



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Christopher R. Conklin
Director

AGENDA

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

March 19, 2025
8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
Teams Format

I. Welcome

II. Ride On Reimagined

Tekiyah Ward
Enhanced Mobility & Customer Relations
MCDOT Division of Transit Service

III. Federal Return to Work Response

All

IV. Commuter Services Announcements

Sande Brecher
Chief – MCDOT Commuter
Jim Carlson

- Commuter Survey
- Second notice to file TDM Plans and Annual Reports

V. Around the Room Announcements

All

VI. Adjourn

Information Items

*Montgomery County Transit Services for Federal Workers Returning to Office
FareShare Program Offers Commuters up to \$325/month for Transit and Vanpools
Bike To Work Day Registration Open – Thursday, May 15*

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Montgomery County Transit Services for Federal Workers Returning to Office

For Immediate Release: Friday, February 28, 2025



Federal Employee Transportation Resources

Federal employees returning to in-person work can take advantage of accessible and convenient transit services from the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT). MCDOT Ride On buses service Federal work locations across Montgomery County and larger transit hubs to facilitate travel into Washington, D.C. Additionally, passengers who ride Metro buses or rail receive a free same-day transfer to Ride On buses.

"For those looking for commuting solutions, the good news is that the region is better connected than ever before, and in Montgomery County, public transit is affordable with a fare of \$1 for all MCDOT Ride On buses," said Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich. "MCDOT has steadily increased bus service over the last few years, with faster, high-frequency bus service that uses sections of dedicated bus lanes and traffic signal priority to reduce congestion impacts on bus speed."

Public transportation ridership in Montgomery County has been steadily growing since the pandemic.

"Ride On has a growing ridership, with weekday ridership up to 58,000 in 2024 from 46,000 in 2023," said MCDOT Director Chris Conklin. "The County hosts quite a few federal institutions and the hope is that employees returning to worksites will give transit a try and keep this momentum moving in a positive direction."

In addition, MCDOT and other County agencies have been working with Federal agencies to expand parking availability near select Federal installations.

List of Bus Routes Near Major Federal Offices Within Montgomery County:

- **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda. Ride On boardings at the Medical Center Metro bus loop - 30, 33, 34, 46, 70, 101. The Metro Red Line and Metrobus Routes J1 and J2 service this location. MTA Commuter Bus 203 is also available at this location.
- **Walter Reed National Military Medical Center**, 8901 Rockville Pike, Bethesda. Ride On boardings at the Medical Center Metro bus loop - 30, 33, 34, 46, 70, 101. The Metro Red Line and Metrobus Routes J1 and J2 service this location. MTA Commuter Bus 203 is also available at this location.
- **Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**, 10903 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring. Ride On bus route 10 boards on New Hampshire Avenue; Bus route 22 boards at FDA entrance bus loop; Flash boards to the left of the FDA bus loop - 10, 22 and Flash. Metrobus Routes K6, K9 and C8 are also available near the FDA Campus. MTA Commuter Bus 203 and 204 are also available at this location.
- **Department of Energy Campus**, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown. Ride On bus route 83 boards at Germantown Transit Center, Century Boulevard (Bus Stop Id. 15012 / Bay F). All other Ride On bus routes board on GTC Aircraft Drive - 55, 61, 74, 75, 83.
- **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring. Ride On bus route 28 stops in front of NOAA; all other bus routes stop around the corner at the Silver Spring Transit Center - 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 28. The Metro Red Line, MARC Commuter Rail Brunswick Line and numerous Metrobus routes including J1, J2, S2, S9, Q2, Q4, Y2, Y7, Y8, Z2, Z6, Z7, Z8, F4, 70 and 79 service this location. MTA Commuter Buses 305, 315 and 325 are also available at the Silver Spring Transit Center.
- **Nuclear Regulatory Commission**, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville. All Ride On bus routes board at Rockville Pike and Marinelli Drive - 5, 26, 46, 101. The Metro Red Line is also available at this location via the North Bethesda Stations.
- **National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)**, 100 Bureau Drive, Gaithersburg. Ride On bus route 54 boards outside the gate to the NIST campus - 54.
- **Internal Revenue Service (IRS)**, 6010 Executive Boulevard, Rockville. Ride On bus boardings at Executive Boulevard and Jefferson Street (Bus Stop Id. 22052 or 22038) - 5, 26.
- **Social Security Administration**, 10229 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, 20903. All Ride On bus routes board at Hillandale Transit Center - 10, 22. Metrobus Routes K6, K9 and C8 are also available near this location.
- **National Cancer Institute**, 9609 Medical Center Drive, Rockville. Ride On bus boardings at Medical Center Drive (Bus Stop Id. 23996) - 43, Ride On extRa Pink.

Local Transportation Options and Incentives:

- MCDOT Ride On has four transit lines, including Ride On, Ride On extRa, Flash Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and flex book and go bus service, providing about 80 bus routes throughout the County. Every ride is \$1 and free for seniors 65 and over, customers with disabilities and youth under 19 with specialized SmarTrip cards.
- Download the Ride On Trip Planner App, which makes it easy to navigate regional transportation options. In addition to the local Ride On bus services, the app integrates Metro bus and rail, MARC commuter rail, Capital Bikeshare and other modes, displaying the fastest arrival times.

- Metrorail - schedule/timetable, fare / fare options, Trip Planning
- Metrobus - schedule/timetable, fare / fare options, Trip Planning
- MARC Train - schedule, fare, Trip Planning
- MTA Commuter Bus - schedule, fare, Trip Planning
- Fairfax County launched bus service between Northern Virginia and Bethesda with the Fairfax Connector Express Route 798 in September 2024.
- Montgomery County's Bus Rapid Transit line, Flash, runs on US 29/Colesville Road and provides direct access to the FDA building from the Silver Spring Transit Center to the south and access as far north as Burtonsville. Flash buses arrive every seven to 15 minutes, allow bikes onboard and operate more like light rail, stopping at each of the modern, weather-protected stations. Flash offers amenities such as Wi-Fi and USB charging onboard. Seven additional, integrated Flash corridors are planned, with the next, along Veirs Mill Road between Downtown Rockville and Downtown Wheaton, moving into construction later this year.
- The Great Seneca Transit Network, Pink, and Lime extRa routes launched last year and provide high-frequency service, running east-west connections between the Shady Grove Metro and the Traville Gateway Transit Center, adjacent to the Universities at Shady Grove in Rockville. The Pink Line links the busy Shady Grove corridor with the Life Sciences Center via Medical Center Drive. The Lime Line uses I-370 to provide an express route to RIO, Crown Farm and the heart of the Life Sciences Center at Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center.
- MCDOT has been implementing bus priority projects for faster buses. In some cases, MCDOT works with the Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration (SHA). For example, the dedicated bus lanes on University Boulevard and Georgia Avenue help decrease bus travel time between Montgomery County and Washington, D.C. and provide faster and further-reaching access to Metro.
- Montgomery County's transit service was recently assessed with a two-year study, Ride On Reimagined. The study looked broadly at all transit offered in the County and engaged the public to make in-depth recommendations to better serve ridership needs. Changes to Ride On bus services to boost efficiency will take effect as early as this summer.
- Using transit to counter the stress of regular commuting to the office has well-documented health benefits. Public transit supports health by increasing step count, providing fresh air and allowing time to check emails and news while someone else does the driving. It also saves money compared to the cost and maintenance of a single-occupancy vehicle and parking fees.

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

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Media Contact: Emily DeTitta, 240-372-2282



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FareShare Program Offers County Commuters up to \$325 a Month for Using Public Transit

For Immediate Release: Friday, March 7, 2025



Employees working in Montgomery County can receive up to \$325 a month to help cover the cost of their commute using public transit with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) FareShare program. To receive the reimbursement, employers must contribute \$25 a month per employee receiving the benefit. The money is tax-free to both the employee and the employer.

The program covers expenses incurred by commuters using Ride On bus, Metrobus, Metrorail, MTA Commuter bus or MARC train. It also covers expenses for vanpools, as long as the employee commutes to and from a workplace within Montgomery County.

"The FareShare program makes using transit more affordable while helping reduce traffic and emissions," said Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich. "As the federal government returns to in-person work, we need more commuters to consider public transit options. We encourage more businesses to take advantage of this opportunity and make transit an easier choice for their workers."

Employers who participate give their employees a financial break while they're supporting a healthier, more sustainable transportation system for everyone."

Starting in January 2025, the Internal Revenue Service increased the pre-tax limit for employer-provided commuting benefits to \$325 per month, up from \$315 per month last year. The FareShare program reimburses employers for the maximum amount allowed, minus the \$25 contribution.

"The FareShare program is open to anyone who works in Montgomery County, and we hope to see more people taking advantage of it," said MCDOT Director Chris Conklin. "The MCDOT Commuter Services staff will visit any employer, free of charge, to set up the program. Montgomery County has a robust and very affordable public transit network, and the FareShare program is a great incentive to try it out."

Businesses looking to implement or expand a transportation benefit program must commit to covering the first \$25 per month of travel costs for participating employees. The County will cover commuting costs over the initial \$25, up to \$300 a month.

The FareShare reimbursements offset the cost to employers who pay for their employees' commutes. Employers can also offer a pre-tax payroll deduction benefit at no cost to the employee or a combination of both.

"As a small business owner, every dollar counts," said Erik Donald, owner of Main Engineering in Silver Spring. "FareShare allows me to offer competitive commuter benefits at a significantly reduced cost. Offering these benefits encouraged employees to switch from the stress of driving to riding on the train."

Participating employers also are eligible for a State tax credit of 50 percent of their \$25 contribution per enrolled employee each month, reducing their State tax payment. This tax credit is available to both for-profit and nonprofit organizations. For more information on tax credits, visit Commuter Choice Maryland.

Additionally, as part of the County's efforts to reduce traffic congestion, all County employers with more than 25 employees are required to distribute a travel survey to their employees. MCDOT Commuter Services will send the survey to employers at the end of March. Employees who respond to the survey are eligible for a weekly drawing for a \$50 gift card, and for one grand prize drawing for a \$500 gift card.

For more information and to request free support to implement or increase a transportation reimbursement program in the County, contact MCDOT FairShare at commuter.services@montgomerycountymd.gov.

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

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Ride On Alerts

Home > > Newsroom > Try a commute on two wheels! Free registration for Bike to Work Day 2025 now open

NEWS RELEASE

Try a commute on two wheels! Free registration for Bike to Work Day 2025 now open

Mar 3, 2025



On Thursday, May 15, 2025, take a greener and healthier way to get to work and earn a free T-shirt! Save the date for Bike to Work Day, the DMV's biggest bike to work celebration, a free event happening at over 100 "pit stop" stations across the District of Columbia, Suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia. Organized by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Commuter Connections program and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA), Bike to Work Day is a chance to feel the freedom and invigoration of pedaling to the office. Registration is now open for the popular spring tradition, an event that encourages commuters to try bicycling to work.

Participants can join the fun by stopping at one of the 100 pit stops on the way to work, offering an enjoyable start to the workday. Some pit stops are open during the commute home. The first 18,000 who register and attend a pit stop will receive a free commemorative red Bike to Work Day T-shirt and a chance to win a new bike! Many pit stops will also provide free giveaways, snacks, and beverages, while supplies last.

Beginners and experienced bike commuters are welcome to participate as Bike to Work Day is a great opportunity to try bicycling to work for the first time or to celebrate doing it again. Bike solo or with a partner for a fun and rewarding experience.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 15 and register now to secure your spot! Visit biketoworkmetrodc.org to register, or for more information.

Bike to Work Day 2025 is made possible, in part, through the generous support of regional sponsors, including GO Alex, ICF, Prince George's Department of Public Works & Transportation, Vision Zero Prince George's, BicycleSPACE, BikeArlington, and National Landing.

Free registration for Bike to Work Day is available at biketoworkmetrodc.org or by calling (800) 745-7433. Follow Commuter Connections on X [@BikeToWorkDay](https://twitter.com/BikeToWorkDay) and Facebook [@BikeToWorkDayMetroDC](https://facebook.com/BikeToWorkDayMetroDC) and use #BTWD2025.

Commuter Connections is a program of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG).

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Tags: [Bicycling](#), [Bike to Work Day](#)

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September 26, 2024

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NEWS RELEASE

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May 16, 2024

Area officials to celebrate alongside thousands of local commuters in regionwide event

TPB NEWS

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May 6, 2024

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Contacts

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