



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

Tuesday, August 2, 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:

Sande Brecher
Michelle Golden
Becky Long
Christine Perlick
Nicholas Ramfos
Jerry Roberson

2. WMATA Review of initial observations from SafeTrack Surge #6 (August 1 – August 7) Takoma – Silver Spring Single Tracking and Upcoming Surge #7 (August 9 – August 18) – Twinbrook – Shady Grove Single Tracking.

Jerry Roberson stated that it's only the 2nd day of Surge 6 and things have started off smoothly. Metrobus Rte 80 and Rte S9 had healthy ridership. Supplemental bus service was added for Surge 6. Some of the key routes have yet to report results from ridership yesterday. Overall, there has been about a 5% decrease in ridership. There is also plenty of shuttle service for Montgomery County Metrorail users. No complaints have been received from Metro's customer service center. In some spots there were longer than normal waits. MARC saw a bit of an increase in ridership Monday morning. Overall the Red Line ran a bit more smoothly than expected. There were also a number of positive Tweets from commuters.

Surge 7 information has not been populated on the WMATA Safetrack page but should be there in the next day or so. Trains will be every 18 minutes instead of six between Twinbrook and Shady Grove. Commuters will be discouraged from using the Shady Grove station. Montgomery County will be running a shuttle between the Shady Grove and Grosvenor

stations. The Q6 bus route will have added service and will have two to three additional trips per hour. MTA Commuter Bus will be having their terminus change from Shady Grove to Twinbrook. MARC Commuter rail will be adding cars to its line.

3. SafeTrack Surge 7 (August 9 – August 18)

a. Montgomery County Plan:

Sande Brecher stated that Surge 6 has started off very smoothly. Buses were running on schedule with 10 minute headways. There was some added congestion in the PM rush. The bagged meters in a number of locations for parking to add extra lanes has prompted feedback from the business community which has asked that the bagged meters be reduced. This will be monitored by County staff. Over 700 riders used the shuttles provided by RideOn yesterday. The MARC commuter rail service added a car to each of their trains on the Brunswick line. About 50 tickets were sold at the TRiPS store. There was an increase in use of the MARC train from Silver Spring to Union Station. There was also quite a bit of use of the bike coral at Union Station for Capital Bikeshare. Another “Learn the Ride” session is planned for Saturday from Shady Grove to Twinbrook. The session held for Surge 6 was attended by one individual. Signage has been added and both sessions have been sponsored and conducted by WABA.

For Surge 7, MARC will be selling tickets in Rockville. There will also be ambassadors that will be at the various Metro stations between Twinbrook and Shady Grove to assist commuters with information and options. The County also has added a robust Park and Ride map on their web site with hotlinks to bus information.

b. Commuter Connections Plan:

Nicholas Ramfos stated that Geo-targeted messages to employers and employees surrounding the impacted Metrorail stations for Surge 7 will be developed and will be sent out later this week. Paid and non-paid Social media outreach will continue during Surge 7.

c. Other Jurisdictional TDM Plans:

Becky Long stated that goDCgo hosted an employer webinar for Surge 6. Dedicated emails and updating the goDCgo SafeTrack web site has continued. Wayfinding signage was added at the Takoma station in order to assist commuters to find alternate routes. goDCgo also reached out to the NoMa BID and bloggers on the promotion of alternate commuting options. For Surge 7 there will be a continuation of social media and information will be consolidated from the various jurisdictions. goDCgo will be looking to partner with others to prepare social messages/images. They will also be working on wayfinding signage and bikesharing corals. The Union Station bike coral has been very successful and the discounted fares for Capital Bikeshare will continue.

4. Other Business

Next Meeting Date: August 15, 2016 1 p.m.