



SILVER SPRING  
TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**AGENDA**

**November 9, 2023 / 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.**  
**Teams Meeting**

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

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- 8:00**
- 1. Introductions** **Jim Carlson/All**  
Welcome to **Shanavia McKinney & Erik Donald** – nominated for Small Business Reps  
Re-welcome **Mike Price** – nominated for new term, Large Business Rep
  - 2. Minutes Review** **All**  
July (©2)
  - 3. Presentation: Purple Line Construction Update** **Christina Contreres, P.E.**  
MCDOT-Strategic Projects Implementation Manager
  - 4. Metro Update** **Gary Erenrich**  
MCDOT Special Assistant to the Director
  - 5. Employer TDM Plans/Reports** **Jim Carlson**  
Summary (©5)
  - 6. Updates: TMD/DOT/Other County Updates** **Sandra Brecher**  
**Jim Carlson**
  - 7. Employer Outreach Update** **Jennifer Bolick**  
TMD Outreach Team
- 9:30**    **Adjourn / Next Meeting: January 11, 2024**
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Information Items

*County receives \$2 million grant for bus rapid transit study*

*FY25 Operating Budget forums – calendar*

*WMATA warns of drastic cut to services with upcoming \$750 million*

*Transportation Schedule for the Veterans Day, Friday, Nov. 10 and Saturday, Nov. 11*

**Silver Spring  
Transportation Management District  
Advisory Committee  
July 13, 2023**

2

**Item 1 & 2 – Introductions**

**Item 3 – Purple Line Construction Update: Christina Contreras** provided an update of construction operations on the Purple Line, which will be opening in 2026.

- Work underway at McGee library
- Extensive work on Wayne Avenue between Fenton and Manchester Place, consisting of utility construction- MTA & MTS to complete construction outside first, then rerouting traffic to work on the inside
- Silver Spring Transit Center - working on the bridge spans, putting concrete in place
- Construction wall placed at the Silver Spring Library site – grounding grid for trains
- Sand filter near Sligo Creek for stormwater management
- Utility relocation at Sligo & Manchester
- Construction inside the Plymouth tunnel is progressing

**Ms. Contreras** explained that the underground sand filter is designed to catch debris of the first flush of rainwater. The concrete block is filled with sand to filter out particles and is slowly released into the streams, contributing to reducing flooding and mitigating climate change. Also discussed:

- Stormwater construction is done with larger pipes to accommodate 10-year event flooding
- Purple Line railcars are in New York and will be delivered to Prince Georges facility for storage and testing
- Bi-weekly blasting in Bethesda to accommodate an elevator shaft – soon beginning blasting to horizontally connect to the Metro station
- Material from blast being loaded with a gantry crane on to trucks to Lyttonsville for further distribution
- The east Bethesda community will be connected to East West Highway
- The anti-graffiti paint is helping to reduce unwanted paint markings
- Jones Mill Road water relocation will be switching the traffic pattern to a calmer flow within the next 2-3 months
- Massive construction in Lyttonsville can be viewed from the bridge
- Arliss Street is closed leaving access from Walden Street to Library
- Keeping access open for emergency vehicles for Flower Branch Apartments

**Q&A:**

- Having good oversight of ongoing construction as the project is built to head off any structural issues (as with the transit center)
- Pepco rock discovery at Colesville & Spring is slowing things down
- Discussion regarding the importance of establishing and integrating a fare structure for the Purple Line system as ridership depends on fare structure – purchasing system costs built into the project and fares are backing the contractor

- MTA separated the Baltimore Charm from the local SmarTrip card – however, they need to be seamless
- Construction at the Silver Spring Transit Center to build mezzanine connecting Purple Line to MARC and Metro opening with the PL
- Discovery staff has migrated back to the Silver Spring location from Sterling Va and use the parking garage near 8403 Colesville Road, so are not impacted by the PL construction
- Businesses along Bonifant Street are happy about the sign notifying patrons that they are open for business; however, there are difficult pedestrian crossings in the area

**Item 4 – Metro Update: Gary Erenrich** reported that the new Metro Lift program, offering half price fares for eligible recipients, is not offered by Ride On due to already reduced fares. Currently, the TRiPS store is not able to do in-person sign up of the Metro Lift program; however, that will soon change. Also reported:

- Metro’s fare simplification has eliminated off peak fares as riders traveling from Grosvenor and beyond will now pay \$6.00 from \$3.85 off peak a 70% increase- a flat fare of \$2 for weekend and evenings after 9pm
- Received a Federal grant for \$104 million for a zero-emissions bus system- converting one bus depot and a few buses to zero emissions
- Both Ride On and Metro are instituting a nighttime courtesy policy of not stopping at regular bus stops but somewhere safer and more convenient at customer request, provided the route does not deviate

**Mr. Erenrich** discussed Metro’s pending fiscal cliff in FY25 for \$750 million out of a \$ 2-billion-dollar budget. Explaining that Metro’s fare structure is depended on fare revenue and jurisdiction support as it does not have the ability to fund raise independently, the system will have to cut service by two thirds or raise fares. There are conversations at COG to reach a consensus in actions to address the shortfall as Metro will submit FY25 draft budget this November. It is unlikely a bailout will save WAMTA as have Covid pandemic assistance has in the past. Also discussed:

- FY25 budget draft will undergo public comment before final approval in April 2024
- The possibility of withdrawing funds out of the Transportation Trust Fund will only produce \$150 to \$200 million in funds, way too little to close \$750 million gap

**Mr. Erenrich** discussed the collaboration between Metro, MTA & MCDOT to install tactical bus lanes on Georgia Avenue from Wayne to 16<sup>th</sup> street. He explained the term “tactical”, meaning quick easy construction of one lane of traffic using flex posts and paint along some of the highest traveled corridors such as New Hampshire and Georgia Avenue. There is a marketing campaign to meet with business around the Georgia Avenue corridor. A major issue of the lanes will be keeping cars out of the pilot area.

**Mr. Erenrich** will be retiring in August.

**Item 5 – Employer TDM Plans/Reports: Jim Carlson** reported that he will send the reports to the Committee for their recommended approval to the Director DOT

**Item 6 – Updates: Sande Brecher** reported:

- Commuter Services was the Sales Team winner of Council of Governments (COG) award for outstanding transportation outreach

- New prohibition on recording public meetings and obtaining special permissions for webinars. She stressed careful review of meeting minutes for errors
- Starting a vanpool pilot in FY24
- Updating and reviewing collateral materials for marketing promotions - making federal program subsidy allowing up to \$300 in for employees clear
- Planning underway to improve the Commuter Services website
- Grant funds to pilot an E-cargo bike program

**Item 7 – Employee Outreach Update: Jennifer Bolick reported:**

- Conducting outreach to employers and residents
- Conducting Commuter Information Days (CID's) to employers- food trucks are a good draw
- Promotions for Metro Lift program for SNAP eligible recipients
- Promotions for the Walk & Ride challenge coming in the Fall

**Michael Price** reported that Discovery is on a 3-day in-person work week with 160 employees occupying the Silver Spring location at one time. Discovery's telework operations were saved by Zoom.

**Adjourn: Next meeting : Joint meeting in September TBA**

**Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee Attendance Sheet  
July 13, 2023**

<b>Voting Members (12)</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Chamber Members (3)</b>			
Chris Kabatt	Wells + Associates	X	
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>			
Vacant			
Vacant			
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	
Sgt. Kerry Moore	Montgomery County Police		X
<b>Staff</b>			
Nakengi Byrd	MCDOT-Commuter Services	X	
Jim Carlson	MCDOT-Commuter Services	X	
<b>Guests</b>			
Jennifer Bolick	TMD Outreach Team	X	
Christina Contreras	MCDOT	X	
Carson Henry	SS Urban District	X	
Jay Elvove	SS Citizens Advisory Board	X	
Gary Erenrich	MCDOT	X	
Nahom Tekle	SS Community Engagement Cluster	X	
Laura Van Eperen	Van Eperen & Co.	X	

**Silver Spring TMD  
Traffic Demand Management Plan Summary  
November 2023**

Code Requirements:

1. *Contact person designated to receive and distribute commuter information to employees*
2. *Information on transit and other commute alternatives distributed/ posted regularly (furnished by Commuter Services/CSS)*
3. *Facilitate CSS/TMD staff presentations and commuter information events for employees and HR/administrative staff. This could include benefits fares and other employer-sponsored events*
4. *Guaranteed Ride Home Promotion (free regional program offering emergency rides)*
5. *Annual Commuter Survey distributed to employees (short survey of transportation– supplied by CSS/TMD)*
6. *ADA information provided (transportation services for people with disabilities)*
7. *Permanent display area for bus schedules and other transportation information*
8. *Compile information on yearly TDM activities and submit Annual Report*

Employer	Employee Total	Status	Recommend to MCDOT?
Achieving the Dream	54 FT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-tax deduction</li> <li>• Telework – 45 participating</li> <li>• Bike racks</li> <li>• Carpool matching</li> <li>• Flexible schedules</li> </ul>	Yes
American Nurses Association	291 FT 3 PT	Meets requirements and has voluntary measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-tax deduction – 100 participating</li> <li>• Telework – all employees</li> <li>• Compressed, flexible schedules</li> <li>• Carpool matching</li> </ul>	Yes

# Press Releases - Department of Transportation

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## Montgomery County Receives \$2 Million Grant to Conduct Bus Rapid Transit Study That Will Serve as Blueprint for Washington Metropolitan Region

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, October 25, 2023



The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) has been awarded a \$2 million grant by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Regional Infrastructure Accelerators (RIA) program to support the expansion of the Flash Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) network in the County through a new research partnership with the University of Maryland.

Administered by the USDOT Build America Bureau, RIA provides funding for research of best practices in project planning, studies and analysis, preliminary engineering and design. The project will serve as a blueprint for the region.

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) systems are part of a national movement toward upgraded bus systems focused on faster, more convenient and reliable bus services. BRTs are known to have limited-stop bus service implemented along set routes in metropolitan areas across the U.S. and worldwide. Flash is Montgomery County's BRT system and includes plans for a network of eight fixed routes.

The high-frequency service is designed to get people to their destination faster, and less expensively, than by car. Flash corridors spur development as businesses and housing tend to spring up along BRT routes creating or fortifying vibrant mixed-use communities. The lines will support a high level of mobility, connecting communities throughout the County.

"This RIA grant will enable the County to speed the delivery of its ambitious bus rapid transit system and establish a regional model for moving projects forward more quickly and efficiently using innovative methods of project delivery and financing," said Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich.

Funding from the grant will be used to research and establish best practices in financing and project planning for the expansion of the Flash BRT corridors in Montgomery County. In a new partnership between Montgomery County and University of Maryland, MCDOT will partner with the Build America Center at the University of Maryland to create AccelerateMC, an essential transportation planning research center, to conduct these studies.

Findings from the AccelerateMC studies will be used to establish a blueprint for implementing bus rapid transit systems throughout the region.

The Flash BRT network will serve as an innovative and economical way to meet the growing transportation needs of County residents, help reduce reliance on automobiles and move people around the County faster. Plans for the eight-route bus service network will connect Montgomery County transit hubs, commercial centers and public services.

"MCDOT envisions a 102-mile Flash BRT network to serve the transportation needs of its over 1 million residents, provide equitable access to jobs and educational opportunities, and help eliminate transportation-generated carbon emissions by 2035," said MCDOT Director Chris Conklin. "This grant will allow us work to closely with the University of Maryland's Build America Center to accelerate this important project. I am grateful for the partnership MCDOT has with our state, regional and municipal partners and our labor representatives that helped support this project."

AccelerateMC will focus on developing strategies to further the development of the BRT projects already in progress along Veirs Mill Road, MD 355 and US 29. The first Flash corridor, on Route 29, is currently in service with advancements such as portions of dedicated bus lanes planned. Flash 355 is in the implementation phase and Flash Veirs Mill is in the final design phase. AccelerateMC also will assist in the buildout of a new bus depot to support the County's expanded fleet of zero-emission buses. The bus depot will include charging stations for electric buses and on-site hydrogen production.

"I want to thank U.S. Senator Ben Cardin; U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen; the Maryland Congressional Delegation; Paul Wiedefeld and the Maryland Department of Transportation; Randy Clarke and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority; Reuben Collins and the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board; Montgomery County Council President Evan Glass; D. Wade Yost, the town manager of Poolesville; Qingbin Cui and the University of Maryland Build America Center; Gino Renne and UFCW Local 1994; and Bill Tompkins and the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation for their unwavering support of this project," County Executive Elrich said.

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

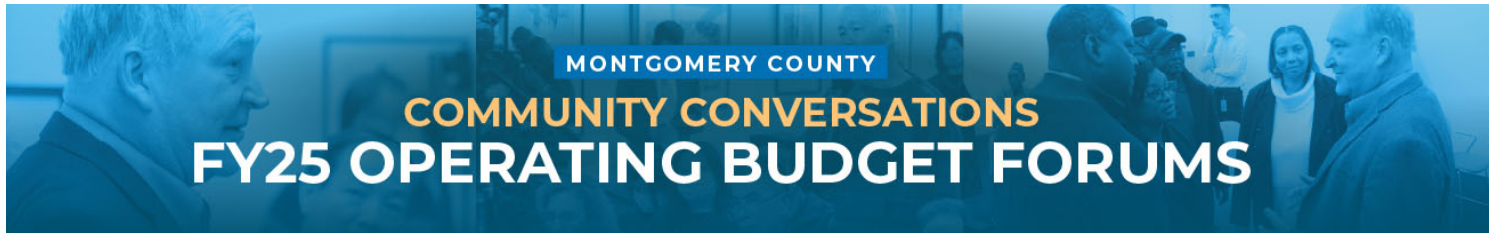
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*Release ID: 23-114*

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



# Community Conversations Calendar - FY25 Operating Budget Discussions



The conversations will be televised live on the County cable station County Cable Montgomery, which can be seen on Comcast (Channel 6 and High-Definition Channel 996), RCN (Channel 6 and HD 1056) and Verizon (Channel 30). The forum also will be available on cable channels Takoma Park City TV (Channel 13), Montgomery Municipal (Channel 16, 997 Comcast), Corona Montgomery (Channel 10), and Montgomery Community Media (Channel 21), MCPS-TV 34/1071 HD Comcast, 36 Verizon, and 89/1058 HD RCN.

If you can't make it to one of the Community Conversations but would like to participate in the process, submit your question for County Executive Marc Elrich.



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## NOVEMBER 2023

When	Event	Location
November 13, 7:30 – 9pm	<a href="#">FY25 Operating Budget Forum: Silver Spring</a>	Silver Spring Civic Building (Spring Room). 1 Veterans Pl., Silver Spring, MD 20910
November 15, 7 – 8:30pm	<a href="#">FY25 Operating Budget Forum: East County</a>	White Oak Community Recreation Center 1700 April Lane, Silver Spring (White Oak), MD 20904 <a href="#">teams.microsoft.com...</a>
November 27, 7 – 8:30pm	<a href="#">FY25 Operating Budget Forum: Chinese Language</a>	Chinese Culture and Community Service Center, 美京华人活动中心 (美京艺廊) 9318 Gaither Road, Suite 215, CCACC Art Gallery, Gaithersburg <a href="#">teams.microsoft.com...</a>

## DECEMBER 2023

When	Event	Location
December 11, 7 – 8:30pm	<a href="#">FY25 Operating Budget Forum: Seniors</a>	Leisure World, Clubhouse 1, Crystal Ballroom, 3701 Rossmore Blvd., Silver Spring. <a href="#">teams.microsoft.com...</a>



Events calendar powered by Trumba

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# WMATA warns of drastic cuts to Metro services amid \$750 million budget gap

By Tom Fitzgerald | Published October 26, 2023 4:23PM | Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority  
| FOX 5 DC |

## WMATA could be facing cuts to service amid budget shortfall

Metro officials are warning folks that if they can't close a massive hole in their budget, bus routes could be scrapped, Metrorail hours could decrease, stations could close, and they may even have to stop hiring.

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**WASHINGTON** - Metro officials are warning folks that if they can't close a massive hole in their budget, bus routes could be scrapped, Metrorail hours could decrease, stations could close, and they may even have to stop hiring.

A combination of factors have created the current situation for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

Ridership is still rebuilding after the pandemic and the emergency funding from the pandemic that helped Metro afloat is coming to an end.

The result?

A \$750 budget hole that could come at the expense of riders and Metro workers.

At a Metro Board meeting Thursday, officials laid out the possibilities. Close to 95 of WMAT's 134 bus routes may be cut, wait times could climb 20–30 minutes, and all service could end at 9:30 p.m. during the week.

Plus, ending metrorail services entirely on Saturdays or Sundays is being considered.

WMATA General Manager Randy Clarke says that right now, these are options – not plans. But they speak to how serious the budget deficit is.

"We're showing the board and the public options around fare and service," Clarke said Thursday. "All the service options are bad. Even the stuff that's targeted and smaller, everyone dislikes those as well, because they actually impact people and therefore they impact the community."

"We have to think about what the region looks like in 2040, 2050 at the same time we have to think about how we keep the lights on next year and keep that going," he continued. "That's kind of why we're looking at it that way. It's not like we're out saying we're going to build a Georgetown Metro next week."

It's not clear right now if the \$750 million dollar budget gap will remain this high or if Metro will be able to avoid these cuts in 2025.

The general manager says that they have completed a third of an efficiency review aimed at reducing costs, and discussions are ongoing with officials from D.C., Maryland, Virginia, and the federal government to secure additional funding.

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# Press Releases - Department of Transportation

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## Transportation Schedule for the Veterans Day Holiday, Friday, Nov. 10 and Saturday, Nov. 11

For Immediate Release: Monday, October 30, 2023



Below are Montgomery County Department of Transportation's (MCDOT) and partners' transportation-related schedule changes for the Veterans Day Holiday, Friday-Saturday, Nov. 10-11:

- MCDOT and County offices - Will be closed on both days.
- Ride On bus service - Will operate on a Holiday schedule on Nov. 10 and a Saturday schedule on Nov. 11. View all bus schedules [here](#).
- Ride On extRa and Flex bus services - Will operate on a Holiday schedule on Nov. 10 and not in service on Nov. 11.

- Ride On Flash bus service - The Orange Route will operate on a Weekend and Holiday schedule on both days. The Blue Route (typically, weekday only) will not be in service either day.
- TRiPS commuter store at Silver Spring Transit Center - Will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Nov. 10 and closed on Nov. 11.
- TRiPS mobile commuter store - Will be closed on both days.
- Public parking garages, lots and curbside meters in Bethesda, Silver Spring and Wheaton - Will be free on Nov. 10.
- Metrobus service - Will operate on a Saturday Supplemental schedule on both days. View timetables here.
- Metrorail train service - Will operate on a Saturday Holiday schedule on Nov. 10 between 5 a.m. - midnight and a Saturday schedule on Nov. 11 between 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. View rail schedules here.
- MARC train service - Will operate on the enhanced R schedule on all three lines on Nov. 10.
- MTA commuter bus service - No service except for Route 201 (Gaithersburg-BWI) which will operate on a Weekend Holiday schedule on Nov. 10.
- MTA transit stores - Will be closed on both days.

For a full listing of the County's holiday schedule visit [montgomerycountymd.gov](http://montgomerycountymd.gov).

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

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