



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

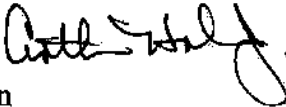
Arthur Holmes, Jr.
Director

MEMORANDUM

March 6, 2009

TO: Uma S. Ahluwalia, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

Parker Hamilton, Director
Department of Public Libraries

FROM: Arthur Holmes, Jr., Director 
Department of Transportation

SUBJECT: Recent Improvements in Transportation/Mobility for Seniors

As presented at our recent Senior Sub-cabinet on Vital Living meeting, Department of Transportation (DOT) staff, in collaboration with other County departments, recently identified and implemented various transportation/mobility related initiatives focused on improved service to seniors. As you are aware, transportation, including pedestrian safety, was among the top priorities identified by the Commission on Aging and by participants in the County Executive's "Senior Summit" held last November. A key theme emerging from the Summit was that mobility is essential for seniors in Montgomery County to maintain an active, engaged lifestyle and be able to age in place.

An interdepartmental work group, consisting of staff from DOT, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Recreation, Office of Community Partnerships, Regional Services Centers and the Office of the County Executive, identified transportation needs and selected options that are frequently used by seniors, low in cost and could be completed this fiscal year with minimal or no impact on existing budgets. The following improvements and enhancements have been accomplished:

- Rerouted the Silver Spring Van Go bus (Silver Spring's free downtown circulator bus) to stop at Charter House Senior Apartments. Many of the residents of Charter House receive a housing subsidy.
- Installed directional signs along East-West Highway directing people to the Coffield Community Center in Silver Spring. Illuminated the Center's sign. Replaced nearly 5000 feet of sidewalk and ADA ramps in the vicinity of the Center.

Office of the Director

- Installed pedestrian countdown signals at the intersection of Cherry Hill Road and Clover Patch/Plum Orchard in Silver Spring to benefit seniors at Riderwood retirement community.
- Made improvements for senior drivers on Arcola Avenue in Wheaton by enlarging street name signs and installing brighter, more durable pavement markings. Enhanced access for senior pedestrians by improving access to bus stops, installing pedestrian refuge islands, installing bump outs and enhancing signs at crossings.

Other improvements DOT and HHS will make in April are:

- Reroute the Silver Spring Van Go bus to stop at Elizabeth House, a Housing Opportunities Commission property for low income independent seniors.
- Reroute a Ride On bus to provide better transportation options for Blair Park Apartments in Silver Spring.
- Add a bus stop on Father Hurley Boulevard in Germantown to stop within the Churchill Senior Living apartment complex, which has 120 apartments for seniors.
- Enlarge a bus shelter at Waverly House (another Housing Opportunities Commission property) in Bethesda.

If you have questions regarding any of these improvements or enhancements, please contact Al Roshdich, Deputy Director, at 240-777-7175. Thank you.

AH/lh