



**COMMUTER CONNECTIONS SAFETRACK WORK GROUP  
CONFERENCE CALL MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA**

**Friday, July 15, 2016**

**10:00 a.m. – 12 noon.**

**Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments**

**Staff Contact: Nicholas Ramfos 202/962-3313**

**Conference Call Info: 888-702-9706 Room #2799, PIN 4387**

1. Introductions:

Conference call participants introduced themselves. Participants included:

Nicholas Ramfos  
Michelle Althoff  
Jamaica Arnold  
Fatemeh Allahdoust  
Beth Francis  
Travis Johnston  
Melissa McMahan  
Holly Morello  
Nicholas Ramfos  
Jerry Roberson  
Joe Stainsby

2. WMATA Review of initial observations from SafeTrack Surge #4 (July 12 – July 18) National Airport – Pentagon City – Line Segment Shutdown and Upcoming Surge #5 (July 20 – July 31) – East Falls Church – Ballston MU Single Tracking.

Jamaica Arnold stated that during Surge 4, the Springfield-Franconia shuttle was very successful and had between 800 and 900 daily riders. All together there were about 2,000 daily shuttle riders for all of the Surge 4 shuttles. Ms. Arnold pointed out that there was initial confusion with which shuttles that customers needed to board, but that was corrected through customer service representatives and additional in-station communications.

Surge 5 will be very similar to Surge 1 which will include Single Tracking from East Falls Church to Ballston. The AM Rush will have a shuttle between West Falls Church, East Falls Church and Ballston. The 3Y will

be running every 10 minutes. The track work being conducted will be similar to Surge 1. The frequency on the Orange and Silver line trains will remain at 18 minutes. Additional Orange Line trains will operate between Ballston and New Carrollton and will run at about every 9 minutes during rush hour.

### 3. SafeTrack Surge 5 (July 20 – July 31)

#### a. Fairfax County Plan:

Beth Francis stated that the Fairfax Connector use was up during Surge #4. The 599 Express service from Reston to the Pentagon will have additional trips added during Surge #5. The Hunter Mill District (Supervisor Hudgins) is looking into conducting a commuter workshop. An uptick has been seen in the use of Park and Ride lots, particularly at Saratoga Springs. The County will continue to push everything out on social media. Email blasts are also going to employers and commuters.

#### b. Arlington County Plan:

Melissa McMahon stated that Surge 5 plans will be similar to Surge 1. There will be some changes around the Metro stations in terms of removing street parking and converting to bus only lanes in order to accommodate more buses at Ballston, Rosslyn and Crystal City. 40 foot buses will be used ART 55 from East Falls Church via Lee Highway to Rosslyn. Some of the street designations for bus only lanes in Pentagon and Crystal City will be discontinued for Surge 5.

Ms. McMahon also reported that the ART 43 Express bus between Rosslyn, Crystal City and Courthouse during the mid-day and evening will continue.

There are no plans to re-start to start the “Bike Train” effort other than by request by commuters through Bike Arlington. The enhanced wayfinding signs for bicyclists that parallel the Metro routes are garnering a positive response.

Arlington Transportation Partners has continued to reach out to building managers and employers on flextime and alternative work schedules through email lists and newsletters. SafeTrack specific

information is distributed for each surge. The web site also has specific map information for each surge. The Hispanic marketing team is also placing all information in Spanish on the web site. Arlington public libraries are also being positioned as locations to work from rather than going into the office event commuters can't work from home.

Ambassadors will be focused at the Ballston Metro station and will be distributing flyers and brochures and answering commuters' questions.

c. Commuter Connections Plan:

The Commuter Connections SafeTrack web site was updated throughout the month with new links added and can be accessed from the Commuter Connections home page at [www.commuterconnections.org](http://www.commuterconnections.org). Geo-targeted messages to employers and employees surrounding the impacted Metrorail stations for Surge 5 have been developed and will be sent out today. Social media outreach will continue during Surge 5 along with public service announcements.

The Commuter Connections SafeTrack Facebook ad that ran garnered 17,000 click-thru's. Out of 50,000 web page visits to the Commuter Connections web site in June, 16.5% of those were to the SafeTrack web hub making it the second most popular visited page after the site's home page. There was a 104% increase during the month of June for Ridesharing applications received compared to June of 2015.

d. Other Jurisdictional TDM Plans:

Holly Morello with PRTC stated that there was a 35% increase in ridematching applications for June. The Metro Direct for Gainesville and Manassas is being delayed by 15 minutes in order to accommodate more passengers.

Fatemeh Allahdoust from VDOT stated that signal timing is being monitored and will be adjusted to alleviate any traffic issues. She also stated that traffic congestion is being monitored and tracked by VDOT staff.

Michelle Althoff stated that there are more organizations interested on SafeTrack and employers have shown added interests. The increase of ridematching was at least 50% for commuters seeking Vanpools. A meeting also occurred with the Board of Trade. Enterprise will be looking to set up vanpool formation meetings in the near future.

#### 4. Other Business

**Next Meeting Date: July 28, 2016 10 a.m.**