

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

Wednesday, March 25, 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:

Pinky Advani (ATP)	Christopher Arabia (VDRPT)
Fadi Seikaly (ATP/Commute 66)	Gabe Ortiz (VDRPT)
Christy Lee (ATP)	Mosi London (VDRPT/AECOM)
Danelle Carey (goDCgo)	Cindy King (VRE)
Brian Kalish (MWAA)	Karen Finucan Clarkson (VRE)
Matt Cheng (NVTC)	Greg Potts (WMATA)
Holly Morello (PRTC)	Gail Ribas (WMATA)
Joe Stainsby (Vanpool Alliance)	Nick Perfili (WMATA)
Leigh Anderson (GWRideConnect)	Andre Stafford (WMATA)
Fatemeh Allahdoust (VDOT)	Marc Bowman (WMATA)
Heidi Mitter (VDOT)	Morgan Bassford (WMATA)
Haile Mitchell (VDOT)	Nicholas Ramfos (COG/TPB)
Marc Cioffi (VDOT)	Daniel Sheehan (COG/TPB)

2. WMATA Updates on Platform Project Work

Greg Potts, WMATA, began by reminding the group of current WMATA service reductions due to COVID-19. He also reminded the group that service information regarding the summer platform work was released on March 13th, details can be viewed at wmata.com/platforms. While no formal decisions have been made, community outreach (e.g. open houses) will likely change as a result of social distancing policies currently in effect due to COVID-19. Parking reductions at select stations commenced on March 15th, as discussed at the last meeting.

Gail Ribas, WMATA, shared that there are no confirmed schedule changes to the improvement project. Contingency plans due to COVID-19 interference with the project are being developed. Track work preparation originally scheduled to begin in March has been delayed, which may end up impacting some of the work scheduled to occur during the summer. WMATA is currently working to take precautions so track/platform work can continue in a safe manner. Ms. Ribas noted the previously scheduled large open houses intended to get the word out about service interruptions will likely change in scope due to COVID-19; WMATA is exploring other ways to provide personalized information to customers. Updates to both the construction process and outreach efforts will be communicated to the group as details become available. Nick Perfili, WMATA, noted there is no change to the bus plan since the last meeting.

Fatemeh Allahdoust, VDOT, asked if WMATA has considered getting a jump start on construction due to the current low ridership, WMATA representatives explained that the possibility is being explored and is currently a fluid situation. Potential conflicts include contractor scheduling, workforce challenges, and an inability to bring in extra busses prior to the previously determined start date.

3. Fairfax County Update

The below content was received by Anna Nissinen, Fairfax County, following the meeting.

Anna Nissinen, Fairfax County, shared how Fairfax County began communications and outreach on the travel alternatives, incentives, etc., earlier this month but is now on hold/reassessing advertising and outreach efforts due to the COVID-19 emergency. The County plans to launch an advertising campaign (radio, TV, social media, bus and bus shelter advertising) in mid-April, but will need to adjust strategy as more is learned of the current emergency situation. The County is placing emphasis on telework assistance and incentives and holding off on promoting ridesharing. The County is still operating full service on Fairfax Connector, but that may change moving forward.

4. VDOT Update

Marc Cioffi, VDOT, stated that the current focus hasn't changed from the last meeting: VDOT is working on ways to assist and support the bus routing, especially along the I66 corridor. VDOT is also working to increase production on projects wherever possible during the current traffic lull.

5. Outreach Activity Updates

a. Commuter Connections

Nicholas Ramfos, COG/TPB staff, shared that Commuter Connections' participation in pop-up events and open houses will follow WMATA's lead. CarpoolNow events at select Park & Rides were originally planned for late April/early May but may be delayed. Commuter Connections still intends to send email notices to registered commuters in the TDM System who may be affected by the closures; social media outreach will be conducted. A newsletter article about the shutdown has already been sent to employers. A landing page with relevant information regarding the shutdown has been created and is up on the Commuter Connections website.

b. Other Jurisdictions

Chris Arabia, VDRPT, shared that VDRPT continues to move forward with station closure funding to local jurisdictions.

Pinky Advani, 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. ATP also plans on sending a newsletter article about the shutdown and recommended alternatives to employer and will create a Commute 66 blogpost.

Danelle Carey, goDCgo, requested contact information for the project lead at Fairfax County. Mr. Ramfos offered to send the contact information directly to Ms. Carey.

Greg Potts, WMATA, advised the group to send any landing pages related to the shutdown to WMATA for inclusion on the wmata.com/platforms webpage.

Matt Cheng, NVTC, stated that there would be a Transit Coordination meeting which will be held in early April.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.