

MD 355 BRT Phase 2 Study February 2018 CAC Meetings: Pre-Meeting Activity Request for North CAC Members

Introduction

Since the last CAC meeting, the project team has been evaluating potential BRT station locations, engineering typical sections for the Build Alternatives, and developing a BRT service plan, among other tasks. These topics will be covered at the next **North CAC meeting on February 21st** and at the South and Central CAC meetings on February 12th and 13th, respectively.

Prior to the meeting on the 21st, the project team requests that you complete this activity, which will inform discussions at the meeting related to the station location evaluation, engineering work, and transit service planning and service needs. It may also help you identify issues that require further consideration by the team.

Activity

This activity has two components:

1. In **Part 1**, you will evaluate potential BRT station locations, per the instructions in the Part 1 worksheet (page 2), using photos provided in the Appendix as well as your knowledge of the locations. The locations may vary in terms of their suitability for a BRT station.
2. In **Part 2**, you will ride a bus service along the corridor and make observations about the service. See the Part 2 worksheet (page 3) for details.

CAC members are welcome to complete Part 2 in groups, and there is also the option to complete the activity with members of the project team on February 8th at 8:30am or 5:30pm. If you are interested in joining the group, or if you would like a SmarTrip card pre-loaded with the bus fare, please email Darcy Buckley at darcy.buckley@montgomerycountymd.gov by February 5th.

Part 1

In order to complete this worksheet, please review the photos in the Appendix ([available at this link](#)) of the following three locations where past plans have considered locating MD 355 BRT stations:

- MD 355 (Frederick Road) and Gunners Branch Road/Scenery Drive
- MD 355 (North Frederick Avenue) at Chestnut Street and Walker Avenue (*Note: Only one station is under consideration in the vicinity of those two intersections, which are about 100 feet apart*)
- MD 355 (South Frederick Avenue) and Education Boulevard

Scoring

Instructions: After viewing the photos in the Appendix and considering your knowledge of the locations, respond to each of the statements (in the left column of the table below) for each of the three locations using scoring as follows: 5=Strongly agree, 4=Agree, 3=Somewhat agree, 2=Disagree, 1=Strongly disagree

	MD 355 and Gunners Branch Rd./ Scenery Dr.	MD 355 and Chestnut St./ Walker Ave.	MD 355 and Education Blvd.
Land use			
There are many buildings and they are close together.			
There is a mix of land use types (e.g. stores, restaurants, offices, homes, school, hospital, etc.).			
Safety			
As a pedestrian, I (would) feel safe and comfortable walking around this area.			
Accessibility			
A person can connect to many modes of transportation here (other bus routes, Metro, bike trails, bikeshare, etc.)			
Average Scores			
Total score: Add all four scores above together here and divide the total by four.			
Opinion: Overall Suitability – <i>You should take your average score into account, but also consider any other factors you think are important for a BRT station.</i>			
I believe this is a strong location a for a BRT station.			

Other questions:

	MD 355 and Gunners Branch Rd./ Scenery Dr.	MD 355 and Chestnut St./ Walker Ave.	MD 355 and Education Blvd.
How welcoming and comfortable is the pedestrian environment seem in this location?			
Does there seem enough space on sidewalks to safely accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians? Are there other space constraints you notice?			
(Optional question) If you have crossed MD 355 at this intersection (as a pedestrian), did you feel safe and did you have enough time to cross?			

Part 2

Instructions: Ride either the Ride On extRa bus (Route 101, which operates Monday through Friday from 5:30-9:30am and 3:30-7:30pm) between Rockville Metro station and Lakeforest Transit Center in the peak direction (i.e. southbound in the morning or northbound in the evening) **or** one of the local bus routes (such as the 55) that operates along the corridor (*for more information, see: [Ride On system map](#), [Ride On route schedules](#), [WMATA system map](#), and/or [WMATA bus route timetables](#)*) for long enough to get a feel for the route and the stops. Then respond to the questions below.

Please note the date, time, and direction (northbound or southbound) of your ride:

Questions	Responses - Notes
How smoothly and quickly was the boarding process (paying of fares, etc.) completed?	
At which locations did you notice several passengers boarding or getting off the bus?	
Were there aspects of the ride that were pleasant? Aspects that could be improved?	
(If you ride the 101) How does the Ride On extRa service compare to other local bus services you have used?	
Overall, how does the experience compare to your typical mode of travel (if not the same)?	