



## COMMUTER CONNECTIONS SAFETRACK WORK GROUP CONFERENCE CALL MEETING NOTES

Thursday, June 30, 2016

3:00 P.M. – 5:00 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  
Jamaica Arnold  
Marina Budimir  
Larry Filler  
Beth Francis  
Heidi Mitter  
Holly Morello  
Gabe Ortiz  
Nicholas Ramfos  
Jerry Roberson  
Joe Stainsby  
Shawntea Smith

### 2. WMATA Review of Initial Observations from SafeTrack Surge #2 (June 18- July 3) Eastern Market & Minnesota Ave/Benning Road – Line Segment Shutdown and Upcoming Surge #3 (July 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>) – National Airport – Braddock Road Line Segment Shutdown

Jerry Roberson began by briefing the group on Surge #3 which will occur between July 5<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> and will include a line segment shutdown between Braddock Road and National Airport. There will be shuttles between Braddock Road and Pentagon City which will run every five minutes. Shuttles will also run between Braddock Road and Crystal City and between Crystal City and Pentagon City. Mr. Roberson reported that the Blue Line will operate every 15 minutes between Franconia-Springfield and Braddock Road and every 12 minutes between National Airport and Largo Town Center. The Yellow Line will operate every 12 minutes between Huntington and Braddock Road and between National Airport and Greenbelt. There will also be free shuttle buses running between Braddock Road and Reagan National Airport for airport customers that will be running every 15 minutes.

Jamaica Arnold briefed the group on observations of the SafeTrack Surge #2, which occurred between June 18<sup>th</sup> and July 3<sup>rd</sup>. There seemed to be low ridership on some of the shuttles between Minnesota Avenue and Benning Road which led to a phase out of the shuttles. Shawntea Smith reported that Prince George's County had free shuttles from Largo to Suitland and from New Carrollton to Greenbelt and ridership was running lower than expected; however, the shuttles will continue to run through Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup>.

3. SafeTrack Surge 3 (July 5 – July 11)

a. City of Alexandria Plan

Gabe Ortiz with the City of Alexandria reported that there would be special DASH bus routes that will run every 15 minutes during rush hour including the AT3 and AT4 during both Surges #3 & #4 which will provide a direct connection between Braddock Rd and Pentagon stations. Service will be extended and added midday to operate every 20 minutes from 5 a.m. - 8 p.m. weekdays. Metrobus routes for the 11Y and 10A will be doubled to run every 15 minutes during rush hour. The fares will remain the same. There are also going to be ten new bike stations installed this week in the City for Surges #3 and #4. The regional Capital Bikeshare promotion of offering a flat \$2 fare for single trips under 30 minutes will continue. The City will also be hosting "Bike Trains" from Braddock Road to Crystal City and to Pentagon City. The Bike Trains will begin at 7 a.m. and be offered every 20 minutes until about 8 or 8:30 a.m. There will be one formal return trip time in the evening.

b. Arlington County Plan

Larry Filler with Arlington County reported that the ART43 bus route from Crystal City/Rosslyn and Courthouse rush hour service has seen an increase in ridership including during the mid-day and on weekends. The ART42 bus route from Ballston to the Pentagon is using a 40 ft. bus. Bikeshare stations throughout the County have been used at capacity levels and additional bike stations have been added at Crystal City. The Bike Trains were discontinued after Surge #1 due to low participation rates. The personalized bike trains have also had very little interest. Wayfinding signage has

been added for bicycling between East Falls Church and Rosslyn and to Crystal City. For Surge #3, signage will be added from the Mt. Vernon trail to Crystal Drive as well as additional bike parking at Ballston, Rosslyn, and Crystal City. The County also met with WMATA to discuss the possibility of adding additional bike racks at Metro stations. The taxi-sharing program will continue for Surge #3 and there has been a 30% increase in use. Kiss & Rides have been modified to accommodate more drop offs and private vehicles have been limited at Ballston and Crystal City. Ambassadors have been deployed in Crystal City and Rosslyn to help commuters with trip planning both in the morning and afternoon rush hour periods. Arlington has also been offering workshops to impacted employers and the Mobile Commuter Store will have extended hours at Pentagon City.

c. Commuter Connections Plan

Nicholas Ramfos, COG/TPB, reported that the SafeTrack web site for the City of Alexandria will be added to the Commuter Connections SafeTrack web hub which can be accessed from the Commuter Connections home page at [www.commuterconnections.org](http://www.commuterconnections.org). Geo-targeted messages to employees and residents surrounding the impacted Metrorail stations for Surge #3 have been developed and will be sent today along with geo-targeted messages to impacted employers. Social media will continue through Surge #3 along with public service announcements.

d. Other Jurisdictional TDM Plans

Marina Budimir with DDOT reported that web site traffic for Surge #2 was monitored and there was some traffic congestion impacts during Surge #2, but it wasn't a crisis and everything went very smoothly. For Surge #3, goDCgo hosted an employer webinar this past week which focused on alternative work schedules and teleworking. The \$2 Capital Bikeshare discount for trips under 30 minutes is also being promoted.

Beth Francis with Fairfax County reported that there has been coordinated bus service with WMATA between Franconia-Springfield and the Pentagon that will continue to run every 6 minutes. The shuttles put into place for Surge #2 from the Saratoga Park and Ride Lot to the Pentagon will continue.

#### 4. Other Business

Fatemeh Allahdoust stated that VDOT was analyzing traffic patterns as a result of the SafeTrack project.

**Next Meeting Date: July 8, 2016 10 a.m.**