

Joint Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
Friendship Heights/Silver Spring/Greater Shady Grove/Bethesda/North Bethesda
March 19, 2025

Item 1 – Welcome

Item 2 – Ride On Reimagined: Tekiyah Ward presented the results of the Ride On Reimagined Study, which revised their bus network for greater efficiency and faster service. Year one of the program starting June 29th will be coordinated with WMATA’s Better Bus Network program. The Ride On Reimagined program introduces two new Routes (41 & 42) and changes the L8 & T2 routes to WMATA operations. Community focus groups, working with WMATA and other stakeholders, helped to shape the revamped bus system with a focus on safety, equity and Vision Zero principles. By year five, Better Bus will grow the system to include the Purple Line and increase service on Viers Mill Road. All implementation depends on renewed fiscal year operating funding. Key features:

- 17 additional BRT bus routes, new weekend service and increased weekday frequencies on some routes - high traffic routes are the first changes to be implemented
- Route revisions and coordination with WMATA
- Ride on route 10 will be replaced by Metro’s M42, M44 & M60 lines - Ride on Rt. 40 will operate in a currently underserved area
- Route 34 will be replaced by Metro routes M22 & D96 with no Aspen Hill service- the D6 will continue into Washington, DC
- Route 42 no service at Bolger Center
- New route 40 replacing parts of the Q2,4 & Q6-Rt 41 replace portions of the L8 as the route will be given back to Metro
- Route T2 will be replaced by M82

Community engagement includes public forums, on-going evaluations and multilingual communication and signage that is in coordination with Metro. Also digital and radio ads. The next steps include increasing bus frequency and connectivity.

Q & A:

- Funding comes from the Mass Transit Fund, which receives funding from the state - year one is funding neutral as it is within resource constraints
- Ride On will remain in constant coordination with Metro throughout the Reimagining project as all buses are equipped with ADA infrastructure
- SmarTrip payment will be used on both Ride On and Metro buses with \$2 free transfer from Metro to Ride On – rail to bus transfers are legislatively reviewed every year
- Metro fare boxes are used throughout the region and are on all Ride On buses to allow for SmarTrip card use on area transit
- The Ride On website will list all route changes in real time and FAQs will be added in April
- Ride On routes are examined three times a year for revisions - January, May and June; however, May’s re-assignment of routes (“pick”) will be extended to June to accommodate the return to work of federal employees

- Metro bus route name changes coming soon that will have a letter in front of numbered system, such as M42: M=Montgomery County, and P## for Prince Georges County – the full list will be on WMATA's Better bus network webpage and signage will reflect the changes
- Bus frequency changes will be made according to route demand – Georgia Avenue will likely have increased frequency
- Change notices are available two weeks prior to taking effect, and trip planner information is provided on WMATA & Ride On websites.

Item 3 - TDM Plans and Annual Reports: Jim Carlson reported on eight employer transportation demand management (TDM) plans and annual reports for recommendation for approval to the MCDOT director. The agenda packet included a summary sheet of the plans and annual reports submitted for review. Committee members recommended that the TMD plans and annual reports be approved.

Mr. Carlson discussed the biennial commuter survey of employees and residents, about to launch county wide in April. The results will show the percentage of non-auto driver mode share (NADMS) for respondents taking the survey. The 6-week survey gathers information that is also used to help implement alternative transit services. The survey is distributed through the employer or resident building manager through the email system with a link to the survey, and it is also available online with a QR code.

Item 4 – Announcements:

- Bike to Work Day registration is now open for Thursday, May 15th.

Item 5 - Around the Room: Steve Kelly (Greater Shady Grove TMD) reported that some employees are returning to work at NIH/NCI, with the rest returning April 28th – apx 9,000 total. He explained that out of a staff of 54, eight were lost due to cuts and retirement.

- In addition to finding places for NCI staff they also must find places for another tenant as well (NCATS)
- Utilizing shuttle buses to transport employees to NIH and other sites
- Assisting federal employees returning to work by reactivating SmarTrip cards and other transit benefits
- Increasing bike infrastructure to assist in transit mobility around NCI campus; however, some Capital Bikeshare stations have been removed to allow for bus lanes

Friendship Heights TMD AC reported:

- Total Wine opening in the basement of Mazda Gallery- TJ Maxx coming back as well
- Friendship Heights Alliance Community Survey will get feedback re. transportation issues
- New housing in Friendship Heights for Seniors – Lisner House
- GEICO headquarters is moving to Bethesda in 2026, and housing is planned for the current site.

Adjourn