



**SILVER SPRING  
TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**AGENDA**

**July 13, 2023 / 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.  
Teams Meeting**

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

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|-------------|--|---|
| <b>8:00</b> | <b>1. Introductions</b>  | <b>Jim Carlson/All</b>  |
|             | <b>2. Minutes Review</b><br>January (©2a) / March (2b)         | <b>All</b>  |
|             | <b>3. Presentation: Purple Line Construction Update</b>        | <b>Christina Contreres, P.E.</b><br>MCDOT Strategic Projects Implementation Manager |
|             | <b>4. Metro Update</b>   | <b>Gary Erenrich</b><br>MCDOT Special Assistant to the Director                     |
|             | <b>5. Employer TDM Plans/Reports</b><br>Summary (©5)           | <b>Jim Carlson</b>  |
|             | <b>6. Updates: TMD/DOT/Other County Updates</b>                | <b>Sandra Brecher</b><br><b>Jim Carlson</b>   |
|             | <b>7. Employer Outreach Update</b>                             | <b>Jennifer Bolick</b><br>TMD Outreach Team   |
| <b>9:30</b> | <b>Adjourn / Next Meeting: September Joint TMD Meeting TBA</b> |   |
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Information Items

*MCDOT Go Montgomery! Flash Edition*

*MC offers adult bike and scooter classes – April, May, June*

*Metro developing fix for wheels on 7000-series cars*

*Metro now welcomes strollers on Metrobus*

*Montgomery County Completes \$74 Million White Flint West Workaround Project*

*In-person public workshop – Norfolk Ave shared street planning study, March 16*

**Silver Spring  
Transportation Management District  
Advisory Committee  
January 12, 2023**

**Items 1 & 2 – Introductions/Minutes:** Members & guests introduced themselves. October's minutes were tabled.

**Item 3 – Purple Line Update:** Christina Contreras updated the Committee on the Purple Line's construction progress, continuing Marcela Cordova's presentation from last Spring. A new designer has been chosen – Maryland Transit Solutions, which is comprised of the firms Dragados & OHLA USA. The building team has recently finished a major transportation project in Long Island, New York. The Community Action Team (CAT) meetings will be held virtually for the Silver Spring area February 9<sup>th</sup>. The construction updates included:

- All 26 of the Light Rail Vehicles (LRVs) have been produced and are staged in Elmira, New York waiting for shipment to the Glen Ridge facility in Prince Georges County Maryland in Fall of 2023 to undergo testing.
- MTA continued construction during contract negotiations with utility relocation – with old construction in the Silver Spring area. Contractors don't know what is underground until uncovering infrastructure.
- Starting in January there will be a long-term lane closure and single lane traffic flow on Wayne Avenue to allow for storm drain installations, utility adjustments and sidewalk replacements.
- On January 23<sup>rd</sup> there will be construction fencing for PL access construction at Silver Spring Library access on Bonifant; Wayne and Fenton will be maintained – working with businesses in area to put up an art wall along the fencing site.
- Silver Spring Transit Center (SSTC) construction work on third level for the Capital Crescent Trail CCT & train overpass and coordinating with WMATA & Ride-On to ensure operations - one lane access to TC during off peak hours.
- Ride on and Metro coordination needed for construction access for upper level of TC.
- For construction updates and questions email [outreach@purplelinemd.com](mailto:outreach@purplelinemd.com)

Q & A:

- **Ms. Contreras** reported that her team has requested a construction schedule from MTA and will submit for public view when it is received-purpleline.com for updates.
- Using the TRiPS commuter store to help get information out to the public about upcoming construction and particularly to the low vision population.
- Restriction to the second level of TC due to overhead steel work is restricting pedestrian access, but buses can get through - coordination with **Maritza De La Vega**, TRiPS store manager in how they can help with messaging.
- Pedestrians cannot walk under construction sites involving steel.

**Item 4 – Metro Update:** Gary Erenrich reported that it is a busy time for Metro due to FY24 budget planning and today they will approve a strategic plan update which is a requirement of Virginia legislation that is responsible for their portion of Metro's funding. Public outreach and comment period will be made available regarding the plan. Also reported:

- Reinstating Metrorail turnbacks from Grosvenor has been tabled from the budget due to public outreach efforts and political pressure against the action - the turnbacks would cause riders to get off at Grosvenor Station to continue to Shady Grove station.
- Red Line rail frequency is improving and is up to pre-Covid levels due to the increased service of the 7000 series cars-Metro is increasing budgeting to decrease run times from 10 to 5 minutes.
- Dulles station on the Silverline, built by the Airport Authority, is the largest in the system.
- Potomac Yards station on the Yellow Line is due to open sometime in mid-2023.

Metro will have a board meeting in late January and will approve the docket for public Hearing.

Initiatives on the docket include:

- \$2 base fare and increase maximum to \$6.50 from \$6.00 – Montgomery County has the highest share of max fare riders which will place an undue burden on riders.
- Proposed elimination of peak and weekend fares having a one fare system – keeping the evening \$2 fare.
- Low-income fare program based on SNAP benefits- 50% reduced fare like the Senior Program.
- Ridership is higher on bus than rail - Q bus line has seen a 40% increase.
- Metro conducting a pilot on all door boarding on the F4 route by placing a SmarTrip pad at the rear door – issues with enforcement.

**Mr. Erenrich** discussion continued with uncertainty regarding free bus service in DC as the mayor is against the program due to lack of input by other jurisdictions. Also:

- Tactical bus lanes on Georgia Avenue between Wayne and 16<sup>th</sup> street- another pending on University Avenue
- Discussion regarding bikes in the tactical bus lanes and the safety issues associated - bikes are safer in the side bus lanes than in traffic as they will be fewer buses in tactical lanes than those open to vehicular traffic.
- **Mike Price** raised questions regarding safety and crime issues in the area as security cameras around stations do not seem to be a deterrent.

**Carson Henry** commented that other groups have police involvement at their meetings, which may be why the SS TMD has trouble obtaining their input as they may be spread too thin. The use of security cameras in obtain information regarding the capture of perpetrators is not publicized too soon to not negate apprehension efforts. Silver Spring Security Escort Service can assist walking people to their cars and garages have heavy security patrol- 240 876-2911

- It is not guaranteed that someone will be available to escort to cars as lack of available security personnel is an issue, and prescheduling is not an option- presenting security service to OMB to add funding to the initiative
- BTI is contracted under MCDOT to provide security for County garages
- Suggestion to invite Metro police to a future SS TMD meeting

**Item 5 – Employer Outreach Updates: Jennifer Bolick** announced:

- Working with employer & residential properties to obtain survey results- last survey was 2019
- The COG Employer recognition awards will be at the end of June. Encouraging employers to apply.
- Conducting outreach for Transportation Demand Management plans.

- Disseminating information regarding Ride On Reimagined.
- Bike-to-Work Day coming up in May.
- WABA hosted bike classes coming up in the Spring.
- **Sande Brecher** discussed the importance of recognizing that telecommuting is a form of commuting, especially when obtaining survey results.

**Item 6 – Employer TDM Plans/Reports:** **Jim Carlson** presented two employer plans to the Committee for recommendation of approval to MCDOT’s Director. The companies meet all requirements. He discussed reaching out to the Chamber and others about filling vacancies on the TMD Committee.

**Item 7 – Updates:** **Sande Brecher** announced:

- The COG 2020 Climate Report shows a 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions- two links provided in the chat.
- Continuing work on the Climate Action Plan (CAP)- quarterly updates posted to website.
- As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, the transit benefit increased to \$300 per month, up from \$280.
- Buildings were the largest reduction in GHG emissions as they convert over to electric.

**Item 8 – TMD Performance Report Update:** **Mr. Carlson** discussed the biennial report and asked for Committee input. A more consolidated report will be presented at a future meeting. **Mr. Carlson** explained that the NextGen laws sets goals in the Metro policy areas located inside the TMDs, which are the red policy areas. Orange policy areas have requirements based on square footage and employer size. The requirements are based on where a property is located within the County which requires tracking of how goals are met.

**Adjourn: Next meeting March 9, 2023**

**Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee Attendance Sheet  
January 12, 2023**

|  |                                  |                |               |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| <b>Voting Members (12)</b>                     |                                  |                |               |
| <b>Name</b>                                    | <b>Affiliation</b>               | <b>Present</b> | <b>Absent</b> |
| <b>Chamber Members (3)</b>                     |                                  |                |               |
| Chris Kabatt                                   | Wells + Associates               | X              |               |
| Julie Statland                                 | Statland & Katz, Ltd.            |                | X             |
| Vacant   |                                  |                |               |
| <b>Citizens Advisory Board Members (3)</b>     |                                  |                |               |
| Harriet Quinn                                  | Kemp Mill, Four Corners, East SS | X              |               |
| Vacant   | North & West Sector Plan Area    |                |               |
| Chris Perry                                    | CBD Resident                     | X              |               |
| <b>Employers less than 50 employees (3)</b>    |                                  |                |               |
| Vacant   |                                  |                |               |
| Vacant   |                                  |                |               |
| Vacant   |                                  |                |               |
| <b>Employers with 50 or more employees (3)</b> |                                  |                |               |
| G. Michael Price                               | Discovery Communications         | X              |               |
| Vacant   |                                  |                |               |
| Vacant   |                                  |                |               |
| <b>Non-Voting Members (3)</b>                  |                                  |                |               |
| Sandra Brecher, DOT-Commuter Services          | MCDOT Director or Designee       | X              |               |
| Larissa Klevan                                 | M-NCPPC                          | X              |               |
| Jacob Newman                                   | Silver Spring Regional Center    | X              |               |
| Sgt. Kerry Moore                               | Montgomery County Police         |                | X             |
| <b>Staff</b>                                   |                                  |                |               |
| Nakengi Byrd                                   | MCDOT-Commuter Services          | X              |               |
| Jim Carlson                                    | MCDOT-Commuter Services          | X              |               |
| <b>Guests</b>                                  |                                  |                |               |
| Jennifer Bolick                                | TMD Outreach Team                | X              |               |
| Christina Contrares                            | Purple Line                      | X              |               |
| Carson Henry                                   | SS Urban District                | X              |               |
| Jay Elvove                                     | SS Citizens Advisory Board       | X              |               |
| Gary Erenrich                                  | MCDOT                            | X              |               |
| Laura Van Eperen                               | Van Eperen & Co.                 | X              |               |
| Atara Margolies                                | M-NCPPC                          | X              |               |
| Andrew Wexler                                  | M-NCPPC                          | X              |               |

**Silver Spring  
Transportation Management District  
Advisory Committee  
March 9, 2023**

**Item 1 & 2 – Introductions:** **Jim Carlson** called meeting to order. Members and guests introduced themselves and minutes were tabled.

**Item 3 – Metro Update:** **Gary Erenrich** reported that Metro is winding down with its public hearings as there have been three in the past week. Metro’s proposed simplification of the fare system penalizes Montgomery County riders in that elimination of the off-peak fare of \$3.85 and raising the maximum fare to \$6.50 will force riders to pay the max fare which is a 70% increase. One-third of boardings in Montgomery County for the first six months of FY23 occurred during off peak periods. The biggest increase will be at Rockville & Shady Grove stations. Also reported:

- Metro Access riders are calling for a single fare to replace the current complex fare system.
- A low-income fare for those in DC using SNAP benefits - 50% reduced fare.
- To comment on proposed budget there is a survey available online.
- A major outreach effort for the tactical bus lanes- a one mile bus lane on Georgia avenue between Wayne and 16<sup>th</sup> Street.
- MCDOT will know by June if grant for tactical lanes is approved- if approved MCDOT will not have to cover construction cost and pilot project- project construction (red paint) is several years away.
- March 30<sup>th</sup> will be a virtual meeting on a tactical lane segment on University Blvd between Dennis Ave to Amherst-register in advance.
- Metro conducts surveys every few years for ridership demographics and characteristics.
- Discussion underway regarding Title 6 analysis for fare inequality in considering the proposed changes; however, analysis is complicated by a system-wide focus and not separate jurisdictions.
- Discussion of impact of the termination of SNAP program on low-income fare program riders.
- Concerns of recertification for the low-income fare program being abused due to program users giving their cards to those who don’t meet qualification guidelines.

**Mr. Erenrich** said Members can provide feedback on the proposed budget as an individual. Also discussed:

- **Paul Ellis**, representing Council Member **Kate Stewart**, asked the characteristics of off-peak fare commuters before the 9 pm \$2 base fare - represents a third of daily boardings in the County
- Discussion regarding funding of tactical lanes as grant may take up to two years due to the parking issues and the public outreach process - tactical lanes will be a pilot project at first.

**Item 4 – Silver Spring Downtown Plan Design Guidelines:** **Atara Margolies**, Project Manager for the Silver Spring Downtown & Adjacent Communities Plan, announced that the design guidelines have been completed and are accepting development applications. The plan was adopted in June 2022 as an update to the Central Business Sector Plan. The design guidelines give Developers examples of what is wanted in design. Guidelines are not voted on by Council. Design advisory panel has been established. **Ms. Margolies** discussed the design guidelines:

- The guidelines cover the “feel” & goals of the area and do not cover architectural designs; however, it is more detailed than a Sector Plan.
- The guidelines are also used by a design regulatory team to offer guidance to developers.
- The design guidance panel has been established to determine if every project meets requirements – exceptional design public benefits credit.
- Two sets of guidelines Plan-wide that covers streetscapes and connections over the train tracks crossing Georgia Avenue - two recommended crossing are in the plan.
- The other set of guidelines is site specific for individual projects, some of which may be a single site encompassing multiple buildings.
- Five overarching principals of the guidelines consist of:
  - A well-designed public realm that serves all
  - An active ground floor
  - Integrating into the existing building fabric
  - Including parks & public spaces
- Flexibility of guidelines will help facilitate and encourage construction.
- Complete Streets will be uniform for all master plans, preventing the invention of differing street types for each plan for consistency - 80% of the streets in the plan are downtown streets except for the major boulevards such as Georgia Avenue and Colesville Road
- Downtown streets type A & B to distinguish street functions – bike lanes on wider streets and smaller streets have widened buffers and sidewalks.
- The Complete Street guidelines can be tweaked for unusual conditions and updated with Planning Board review

**Ms. Margolies** discussed sight design requiring environmental and storm water management strategies to reduce heat island effect. Also discussed:

- The control of traffic mitigation service and delivery entrances and designing these areas out of the right of way.
- Low-, mid- and high-rise development is planned for the differing environments inside the plan-menu of components.
- The first two floors are the ground level which have major focus for activity and retail to encourage street engagement.
- Mid- rise buildings are above 6-7 stories and require a set back and middle volume - taller buildings have a tower requirement to facilitate flexibility and variety.
- 35% of the site must be green cover, which is mostly achieved with a green roof, tree canopy or other planting
- Activating ground space without commercial properties - having seating, landscaping, and a varied façade
- Roof design and structured parking integrated into the building to match with residential floors to reduce stand-alone parking garages.
- Historic and old buildings for adaptive uses and renovation – language in the plan to address instances where old buildings do not conform to the master plan.
- Creating good use of parks and public space by encouraging development for sites that have adequate space and requiring financial contributions for projects that are more limited for space to those nearby projects that do.
- Discussion regarding the inability of the build-out of all park space, as master plans are updated every 20 years - teams meet every month for final design and implementation.

- Redeveloping stand-alone parking garages for better site view and usage in lieu of the future Purple Line project on Bonifant street.
- Cameron Street garage will see more pedestrian traffic due to a future 900 unit and recreational center development (Elizabeth Square). Planning and designing projects to accommodate the growing population.
- Using the Design Guidelines Advisory Panel to review projects as a final step before implementation.

#### Q&A:

- Street Scape standards were implemented before the sector plan, with some parts outdated and overridden by the sector plan – brought up to date with Complete Streets.
- Details are forth coming regarding the planting of tree species.
- Currently, the guidelines do not impact the Urban District's design of the street scape.
- Developing design guidelines to not hinder development by providing guidance and allowing developers to input their expertise.
- How to support the overlapping design guidelines, the sector, master & pedestrian plan to encourage development since many sites will be retrofitted – incremental changes and negotiations for consistency – interim solutions.

#### **Adjourn**



**Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee Attendance Sheet  
March 9, 2023**

|  |                                  |                |               |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| <b>Voting Members (12)</b>                     |                                  |                |               |
| <b>Name</b>                                    | <b>Affiliation</b>               | <b>Present</b> | <b>Absent</b> |
| <b>Chamber Members (3)</b>                     |                                  |                |               |
| Chris Kabatt                                   | Wells + Associates               | X              |               |
| Julie Statland                                 | Statland & Katz, Ltd.            |                | X             |
| Vacant   |                                  |                |               |
| <b>Citizens Advisory Board Members (3)</b>     |                                  |                |               |
| Harriet Quinn                                  | Kemp Mill, Four Corners, East SS | X              |               |
| Vacant   | North & West Sector Plan Area    |                |               |
| Chris Perry                                    | CBD Resident                     | X              |               |
| <b>Employers less than 50 employees (3)</b>    |                                  |                |               |
| Vacant   |                                  |                |               |
| Vacant   |                                  |                |               |
| Vacant   |                                  |                |               |
| <b>Employers with 50 or more employees (3)</b> |                                  |                |               |
| G. Michael Price                               | Discovery Communications         | X              |               |
| Vacant   |                                  |                |               |
| Vacant   |                                  |                |               |
| <b>Non-Voting Members (3)</b>                  |                                  |                |               |
| Sandra Brecher, DOT-Commuter Services          | MCDOT Director or Designee       | X              |               |
| Larissa Klevan                                 | M-NCPPC                          | X              |               |
| Jacob Newman                                   | Silver Spring Regional Center    | X              |               |
| Sgt. Kerry Moore                               | Montgomery County Police         |                | X             |
| <b>Staff</b>                                   |                                  |                |               |
| Nakengi Byrd                                   | MCDOT-Commuter Services          | X              |               |
| Jim Carlson                                    | MCDOT-Commuter Services          | X              |               |
| <b>Guests</b>                                  |                                  |                |               |
| Jennifer Bolick                                | TMD Outreach Team                | X              |               |
| Carson Henry                                   | SS Urban District                | X              |               |
| Paul B. Ellis                                  | CM Kate Stewart's Office         | X              |               |
| Jay Elvove                                     | SS Citizens Advisory Board       | X              |               |
| Gary Erenrich                                  | MCDOT                            | X              |               |
| Laura Van Eperen                               | Van Eperen & Co.                 | X              |               |
| Atara Margolies                                | M-NCPPC                          | X              |               |
| Andrew Wexler                                  | M-NCPPC                          | X              |               |

**Silver Spring TMD**  
**Traffic Demand Management Plan Summary**  
**July 2023**

5

**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*

| <b>Employer</b>  | <b>Employee Total</b> | <b>Status</b>  | <b>Recommend to MCDOT?</b> |
|--|-----------------------|--|----------------------------|
| AmeriWell Clinics  | 50 FT                 | Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carpool matching</li> </ul>  | Yes                        |
| Andalman & Flynn<br>(voluntary plan)                     | 16 FT<br>7 PT         | Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telework</li> <li>• Flexible schedules</li> <li>• New hire information</li> </ul>                                  | Yes                        |
| Associated Insurance Management, Inc.                    | 35 FT                 | Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-tax deduction</li> <li>• Flexible schedules</li> </ul>   | Yes                        |
| Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) | 28 FT                 | Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct benefit - \$85</li> <li>• Telework – all</li> <li>• Flexible schedules</li> </ul>                           | Yes                        |
| Atlantech Online   | 65 FT                 | Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct benefit - \$85</li> <li>• Bike benefit</li> <li>• Flexible schedules</li> <li>• Carpool matching</li> </ul> | Yes                        |
| Copper Canyon Grill                                      | 5 FT<br>35 PT         | Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bike racks / lockers</li> <li>• Flexible &amp; compressed schedules</li> <li>• Carpool matching</li> </ul>         | Yes                        |
| CPWR   | 30 FT<br>1 PT         | Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bike racks / lockers</li> <li>• Telework - all</li> <li>• Flexible &amp; compressed schedules</li> </ul>           | Yes                        |

|                                    |                |  |     |
|------------------------------------|----------------|--|-----|
| DelCor Technology Solutions        | 96 FT          | Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bike expense reimbursement program</li> <li>• Flexible schedules</li> </ul>  | Yes |
| DHHS, Silver Spring Health Center  | 50 FT<br>2 PT  | Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telework – 50 participating</li> <li>• New hire information</li> <li>• Bikeshare membership subsidy</li> <li>• Compressed schedules</li> <li>• Carpool matching</li> </ul>             | Yes |
| Discovery Communications           | 760 FT         | Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-tax deduction</li> <li>• Telework – 200 participating</li> <li>• Bike racks / lockers</li> <li>• Flexible &amp; compressed schedules</li> </ul>                                    | Yes |
| Easterseals                        | 96 FT<br>5 PT  | Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-tax deduction</li> <li>• Bike racks / lockers</li> <li>• Flexible schedules</li> <li>• Telework – manager approved/case basis</li> </ul>   | Yes |
| Family & Nursing Care              | 637 FT<br>4 PT | Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-tax deduction &amp; direct benefit - \$270</li> <li>• Telework – 70 participating</li> <li>• Bike racks / lockers</li> <li>• Carpool matching</li> </ul>                           | Yes |
| GEICO<br>(voluntary plan)          | 16 FT          | Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telework – 15 participating</li> <li>• Flexible &amp; compressed schedules</li> </ul>  | Yes |
| GEL, P.C. (Gilbert Employment Law) | 46 FT<br>6 PT  | Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-tax deduction</li> <li>• Telework – 45 participating</li> <li>• Flexible &amp; compressed schedules</li> <li>• Carpool matching</li> </ul>   | Yes |
| Grady Management, Inc.             | 36 FT          | Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct benefit</li> </ul>  | Yes |
| HIAS                               | 134 FT         | Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-tax deduction</li> <li>• Telework – all</li> <li>• Bikeshare membership subsidy and reimbursement through Wellbeing Reimbursement Program</li> <li>• Flexible schedules</li> </ul> | Yes |

|   |                |   |     |
|---|----------------|---|-----|
| Kay Management Co.                            | 35 FT          | Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bike racks / lockers</li> <li>• Flexible &amp; compressed schedules</li> </ul>  | Yes |
| Lumina Corps<br>(voluntary plan)              | 21 FT<br>3 PT  | Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telework – all</li> <li>• Flexible &amp; compressed schedules</li> </ul>  | Yes |
| Matchbox                                      | 55 FT<br>15 PT | Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job sharing, flexible and compressed schedules</li> <li>• Carpool matching</li> </ul>   | Yes |
| McGinty's Public<br>House<br>(voluntary plan) | 20 FT<br>2 PT  | Meets requirements - no voluntary measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bike racks available on Ellsworth</li> </ul>  | Yes |
| Panagora Group                                | 60 FT          | Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct benefit</li> <li>• Telework – 59 participating</li> <li>• Bike racks / lockers</li> <li>• Flexible schedules</li> </ul>  | Yes |
| Technology Service<br>Corporation             | 30 FT          | Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct benefit – equal to parking benefit</li> <li>• Telework – 6 participants</li> <li>• Flexible &amp; compressed schedules</li> </ul>  | Yes |
| The Neurology Center<br>PA                    | 25 FT<br>3 PT  | Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct benefit - \$150</li> <li>• Carpool matching</li> </ul>   | Yes |
| Toole Design Group                            | 46 FT<br>5 PT  | Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct benefit</li> <li>• Telework – all</li> <li>• New hire information</li> <li>• Bike racks / lockers</li> <li>• Bikeshare membership subsidy</li> <li>• Flexible schedules</li> </ul> | Yes |

Home > > Newsroom > Commuter Connections awards employers for innovation and excellence in commuter benefits programs

#### NEWS RELEASE

## Commuter Connections awards employers for innovation and excellence in commuter benefits programs

Jun 30, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 30, 2023) – The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' (COG) Commuter Connections program proudly recognized five local employers and organizations today for their outstanding commute alternative programs at the 26th annual Employer Recognition Awards ceremony at the National Press Club in Washington, DC.

Commuter Connections recognized George Mason University (GMU), Fairfax County, VA, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Company (Freddie Mac), Fairfax County, VA, and Abt Associates, Montgomery County, MD, with awards for their incentives, marketing, and telework programs, respectively. In addition, COG's signature commuter program honored Montgomery County Commuter Services with the 2023 Employer Services Sales Team Achievement Award and Reston Town Center Association (RTCA) with the 2023 Employer Services Organization Achievement Award.

"The employers we are honoring today have implemented innovative and successful commuter and telework programs. We hope that through their example, other organizations will embrace similar initiatives, creating more opportunities to maximize the efficiencies of shared commutes and telework," said Reuben B. Collins II, Esq, Chair of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board at COG and President of the Charles County Board of County Commissioners.

Commuter Connections received nominations from employers throughout the region, all of which focused on improving their employee morale and reducing carbon footprint through innovative commute alternative programs. A selection committee evaluated these nominations and chose the winners based on their dedication and capability to reduce gasoline consumption and greenhouse gas emissions through fewer vehicle trips and miles traveled —while creating measurable and sustainable commuter benefits for employees. By incentivizing and marketing these commute alternative programs, employers have contributed to the improvement of regional air quality and the reduction of traffic congestion.

"We are thrilled to honor George Mason University, Freddie Mac, Abt Associates, Montgomery County Commuter Services, and the Reston Town Center Association – some of which are now repeat winners of Employer Recognition Awards – for their implementation of innovative commute alternative programs and their ongoing commitment to reducing air emissions and traffic congestion in the region," said Nicholas Ramfos, Director of Commuter Connections. "I look forward to seeing how these organizations continue to grow their programs, while serving as a model for other employers throughout the region who are looking to develop their own commute alternative programs."

The 26th annual Employer Recognition Awardees are listed below, along with a summary of their efforts to improve employee commuting and advocate for commuting alternatives.

### Incentives Award

George Mason University received the 2023 Employer Recognition Award for commuter incentives. Since last winning an award in 2006, GMU has developed a unique incentives program centered around a robust bicycle commuting initiative, online tools to connect employees to transit options, and a modern work environment for teleworking. The University has invested in online resources to encourage employees to explore alternative forms of transportation and to make alternatives more accessible. Of those employed on campus, 822 use alternative transportation methods to and from campus. There are 1,764 staffers who telework, and an additional 1,467 faculty members telework informally based on class schedules. Among many benefits offered for non-traditional commuting, GMU has a Bike Commuter Choice Program that offers financial support and benefits based on biking frequency. The University also offers free shuttle services with wi-fi, connecting riders to transit stops. A pre-tax benefit of up to \$300 per month is available to help cover the cost of public transit or vanpools. Flextime and compressed work weeks are made available, as are bike racks and showers, and preferred parking is available for carpools and vanpools, along with rebates for formal carpools. GMU has produced online resources to inform faculty of their transportation options. In 2022, these incentive programs have led to an estimated reduction of 9,876,600 vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and saved about 448,900 gallons of gas.

### Marketing Award

The Federal Home Loan Mortgage Company (Freddie Mac) received the 2023 Employer Recognition Award in marketing. Since 2015, their Commuter Benefits Program has offered a transit/vanpool subsidy of up to \$300 per month, a direct shuttle to and from the McLean Metro station, preferred parking for vanpools, and bike racks, showers, and lockers for cyclists. Freddie Mac uses a variety of internal communications platforms to promote commuter benefits to employees. Its marketing tactics include messages in a daily employee newsletter, in-person presentations, advertisements on digital signage across the campus, and easy-to-access content on the company's

intranet. Freddie Mac has also promoted apps that help employees make decisions about commuting alternatives, which offer live tracking of the shuttle service. In 2022 the Freddie Mac commuter and telework programs reduced employee vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by nearly 250,000 miles.

### Telework Award

Abt Associates received the 2023 Employer Recognition Award for the telework offering of its commuter benefits program. Since winning the Incentives Award in 2020, Abt has responded to the pandemic and changes in work conditions with a robust hybrid and remote work strategy. As a result, of the 530 people employed by Abt at its work site in the Washington metropolitan region, 60 percent of the staff work fully remote (five days per week), and 40 percent are either hybrid (three or four remote days per week) or primary on-site (up to two remote days per week). Abt also introduced a two-week flextime schedule and compressed work weeks for additional support and employee well-being. Abt has enhanced its virtual private network, digital collaboration tools, and file storage capabilities to improve and ease remote collaboration. Monthly public transit subsidies for staff who commute on-site, and home technology and ergonomics stipends for hybrid and fully remote employees are also provided. New employees receive Quick Start Guides on the program during onboarding, and the benefits are outlined on the Abt intranet and internal chat platform. The telework program has led to the reduction of nearly 1,720,330 vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and saved nearly 78,200 gallons of gas annually.

### Employer Services Sales Team Achievement Award

The Montgomery County Commuter Services received the 2023 Employer Services Sales Team Achievement Award, a recognition given to the Commuter Connections Employer Services sales team that most successfully met its goal of partnering with employers to develop and expand commute benefit offerings. During this past year with six sales representatives, the team made over 13,300 contacts and held over 200 meetings with employers in Montgomery County. Selection of the award recipient was based on information provided by the sales teams as part of their required monthly reporting to COG and through on-going database verifications. Montgomery County Commuter Services is in the Office of Transportation Policy of the Montgomery County Department of Transportation and appreciates the support of its contractors with outreach and related efforts, including Bethesda Transportation Solutions, North Bethesda Transportation Center, Fovndry by Van Eperen, Sharp & Company, and McAndrew Company.

### Employer Services Organization Achievement Award

The Reston Town Center Association received the 2023 Employer Services Organization Achievement Award for bringing transit services to those who work, live, and spend time at the Reston Town Center, a transit-oriented hub of community, cultural, and economic development in the Dulles Corridor. Since its launch in fall 2022, the Reston Town Center's free shuttle service, linkRTC has become a new way to travel for the approximately 10,000 workers within its circulation route. Running Monday through Friday from 7:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M., at 10-minute intervals, the route has six stops, including the Reston Town Center Metro Station. This convenient and reliable service is funded by Reston Town Center properties under a cost-sharing agreement. The shuttle is gaining fast momentum. During its fifth month of service, linkRTC reported a 42 percent increase in total boardings over the previous month. The service includes two 14-passenger vans and a mobile app that allows passengers to track the shuttle's whereabouts and arrival time. linkRTC is operated by Reston Limousine under the authority of the association's board of directors.

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Tags: [Awards](#), [Commuter Connections](#)

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## Related News

### TPB NEWS

#### March 2023 TPB meeting recap: FY 2024 Work Programs and Environmental Justice analysis

May 10, 2023

The TPB approved work programs for the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board and Commuter Connections. Other agenda items included the Visualize...

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### TPB NEWS

#### February 2023 TPB meeting recap: Visualize 2050, TPB and Commuter Connections Work Programs

March 15, 2023

TPB approved the TPB's Technical Inputs Solicitation document to kick off Visualize 2050 and received briefings on the draft Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Unified...

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### NEWS HIGHLIGHT

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## Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

[Metro](#)  
[Home](#)

For immediate release: June 30, 2023

# Metro launching MetroMeter, a new real-time rail service tracking tool

Metro is launching a new tool to give customers better access to Metrorail performance information. Late next week, MetroMeter will be available to the public providing information similar to MetroHero, a third party application that has become popular with customers since its launch in 2015. The developers of MetroHero recently announced that the application will no longer be updated after July 1.

MetroMeter, a new web application, will provide easy access to real-time data on headway adherence, schedule adherence, the number of trains in service, and more.

“MetroHero was popular with customers for good reason, and Metro is excited to provide our customers with a similar tool to track our performance in real time and bring more transparency to our operations,” said Metro General Manager and Chief Executive Officer Randy Clarke. “Metro thanks the creators of MetroHero for their years of service to our customers, and we’re proud to continue their work to shine light on our progress providing excellent service to the region.”

MetroMeter will complement other performance tracking tools available at [wmata.com](http://wmata.com), including quarterly reports and scorecards detailing on-time performance and customer satisfaction. A recent survey of active Metrorail customers found 84 percent were satisfied with their Metro experience, an increase of 16 percent compared to one year ago. Metro is now running more train service than at any other time in our 47-year history, with 58 percent more trains in service on weekdays compared to last July and 73 percent more train trips.

Metro is also working on real-time performance tracking tools for Metrobus and MetroAccess, and will continue to refine reporting tools available to the public based on feedback from customers.

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## Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

[Metro](#)  
[Home](#)

For immediate release: June 30, 2023

# Metro is opening doors for business, opportunities for companies large and small

Metro is open for business and looking to expand its regional opportunities and partnerships. With more than 18,000 purchase orders awarded annually, qualified vendors support a wide range of departments, including information technology, construction, facility maintenance, real estate, and inventory for day-to-day operations. Companies interested in doing business with Metro are invited to [register](#) now to attend Metro's Procurement Fair, Tuesday, August 15.

The event will give business leaders an opportunity to meet with Metro's procurement team, network with other vendors and government contractors, and attend workshops geared toward business growth and expansion.

"Each year we award an average of \$2.2 billion in contract awards. We have large prime contractors and sub-contractors for major construction projects, service contracts, and opportunities for small, minority and disadvantaged businesses," said Senior Vice President and Chief Procurement Officer T. Suzette Moore. "We welcome companies large and small around the region to see what Metro has to offer."

During the one-day fair, Metro expects to have up to 40 vendor booths from both the private sector and government contracting. Workshops will include break-out sessions on how to get your foot in the door, building your business, bonding, and opportunities across Metro's different program areas.

Metro's popular speed networking session will return to help match prime contractors with small businesses through 15-minute match-making meetings.

The Procurement Fair will be held Tuesday, August 15, from 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. at:

The Hotel at the University of Maryland  
Calvert Ballroom  
7777 Baltimore Avenue  
College Park, MD 20740

Participants must register by **Saturday, July 15, at 5 p.m.** Space is limited to 400 attendees.

Small, minority and disadvantaged business enterprises (DBE) are encouraged to attend. Metro recently implemented a new Women and Minority Business Program (WMBE) and maintains a robust DBE program. Last year Metro's annual DBE spend overwhelmingly exceeded the target goal of 25 percent with over 33 percent of contract dollars going to DBEs.

Contracting opportunities are available as part of Metro's six-year, \$12 billion Capital Improvement Program, in addition to Metro's annual operating budget.

Learn more about doing business with Metro at [wmata.com/business](https://www.wmata.com/business)



**METRO'S FY2024-2029 SIX-YEAR CIP IS \$12.4 BILLION.**

## Join us at Metro's Procurement Fair

Learn about Metro's exciting upcoming procurement opportunities, workshops, hot topics, and matchmaking, while networking with your peers.

- Growing Your Business with Metro
- One-on-One Matchmaking Sessions
- Procurement Opportunities with New Socioeconomic Programs
- Vendor Workshops

**Tuesday, August 15, 2023 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

The Hotel at The University of Maryland  
Calvert Ballroom  
7777 Baltimore Avenue  
College Park, MD 20740

**Space is limited. Register by  
Saturday, July 15 by 5 p.m.**



Meet Metro's General Manager/Chief Executive Officer Randy Clarke and hear about the vital role D/MBEs play in making the Metro vision a reality.



# Press Releases - Department of Transportation

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## Montgomery County Department of Transportation Seeks Bicycle Donations for Bike Match Program

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, June 14, 2023



The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) is asking residents to donate extra or unused bicycles in good condition to the County's BikeMatchMoCo program.

The free Bike Match program, which launched in June 2020, matches donated bicycles with requests from individuals in need who live or work in Montgomery County. BikeMatchMoCo has distributed more than 500 bicycles so far, but demand is still high. The program currently has a list of more than 200 adults hoping to receive bikes.

"By donating your unused bicycle, you can provide someone locally with a means of transportation, which can improve their access to employment, education, healthcare and other essential services," said County Executive Marc Elrich. "A donation also can help you reduce clutter at your home, put your unused bike to use and boost the quality of life for someone else in our community."

The bike match program also accepts donations of and requests for children's bikes. Donated bikes must be in ready-to-ride condition and should be cleaned and sanitized before drop-off.

"We have seen an incredible demand for adult bicycles," said MCDOT Director Chris Conklin. "More people are choosing to use bicycles for recreation, fitness and transportation. The expanded network of bicycle lanes, and safety improvements implemented as part of Vision Zero have made bicycling a viable alternative to cars when running errands or commuting. The bike match program is instrumental to getting bicycles in the hands of people who otherwise could not afford one."

Residents who wish to donate or receive a bike can do so by filling out the online form on MCDOT's BikeMatchMoCo website. Once a donated bike has been matched to a recipient, a MCDOT representative will facilitate the donation and pickup. The bike donation deliveries are conducted separately, and all information is confidential.

For information on MCDOT programs and services visit [montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdot](https://montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdot), follow @MCDOTNow on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and subscribe to MCDOT's "Go Montgomery!" newsletter.

# # #

Para Difusión Inmediata: miércoles 14 de junio de 2023

## El Departamento de Transporte del Condado de Montgomery busca donaciones de bicicletas para el programa Bike Match

El Departamento de Transporte del Condado de Montgomery (MCDOT, por sus siglas en inglés) está pidiendo a las personas que donen bicicletas adicionales o sin usar en buenas condiciones al programa BikeMatchMoCo del Condado.

El programa gratuito Bike Match, que se lanzó en junio de 2020, combina bicicletas donadas con solicitudes de personas necesitadas que viven o trabajan en el condado de Montgomery. BikeMatchMoCo ha distribuido más de 500 bicicletas hasta el momento, pero la demanda sigue siendo alta. El programa actualmente tiene una lista de más de 200 adultos que esperan recibir bicicletas.

"Al donar una bicicleta que usted no use, puede proporcionarle a alguien localmente un medio de transporte, lo que puede mejorar su acceso al empleo, la educación, la atención médica y otros servicios esenciales," dijo el Ejecutivo del Condado Marc Elrich. "La donación también puede ayudarle a reducir el número de artículos sin usar en su hogar, poner en uso su bicicleta sin usar y mejorar la calidad de vida de otra persona en nuestra comunidad."

El programa Bike Match también acepta donaciones y solicitudes de bicicletas para niños. Las bicicletas donadas deben estar listas para ser usadas y deben limpiarse y desinfectarse antes de dejarlas.

"Hemos visto una demanda increíble de bicicletas para adultos," dijo el director del MCDOT, Chris Conklin. "Más personas eligen usar bicicletas para recreación, ejercicio y transporte. La red ampliada de carriles para bicicletas y las mejoras de seguridad implementadas como parte de del programa Visión Cero han hecho el andar en bicicleta una alternativa viable cuando se hacen recados o se desplazan al trabajo. El programa Bike Match es fundamental para poner bicicletas en manos de personas que de otro modo no podrían pagar una."

Las personas que viven en el condado y que deseen donar o recibir una bicicleta pueden hacerlo completando el formulario electrónico en el sitio web BikeMatchMoCo de MCDOT. Una vez que una bicicleta donada se haya asociado con un destinatario, un representante de MCDOT facilitará la donación y la recogida. Las entregas de donación de bicicletas se realizan por separado y toda la información es confidencial.

Para obtener información adicional sobre los programas y servicios de MCDOT visite [montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdot](https://montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdot), siga a @MCDOTNow en Twitter, Facebook e Instagram y suscríbese al boletín "Go Montgomery!" de MCDOT.

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# Press Releases - Department of Transportation

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## WMATA's Income-Qualified 'Metro Lift' Fare Program Brings More Consistency to Bus Fare in the Washington Metro Region

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, June 21, 2023



**Now offering 50% off  
Metro Bus and Metro Rail  
for SNAP recipients.**

 **Lift**  
Income-Qualified Fare Program



**POINT YOUR PHONE'S CAMERA ABOVE AND  
TAP YOUR SCREEN**

Metro Lift fare program is consistent with MCDOT's reduced Ride On Fare of \$1 for all riders.

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA, or Metro) will begin offering reduced fares to low-income riders through its new "Metro Lift" program, which launched on June 20. The program offers a 50 percent discount for travel on Metrorail and Metrobus for customers in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia who are enrolled in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP).

The reduced fare for Metro buses will be \$1 per ride, matching the post-COVID-19 rate charged for Montgomery County's Ride On buses.

"We are pleased to work with WMATA to help promote SNAP beneficiaries and ensure that public transportation is accessible and available to our most vulnerable citizens," said Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich. "With the new Metro Lift program, economically disadvantaged customers will be able to ride any bus in the County for only \$1. By keeping fare costs to a minimum for those who can least afford it, we can ensure more people are able to travel for employment opportunities, medical care and other essential services."

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) commissioned a study in 2021 to examine the Ride On bus fare structure with the goal of improving access to the Ride On transit system, particularly among low-income and economically vulnerable residents after the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ride On Zero & Reduced Fare Study found that most riders would benefit from reduced fares, but that developing and maintaining a program for low-income riders was not cost-effective. With County Executive and Council support, MCDOT reduced rates to 50 percent of the pre-pandemic \$2 fare for all riders. The \$1 reduced fare was implemented on Aug. 1, 2022.

Online enrollment information for the program can be found at [wmata.com/Metro Lift](https://wmata.com/MetroLift). In-person enrollment, allowing for immediate access to the program for those qualified, will begin at designated locations in Montgomery County and at three sites in Washington area starting on Monday, June 26.

The fare discount will be valid for one year after enrollment and will be available up to 48 hours after online enrollment. In addition to reduced fare, enrolled customers will receive a free SmartTrip® card.

Approved by Metro's Board of Directors in its Fiscal Year 2024 budget, the program advances transit equity and affordability in a region considered one of the most expensive in the nation and where low-income households face the greatest economic disparities.

"We know that public transportation plays an instrumental role in equity," said MCDOT Director Chris Conklin. "Working together to ensure that we have an affordable and well-integrated transportation network is one of our highest priorities. Metro Lift brings fare to \$1, matching our current reduced fare. This consistency is important for riders; they need to know what to expect when traveling in the region."

Metro will continue to refine the program based on customer feedback and is working to expand enrollment locations over time, including within Montgomery County. Currently, County residents who qualify for the program and wish to enroll can do so online here. Online enrollment will take up to 48 hours to activate.

### **Enrollment Information:**

#### **Needed to Enroll**

- If you have one, bring your SmartTrip® card for you and each member of your household enrolled. SmartTrip cards will be provided if you do not already have them.
- Active SNAP EBT (Electronic Benefits Transfer) card.
- Copy of your SNAP proof of benefits (if you are applying for members of your household).
- Current photo identification (ID) card issued by the U.S., D.C, Maryland or Virginia.
- Phone number.

#### **How to Enroll:**

##### **Online (now available)**

- Go to [wmata.com/MetroLift](https://wmata.com/MetroLift).
- Complete the enrollment form for you and/or members of your SNAP household.
- Discount will be loaded to SmartTrip card up to 48 hours after enrollment.
- Use your SmartTrip card and go.

##### **In-person (starting Monday, June 26)**

- Schedule an appointment to visit one of WMATA's in-person enrollment centers. Appointment booking is now available:
  - Online at [wmata.com/MetroLift](https://wmata.com/MetroLift); or



◦ By Phone at 1-888-SmarTrip (888-762-7874).

- In-person enrollment will be available at the following locations:
- Metro Center Metro Station. 12th & F Street NW Entrance. Mezzanine Level.
- Metro Headquarters. 300 7th Street SW, Washington, D.C.
- New Carrollton Metro Office. 4100 Garden City Dr, Hyattsville
- Bring the required materials for you and/or your SNAP household members.
- Use your SmarTrip card and go.

For information on MCDOT programs and services visit [montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdot](https://montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdot), follow @MCDOTNow on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and subscribe to MCDOT's "Go Montgomery!" newsletter.

# # #

Release ID: 23-074

Media Contact: Emily DeTitta, 240-372-2282



## Sign up for

Go Montgomery

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### Tweets from @MCDOTNow



## Nothing to see here - yet

When they Tweet, their Tweets will show up here.

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