

Notes from SSCAB TREE Committee – BRT update
Monday February 25, 2019

About 15 people in attendance
Presentation by Corey Pitts of MCDOT

Questions about roadway lane closures – most of the BRT construction will involve sidewalks.

Question asked about coordination of projects – handled by Department of Permitting Services.

Question about Veirs Mill Rd alternative - recommended alt. is mixed traffic in curb lane, Veirs Mill BRT will operate from Montgomery College Rockville to the Wheaton Metro station and should be operational 2025 / 2026.

Questions about the new busses (60' articulated, diesel powered) – first bus will be checked out at the factory, 14 – 16 busses will be delivered this fall for use on the US 29 BRT corridor. Busses cost about \$14M/bus. MCDOT will provide driver training at safety center.

Question about utility relocation - how much work, how much impact. – There will be some challenges, particularly on the MD 355 route if it is implemented as a guideway.

Question – “Are we the only county with a big BRT program?” - Fairfax is studying some BRT routes. The Northern Virginia transit commission is studying Route 7 as a BRT corridor.

Question – “Is there coordination with Howard County?” – There was some initially, but HC schedule has slipped and they have been quiet lately.

Question – “Will there be electric busses?” – No, because the program has federal funding, the Buy American requirements are in place. There are only 2 American manufacturers of electric busses and their articulated electric busses are still on the bleeding edge. Determined that hybrids are too expensive to maintain, MCDOT does not use CNG, decided to go with diesel.

Questions – “MD355 - southern terminus - Friendship Heights or Bethesda?” – Initially the southern terminus was to be the Friendship Heights Metro station. Neighborhood pushback led to the decision to make it the Bethesda Metro station, now looking at going back to FH.
355 ALT 1

US 29 BRT – Will use slot in SSTC currently used by R/O 129. Service from ~5AM - ~1AM.
TSP - density - not all intersections could only fund 15 busiest intersections.
Rt 29 mapping - stop at Sligo Creek Parkway? Too hard to site a platform.