



COMMUTER CONNECTIONS SAFETRACK WORK GROUP CONFERENCE CALL MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Staff Contact: Nicholas Ramfos 202/962-3313

1. Introductions

Conference call participants introduced themselves. Participants included:

Fatemeh Allahdoust
Michelle Althoff
Marina Budimir
Larry Filler
Beth Francis
Tonya McCreary
Holly Morello
Gabe Ortiz
Nicholas Ramfos
Jerry Roberson
Joe Stainsby

2. Review of Initial Observations from SafeTrack Surge #1 (June 4-16) Ballston to East Falls Church – Single Tracking

The group gave its observations of the 1st day of SafeTrack Surge #1, which was yesterday. There seemed to be less individuals using the Metro. Nicholas Ramfos reported that there was about a 20% increase in peak hours travel time in the a.m. based on travel time index data. Larry Filler reported that the use of the various alternatives at Ballston was not very high. Beth Francis reported that the Fairfax Connector Express buses to the Pentagon carried more commuters today than yesterday. Jerry Roberson from WMATA reported that the use of the extra Metro shuttles was not at capacity levels but the expectation is that use will increase.

3. SafeTrack Surge 2 (June 18 – July 3) Eastern Market & Minnesota Avenue/Benning Road – Line Segment Shutdown

a. DDOT Plan

Marina Budimir with DDOT announced that the web site for DDOT was up and running and is SafeTrack@gogdcgo.com

DDOT is working with WABA on implementing signed bike routes from Minnesota Avenue and Benning Roads to Eastern Market to guide commuters.

Extended parking restrictions will be in place though the entire SafeTrack project. The rush hour has been extended ½ half hour in the morning and ½ hour in the evening. DDOT is also coordinating with Metro on extra buses. Much of the work is on-going. The DC Circulator routes will be extended from Potomac Avenue to Stadium-Armory and the hours of service may also be extended. Capital Bikeshare has a \$2 fare for one way fares under 30 minutes. For those coming from Benning Road and Oklahoma Avenue, the Streetcar at H Street to Union Station. The cost is free.

b. Prince George's County

There were no representatives on the call from Prince George's County; however Mr. Ramfos reported that during a Greater Washington Board of Trade SafeTrack sponsored meeting yesterday, Darrell Mobley, the county's Director of Public Works and Transportation reported that the county would be promoting telework and flexible work hours arrangements as well as ridesharing options to its citizens and the business community. WMATA will be providing Free Bus Shuttle service between Eastern Market and Minnesota/Benning Road with stops at Stadium-Armory and Potomac Avenue. Jerry Roberson reported that the K11 bus route runs into Prince George's County and WMATA will be working to see if additional information is available on the schedule for the route for public information purposes.

c. Commuter Connections Plan

Nicholas Ramfos, COG/TPB, reported that the SafeTrack web sites for both DDOT and Prince George's County will be posted to the Commuter Connections SafeTrack web hub which can be accessed from the Commuter Connections home page. Geo-targeted messages to employees and residents surrounding the impacted Metrorail stations for Surge #2 will be developed and sent

this week along with geo-targeted messages to employers in the same areas. The messages will encourage the use of alternate transportation modes. Paid media on radio and both non-paid and paid social media will continue through the end of the month.

d. Other Jurisdictional TDM Plans

Holly Morello reported that that PRTC has information on SafeTrack on their site and that OmniMatch has been promoted heavily. Adjustments to bus lines have also been made and those in Manassas taking Metro Direct may want to take PRTC buses to the Pentagon and then take alternate transit into DC. There have been more ridematch requests and many have stated they are looking for alternatives because of SafeTrack.

Beth Francis reported that there has been an increase in ridematch requests as well as vanpool requests.

Gabe Ortiz reported that plans were underway with changes to Dash and there will be a bus bridge. An infographic will also be developed for social media and there will also be outreach to employers.

Jerry Roberson also reported that there will be no bus bridges for the line segment Blue Line shutdown between Rosslyn and Arlington Cemetery. Customers will be encouraged to use alternative forms of transportation. Larry Filler reported that plans were still underway to figure out how to allocate the services. There will be street ambassadors. Arlington has the ART43 to increase service by 10 minute headways.

4. Other Business

Fatemeh Allahdoust stated that in terms of additional funding, there may be an opportunity for funding through VDOT and perhaps DRPT. It may be best to discuss this directly with Tim Roseboom.

Fatemeh Allahdoust also stated that VDOT will be meeting with the Telework!VA consultant for outreach to employers in order to encourage more telework.

Next Meeting Date: June 30, 2016 3 p.m.