



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Christopher R. Conklin
Director

AGENDA

Combined TMD Advisory Committee
Friendship Heights / Silver Spring / Greater Shady Grove / Bethesda / North Bethesda

September 30, 2021
8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
Teams Format

I. Welcome / Introductions

Jim Carlson / All

II. Presentation: *Vision Zero*

Wade Holland
Vision Zero Coordinator

III. Metro Update

Gary Erenrich
Special Assistant to the Director-DOT

IV. County Update

Sandra Brecher
Chief, Montgomery County Commuter Services

V. Adjourn

This Date in History

- Elie Wiesel born September 30, 1928 / Sighet, Romania
 - Munich Agreement signed 1938
 - Actor James Dean died in a car crash 1955

Information Items

County seeks comments by Nov. 1 on Comprehensive Bus Network study

MCDOT reminder: Face coverings required for all bus passengers

Metro announces first all-electric bus garage to be built at Northern Bus Facility

Metro customers can ride more for less \$\$

Wheaton revitalization project wins “Best Sustainable Award” from Commercial Real Estate Development Assn.



COVID-19 Transportation changes, updates, and resources | Información actual, recursos de transporte y cambios

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Montgomery County Seeks Comments by Nov. 1 on a Comprehensive Bus Network Study

For Immediate Release: Friday, September 24, 2021



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BUS NETWORK

Montgomery County is requesting feedback for a new Ride On Reimagined study. The study will determine guiding principles for a comprehensive assessment of the bus network in the County, including County Ride On buses, Metrobus services that operate within the County limits and the future Purple Line. The study's goal is to provide significant recommended changes to better serve transit users.

Transit services have been operating for more than 40 years in Montgomery County. Over time, route structure and services have grown to include Ride On Extra, Flex on-demand and Flash Rapid Transit. As the County changes in population, demographics, employment centers and housing, a comprehensive evaluation of the system is needed.

"Transportation funding, investment, and project prioritization are critical tools to combat historic inequities," said County Executive Marc Elrich. "Transportation services shape our neighborhoods and allow access to jobs and amenities, as well as stimulating economic growth. It is important to connect our communities, support our local businesses, and provide accessibility to those in need. This study will address the County priorities to improve racial equity and address climate change concerns."

The study will begin this fall and is expected to run for 18-24 months.

"To have an effective transit system that reflects the needs of our riders, we need to hear from all of our community members," said County Department of Transportation Director Chris Conklin. "This study will shape Montgomery County's transportation services for years to come. We are asking our riders to help shape the future of our transportation network."

The County is asking for comments on the scope of work by Monday, Nov. 1. To access the document online and give feedback, go to montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-Transit/reimagined.

Residents also can email comments to mcdot.rideonpublicforums@montgomerycountymd.gov. Written comments can be submitted to Montgomery County Department of Transportation, Division of Transit Services, Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe Street, 5th Floor, Rockville, MD, 20850.

For the most up-to-date bus service information, riders should follow @RideOnMCT on Twitter, @RideOnMCT on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram. In addition, information is available at www.rideonbus.com, by subscribing to receive email alerts or text MONTGOMERY RIDEON to 468311.

For other Montgomery County transportation information, follow @MCDOTNow on Twitter, and subscribe to MCDOT's Go Montgomery! biweekly newsletter.

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Montgomery County Department of Transportation Reminder: Face Coverings are Required for Bus Passengers

For Immediate Release: Monday, August 23, 2021



The Montgomery County Department of Transportation's (MCDOT) reminds residents that Federal guidelines continue to require riders to wear face coverings for the duration of their trips when traveling by public transportation. The regulation covers County Ride On buses, Ride On extRa, Flash, Metrobus, Metrorail and when taking taxis or on-demand car services.

MCDOT buses have a supply of face coverings for riders who cannot provide their own.

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) mask mandate on transit has been extended to January 18. The previous Federal mask order ran through September 13.

All County operated buses including Ride On, Ride On extRa and Flash buses will remain free to all passengers through at least September 2021. Fees were suspended during the onset of the pandemic.

Social distancing continues to be strongly recommended on board the buses and trains and at bus stops and shelters. Bus interiors will continue to be cleaned by the County's Department of General Services twice daily with a hospital-grade viral disinfectant. Bus filter and ventilation systems are treated each night with a disinfectant.

For the most up-to-date service information, riders should follow @RideOnMCT on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. In addition, information is available at rideonbus.com or by subscribing to "Ride On Services" email alerts. Riders also can receive text alerts by texting MONTGOMERY RIDEON to 468311.

For information on MCDOT programs and services visit montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdot, follow @MCDOTNow on Twitter, and subscribe to MCDOT's 'Go Montgomery!' newsletter.

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For immediate release: September 20, 2021

Metro announces first all-electric bus garage to be built at Northern bus facility

Major step in advancing the Board's recently adopted goal of transitioning to a fully zero-emission bus fleet by 2045

Metro announced today that it will build its first all-electric bus garage, with infrastructure and equipment needed to run 100% electric vehicles, at the Northern Bus Garage in Northwest Washington, D.C. Construction of the operations and maintenance facility is expected to take four years once all approvals are received, and will open with a mix of the current Metrobus fleet and new battery-electric vehicles, transitioning to 100% electric as Metrobus' electric bus fleet expands.

"This is an important step forward in Metro's commitment to help our region reduce its environmental footprint, improve public health, and modernize our facilities," said Metro General Manager Paul J. Wiedefeld. "We appreciate the Board's leadership in contributing to the clean air targets shared by Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia."

In June, Metro's Board of Directors adopted a goal of a 100% zero-emission bus fleet by 2045, with a full transition to battery-electric or other zero-emission bus purchases by 2030. A zero-emission bus fleet will improve regional air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and provide customers with a quieter, more comfortable ride. This phased conversion of the 1,500-vehicle Metrobus fleet will allow Metro to purchase vehicles as zero-emission technologies continue to improve to ensure consistent service reliability. It will also enable Metro and its regional partners to make needed investments in facilities, electric utility infrastructure, and workforce training to support the fleet transition.

Metro's new Director of Zero-Emission Vehicles, Amy Mesrobian, is leading Metro's Electric Bus Test and Evaluation Program, which includes the procurement of approximately 12 electric buses. The Test and Evaluation Program will provide data and experience with electric bus performance in typical Metrobus operating conditions. The results of the Test and Evaluation will inform future acquisition of electric buses as well as the facility improvements and charging equipment needed to operate the electric buses. Learn more about [Metro's Zero-Emission Bus Program](https://www.wmata.com/initiatives/plans/zero-emission-buses.cfm) (<https://www.wmata.com/initiatives/plans/zero-emission-buses.cfm>).

Metro will host a virtual community meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 21, to provide an update on the [Northern Bus Garage Reconstruction Project](https://wmata.com/initiatives/plans/northern-bus-garage/index.cfm) (<https://wmata.com/initiatives/plans/northern-bus-garage/index.cfm>) and respond to community questions. This major reconstruction effort will preserve the historic 14th Street façade of the 114-year old building, while providing

a modern bus facility that is capable of operating a 100% electric bus fleet. When the facility reopens, it will feature modern air filtration systems, solar panels and additional LEED characteristics, providing an environmentally responsible building for employees and community.

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For immediate release: September 16, 2021

Metro customers can ride more for less with first ever pass sale offering deep discounts

Los usuarios de Metro pueden viajar más por menos con la primera venta de pases con grandes descuentos

[En español](#)

Starting today, Metro customers will save up to 50 percent on selected passes through October 15. For the first time ever, Metro is launching a sales event that will allow riders to purchase discounted passes with unlimited trips on Metrorail and Metrobus whether you travel one day, one week, or one month.

During the sale, customers may purchase the 1-, 3-, and 7-day passes to use anytime. Monthly passes will be valid for use October 1-31.

"This is a great way to come back to work, restaurants, theater, museums, sports events and outdoor activities this fall with a pass that lets you ride at a deep discount," said Metro General Manager Paul J. Wiedefeld. "We have also enhanced cleaning on buses and trains and improved the ventilation, making it safer and now more affordable for customers to give Metro a try."

The pass sale, coincides with [fare and service improvements](#) that began on September 5, providing more buses and trains, lower prices and longer hours on weekends.

"Bringing back riders and attracting new ones will take bold action and doing things we have never done before," said Metro Board Chairman Paul C. Smedberg. "This first-ever pass sale and recent fare and service improvements are just the beginning and as a Board we will continue to pursue new ways to rebuild ridership."

Discounted passes are available to purchase September 16 through October 15 for the following:

	Normal Price	Sale Price
1-Day Unlimited Pass	\$13	\$6.50
3-Day Unlimited Pass	\$28	\$14
7-Day Short Trip Pass	\$38	\$19
7-Day Unlimited Pass	\$58	\$29

Monthly Unlimited Pass	Starting from	\$44
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All unlimited passes allow rider to take as many trips as they want anywhere on Metrorail or Metrobus (excludes Express and Airport Express routes) including peak and off-peak periods.

Passes can be purchased now in the [SmarTrip® app](#) and then added to Apple Wallet, GPay, or your plastic SmarTrip Card [online](#), at Fare Vending Machines located in [Metrorail stations](#), and at the [Metro Center Sales Office](#).

Additional information about the Metro Sales Event can be found at wmata.com/sale.

Metro Sales Event





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Wheaton Revitalization Project Wins ‘Best Sustainable Award’ from the Commercial Real Estate Development Association

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, September 22, 2021



The Wheaton Revitalization Project, whose construction was overseen by the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT), has been recognized with the “Best Sustainable Award” in the 19th Annual Awards of Excellence of the DC/MD Chapter of the Commercial Real Estate Development Association. The award recognizes the project for exemplifying environmentally responsible design.

The Commercial Real Estate Development Association was known as National Association for Industrial and Office Parks (NAIOP) prior to 2009. At that time, reflecting changes in membership, the association dropped the words behind its name and simply became known as NAIOP to better reflect its membership composition.

NAIOP is the leading organization for developers, owners and investors of office, industrial, retail and mixed-use real estate. NAIOP comprises more than 19,000 members and provides strong advocacy, education and business opportunities through its North American network.

The Awards of Excellence program was held virtually on Sept. 13. All awards were based on a system of nominations and peer selection.

The Best Sustainable Award category highlighted outstanding new construction or renovation projects that incorporate sustainable solutions resulting in an environmentally efficient and economically successful properties.

“We take great pride in our innovative efforts to combat climate change,” said Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich. “Receiving the Best Sustainable Award is a testament to the emphasis the County places on preserving the environment and working toward our aggressive climate action goals.”

The Wheaton Revitalization Project, which included a 14-story office building in Downtown Wheaton that became the new headquarters of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and several Montgomery County departments, also was recognized recently with a Merit Award from Engineering News-Record (ENR) MidAtlantic. In that competition, it was selected in the category of "Government Public Building."

The office building was dedicated in October 2020. It is now home to the County's Department of Permitting Services, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Recreation, Office of Community Use of Public Facilities and Mid-County Regional Services Office.

"This project is getting a lot of attention," said MCDOT Director Chris Conklin. "This is a great way to celebrate the Wheaton Revitalization Project's one-year anniversary."

The project broke ground in June 2017 and was completed in September 2020. The County envisioned that the project would spur economic development in the Wheaton Central Business District and provide a centralized location for government services within a short walk to the Wheaton Metro Station.

MCDOT led the development and construction of the new Wheaton Revitalization Project—one of the largest projects ever built by the County. Construction took 39 months and cost about \$179 million. It was completed on time and within budget.

"I am very proud that MCDOT has played a pivotal role in creating this smart-growth, environmentally friendly development," said MCDOT Director Conklin. "This project has set a new sustainable design standard for public facilities in Montgomery County. The office building is the first government-owned office building in Maryland to achieve the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)."

LEED is the highest certification available by USGBC. LEED projects earn points across nine basic areas that address key aspects of green buildings including water efficiency, indoor environmental quality, location and transportation and energy and atmosphere.

In addition to the 308,000-square-foot office building, the Wheaton Revitalization Project includes ground-floor retail and plaza spaces, a new town square adjacent to the building that will host public events and a four-level below-grade public parking structure.

For the complete list of awards in the NAIOP Awards of Excellence, [click here](#).

For other Montgomery County transportation information, follow @MCDOTNow on Twitter, and subscribe to MCDOT's Go Montgomery! biweekly newsletter.

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