



SILVER SPRING
TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AGENDA
November 14, 2024 / 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.
Teams Meeting

Staff Contact: Jim Carlson / (240) 777-8382; (301) 318-0328
james.carlson@montgomerycountymd.gov

- 8:00 1. Introductions Jim Carlson/All
2. Minutes Review All
September (©2)
3. Purple Line Update Christina Contreras
MCDOT-Special Projects Implementation Manager
4. Tactical Bus Lanes & ADA Matthew Barkley
Continued discussion from Sept. meeting MC ADA Compliance Officer
5. Updates: TMD/DOT/Other County Updates Sandra Brecher
Cycle, Scoot & Snap to celebrate small business > Nov. 5 – Dec.1 Jim Carlson
6. Employer Outreach Update Jennifer Bolick
TMD Outreach

9:30 Adjourn / Next Meeting: January 9, 2024

Information Items

- Cycle, Scoot & Snap
Transportation for Veteran’s Day, Nov. 11
MC Commuter Services Wins Regional ‘Commuter Connections’ Award
MCDOT Bike Drive Breaks Previous Record Collecting Over 300 Bikes

**Silver Spring  
Transportation Management District  
Advisory Committee  
September 12, 2024**

**Item 1 & 2 – Introductions/Minute Review:** Jim Carlson called meeting to order and members and guests introduced themselves.

**January minutes were approved**

**Item 3 – Georgia Avenue Tactical Bus Lanes:** Sande Brecher reported that the tactical bus lanes are on Georgia Ave. from 16<sup>th</sup> street to Wayne Ave. and Studies have shown a 15 percent reduction in travel time as they help to reduce NADMS goals. The pilot is to extend till the end of the year. Today’s discussion is to address issues with the bus lanes such as clarity on parking, rules and benefits of the pilot in light of an incident involving a cab being ticketed while assisting mobility impaired patrons into a hair salon. Ms. Brecher comments continued:

- Ticket issued in accordance with the law by Silver Spring Parking Enforcement
- No back parking entrance to the salon was available
- Right turns only are allowed in lanes, no parking or standing during peak hours
- Finding ways to circulate information to the community regarding lane rules – working with State Highway Administration & Metro to achieve goals in transit improvements and community involvement

**Carson Henry** explained that there is no rear entrance to the salon or small businesses along that block of Georgia Avenue, which is very traffic congested. The small businesses need a place for short term parking and temporary loading since the nearest garage (#7) is 1 ½ blocks away, which is difficult for mobility impaired persons, not a natural choice for patron parking since it is off the beaten path.

**Stephanie Helsing** commented that there is a narrow alleyway that does not provide for parking as there have been complaints that trash trucks not getting through. Business are not happy with the pilot, saying patrons are going elsewhere. She sees lack of enforcement as cars are in the bus lanes when she commutes to and from work along the artery.

Discussion continued:

- Discrepancy regarding bus lane time operations, till 10 pm or during peak rush hour only- need to disseminate correct information to the Business Chamber and regional service centers.
- There are bagged meters and enforcement of the bus lanes with 132 citations issued.
- Clearing up driver confusion regarding “No parking anytime vs. Standing” as parking means when you leave your vehicle even if car is running - is it good judgement to enforce bus lanes when assisting mobility impaired patrons?
- Confirming bus lane hours of operation, rules, issues, improving signage, about the bus lanes for longer term master plan envisioning for the BRT.
- A key to making urban center NSDMS goals is addressing the disruptions and communication to the surrounding Community.

Committee comments continued:

- Suggestion to exempt the two blocks downtown to reduce business impact, as this is the most congested portion of the bus lanes that will cause lost time in the long run- can explore the option, but is it realistic since the lanes are needed to improve connection to transit?
- The bus lanes are not much of an issue for those who are not mobility impaired and there is a need to assess the impact on buses and drivers with quantitative data while making ADA accommodations.
- Right lane parking complaints due to Uber eats and collecting quantitative data.
- The bus lanes have decreased travel time 15 percent, helping to get employees to work sooner.
- The difficulty in collecting data for mobility impaired persons.
- The bus lanes pilot will be ending by years-end; a report based on collection of data such as traffic & safety counts will be issued when pilot concludes.
- Utilizing how ADA issues are addressed in other areas and how that determines where people live.
- Using an entity to visually document the bus lanes impact to objectively obtain data such as traffic accident data – anecdotally, fewer traffic accidents are reported.

Discussion continued regarding residents without a car being attracted to the downtown Silver Spring area due to access & convenience services such as Uber eats, which deliveries may block traffic and bus lanes. The tickets received from infractions are figured as the cost of doing business. As parking will always be an issue in downtown Silver Spring, ADA focus groups are needed to provide access to mobility impaired persons.

Discussion concluded:

- Vehicles like Uber & Lyft are not considered ridesharing but ride haling
- Delivery services prefer not to utilize the loading docks as it will slow service-tickets cost of doing business.
- Next meeting will provide a follow up with the County’s disability representative.

**Item 4 – Metro Update: Corey Pitts** reported:

- Metro’s customer satisfaction has increased more on the bus side than the rail, as crime and fare evasion is on the decline - sting on Metro fare evasion.
- Creating a reserve rainy day fund.
- Making clearer the subsidy formula for the jurisdiction payments as ridership in jurisdictions increase payments should decrease.
- Research on Metro and base crime in the community has found that 80 percent of area crime was due to fare jumpers from area Metro stops.

**Item 5 – Employer TDM Plans/Annual Reports: Mr. Carlson** submitted TDM plans for Committee review, approval, and submission to DOT Director for approval.

**Item 6 – Updates:**

- Car Free Day on Sept. 23rd and the Walk & Ride Challenge coming up
- CIDs at Giant, SS Metro and Ellsworth Drive
- Capital Bikeshare & Ride-On Free on Car Free Day
- Walk & Ride registration open today.
- Phase 1 of the new Great Seneca bus service Pink & Lime lines opened today.
- New bus service between Tysons and Bethesda opens September 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Joint Chamber meeting of Hispanic & Kensington Chambers
- Thanksgiving parade is earlier this year on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjourn**

**Next Meeting: November 14, 2024**

**Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee Attendance Sheet  
September 12, 2024**

<b>Voting Members (12)</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Chamber Members (3)</b>			
Vacant			
Vacant			
Vacant			
<b>Citizens Advisory Board Members (3)</b>			
Harriet Quinn	Kemp Mill, Four Corners, East SS	X	
Vacant	North & West Sector Plan Area		
Chris Perry	CBD Resident	X	
<b>Employers less than 50 employees (3)</b>			
Eric Donald	Main Engineering / Small Business	X	
Shanavia McKinney	Innovative Life Healthcare /Small Biz	X	
Vacant			
<b>Employers with 50 or more employees (3)</b>			
G. Michael Price	Discovery Communications	X	
Vacant			
Vacant			
<b>Non-Voting Members (3)</b>			
Sandra Brecher, DOT-Commuter Services	MCDOT Director or Designee	X	
Larissa Klevan	M-NCPPC	X	
Jacob Newman	Silver Spring Regional Center	X	
<b>Staff</b>			
Nakengi Byrd	MCDOT-Commuter Services	X	
Jim Carlson	MCDOT-Commuter Services	X	
<b>Guests</b>			
Jennifer Bolick	TMD Outreach Team - Fovndry	X	
Samuel Damesa	MCDOT		
Jay Elvove	SS Citizens Advisory Board	X	
Stephanie Helsing	Greater Silver Spring Chamber	X	
Carson Henry	SS Urban District	X	
Kevin Obike	MCDOT	X	
Corey Pitts	MCDOT	X	
Nahom Tekle	SS Community Engagement Cluster	X	
Laura Van Eperen	TMD Outreach Team – Fovndry	X	
Ronetta Zack-Williams	M-NCPPC	X	



**Better Ways To Work!**  
Montgomery County Commuter Services

# CYCLE SCOOTER & SNAP



**A PICTURE TO CELEBRATE SMALL BUSINESSES**  
NOVEMBER 5TH-DECEMBER 1ST 2024

**STEP 1:**

Using your **bike** or **scooter**, travel to your favorite **local small business** in **Montgomery County, Maryland**.

**STEP 2:**

Once you've **arrived** at the local small business, take a **selfie with your bike or scooter in front of the store!** Be sure to **include** the **name of the business**.

**STEP 3:**

Send the photo to **commuter.services@montgomerycountymd.gov** for a chance to **win a \$25 Amazon gift card!**

**Winners will be randomly picked each week** for the month of **November** and will also be featured in Facebook, Instagram, Threads and X.  
**SEND YOUR PHOTOS TO COMMUTER.SERVICES@MONTGOMERYCOUNTYMD.GOV**

\* CONTEST OPEN TO THOSE 18+ THAT LIVE OR WORK IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD. \*\* SUBMITTING A PHOTO TO THE CONTEST GIVES MCDOT AUTHORITY TO USE THE PHOTO ON SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS, NEWSLETTERS AND ON ITS WEBSITE.  
\*\*\* WINNERS ARE REQUIRED TO RESPOND WITHIN FOUR DAYS, BY THE FOLLOWING TUESDAY AT 5 P.M. IF NO RESPONSE IS RECEIVED WITHIN THIS TIMEFRAME, AN ALTERNATIVE ENTRY WILL BE CHOSEN TO TAKE THEIR PLACE.

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## Transportation Schedule for the Veterans Day Holiday on Monday, Nov. 11

For Immediate Release: Monday, November 4, 2024



Below are the transportation-related holiday schedule changes for the observance of Veterans Day, Monday, Nov. 11:

- County offices and the MC311 service center - Will be closed.
- Ride On bus service - Will operate on a Holiday schedule. View route schedules [here](#).
- Ride On extRa, extRa Pink, and extRa Lime, and Flex bus services - Will operate on a Holiday schedule.
- Ride On Flash bus service - The Orange Route will operate on a Weekend/Holiday schedule. The Blue Route (typically, weekday only) will not be in service.
- TRiPS Silver Spring Commuter Store - Will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- TRiPS Mobile Commuter Store - Will be closed.
- Parking at Bethesda, Silver Spring and Wheaton public garages, lots and curbside meters - Will be free.
- Metrorail and Metrobus - Metrorail trains will operate on a Saturday Holiday schedule from 7 a.m. to midnight. Metrobus will operate on a Saturday Supplemental schedule. View timetables at [wmata.com/schedules/timetables](https://www.wmata.com/schedules/timetables).

- MARC Train - Will operate on "R" schedule on all three lines. Penn Line trains 455 (8:45 p.m. departure from Penn Station) and 454 (10:05 p.m. departure from Washington) will operate. Brunswick Line will be the R, not the R+ schedule. EPTA connecting bus service to West Virginia stations will be available from Train 875 at Brunswick. For holiday service information visit [mta.maryland.gov/marc-holiday-service](http://mta.maryland.gov/marc-holiday-service). For real time service alerts visit [mta.maryland.gov/service-alerts](http://mta.maryland.gov/service-alerts).

View additional Montgomery County schedule changes [here](#).

Look out for MCDOT's wrapped Veteran's Day bus promoting Operation Green Light and promoting resources for Veterans during the month of November. The wrapped bus has neon lights and will be taking over Ride On routes throughout the County. Related bus cards have also been placed internally on nearly 400 Ride On buses.

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

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Media Contact: *Emily DeTitta*, 240-372-2282



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# Press Releases - Department of Transportation

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## Montgomery County Department of Transportation Wins Regional 'Commuter Connections' Award

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, October 29, 2024



The Montgomery County Department of Transportation's (MCDOT) Commuter Services office was recognized for a second year in a row by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) Commuter Connections program with the Employer Services Outreach Team Achievement Award for its outstanding work in creating and promoting commute alternative programs with employers. The award was part of Commuter Connections' 50th anniversary celebration at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 2.

Commuter Services has been a strong local partner with the regional MWCOC's Commuter Connections program, a regional network of transportation professionals dedicated to helping employers set up, improve and expand comprehensive commuter benefits and telework programs. These programs have been proven to help businesses recruit and retain employees, while addressing air quality, congestion and climate change concerns by incentivizing public transit.

"MCDOT's Commuter Services program continues to be a leader in working with our business community to develop incentive programs that reduce reliance on single-vehicle commutes," said Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich. "The County is expanding our bus services with the new Ride On extRa Great Seneca Transit Network serving major employment and education hubs in Rockville. Our Flash Bus Rapid Transit network will offer express bus service along some of our County's busiest corridors."

The MCDOT Commuter Services section works with employers in the County to encourage commuter programs that are focused on reducing single occupancy driving and offering alternatives. While businesses are responsible for implementing the programs, MCDOT helps in program design, promotion and employee participation. The services are provided free to businesses and are designed to link available County, State and Federal resources to local businesses.

Employees working in the County can receive commuter benefits of up to \$315 per month, if their employer contributes \$25 per month toward the FareShare program. These benefits are tax-free for both employees and employers. Employers also can receive a tax credit for their contributions under the Maryland Commuter Choice program.

During the past year, MCDOT Commuter Services outreach representatives made more than 11,400 direct contacts with employers and conducted a total of 103,000 total contacts with employers using a variety of outreach methods. They also held more than 170 individual meetings with employers in Montgomery County.

One of those employers is Horizon, a local, owner-operated restaurant management company, headquartered in North Bethesda, which received this year's Incentives Award. Horizon operates nine McDonald's franchises with over 300 employees. The company provides incentives by developing a Transit-Aligned Work Schedule (TAWS) system that allows store managers to adjust for employees' public transportation schedules when planning and assigning work hours. Employees also receive a monthly transit subsidy of up to \$50 (\$25 for part-time employees), administered through Metro's SmartBenefits.

"I want to join MWCOG in recognizing Horizon for taking into account public transportation access when assigning shifts to employees," said MCDOT Director Chris Conklin. "MCDOT regularly adjusts Ride On bus routes and schedules to reflect public demand. We look forward to working further with the business community to promote public transportation-friendly solutions for employees."

The MWCOG Commuter Connections Awards program received nominations from employers throughout the region. Winners were selected for their dedication and ability to reduce gasoline consumption and greenhouse gas emissions through fewer vehicle trips and miles traveled, while creating measurable and sustainable commuter benefits for employees.

"The SmartBenefits program was easy to implement, offers a significant return on investment through increased employee retention, and provides an immediate, tangible benefit to my employees," says Kari Swenson, the co-owner of Horizon. "When I ask my employees what keeps them here, they say it's paid time off, and it's SmartBenefits."

Montgomery County businesses interested in expanding commuter options and benefits are urged to reach out to MCDOT's Commuter Services Section for more information, or to enroll in the FareShare program, by calling 240-777-8382 or emailing [commuter.services@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:commuter.services@montgomerycountymd.gov).

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

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Media Contact: Emily DeTitta, 240-372-2282



# Press Releases - Department of Transportation

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## Montgomery County Department of Transportation's Bike Drive Breaks Previous Record Collecting Over 300 Bikes

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, October 23, 2024



The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) sponsored the collection of child and adult bikes in a one-day event on Friday, Oct. 11 in Rockville. The event yielded 306 bicycles this year, which breaks last year's number of 297.

The bike collection event is in partnership with the Rockville Bike Hub, whose volunteers check the bikes. The bikes are then placed with Montgomery County residents in need through the BikeMatchMoCo program. Bikes that are not in good condition are distributed through Bikes for the World, an international bike donation program.

This was the sixth year that MCDOT sponsored a bike drive (no events were held during the two years of the COVID-19 health crisis). The drives have collected more than 1,350 donated bikes. However, the need is high, with over 300 County bike requests pending.

MCDOT's BikeMatchMoCo is a year-round program which has provided nearly 800 County residents with bikes donated by members of the community. Residents who wish to donate or receive a bike can do so by filling out the bike request form on MCDOT's website. Donated bikes must be in good working condition.

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