



SILVER SPRING
TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

**May 21, 2020 / 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.
Teams Virtual Meeting**

Chair – Valerie Spencer
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 | Valerie Spencer |
| 8:05 | 2. Metro Recovery Plan | Gary Erenrich
MCDOT-Special Assistant to the Director |
| 8:35 | 3. Vision Zero | Wade Holland
MCDOT-Vision Zero Coordinator |
| 9:05 | 4. Employer Outreach Update | TMD Marketing Staff |
| 9:10 | 5. Updates: Police/TMD/DOT/Other County Updates | Sande Brecher
Sgt. Kerry Moore
Reemberto Rodriguez
Iftin Thompson
Jim Carlson |
| 9:25 | 6. Around the Room | All |
| 9:30 | 7. Adjourn / Next Meeting: TBA | |
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Information Items:

MoCo Dept. of Environmental Protection Announces First 'Digital Solar Happy Hour' and Solar Co-Op Information Session
MoCo to Begin Making Available Limited Quantities of Face Coverings for Ride On Passengers
MCDOT to Receive More Than \$30 million in Federal Funding from CARES Act
County Executive Signs Continuing Stay at Home Order

Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection Announces its First 'Digital Solar Happy Hour' and Solar Co-Op Information Session on Thursday, May 14

For Immediate Release: Monday, May 11, 2020

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will hold its first "Digital Solar Happy Hour" on Thursday, May 14, in its efforts to inform residents and small business owners about bringing solar energy and electric vehicle charging to their homes and businesses.

Maryland-mandated restrictions during the COVID-19 health crisis remain in place, including a ban on dine-in service at restaurants. To accommodate those restrictions, the DEP happy hour will take place live and online from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Along with Solar United Neighbors, DEP is partnering with local breweries in this virtual event.

The live session will include information on solar technology, cost savings and financing. Attendees will have the opportunity to speak with solar users and electric vehicle owners and ask questions of the experts.

Those interested in joining the digital happy hour must register in advance at mygreenmontgomery.org/event/montgomery-county-solar-happy-hour-solar-co-op-info-session/

Those who register by noon on Tuesday, May 12, may be eligible to receive a free six-pack of beer from one of the partnering breweries:

- 7 Locks Brewing, Rockville
- Astro Lab, Silver Spring
- Saints Row, Rockville
- Silver Branch Brewing, Silver Spring
- True Respite, Derwood
- Waredaca, Gaithersburg

In addition to meeting solar and electric vehicle owners, happy hour participants will learn about the fourth Solar Co-op in Montgomery County. The Co-op this year is offering the opportunity to install an electric vehicle (EV) charger in homes or businesses. It is free to join and members are not obligated to buy solar panels.

The Co-op membership includes:

- A free roof review to determine if solar panels will work for that property.
- One-on-one support for all questions about going solar.
- An individualized proposal for solar at a bulk rate.

The Digital Solar Happy Hour is one of the free DEP information sessions to educate community members about solar energy and the Co-op. More information is available at MyGreenMontgomery.org and at the DEP sites on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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Media Contact: Cindy Pena 202-875-1563



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Montgomery County to Begin Making Available Limited Quantities of Face Coverings for Ride On Passengers Who Cannot Provide Their Own During COVID-19 Health Crisis

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, April 28, 2020



The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) starting Tuesday, April 28, will begin a pilot program to provide limited supplies of face coverings on buses for passengers who cannot provide their own. In accordance with Maryland Governor Larry Hogan's executive order, public transportation users must wear face coverings during the COVID-19 health crisis.

Face coverings are now required in many locations under the executive order and MCDOT strongly encourages Ride On travelers to come prepared with a personal face covering—which may include a mask, scarf or bandana—to cover the nose and mouth. Customers who do not comply will be advised of the requirement to wear a face covering and may be directed not to board the vehicle or to exit the vehicle.

MCDOT recognizes there may be times when Ride On users may not be aware of requirements for face coverings or may forget to bring one. To address those situations, Ride On is starting to outfit some buses with a limited supply of individually wrapped face coverings that can be used by riders who cannot provide their own.

Buses will be outfitted with face coverings as they become available, with select buses serving the Silver Spring area being the first. MCDOT will evaluate the pilot program from the Silver Spring Depot and make adjustments as needed, with hopes of having all Ride On buses carrying face coverings by early May.

"We are grateful to the Department of General Services' efforts to provide the supplies needed to help protect our riders," said MCDOT Director Chris Conklin. "That said, I strongly encourage Ride On passengers to provide their own face coverings whenever possible and so we can reserve these spare coverings for those who have no alternative. I also want to reinforce that bus service is being provided for essential travel only."



Details for each Ride On Essential Service Plan, which has limited routes operating during the health crisis, can be viewed at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-Transit/essential-plan.html.

Ride On services continue to be temporarily free to all passengers. In addition, MCDOT has implemented a procedural change for riders. Passengers are now required to board at the rear door of the bus. Passengers can board through the front doors if a ramp is needed to accommodate a disability or stroller. The number of passengers per bus will be limited to ensure that social distancing on-board the vehicle is maintained.

For the most up-to-date local transportation information, follow @MCDOTNow on Twitter, visit MCDOT's transportation resource page for COVID-19, or subscribe to MCDOT news releases.

For the latest Montgomery County updates during the health crisis, visit the County's COVID-19 website and follow Montgomery County on Facebook @MontgomeryCountyInfo and Twitter @MontgomeryCoMD.

Release ID: 20-090

Media Contact: Hannah Henn 240-777-8389



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Ride On Alerts

See COVID-19 Transportation changes, updates, and resources

Información actual, recursos de transporte y cambios

Please travel for essential purposes only. Únicamente viajes esenciales, porfavor.

Press Releases - Department of Transportation

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MCDOT to Receive More Than \$30 million in Federal Funding from the CARES Act to Support Public Transit Operations in Response to the COVID-19 Health Crisis

For Immediate Release: Monday, May 11, 2020



The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) has been designated to receive more than \$30 million in Federal funding to support Ride On bus operations during and after the COVID-19 health crisis.

MCDOT worked to determine and justify the County's share of funding from the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act"), which will provide \$25 billion to support public transportation in response to the impact, and future recovery, from the pandemic.

Through the provision of the CARES Act, the Federal government has acknowledged the extreme operational and financial burden that the pandemic is placing on the public transportation industry. The legislation also recognizes the critical importance of maintaining transit services during the health crisis for essential workers and others who rely on public systems to access basic needs such as food and healthcare.

"This is important. These are critical Federal relief funds that will bring more than \$30 million of assistance to Montgomery County," said County Executive Marc Elrich. "These funds will help mitigate the financial impact that COVID-19 has had on our transit system. I want to thank the dedicated employees of the Montgomery County Department of Transportation for leading our efforts to obtain this aid. I also want to thank our regional partners, including the leadership of WMATA and the Maryland Department of Transportation for their work to distribute aid to affected jurisdictions in an equitable fashion. Additionally, I want to thank our outstanding Congressional delegation for making these funds available."

The County's response to COVID-19 has been extensive and has required major undertakings by planning and operational teams to develop and implement bus route and schedule changes in rapid response to changing conditions and needs. Transit needs continue to evolve and Ride On has made several adjustments to meet the needs of essential travel. The County's current operation also focuses on serving Equity Emphasis Areas as defined by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG).

Specifically, the Federal funding assistance will help to cover operating costs for Ride On to account for:

- Lost revenue from the elimination of fare collection since March 13 in order to limit personal interactions.
- Implementing hazard pay for bus drivers in recognition of the critical work they perform.



- Maintaining standby drivers on buses stationed strategically across the County who can be deployed to routes that need more coverage in order to maintain social distancing.
- Increased cleaning and safety measures to keep riders and bus operators safe.

"Ride On continues to make adjustments as the situation evolves," said MCDOT Division of Transit Chief Dan Hibbert. "Some bus routes that were cut at the start of our response have been added back because of identified community needs. We have increased midday service on routes that include hospitals and we continue to shift resources to routes that need more service to maintain safe levels of social distancing."

The CARES Act allocated \$1.02 billion in funding for the Washington metropolitan area, with the Washington Metro Area Transit Authority (WMATA) being the lead agency for funding distribution. As the second largest bus operator in the National Capital Region, Montgomery County received just over \$28 million. The remainder of funding allocation will be through the Maryland Department of Transportation's Maryland Transit Administration to bring Montgomery County's expected total public transit funding through the CARES Act to just over \$30 million.

For the most up-to-date local transportation information, follow @MCDOTNow on Twitter, visit MCDOT's transportation resource page for COVID-19, or subscribe to MCDOT news releases.

For the latest Montgomery County updates during the health crisis, visit the County's COVID-19 website and follow Montgomery County on Facebook @MontgomeryCountyInfo and Twitter @MontgomeryCoMD.

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Release ID: 20-096

Media Contact: Hannah Henn 240-777-8389



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County Executive Signs Continuing Stay at Home Order

For Immediate Release: Friday, May 15, 2020

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich today signed an Executive Order continuing the County's Stay at Home order until COVID-19 data shows it is safe to move towards reopening. The order, which is now in effect, keeps in place the current restrictions and permitted activities that were in place during the State's stay at home order. The Montgomery County Council voted unanimously to approve the Executive Order.

The order will stay in effect until five key metrics, detailed below, are met:

- A sustained decrease during a 14-day period of new cases in an environment of increased testing;
- A sustained decrease in the COVID-19 related hospitalization rate;
- A sustained decrease in the percentage of COVID-19 related ICU beds in use;
- A sustained decrease in the number of COVID-19 related daily deaths; and
- A sustained decrease in the number of COVID-19 related patients going to County emergency rooms.

County Executive Marc Elrich stated, "I want to thank the Council for its strong support of continuing our stay-at-home practices. I want to thank our County Health Officer Dr. Travis Gayles for his wise counsel. This is what we need to protect the health of our residents. We all understand that we cannot risk undoing the progress we have made to slow the spread. The Governor gave local jurisdictions authority to act in the best interest of our area. That is what we are doing, just as Prince George's County and other neighboring jurisdictions are as well."

Residents should continue to be vigilant in practicing preventive measures such as:

- Only go out for essential travel and permitted exercise.
- Practice physical distancing of at least six feet.
- Do not congregate in groups of more than 10 people.
- Wear a face covering when going out in public.
- Wash hands frequently.

For the latest COVID-19 updates, visit the County's COVID-19 website and follow Montgomery County on Facebook @MontgomeryCountyInfo and Twitter @MontgomeryCoMD.

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