



News Releases

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND



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Woodmont Parking Garage Wins National Award

The Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) has won a 2006 Award of Excellence from the International Parking Institute for its renovation of the Woodmont Corner Parking Garage in Bethesda. The garage won in the Best Parking Facility Rehabilitation or Restoration category for an extensive renovation begun in 2003 that took more than two years to complete.

"The Woodmont Corner Garage is a wonderful example of the Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation's commitment to quality and customer service," said Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett. "In Montgomery County and the Washington region, DPWT's attention to community needs -- from the design and staging of projects to their ongoing outreach and education efforts -- is well known. I'm very proud that their outstanding efforts have also been recognized nationally with this prestigious award from the International Parking Institute."

During construction of the \$18 million project, DPWT, in partnership with the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, the Bethesda Urban Partnership, and other local organizations, conducted an extensive education campaign to inform residents about parking alternatives. Communication with patrons and local business owners was vital because more than 700 parking spaces were temporarily unavailable during construction. To further assist merchants and customers, the County installed a covered pedestrian walkway around the garage.

A fixture in Bethesda since 1970, the Woodmont Parking Garage experienced major structural deterioration over the years. DPWT's Division of Capital Development upgraded the floor slabs, elevators, stairs, electrical and plumbing systems, and installed a more efficient Pay-on-Foot payment system. To park, patrons take a ticket at the entry gate of the garage, find a parking space, and keep the ticket with them. Upon returning to the garage, patrons insert their ticket at one of the convenient, centralized pay stations and pay with cash for the time parked. The ticket is then inserted in the exit gate as the customer leaves.

To determine the award winners, the International Parking Institute rated the garage's planning and design issues, operational and architectural improvements, technical innovation, and costs. Factors considered include scheduling to reduce noise and intrusion on neighbors, environmental controls, communication with the community, project phasing and quality controls.

For more information on parking options in Bethesda, visit DPWT's Division of Operations' website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dpwt, or call the Customer Service Line at **240-777-6000**.

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Media Contact: Esther Bowring 240-777-6507

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