Fairfax Connector and Metrobus Plans for Alternative Service during WMATA’s Reconstruction of Blue and Yellow Line Stations South of Reagan National Airport Station

Board Transportation Committee Meeting
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Background: Platform Conditions

▪ 45 outdoor station platforms have been exposed to weather and de-icing agents for decades

▪ Platforms built 35 to 40 years ago are now deteriorating
  • 10 stations already have rebuilt platforms
  • 15 stations have platforms in good condition
  • 20 stations have platforms requiring immediate attention; temporary measures have been installed where needed to stabilize and ensure safety until reconstruction occurs

▪ Concrete repair is a necessary safety project
WMATA Major Outage Guidelines
to Minimize Customer Impacts

- No station should experience two major outages in a three-year period
- Focus construction on summer and major holiday weekends to reduce impact on loyal commuters
- Concentrate work to minimize impact to riders, rather than conducting a series of smaller outages
- Deliver best possible service outside work zone
- Provide public notification several months in advance
Platform Rehabilitation Project

- During Summer 2019, there will be no Blue or Yellow Line rail service south of National Airport from Saturday, May 25 to Monday, September 2, 2019

- Anticipated Construction Schedule:
  - May 25- September 2, 2019: Braddock Rd, King St-Old Town, and Eisenhower Ave
  - May 25-October 4, 2019: Van Dorn St
  - May 25-December 2, 2019: Huntington and Franconia-Springfield
Additional Work During Summer 2019

- Complete other work on Blue and Yellow lines:
  - Repair rail bridge near Van Dorn Station
  - Install new crossover north of King Street Station
  - Replace traction power equipment for three substations
  - Conduct repair blitz of Alexandria Rail Yard
  - Commence invasive work for Potomac Yards Station
  - Repair crossover at Huntington Station
- Improve stations and customer amenities during shutdowns
Regional Coordination for Virginia Closures

- WMATA organized an interagency working group comprised of the region’s public transit agencies, Virginia Department of Transportation, Department of Defense, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, and Virginia State Police to plan a comprehensive response to the three-month station closures.

- Options being discussed include shuttle bus service, and increased service on parallel bus routes.
Service Alternatives: Metrobus

- Free express bus shuttles to Pentagon from Franconia-Springfield and Huntington Metrorail Stations
- Free local bus shuttles connecting closed stations
  - Blue line shuttle does not stop at Braddock Rd
  - Yellow line shuttle does not stop at National Airport
- Additional capacity on existing routes
  - 8Z, 10A, 11Y, 21A, and Metroway
Service Alternatives – Bus Options

Convenient Bus Options

**metrobus $2**
- **6Z** Bus service with stops between Quaker Lane and Pentagon Station
- **10A** Bus service with stops between Huntington and Pentagon stations
- **10E** Bus service with stops between Hunting Point and Pentagon Station
- **11Y** Bus service with stops between Mount Vernon* /Hunting Point and Potomac Park
  *Service to Mount Vernon only during rush hours
  **$4.25 fare during rush hours
- **21A** Bus service with stops between Landmark and Pentagon station

**metroway $2**
- Limited-stop bus service with stops between Braddock Rd and Pentagon City stations
- **closed** May 25–Sept 2

No Blue or Yellow Line rail service south of National Airport
Fairfax Connector Bus Planning

• As a funding partner of Metrorail and Metrobus service, Fairfax County (along with the other regional partners) has been asked to provide support during the station shutdowns

• FCDOT staff has evaluated the existing Fairfax Connector bus service and resources to determine what assistance could be provided
Fairfax Connector Supplemental Transit Service

- Add morning and afternoon trips on Fairfax Connector express Routes 393 and 394
  - Capitalizes on existing parking capacity at Saratoga and Backlick North Park-and-Ride Lots
- Provides 10-minute headways during peak periods from Saratoga Park-and-Ride Lot
- Add two buses to each of Routes 393 and 394
- One strategic bus will be stationed at Huntington during peak hours

- Estimated cost for supplemental service
  - DRPT has indicated funding support may be available up to 80%
  - Anticipated county cost approx.: $50K

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<th>Route</th>
<th>Span of Service</th>
<th>Headways (in minutes)</th>
<th>Additional Buses Added</th>
<th>Closure Period Revenue Hours</th>
<th>Closure Period Operating Cost</th>
<th>DRPT Funding</th>
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* Costs are estimated
Fairfax Connector Supplemental Transit Service Map

ROUTE 393
Saratoga – Mark Center – Pentagon

ROUTE 394
Saratoga – Pentagon

ROUTE 395
Gambrill Road – Pentagon

Legend:
- Route 393
- Route 394
- Route 395
- Timepoint
Fairfax County Impacts – Huntington Metrorail Station

- **North bus bays:**
  - Bays A and B will be closed
  - Bays C, D, and E will serve Routes 109, 301, 310, and REX
  - A new bus bay F will be added to serve WMATA Shuttles
  - Four temporary on-street bus stops will be added on Huntington Avenue to serve Routes 101, 171, and 10A

- **South bus bays:**
  - Bays A, B, and C will serve Fairfax Connector Routes 151, 152, 159, 161, and 162
  - Bays D and E will serve WMATA Routes 10A, NH2, and WMATA Shuttles
Additional Impacts – Van Dorn

- All bus routes will operate out of the Kiss & Ride Lot
- Routes Affected
  - Connector Routes 109, 231, 232, 321, and 322
  - DASH AT1, AT5, and AT8
  - Metro 25B
  - Shuttle to National Airport
- Planning underway with Alexandria to include employer shuttle location
Alternative Travel Options

- Promote Existing Alternatives to Driving Alone
  - Existing transit services including the Virginia Railway Express
  - Park-and-ride facilities, existing ridesharing arrangements, and capacity for creation of new ridesharing opportunities
  - Flexible/alternate work schedules and telework options
  - Biking and walking connections
- Leverage Commuter Connections (commuterconnections.org)
  - Facilitated by Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG), Commuter Connections provides resources for:
    - Locating regional telework/co-work centers
    - Carpools and vanpool services
    - Facilitating park-and-ride searchers
    - Assisting with Guaranteed Ride Home program
Public Outreach Strategies

• Fairfax County travel alternatives landing page
  • Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov and search “Travel Alerts” OR
  • Direct link www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/travel-alerts/metro-platforms

• Information dissemination through all platforms
  • In and out-of-home advertising
  • Media outreach/earned media coverage
  • Geo-targeted social media posts
  • Text/email alerts - Fairfax Alerts and Fairfax Connector BusTracker
  • Stakeholder outreach and engagement (direct-to-commuter/employer/visitor)
Public Outreach Strategies

• Collaboration, coordination and cross-promotion
  • Local, regional and state agency PIOs, MWCOG, and WMATA communications
  • Regional Transportation Demand Management (TDM) groups engaging in employer and residential outreach efforts
  • Visit Fairfax, Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA), chambers of commerce, community organizations
  • Informal commuter groups offering ridesharing alternatives
  • Fairfax Connector Telephone Information Center (TIC), Fairfax County Commuter Services (FCCS) and all other Fairfax County customer service groups/platforms
Questions and Discussion