

**WMATA PLATFORM CONSTRUCTION TDM WORK GROUP
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Staff Contact: Nicholas Ramfos 202/962-3313

1. Introductions

Conference call participants introduced themselves. Participants included:

Claudia Pors (ATP)	Natasha Khan (PRTC)
Pinky Advani (ATP)	Fatemeh Allahdoust (VDOT)
Fadi Seikaly (ATP/Commute 66)	Heidi Mitter (VDOT)
Christy Lee (ATP)	Haile Mitchell (VDOT)
Tai Mooney (ATP)	Marc Cioffi (VDOT)
Chloe Ritter (City of Fairfax)	Ebo Duker (VDOT)
Anna Nissinen (Fairfax County)	Christopher Arabia (VDRPT)
Walter Daniels (Fairfax County)	Gabe Ortiz (VDRPT)
Marcus Moore (Fairfax County)	Greg Potts (WMATA)
Danelle Carey (goDCgo)	Gail Ribas (WMATA)
Brian Kalish (MWWA)	Nick Perfili (WMATA)
Matt Cheng (NVTC)	Andre Stafford (WMATA)
Holly Morello (PRTC)	Nicholas Ramfos (COG/TPB)
Joe Stainsby (PRTC)	Daniel Sheehan (COG/TPB)

2. WMATA Updates on Platform Work

Gail Ribas, WMATA, announced that parking lot closures that will begin in early March that will allow the contractor to bring in heavy equipment for the project. The platform project will begin early and will continue past the summer, therefore some of the work will begin in March for staging activities. It will have some significant impacts for those driving to the affected Metrorail stations. The East Falls Church station will not have any parking. The parking structure will be open at the West Falls Church station and there will be parking availability at the Dunn Loring and Vienna stations. Street teams are actively providing information to riders using the affected lots/stations. There is a call on February 28th with some of the impacted jurisdictions to discuss nearby parking opportunities for customers. During the first week of March the rail and bus shuttle plan as well as other construction project mitigation measures for customers will be announced in order to plan for travel over the summer. Community outreach and in-person and customer interactions will occur about two months prior to the shutdown. Nick Perfili, WMATA, discussed the bus and rail plan. The Silver Line will be operational from Reston but will not be stopping in East Falls Church. There will also be a shuttle bus plan that will have three primary shuttle routes. The specifics will be released on these services in about two weeks. Fatemeh Allahdoust, VDOT, asked for a clarification on the impact of parking at Vienna. Ms. Ribas responded that about 10% of the parking will be affected but there will be about 4,200 parking spots still available after the closures

occur on March 15th. There is a [press release](#) outlining all of this on the WMATA website. Parking Lot #3 and the garages will all remain open at Vienna. Matt Cheng, NVTC, asked whether the parking fees will be waived given that the Board is reviewing this in an upcoming meeting this week. Ms. Ribas stated that if approved by the Board, customers will not incur parking charges; however, those using the West Falls Church station will pay parking charges due to the limited parking availability. The East Falls Church station will not have any parking available. Mr. Cheng asked whether the Herndon Monroe shuttle will have a fee. Mr. Perfili stated that this information will be released in about two weeks along with headways on the Silver Line and information on the limited shuttle bus routes. Ms. Ribas stated that an alternative travel planner is also being developed for commuters to use to personalize their travel like the one used for last year's platform project and will be released on March 1st.

3. Fairfax County Update

Anna Nissinen, Fairfax County, stated that the immediate focus will be gearing up to educate the public about the parking lot shutdowns at the affected stations. Impacted travelers will have the option of using a \$50 incentive to use towards public transit and parking. An advertising campaign is also planned as part of the shutdown to feature transit connections, carpools/vanpools and teleworking options. The I-66 TMP related incentives will also be promoted as part of outreach activities and advertising. The campaign will rollout in mid-April. The county will also coordinate with WMATA and COG on pop-up events. Fairfax Connector travel and mitigation measures will also be in place to help support WMATA shuttle services.

4. VDOT Update

Marc Cioffi, VDOT, stated that the current focus will be to work on ways to assist and support the bus routing. Fatemeh Allahdoust, VDOT, stated coordination would be occurring with Fairfax, Prince William, and Loudoun counties on the impacts the project will have on I-66 given the Express Lanes construction project. It will be important for commuters to know the hours of construction and when to best travel on the facility.

5. Outreach Activity Updates

a. Commuter Connections

Nicholas Ramfos discussed the Commuter Connections outreach activities regarding the upcoming WMATA Platform project. He stated that a dedicated web page will be put into place like the one used during last year's project. The web page will have links to the various services and options available to commuters. Outreach activities would occur to both commuters and employers in the Commuter Connections database impacted by the project to make them aware of the project and options they can take before and during the construction periods. There will also be an upgrade to the CarpoolNow mobile app that will highlight those park and ride lots where there is a significant amount of casual carpooling occurring along with p.m. pick-up points in both DC and Arlington. Street team/pop-up events will be

coordinated with WMATA at the stations impacted along with additional events at the park and ride lots with significant casual carpooling activity in both Fairfax and Prince William counties along with p.m. pick up points in either DC and/or Arlington. Mr. Ramfos stated he would be reaching out to WMATA, Fairfax County, VDOT, Prince William County, DC and Arlington County to discuss these possibilities further.

Ms. Ribas stated that there is a tentative plan for three WNATA-sponsored open houses to be held at various locations to reach commuters and have representatives present to discuss travel alternatives with participants. Pop-up will be coordinated and help at the Vienna, Dunn Loring and West Falls Church stations.

b. Other Jurisdictions

Holly Morello, PRTC, stated that there is an increase in Park and Ride lot capacity on I-66 and slugging activity may progress at those locations and PRTC is willing to coordinate with COG on outreach activities. Heidi Mitter, VDOT, stated that the Gainesville Park and Ride lot has a carpool lane designated for casual carpooling; however, there is also a need to promote the p.m. pick-ups in DC and Arlington. Ms. Allahdoust stated that the return trip will also be important. Ms. Morello stated that there are several PRTC bus options in place that will be promoted that provide service to transit connections and employer sites. Additional trips are expected to be offered to alleviate overcrowding. Underutilized commuter lots that have transit service will also be promoted. Existing seats on vanpools will be promoted. Links on the overall project for TDM alternatives will be provided on PRTC's web pages. There is also an incentive that will be provided for new vanpools formed as part of the project.

Chloe Ritter, City of Fairfax, stated that the CUE bus will be operating a shuttle to the Buke VRE station and the service will be through VDRPT funding. The route and information should be finalized by April. The plan is to make the shuttle free. It would be leaving from a George Mason University lot in the City of Fairfax through a partnership with the university.

Gabe Ortiz, VDRPT, stated that his agency will be conducting social media ads and will target the ads through a geofenced database with employers located around the impacted stations. Christopher Arabia, VDRPT, also stated that there is set aside funding for additional services to provide TDM options to those impacted by the project and the list will be presented to the CTB and should be finalized by early April.

Greg Potts, WMATA, stated that he will be working with OPM on messaging to federal employees on their options for travel during the project and a memo similar to the one produced during last year's project will be produced and distributed. Mr. Ramfos stated that COG can help disseminate the memo to federal agency employee transportation coordinators.

Gail Ribas, WMATA, stated that the shuttle plans for WMATA along with Arlington, OmniRide, Fairfax Connector and others need to be summarized in a table or a master list. Any program announcements or specific services with links can be sent to her at WMATA to include on the travel options web page. Matt Cheng, NVTC, noted that he intends to produce a consolidated map of all relevant supplemental transit/shuttle services once services are finalized.

Claudia Pors, ATP, stated that Arlington County will have a dedicated web page outlining the options and will work with employers through webinars to educate them on the project and travel options for their employees. There has been some initial outreach with some of the more engaged employers in the County.

Danelle Carey, goDCgo, stated that there will be communications with employers and will be working with curbside management on PM pickup locations. A landing page will also be developed for the goDCgo website.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.