



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

Monday, August 15, 2016

1:00 p.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:

Jamaica Arnold
Marina Budimir
Matt Crooks
Beth Francis
Tonya McCreary
Holly Morello
Gabe Ortiz
Nicholas Ramfos
Jerry Roberson
Joe Stainsby

2. WMATA Review of initial observations from SafeTrack Surge #7 (August 9 – 18) Twinbrook – Shady Grove - Single Tracking and Upcoming Surge #8 (August 20 – September 5) – Franconia-Springfield – Van Dorn Street Single Tracking.

Jerry Roberson stated that everything is going smoothly with Surge #7. Many riders have been choosing to use alternative routes. The WMATA SafeTrack Web site is being pushed in order to communicate hours of operations. Final ridership numbers from last week are showing flat ridership. The ridership numbers take into consideration the added shuttle services. Metrobus has been providing a supplemental service and RideOn is also running shuttles from Shady Grove to Grosvenor via I-270. Both shuttles have been working out fine.

For Surge #8, there will be a press release from WMATA coming out today. Mr. Roberson reported that there will be Blue Line trains single tracking from Franconia-Springfield and Van Dorn stations. The trains will

run every 24 minutes. Blue Line trains will run from Van Dorn Street every 12 minutes. There will be no Rush Plus Yellow service. Alternative transportation options should be considered, particularly from Franconia-Springfield. There will be four phases to the Surge. Full track closures will occur for Phase B between August 27-28 and there will be shuttle service in place. Phase D will occur between Sept, 3 – 4 and both the Franconia-Springfield and Van Dorn stations will be closed. Blue Line trains will terminate at the Eisenhower station. Phases A and C will include the single tracking between the Franconia-Springfield and Van Dorn stations. There will be free Metrobus shuttle bus service between Franconia-Springfield and Pentagon during the peak periods in the a.m. and p.m.

There is also additional track work that will occur during late August and September and there will be an OEM exercise on August 29th and there may be some delays on the Yellow Line. On Labor Day weekend the stretch of track between Stadium-Armory and Minnesota Avenue and Benning Road on the Blue and Orange lines will be closed and there will be shuttles made available.

3. SafeTrack Surge 8 (August 20 – September 9)

a. Fairfax County Plan:

Beth Francis stated that Fairfax Connector will be providing service from the Saratoga Park and Ride (Rtes 393 and 394) at regular fares. An email blast will be sent to employers and there are exterior bus ads pointing folks to the Fairfax County web page. Movie ads in three different theatres and being used to point individuals to the SafeTrack web pages. Ads are also running on WTOP and WFED for the traffic spots. Facebook ads are also being run. There is quite a bit of information on the web page on alternative modes of transportation.

b. City of Alexandria Plan

A Local Motion “E-news” has been sent to 7,000 residents to give them a head’s up on Surge 8. A citywide e-news outside of the Local Motion list will also be sent out. An infographic is also being developed. Information won Surge 8 will be updated. Marketing materials from WMATA will be distributed prior to the surge. Facebook posting will occur as well as an email to employers. Existing DASH services will be promoted and there are no plans for

supplemental transit services. VRE will also be promoted more given the uptick in ridership during the previous Surges.

c. Commuter Connections Plan:

Nicholas Ramfos stated that Geo-targeted messages to employers and employees surrounding the impacted Metrorail stations for Surge 8 were developed and sent out last Friday to commuters and employers in both Fairfax County and the City of Alexandria. Paid and non-paid Social media outreach will continue during Surge 7.

d. Other Jurisdictional TDM Plans:

Jerry Roberson pointed out that the next SafeTrack Work Group meeting is scheduled on September 5th which is labor Day. Mr. Ramfos stated that the meeting would be changed to another day during that week and that Work Group members will be notified of the change.

4. Other Business

Next Meeting Date: September 7, 2016 1 p.m.