

# **Ride On Newsletter**

# June 2024

# **Ride On Flex Five Year Anniversary**



Montgomery County's <u>Ride On Flex</u> on demand transit service was launched five years ago to help riders get around Rockville and Glenmont/Wheaton. The simple and convenient bus service is hailed for its ease of use and reliability.

Using Flex is straightforward and has proven to be a convenient option for Montgomery County residents. All riders do is download the Ride On Flex app or call 240-301-3842 to request a pick-up spot and a drop off location within one of the two service zones. The microtransit service, which launched in 2019, was the first on-demand bus service in the region using a mobile app to book rides and a 2020 National Association of Counties (NACo) Innovation Award Winner.

The Flex has no fixed stops or a set schedule. It comes when the rider books their trip within the service hours. After a customer books a ride, the app allows them to

track their bus and receive real-time updates on the vehicle's estimated time of arrival. Riders are notified when the bus is two minutes away and again when it arrives. Boarding is at designated corners, not at bus stops. Curb to curb service is provided for people with disabilities. They should include that need when first using the app.

All riders must have a booked reservation to ride. The cost to ride is the standard Ride On fare of \$1. Riders can pay with cash or by using a SmarTrip card.

Service is only provided within the two Flex zones – Rockville and Glenmont/Wheaton. The Rockville zone covers an area of about 0.7 square miles. The Glenmont/Wheaton zone is larger, covering 3.4 miles. Riders can travel to and from any location within the same zone but cannot travel between zones.

The Flex buses are smaller, 11-person vehicles so they can easily navigate neighborhood streets. Each bus features mobility device accessibility and free WIFI.

The Flex was created to help reshape the way County residents think about getting around in the Rockville and Glenmont/Wheaton zones, as well as to help the environment by cutting back on the use of cars and to provide a dependable ondemand service for residents.

As <u>Ride On</u> looks for ways to continue to upgrade and improve service moving forward, the bus service is working on additional new initiatives. Ride On launched a comprehensive study – the <u>Ride On Reimagined Study</u> – in the Fall of 2021. The study aims to take a critical look at the County's current and future bus network and transit systems, including Metrobus and the planned Purple Line, to pinpoint where improvements can be made. The study is based on experience and feedback from the community. Up to 16 new Flex zones are included in the study results.

Montgomery County Department of Transportation's focus is to provide a seamless transportation system for people of all ages, incomes and abilities that supports the community. In addition, the department aims to reduce the number of single occupant vehicles on the roads, especially during rush-hour times, and to help increase the efficiency of the infrastructure and address climate and air quality concerns.

Montgomery County Division of Transit Services plans, schedules, and manages over 80 bus routes using 375 County owned and operated buses including the <u>Flash</u>, <u>Ride On Bus</u>, <u>Ride On extRa</u> (a popular limited stop service on MD 355), and <u>Ride On Flex</u>. Montgomery County's transit system is designed to complement the service provided by the other transit providers in the County and is integrated with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit

Authority's <u>Metrobus</u> and <u>Metrorail</u> and the Maryland Transit Administration's <u>MARC</u> <u>commuter rail</u> and <u>MTA commuter bus</u> systems. Learn more at <u>RideOnBus.com</u>.

## Montgomery County Executive Elrich and Councilmembers Join LGBTQIA+ Leaders for Sixth Annual Pride Flag Raising Ceremony in Rockville



Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich and County Councilmembers were joined by LGBTQIA+ community leaders, elected officials and community members for the sixth annual Pride flag raising ceremony in Rockville to commemorate Pride Month.

The event's keynote speakers included LGBTQIA+ Victory Institute President and CEO Annise Parker, who is the former mayor of Houston and one of the first openly LGBTQIA+ mayors of a major U.S. city, Rev. Ali K.C. Bell of Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church and SEIU 500 Executive Director Travis Simon.

Speakers, councilmembers and LGBTQIA+ community leaders arrived in the <u>Montgomery County Department of Transportation's #RideWithPride Ride On</u> <u>bus</u>, which is wrapped with the Intersex-Inclusive Progress Pride Flag and will be serving residents across the County throughout the month of June.

"It is inspiring to see how this event has grown over the last six years," said County Executive Elrich. "This annual flag raising is an opportunity for us to celebrate the

important role of the LGBTQIA+ community in Montgomery County and highlight that we must continue to strive for equity and inclusion of all people, no matter their race, religion, gender or sexual orientation. We are far stronger when we stand together and that's what makes this County so special."

This year marks the sixth year Montgomery County has formally recognized June as Pride Month, an initiative spearheaded by Councilmember Glass, who is the first openly LGBTQIA+ member of the County Council.

"I am proud to live in a community that embraces its diversity and strives to be a more inclusive place for everyone," said Councilmember Glass. "By raising the Progress Pride Flag, we are celebrating the progress we've made while also focusing on the work ahead. As hate and violence are on the rise locally and nationwide, we must support our community and say clearly that hate has no home in Montgomery County."



Montgomery County proudly celebrates diversity and inclusion and supports community members of all identities. As state legislatures across the nation introduce harmful anti-LBTQIA+ legislation, Montgomery County has strengthened protections of LGBTQIA+ rights, including the passage of the LGBTQIA+ Bill of Rights in 2020, and seeks to be a safe haven where LGBTQIA+ residents are protected and supported. The county's flag raising ceremony recognizes the positive impact that LGBTQIA+ residents have made in Montgomery County, the state and worldwide.

The Intersex-Inclusive Progress Pride Flag is an inclusive symbol that celebrates the diversity of the LGBTQIA+ community. The flag includes black and brown stripes to represent marginalized LGBTQ+ communities of color, pink, light blue and white stripes to represent the Transgender community, and adds elements of the intersex flag to symbolize intersex inclusion.

Councilmember Glass is hosting a series of community events celebrating LGBTQIA+ Pride Month. A full list of upcoming Pride Month events can be found <u>here</u>.

View the flag raising ceremony on YouTube.

# Ride On Annual Food Drive Collects "A Ton" of Food for Local Families



 Together we CAN make a difference! / MCDOT Reide on Methods with Manna Food Center collected 2,259

 Ride On's annual food drive partnership with Manna Food Center collected 2,259

Ride On's annual food drive partnership with Manna Food Center collected 2,259 pounds of food this year. The food drive took place from May 26 – June 1. Non-perishable food items were dropped off on all Ride On, ext*R*a, Flex and Flash buses. Riders who donated food had their bus fare waived.

MCDOT has conducted the food drive for more than 30 years in partnership with Manna Food Center. Since then, the food drive has expanded to include five Montgomery County Public Libraries which also took in non-perishable food donations this year. Ride On would like to thank everyone who helped make this food drive possible, especially those who donated food to help feed our community.

## **Construction Begins on New Microgrid Network**



On Friday, June 14, Montgomery County broke ground at the David F. Bone Equipment Maintenance and Transit Operation Center (EMTOC) in Derwood on what will be the largest renewable energy-powered, zero-emission bus depot in the nation and the first on the East Coast to produce on-site green hydrogen. The microgrid project, expected to be completed in 2025, is another step towards Montgomery County's ambitious goal of achieving a 100% reduction in carbon dioxide  $(CO_2)$  emissions by 2035.

"When we started out on this journey of trying to deal with climate change and adopted our climate plan ... I confess that at the time, we set really aggressive goals. We did not know how we were going to get there," County Executive Marc Elrich said at a press conference during the groundbreaking. "We had an underlying faith that technology was evolving in the right direction."

The 5.65-megawat microgrid project features solar arrays, electric bus chargers, and 2-megawatt battery energy storage. It includes a 1-megawatt hydrogen electrolyzer powered by onsite renewable energy. It is expected to accommodate 200 hydrogen fuel cell electric buses by the 2035 reduction deadline.

According to the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT), 42% of the county's carbon dioxide emissions come from the transportation sector. "This is important stuff, and you are right here at the beginning of this," declared David Dise, the county's Director of General Services. When completed, the project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 51,000 metric tons over 25 years, which Dise said was "like taking 11,000 cars off the road."

The microgrid will operate as an "island," which means it will function during power outages. AlphaStruxure and Montgomery County will work closely with Pepco to deploy the microgrid swiftly, with the ability to send up to 2MW of renewable energy

back to the utility grid. The microgrid will be interconnected to the Pepco utility grid and capable of operating independently.

Councilmember Dawn Luedtke (Dist. 7), who represents the area where the bus depot will be located, cited the recent tornadoes as evidence the county needs to become more resilient to address climate change.

"There's nothing that hits home on the point about resiliency planning and preparedness like having a 12-mile tornado cut through your area," Luedtke said. "We have to put that top of mind all the time, and this project will help us to keep our transportation infrastructure resilient in the ways that we need to be moving forward as we continue to deal with ever-escalating climate changes".

# Ride On Launches Safety Campaign to Share Rider Safety Tips



At Ride On, rider safety is our highest priority. We want to ensure that every rider is safe for the entirety of their trip, whether at a bus stop or on one of our buses. In pursuit of this goal, we have launched a Safety Campaign to share basic bus safety tips with our riders. It is our hope that these tips will help every rider to stay safe as they travel with us.

Look out for these safety messages on our social media accounts (@RideOnMCT on Facebook, Instagram, and X/Twitter) as well as in print at select Ride On bus stops.

## A Ride On Guide to Montgomery County Pools



June means summer is arriving, along with hot and balmy weather. Keep cool this season and visit one of the county's many pools and aquatic centers! This list includes outdoor pools in close proximity to a Ride On route, but you can find a full list of county swimming pools (indoor and outdoor) <u>here</u>.

- <u>Bethesda Outdoor Pool</u>: Come to the Bethesda outdoor pool for some fun in the sun in the southern part of the county. This pool complex includes 50meter long Z-shaped Main Pool with a six lane 25-meter Lap Pool into the diving well and two diving boards, a "drop" slide, separate "tot" pool, snack bar and lawn areas with shade structures. Activities include lessons, competitive programs, and water fitness classes. To get to The Bethesda Outdoor Pool, take Ride On Route <u>36</u>.
- <u>Germantown Outdoor Pool</u>: The Germantown Outdoor Pool offers recreational swimming, laps, lessons, and competitive programs Up County. This complex includes an eight-lane, 25-meter main pool with one-meter and half-meter diving boards, two water slides and two cross walk features, a "tot" pool, and a snack bar and lawn areas. Ride On Route <u>98</u> can take you to this pool for a day of outdoor fun!
- Long Branch Outdoor Pool: This pool near downtown Silver Spring includes a six lane, L-shaped 25-meter main pool with two diving boards, a teach pool and a "tot" pool, and lawn areas. Competitive programs are also available. To visit this family friendly space, take Ride On routes <u>14</u>, <u>15</u>, <u>16</u>, <u>20</u>, or <u>24</u>.
- <u>Upper County Outdoor Pool</u>: This Gaithersburg pool includes an eight lane, 25-meter main pool with a one-meter diving board, a separate shallow water leisure pool with a water slide, a "tot" pool, and lawn areas. To get to this pool, take Ride On routes <u>57</u>, <u>60</u>, or <u>64</u>.

• <u>Sergeant Hector I. Ayala Wheaton/Glenmont Outdoor Pool</u>: Keep kids (and kids at heart) occupied for hours at this Wheaton pool complex. Amenities include a six lane, 50-meter main pool, an eight lane, 25-meter swim course, two diving boards, a shallow water leisure pool with fountains, sprays and kiddie slides, an activity pool with two flume slides and crosswalks, a "tot" pool, and a snack bar and lawn areas. Load up the family on the Ride On Route <u>10</u> bus to visit this kid-friendly spot.

## Ride On Operator Competes At National Roadeo Event in Portland, Oregon



Ride On is excited to recognize the amazing performance of our very own transit operator Guillermo Vasquez at the National Bus Rodeo held in Portland, Oregon. While Guillermo may not have taken home a top-three finish, his achievement in completing the challenging course within the 7-minute time limit is a testament to his skill, dedication, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

The National Bus Rodeo is an event that brings together the best transit operators from across the country to compete in a series of rigorous road courses designed to test their driving skills, precision, and knowledge. The competition is fierce, with participants navigating through tight turns, obstacles, and intricate maneuvers that demand both technical proficiency and calm under pressure. Finishing the course within the 7-minute time limit is no small feat. It requires not only precision driving but also the ability to stay composed and focused under the watchful eyes of judges and spectators. Guillermo's performance reflects his deep understanding of the different technicalities of bus operations and his ability to apply that knowledge in a high-stakes environment.

Guillermo's accomplishment is a victory in its own right. Completing the course within the time limit places him among the elite operators who have the skill and tenacity to compete at the national level. It also highlights the quality of training and support provided by our transit system, underscoring our commitment to excellence and safety. Guillermo's participation in the National Bus Rodeo serves as an inspiration to his colleagues and the broader community. It exemplifies the values of perseverance, dedication, and continuous improvement. We are incredibly proud of Guillermo and his outstanding representation of our transit system on a national stage.

As we celebrate Guillermo's achievement, we also extend our gratitude to all our transit operators who work tirelessly to ensure safe and reliable transportation for our community. Guillermo's performance at the National Bus Rodeo reminds us of the exceptional talent and commitment that drives our team every day. Congratulations, Guillermo Vasquez, on a job well done. Your hard work and determination are an inspiration to us all.

# Interview with Transit Advisory Group Member David Baquis



# How long have you been riding with Ride On and what year did you begin?

I began riding with Ride On in the 1980s for trips from DC to Maryland involving a transfer into Montgomery County. Prior to that, I began my use of public transportation with the old "DC Transit" buses. I don't drive due to poor vision. WMATA Office on Accessibility issued me a disability fare card with my photo on it that allows me to ride the Metro train and all buses for free.

#### Why did you start riding Ride On?

I started riding Ride On because it would take me to my destination in Chevy Chase to visit my mother. I grew up in Montgomery County and moved to DC in early adulthood. I returned to Montgomery County in 2007, when I moved near the Wheaton transportation depot and became accustomed to a variety of Ride On routes, especially the 34 bus.

#### What routes do you ride the most and for what reasons?

I ride the 53 bus every weekday to take me from home to Shady Grove on my way to work. Unfortunately, it only runs during AM and PM rush hours. Sometimes I ride the 57 bus, which takes me halfway home and then I have to call Uber to take me the rest of the way to Derwood.

#### What do you like the most about riding with Ride On?

I like the friendly drivers who lower the entrance step for me. This helps because I use a support cane. They also wait for me to get seated before moving forward because my balance is not good due to diabetes.

# How do you view your role as a Ride On Transit Advisory Group (TAG) member?

I view myself as an advisor. I am especially strong in representing the interests of people with disabilities. I also have plenty of ideas as someone who gets around the whole county, which I shared during the Ride On Reimagined bus network study

last year. For example, I would like to see more service to the Universities at Shady Grove.

#### How likely are you to recommend Ride On to someone else?

I am resourceful and have recommended VanGo in Silver Spring to consumers of the Silver Spring Wellness and Recovery Center. Sometimes I even grab a paper bus schedule and give it to businesses who did not previously know the names of buses that run close to them.

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The Transit Advisory Group is actively recruiting new members! If you or someone you know is interested, especially those who are disabled, high school students or bilingual, please visit our TAG webpage <u>here</u> to apply to be a member. Your membership is free, and you will have a chance to make a difference within Montgomery County. Let your voice be heard!!

## Detours Due to Spring Street Bridge Closure Will Impact Multiple Ride On Routes Beginning June 7

Due to the closure and rebuilding of the Spring Street bridge in Silver Spring, Ride On routes  $\underline{1}, \underline{5}, \underline{11}, \underline{18}$ , and  $\underline{28}$  will experience detours beginning Friday, June 7, and lasting until January 2025. Detour maps and travel alternatives can be found below. This is an update from our last communication and more updates may follow as additional changes occur.

#### Route 1:



#### Stop 25848 & 25850 Alternate Routes:

- Ride On Route 4 serves these stops
- Metrobus Q & Y nearby stops 2000204 & 2001247 on Georgia Avenue

#### Stop 25852 Alternate Routes:

All bus and rail routes at <u>Silver Spring Transit Center</u>

#### Route 5:



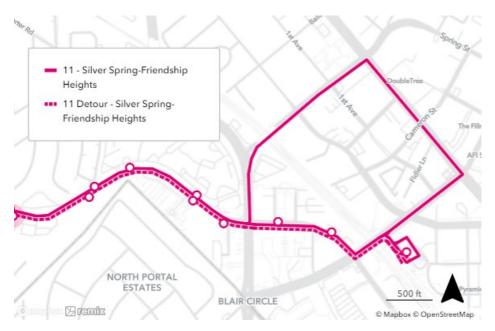
#### Stop 25848, 25850, 25816, 25817, and 14791 Alternate Routes:

- Ride On <u>Route 4</u> serves these stops
- Metrobus <u>Q & Y</u> nearby stops 2000204 & 2001247 on Georgia Avenue

#### Stop 25852 and 25814 Alternate Routes:

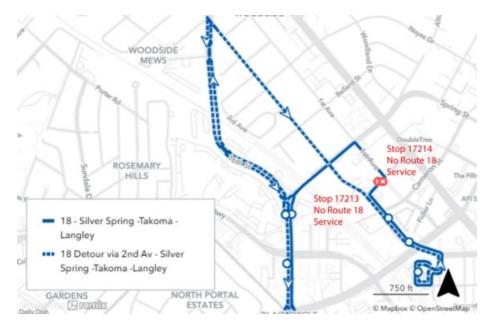
• All bus and rail routes at <u>Silver Spring Transit Center</u>

#### Route 11:



**Note:** Route 11 detour does not miss any regularly scheduled stops or make any additional stops along the detour route.

#### Route 18:



#### Stop 17213 & 17214 Alternate Routes

- •
- Ride On Route 4 serves  $2^{nd}$  Avenue Metrobus Q & Y nearby stops 2000204 & 2001247 on Georgia Avenue





Note: Route 28 detour does not miss any regularly scheduled stops or make any additional stops along the detour route.

# **Ride On Summer Travel Tips**



Summer is here and taking public transportation is a great alternative to avoid the stress of driving in the heat. Ride On provides a reliable and comfortable way to get around Montgomery County. Stay cool on our air-conditioned buses as you commute to your destination.

The safety and comfort of our riders remain our top priorities. Here are some travel tips to ensure a smooth ride with Ride On this summer:

#### **Stay Hydrated**

As temperature rise, it's essential to stay hydrated. Always carry a water bottle with you to keep you feeling refreshed during your travels. Forgot yours? Ride On provides free water bottles during summer heat waves. We've got you covered!

#### **Enjoy the Air Conditioning**

Ride On buses are equipped with air conditioning to keep you cool during your trip. Take a break from the summer heat and ride with Ride On! Please keep the windows closed.

#### **Be Mindful of Peak Hours**

Summer can be a busy travel season. If possible, try to travel during non-peak hours to avoid crowded buses.

#### **Plan for Extra Travel Time**

Summer events and construction can cause delays. Planning for extra commute time may ensure that even with delays, you can get to your destination on time.

#### **Use Our Trip Planning App**

Use Ride On Real Time or our Ride On Trip Planner for bus information in real time, trip planning, and viewing arrival times and bus delays.

#### Consider Using a Virtual SmarTrip Card

Make sure your SmarTrip card is easily accessible. With a virtual SmarTrip Card, you can simply use your phone to pay for fares, making boarding quicker.

#### Limit Sun Exposure

Protect your skin from the sun by applying sunscreen before heading out. Even a short wait at the bus stop can expose you to UV rays, so make sure to reapply as needed. Wearing a hat and sunglasses can also help protect you from the sun.

#### **Stay Connected**

Check Ride On's website, follow us on social media (@RideOnMCT), or subscribe for email and text alerts to stay up to date on service alerts or changes in bus schedules. Keep your phone charged and bring a portable charger if needed to stay informed on the go. This will help you plan your trips accordingly to avoid long waits in the summer heat.

Remember, summer is a great time to explore all that Montgomery County has to offer. By following these tips, you can enjoy a smooth summer commute with Ride On. We're here to make your travels as enjoyable as possible. Enjoy your summer travels!

## Ride On Public Forum on Proposed Changes to Routes 43, 63, and 66 on Tuesday, July 2

Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT), Division of Transit Services is proposing to change the Routes 43, 63, and 66. Beginning on September 8, 2024, the new Ride On ext*R*a Lime Route and Pink Route will provide high-frequency service to the Great Seneca area, so the Routes 43, 63, and 66 will be adjusted to provide more efficient local service. For additional information prior to the public forum regarding this proposed change, please access the Ride On website at <u>rideonbus.com</u> and click "Public Forums" under "About".

Montgomery County hereby notifies the general public and other interested parties that a public forum will be held **in the College Gardens Elementary School multi-purpose room** and virtually on <u>MS Teams</u> on **Tuesday**, **July 2**, **2024**, starting at 6:30 p.m. and ending after the last speaker.

College Gardens Elementary School 1700 Yale Place, Rockville, MD 20850

MS Teams Logon Info:

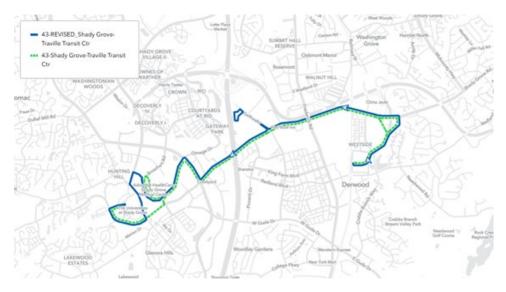
Meeting ID: 277 812 461 592 Passcode: qEFnTc **Dial in by phone** 443-692-5768 Phone conference ID: 697 462 894#

Individuals and representatives of organizations who would like to speak at the public forum are requested to furnish in writing by email, on or before June 27, 2024, their name, home address, telephone number, e-mail address and organization to Division of Transit Services, Ride On Public Forum at mcdot.rideonpublicforums@montgomerycountymd.gov. Individuals who have signed up to speak must provide a printed copy of their testimony for the record by July 1, 2024. Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible but not less than 5 business days prior to the date of the forum. Large print format is available upon request. All comments will be considered before any changes are finalized.

Comments may be written, faxed, or e-mailed on the proposed service changes to the Division of Transit Services **by 5:00 p.m. on July 12, 2024**. Send your comments to:

Division of Transit Services Ride On Public Forum 101 Monroe Street, 5th Floor Rockville, Maryland 20850 (240) 777-5800 (phone) (240) 777-5801 (fax) mcdot.rideonpublicforums@montgomerycountymd.gov

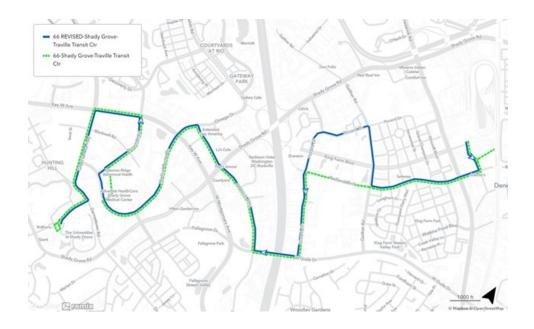
#### Proposed Route 43



### Proposed Route 63



Proposed Route 66



# School is Out, But the Youth Cruiser SmarTrip is Still On!



Did you know that Montgomery County students can ride Ride On buses for free all summer long with the Youth Cruiser SmarTrip® card? That's right, free rides not just during the school year, but also during the hottest months!

While many are familiar with using these cards during the school year, it's important to highlight that they are also invaluable during the summer months. These cards provide free rides on all MCDOT Ride On buses including Ride On ext*R*a, Ride On Flex, and Flash and most Metrobuses within the county, ensuring that students

have the freedom to explore, engage, and enjoy their summer activities without the burden of transportation costs.

The Youth Cruiser card is not just for commuting to school. Students can use it to run errands, visit friends, or participate in recreational activities. Whether it's a quick trip to the mall, a visit to the local library, or attending a summer camp, this card opens up a world of possibilities. It's an excellent tool for fostering independence and responsibility in young people as they navigate their community during the break.

High school students can greatly benefit from the Youth Cruiser card. Many take on summer jobs or internships and having reliable and free transportation is a huge advantage. It allows them to commute to work or volunteer opportunities with ease, helping them build their resumes and gain valuable experience without worrying about transportation expenses. This accessibility can also enable students to participate in summer educational programs, community service projects, or simply enjoy the leisure activities the county has to offer.

As summer approaches, make sure to get your Youth Cruiser card if you haven't already at your school or local library. It's more than just a bus pass; it's your ticket to a fun, productive, and stress-free summer. Enjoy the flexibility and convenience that comes with free public transportation all summer long and make the most of what Montgomery County has to offer!

### Of Note

#### Plan Your Next Trip with the Ride On Trip Planner

Have you downloaded the Ride On Trip Planner App yet? This new, innovative app allows riders to plan their next trip and to tell how crowded a Ride On bus is – before it arrives – with the crowdedness indicator on the app. Riders can choose if they want to get on the arriving bus, wait for the next bus depending on how many people are on the bus, or choose another travel option, such as other local transit services, bikeshare, and scooter. It gives riders more control over their transportation experience. The Ride On Trip Planner app is easy to use and can be downloaded from the <u>Google Play</u> or <u>Apple</u> app store, or accessed with our <u>desktop version</u>.

#### **Connect-A-Ride Serves Area Seniors**

Connect-A-Ride (CAR) is a free referral service that provides adults over 50 and adults with disabilities information about their transportation options for medical services, errands, social activities and more. CAR links callers with public, private,

and volunteer transportation services, including escorted transportation. In addition, the program assists callers with their applications for transportation programs like Call-N-Ride and Metro Access. They also offer free workshops on how to use public transportation. Call 301-738-3252 Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. CAR is funded by Montgomery County Government and operated by Jewish Council for the Aging (JCA).

#### **Ride On Courtesy Stop Program**

Montgomery County Ride On bus riders are now able to request to be dropped off between stops when traveling late at night. Available after 9 p.m., the Courtesy Stop program lets riders request to be dropped off at any point along the regular bus route, in addition to designated bus stops. Riders can request a Courtesy Stop on any MCDOT Ride On bus or WMATA Metrobus. However, Metrobus Express and Limited Stop buses, such as Flash, operating in Montgomery County, are excluded from the program. The requested stop must be along the regular bus route, and cannot be at an intersection, along a highway or freeway. A bus operator can refuse a requested stop if the driver deems the undesignated stop as unsafe.

#### Free Rides for those 65+ with the Senior SmarTrip Card

As part of Metro's ongoing commitment to expand access and affordability to public transit, the Senior SmarTrip program has joined all other Metro reduced fare programs in offering SmarTrip cards at no additional cost as of January 16, 2024. Senior SmarTrip cards are available at all County libraries, TRiPS stores, and the County Treasury office in Rockville. Please bring a proof of age. Get yours and ride free on all Ride On buses and most Metrobuses in the County, and ride for "half-price" on Metrorail and Metrobuses outside the County.

#### Transit Trivia!

Test your familiarity with Ride On's routes, services, and more with our transit trivia! The answer will be in next month's edition of our newsletter so make sure you tune in next month to see if you answered correctly!

**Question**: What is the name of the Ride On tool that allows passengers to track bus arrivals in real time?

- 1. Ride On Track
- 2. Ride On Real Time
- 3. Ride On Trip Planner
- 4. Answers 2 and 3

#### Last month's question:

**Question:** What is the name of Maryland's first Bus Rapid Transit Line (BRT)?

1. Flex

- 2. extRa
- 3. Flash
- 4. Zip

Answer: Flash

For the most up-to-date service information, riders should follow @RideOnMCT on <u>X</u>, <u>Facebook</u>, <u>YouTube</u>, and <u>Instagram</u>. In addition, information is available at RideOnBus.com, by subscribing to receive email alerts at <u>www.montgomerycountymd.gov/govdelivery</u>, or texting MONTGOMERY RIDEON to 468311 to receive text alerts.

For information on MCDOT programs and services visit <u>montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdot</u>, follow @MCDOTNow on <u>X</u>, <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Instagram</u> and <u>subscribe</u> to MCDOT's "Go Montgomery!" newsletter.

Title VI: Montgomery County assures that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Civil Rights Act of 1987, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity.