

Main, Lori J.

From: Montgomery County, MD <montgomerycountymd@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 7, 2022 2:15 PM
To: Main, Lori J.
Subject: Go Montgomery! Newsletter - Thursday, April 7, 2022

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Go Montgomery

MCDOT



TONIGHT: County Executive Marc Elrich Will Host an Online Public Forum on Thursday, April 7, on Programs to Combat Climate Change in Recommended Operating Budget

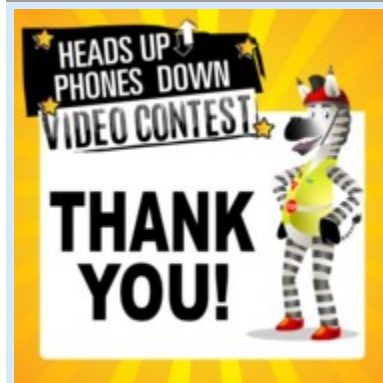
From 7-8 p.m. tonight, April 7, county leaders and staff from several departments, including MCDOT, will join

Elrich to answer questions from residents on items from his [recommended FY 2023 operating budget](#) that highlight significant investments in efforts to combat climate change.

[Online registration](#) is required to attend. The forum will also be live-streamed for viewing at facebook.com/MyGreenMontgomery.

Residents will also have an opportunity to offer feedback on the proposed operating budget at upcoming Council public hearings scheduled for April 19, 20 and 21. Learn more [here](#).

April 7, 2022



MCDOT Wants to Thank Students for Participating in Heads Up Phones Down Video Contest

MCDOT received 117 video entries from Montgomery County teens. Visit the contest website to view a list of winners and their videos [here](#).



Montgomery County Executive Elrich Issued Proclamation Recognizing ‘Transit Driver Appreciation Day’ on March 18

The event was streamed live on the [@MCDOTNow](#) Twitter account and additional photos can be viewed [here](#). MCDOT employs more than 650 bus operators to support the transit services that include Ride On, Ride On extRa, Flex and Flash.

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich proclaimed March 18 as [Transit Driver Appreciation Day](#) and expressed gratitude to MCDOT’s Ride On bus drivers for delivering safe, friendly and reliable transportation to visitors and residents of Montgomery County.

“Montgomery County residents rely on our transportation system as a lifeline,” said County Executive Elrich. “When everyday life came to a halt early in the pandemic, MCDOT Ride On bus operators adapted quickly and were on the front lines to keep Montgomery County moving. The dedication, work ethic and resilience of each of these behind-the-scenes heroes have proved them to be leaders in times of need. I’m pleased the County Council recently approved my recommendation for a bus operator and transit coordinator salary increase. We are now providing competitive compensation that is well deserved.”

Ride On bus service provides more than 40,000 riders affordable transportation to about 80 bus routes covering 1,463 miles throughout the County.



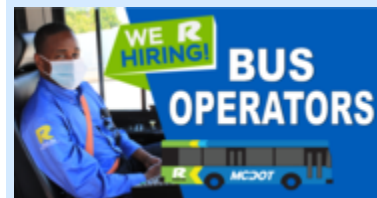
MCDOT Sponsors Free E-Scooter Training on Saturday, April 9 for Adults 18+

Between 12 p.m. and 1 p.m., participants can take a test ride, learn safety tips and get details on basic scooter laws..

*Note: new location at Westfield Montgomery Mall in Bethesda, participants are to meet at the [parking lot outside the old Sear’s building](#).

No registration is required to attend and a valid driver’s license is required.

JOIN OUR TEAM



MCDOT is Hiring Full-Time and Part-Time Bus Operators

MCDOT is actively hiring new operators and offering paid CDL license training, a competitive benefits package and ongoing professional development opportunities. Applicants must be at least 21 years old and can apply [here](#).

No experience is necessary. MCDOT is offering paid training



Montgomery County Keeps Streeteries in Bethesda, Silver Spring and Wheaton Open at Least Through Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 5

Streeteries were established as part of MCDOT's Shared Streets program, allowing restaurants to establish outdoor dining areas on streets that have been closed to vehicular traffic.

First created in response to the COVID-19 health crisis, the pedestrian-friendly program will be extended throughout the summer at streeteries located in the downtown areas of [Bethesda](#), [Silver Spring](#) and [Wheaton](#). Learn more [here](#).



MCDOT's Annual Sweeping Program Now Underway / 4,000+ Lane Miles Will Be Swept

MCDOT' Street Sweeping

Program runs from April through June. Last year, crews swept over 4,100 lane miles of residential roadways, removing over 1,200 tons of debris. "No Parking" signs will be posted in neighborhoods a few days in advance of sweeping operations. Residents may find the sweeping schedule, view the map and FAQs online [here](#).

These efforts help to promote the health and vibrancy of our local watersheds as well as the overall health of the Chesapeake Bay. To see what else MCDOT is doing to help improve environmental quality, visit montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdotgreen.



MCDOT Kicks Off Planning Study for the North Bethesda Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)/Flash Bus Service; Seeks Public Input by Friday, April 29

MCDOT's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service, branded Flash, provides upgraded bus service on select corridors. The County is

looking to extend this bus service to [North Bethesda](#). MCDOT has

to applicants. Other benefits include:

- Competitive Starting Salary
- Paid Commercial Driver's License Training
- Paid Holidays, Annual and Sick Leave
- Retirement Benefits
- Health Insurance
- Ongoing Professional Development
- Career Path for Advancement

Learn more and apply at rideonbus.com/jobs.



April is Distracted Driving Month

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), distracted driving has become a deadly epidemic on our roads. While drivers texting behind the wheel tops what seems like an endless list of distractions, other risky actions include talking — whether it be on the phone or to others in the car, setting your navigation, adjusting what you're listening to, drinking coffee, applying makeup, and more. By driving distracted, you lose valuable seconds that you may need to avoid a close call or deadly crash. Learn more [here](#).

kicked off a planning study to assist in determining the street layout, location of stations and the endpoints of the corridor.

Residents can provide feedback on how and why they travel in North Bethesda and preferred station locations by taking a brief project survey in English or Spanish [here](#). To receive updates on the North Bethesda BRT, sign up [here](#).



MCDOT Begins Ride On Reimagined Study

The Ride On Reimagined Study, that will run over the next 18-24 months, is a comprehensive, forward-looking assessment of the bus network that will result in significant recommended changes to how transit operates in Montgomery County. 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.

Data analysis and community engagement will guide the future direction of Montgomery County's bus network. Review the final scope of work in multiple languages [here](#).



Virtual Hearing On Proposed Parkside Estates Community Sidewalk in Rockville to be Held on Wednesday, April 20

Starting at 6:30 p.m., MCDOT staff 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.



Ride On Celebrates 47 Years of Serving the Community

MCDOT Staff were stationed throughout Montgomery County during the am and pm rush hours on Friday, March 25 to thank riders for using the Ride On bus service and gave away 47th Anniversary commemorative t-shirts, water bottles and more.



MCDOT Welcomes 35 High School Students to be Vision Zero Youth Ambassadors

MCDOT received 115 applications, choosing 35 student's to be [Vision Zero Ambassadors](#) who will help the County achieve its Vision Zero goals as road safety leaders in their communities. The County's Vision Zero initiative aims to eliminate



Maryland House Appropriations Committee Recommends \$61.5 Million in Additional and New Funding for Capital Projects in Montgomery County

The Capital Budget Subcommittee of the Maryland House Appropriations Committee recommended new and

additional funding for projects throughout the State and Montgomery County. Recommendations include items that were listed as Joint Priorities of the Montgomery County Executive and Council at the beginning of the 2022 Maryland General Assembly legislative session. The funds, together with funds previously allocated from the Maryland Senate, ensure that key Montgomery County projects will be able to make significant progress in the upcoming fiscal year.

Allocated funding includes:

- \$30 million for the County’s landmark [Bus Rapid Transit](#) system, ensuring a total of \$61 million from the State to aid the County in accelerated growth of this project.
- \$6.8 million for the [County Zero Emissions Bus Program](#).
- \$6 million for two new bike trails for a total of \$7.5 million.

Learn more [here](#).



Montgomery County Council Approves Corridor Forward: The I-270 Transit Plan



The Montgomery County Council [unanimously passed a resolution approving Corridor Forward: The I-270 Transit Plan](#). The plan will help guide the future of public transit along the I-270 corridor and surrounding communities

and encourages continued growth of key activity centers and industry clusters.

[Corridor Forward](#) seeks to improve public transit, accessibility and mobility along I-270 corridor. The plan was drafted by the Montgomery County Planning Department with recommendations and input from MCDOT staff.

traffic-related severe injuries and deaths.

The program will educate students about traffic safety and the importance of roadway design, law enforcement, and education to achieve the goal of Vision Zero.

Students commit to an 8-week program where they will create a safety campaign and present it.



Montgomery County's Free Annual 'GreenFest' Returns In-person to Brookside Gardens in Wheaton on Saturday, April 23 from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

[GreenFest](#) is Montgomery County’s premier environmental festival, featuring a wide array of activities and programs including kid’s tree climbing, face painting, green arts and crafts fair, children’s yoga, plant giveaways, an electric vehicle and car show, and locally based food trucks will be onsite serving a variety of fare. Learn more [here](#) and view the event flyer [here](#).

The [best way to get to GreenFest](#) is by using MCDOT’s free Ride On bus shuttle service from Glenmont

Corridor Forward contains recommendations for a near-term network of dedicated bus lanes and a long-term vision of an extension of Metrorail's Red Line and enhanced MARC service along the Brunswick Line.

The network of dedicated bus lanes builds on existing master planned projects, including the MD 355 and Veirs Mill Road Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) projects to create a transit network that serves communities and employment centers along the I-270 corridor.

This plan recommends the MD 355 BRT and Veirs Mill Road BRT as crucial first steps in improving transit accessibility along the I-270 corridor. Incremental implementation of the Corridor Connectors and efforts to advance the Red Line extension and MARC commuter rail enhancements are included in the plan's long-term vision.

View the Council staff report [here](#).

Advancing Equity, Transportation,
Housing, and Climate Goals



COG Unveils New 2030 Planning Framework

The Council of Governments (COG) Board of Directors has set planning priorities for the next decade related to equity, transit and land use, housing, and climate

change. Taken together, these priorities form *Region United*, COG's new framework for 2030, which highlights grants, technical assistance, maps and tools, and strategies to help member governments accelerate action toward their shared goals.

The following four planning priorities make up the framework for 2030.

- Equity Emphasis Areas (EEAs)
- High-Capacity Transit Station Areas (HCTs)
- 2030 Housing Targets
- 2030 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Goal and Action Plan

Learn more [here](#).

Metro Station that will run every 15 minutes between 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Residents should also consider riding their bike, [view this map](#) for bike rack locations that will be set up at Brookside Gardens.



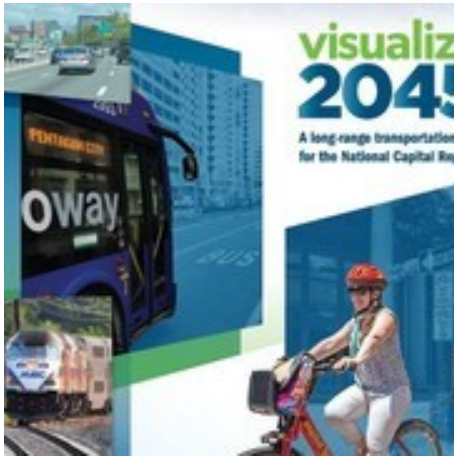
Elementary School (K-5) Students Have Until Thursday, April 28 to Submit Their Art on Pedestrian Safety

MCDOT is asking Elementary School students in grades K-5 to use their creativity to design an original art project to help promote pedestrian safety among their peers. Students have until midnight on Thursday, April 28 to submit their artwork for a chance to win Amazon or Barnes & Noble gift cards. Learn more [here](#).



Now Streaming: Electric Vehicles in the DVM

Guests from Montgomery County, Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition, Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association, and COG join the podcast to talk about electric vehicles and alternative fuels as important solutions. Listen to the episode or read the transcript [here](#).



Public Has Until Sunday, May 1 to Provide Feedback on the Region’s Long-Range Transportation Plan

The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board is seeking public comment on [Visualize 2045](#), the long-range transportation plan update for the metropolitan

Washington region. Input will help elected leaders and regional planners better understand how the plan aligns with public priorities as they make decisions about the region’s transportation future.

Visualize 2045 highlights hundreds of regionally significant road and transit projects, bicycle and pedestrian projects, freight movement factors, and key land-use issues facing the region. Residents can provide input and learn more [here](#).

METRO

Metrorail Weekend Service Adjustments for Saturday, April 9 through Sunday, April 10

Metro will run increased train service for cherry blossom season with no daytime or evening track work scheduled. Metrorail will open at 7 a.m., closing at 1 a.m. Saturday and midnight on Sunday. Trains operate every 10 minutes until 10 p.m., transitioning to every 18 minutes until close. For additional information and tips for cherry blossom season, view Metro’s Travel to the [Cherry Blossoms guide](#).



Before traveling check Metro’s [Status and Alerts page](#) or follow [@Metrobusinfo](#) on Twitter for up-to-date information about service disruptions and delays.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame: Metro Says it’s Adding Extra Trains on Nationals Game Days

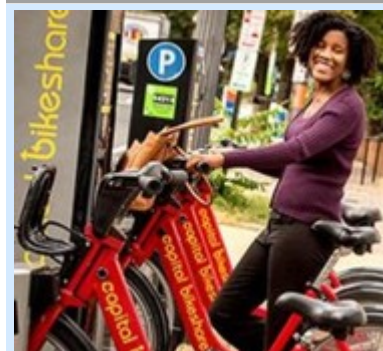
With Metro train service still much slower than normal, Metro tells 7 News it plans to add extra trains to help with crowding for Nationals Games this season. Learn more [here](#).

Metro’s Next Rail Cars to be Built at New \$70 Million Maryland Plant



Check Out MCDOT’s Commuter Services Better Ways to Work Newsletter

View the current Better Ways to Work newsletter [online](#) or [sign up](#) to receive it in your inbox.



Did You Know?

Developers or property managers in Montgomery County can offer Capital Bikeshare memberships as a value-added amenity that will provide tenants with a fun, healthy transportation option.

Purchasing Annual Memberships or 24-hour passes would allow residents to have access to unlimited trips under 45-minutes to travel in

Metro's next series of rail cars will employ nearly 500 people and supply rail cars for the Washington-area system and transit agencies across the country. Hitachi Rail announced last month it has chosen Hagerstown as the home for an assembly plant that will release Metro's eighth generation of rail cars starting in late 2024. Metro selected the company about 18 months ago to build 256 cars for its 8000 series to replace Metro's 2000- and 3000-series cars currently in operation.

Designed to match the all-silver 7000 series, the latest model will have similar bench seating and wide aisles, as well as upgrades that include real-time digital maps, onboard WiFi, power outlets, high-definition security cameras, heated floors, increased ventilation and improved braking. Each car will be able to seat about 68 passengers. Hitachi Rail said the cars are quieter and more energy efficient than Metro's previous models. Learn more [here](#).

MDOT SHA to Perform Tree Trimming to Improve Visibility on I-495 (Capital Beltway) in Montgomery County

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) will perform tree trimming work this weekend to improve visibility along a portion of Interstate-495 (Capital Beltway) in Montgomery County. Between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 9, and Sunday, April 10, crews will trim trees and other vegetation on the I-495 Outer Loop ramp to Exit 41, Clara Barton Parkway.

For a list of all major MDOT SHA projects, visit the [Project Portal](#).

Upcoming Report Will Examine Distracted Driving

The Governors Highway Safety Association and General Motors plan to release a report this summer on distracted driving to reduce the behavior and change the social norm. According to national and state driver surveys, distracted driving is a top road safety concern. Distracted driving includes texting and using cell phones, eating and drinking, changing the radio, and personal grooming.



and around the metro DC area. Learn more [here](#).



Could Switching to an Electric Car be Good for Your Health?

What if, by 2040, all electricity grids were powered by clean energy, and all cars, trucks and buses sold were zero-emissions vehicles? A new report suggests the D.C. region's residents could overall be healthier. Read the WTOP article [here](#).



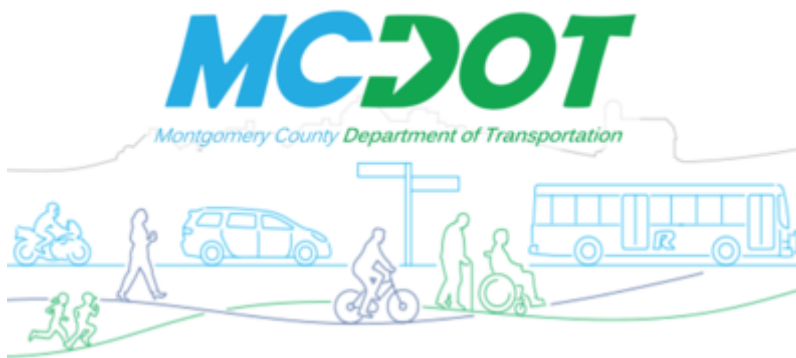
Call 311 To Get It Done

To report fallen trees, sidewalk or curb damage, streetlight outages, pot holes, foliage obstruction and more, call 311 or report it online at montgomerycountymd.gov/311.

A total of 51 percent of drivers admitted they text and/or email on their phone while alone in the vehicle, according to a 2021 AAA survey. Read the Transportation Today article [here](#).

Buttigieg Announces USDOT Budget for 2023

U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said President Joe Biden's 2023 Budget Request includes an additional \$37 billion to make transportation safer, more reliable, and more affordable. Read the Transportation Today article [here](#).



For transportation updates, follow [@MCDOTNow](#) on Twitter, visit the department website at montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdot or [sign up](#) to receive the latest MCDOT news.

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