Lighting on Friday, Nov. 18

This Friday, Nov. 18 Maryland Avenue will be closed from E. Middle Lane to the Gold's Gym between 12 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. for winter holiday tree lighting in Rockville.

No vehicle traffic will be permitted on the street during this time. Access to the parking garage on [Maryland Avenue at Beall Avenue](#) will be maintained.



WSSC Reopened Clopper Road in Germantown

Clopper Road in Germantown reopened this morning, Thursday, Nov. 17 after crews fixed a 24-inch water main break that caused a large hole in the roadway. Learn more [here](#).

MCDOT's White Flint Pike District (Formerly White Flint West) Project Update

The White Flint Pike District project provides the new construction and reconstruction of highways and arterial roads including their intersections and the major relocations of the affected utilities within White Flint District. The vision for the White Flint District is to improve sidewalks, bikeways, trails, paths, public use space, parks and recreational facilities, mixed-use development, and enhanced streetscape and transit-oriented development around the Metro station.

by Automotive News. More than 530,000 new battery-electric vehicles were registered in the U.S. through September. Read the Smart Cities Dive article [here](#).



Call 311 to Get it Done

MC311 is Montgomery County Government's Customer Service Center for all non-emergency County inquiries and services.

Dial 311 in the County or 240-777-0311, 711 for [MD Relay TTY](#), Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. - 7 p.m., follow on [Twitter @311MC311](#) or submit your request online at [montgomerycountymd.gov/311](#).

Construction operations on the following roadways are complete:

- *Old Georgetown Road* north of the Nicholson Lane/Tilden Lane intersection to MD 355 (Rockville Pike)
- *Executive Boulevard* between the signalized entrance to 6000/6001 Executive Boulevard and Towne Road.
- *Banneker Avenue* from Old Georgetown Road to Grand Park Avenue.
- *Grand Park Avenue* from Banneker Avenue to Old Georgetown Road.
- The improvements at the intersection of *Executive Boulevard* and *Marinelli Road* are also finished.

Read the latest project newsletter for additional construction activities [here](#). Sign up to receive project updates [here](#).

For questions or concerns contact Paul Bender, Senior Resident Engineer at 301-343-1527 or email paul.bender@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Purple Line Implements Long-Term Pedestrian Detour on Wisconsin Avenue (MD 355) in Bethesda

This week, a long-term pedestrian detour along Wisconsin Avenue (MD 355) has been implemented around the Purple Line work zone. The crosswalk on Wisconsin Avenue (MD 355) between Elm Street and Waverly Street is closed and a new crosswalk with signals at Elm Street is available for use. View the detour map [here](#).

Ride For Your Life Event to Honor Bethesda Woman Killed While Riding Bike, Saturday, Nov. 19

The [Ride for Your Life](#) event will be held in memory of Sarah Langenkamp who was killed in August while biking in Bethesda, will take place at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19. The 10-mile bike ride will aim to raise awareness about federal funding that could improve bicycle infrastructure and federal regulations that could increase safety. Learn more [here](#).



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