

Response to Questions on the FY 2012 Budget

Request By: Supervisor Foust

Question: Regarding the proposed disbursement increase for County transit routes serving Reston East Park and Ride: What is the cost? Is any service added or expanded? What are the benefits, including projections of new riders as opposed to existing riders who might use the added routes for convenience? How much of the total cost could be avoided if only the cost associated with relocating existing service was funded? Are there additional costs for “relocating” existing service? Explain.

Response: Due to the impending Wiehle-Ave metrorail station parking garage construction, it was necessary to fully close the 800 space Reston East Park and Ride lot on April 3, 2011 and relocate bus service to other lots. The County replaced these spaces by more fully utilizing the capacity of other existing park and ride lots in the Reston area, and by implementing a new park and ride lot off of Sunset Hills Road, west of Reston Parkway. Increased capacity at multiple locations required service adjustments.

The annual contractual cost of the realignment of routes is \$1.3 million. This funding supports the April 2011 implementation of one new route providing direct service from the Sunset Hills lot to the West Falls Church Metro station, and the addition of trips on feeder routes 551, 552 and 585 providing service between Reston neighborhoods and the West Falls Church Metro station. These service changes were noted to the Board of Supervisors on March 8, 2011. Routes 551 and 552 provide service to neighborhoods either to the north or to the south of the old Reston East lot at Wiehle Avenue, and enter the toll road at Wiehle to travel to West Falls Church station. Based on their service areas, it was not practical to divert these routes to a stop at the new Sunset Hills location which is further to the west. Route 585, which previously served the Reston South park and ride lot, will continue to serve that lot but will now run more frequently as a result of the additional capacity being used at that site. The new Route 555 was necessary to provide a direct commuter link to West Falls Church Metro station due to the closing of the Reston East lot. Previously, local routes 551, 552, 554 and 557 would make a final pick-up at Reston East and provide commuters a direct link to West Falls Church. As stated, it was not feasible to re-route these services to the new Sunset Hills Park and Ride location; therefore Route 555 was created to provide the direct commuter link.

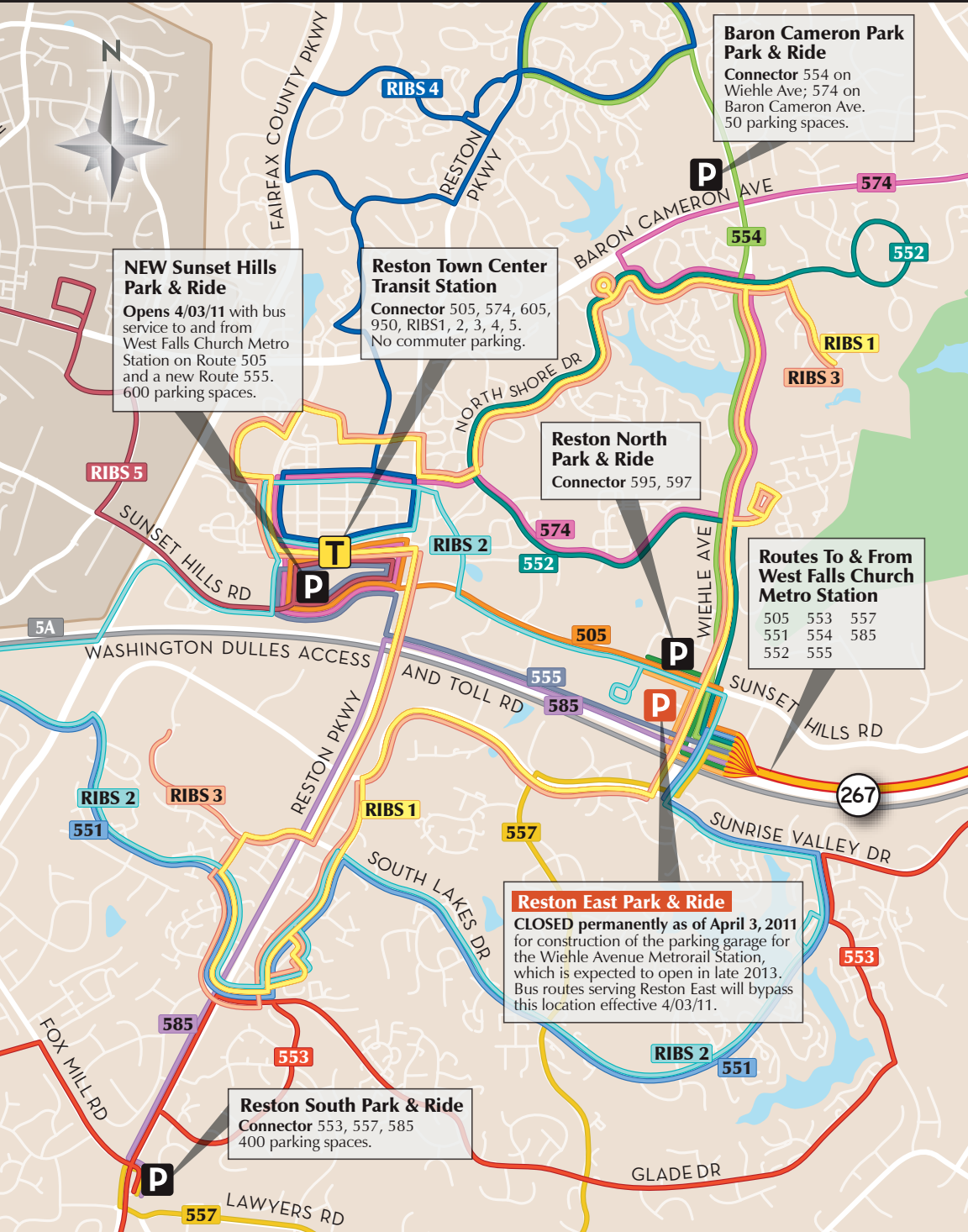
The current alignment of routes and Reston park and ride lots is detailed on the attached map.

At the time the project began, staff did not anticipate a significant increase in ridership with the relocation effort; however, rising gas prices have already had a positive impact on ridership. There is no cost-neutral solution to the relocation of Reston East park and ride bus service. If neighborhood routes were to be realigned to serve the new Sunset Hills lot, the costs would be substantially higher.

Attachment

Reston East Park & Ride CLOSURES APRIL 3rd

Parking and Transit Options



NEW Sunset Hills Park & Ride
 Opens 4/03/11 with bus service to and from West Falls Church Metro Station on Route 505 and a new Route 555. 600 parking spaces.

Reston Town Center Transit Station
 Connector 505, 574, 605, 950, RIBS1, 2, 3, 4, 5. No commuter parking.

Reston North Park & Ride
 Connector 595, 597

Baron Cameron Park & Ride
 Connector 554 on Wiehle Ave; 574 on Baron Cameron Ave. 50 parking spaces.

Routes To & From West Falls Church Metro Station

505	553	557
551	554	585
552	555	

Reston East Park & Ride
 CLOSED permanently as of April 3, 2011 for construction of the parking garage for the Wiehle Avenue Metrorail Station, which is expected to open in late 2013. Bus routes serving Reston East will bypass this location effective 4/03/11.

Reston South Park & Ride
 Connector 553, 557, 585. 400 parking spaces.

Reston East Park & Ride will **CLOSE permanently on April 3, 2011** for construction of the parking garage for the Wiehle Avenue Metrorail Station. Bus routes serving Reston East will bypass this location effective 4/03/11, and include routes 505, 551, 552, 554, 557, RIBS 1, RIBS 2, RIBS 3.

OPTIONS FOR RESTON EAST COMMUTERS

- **Sunset Hills Park & Ride will open on April 3, 2011** on Town Center Parkway at the intersection of Sunset Hills Road. Commuters may park and catch the Route 505 bus or a new Route 555 bus direct to and from West Falls Church Metro Station. This parking facility will remain open until the new parking garage for the Wiehle Avenue Metro Station opens in late 2013. Parking is free.
- **Reston South Park & Ride** also has bus service direct to and from West Falls Church Metro Station via Route 585. With routes 553, 557 and 585, there is a bus traveling to/from West Falls Church Metro every 6-8 minutes during peak hours!
- **Commuters may be able to leave their cars at home** if they live near a bus route. Several neighborhood routes will take you to and from West Falls Church Metro (551, 552, 553, 554, 557), while other routes can take you to meet a Metro-bound bus at nearby transfer points.
- **Commuters are encouraged to try biking or walking** to catch the bus, telework, carpools or vanpools, and other alternatives to driving and parking.
- **See the map of bus routes and Park & Rides** on the front of this card, or visit www.fairfaxconnector.com for more information.

 To request this information in an alternative format, call the Department of Transportation, 703-877-5600, TTY 711.



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