# SmartBenefits Commuter Benefits Program

Welcome Back

June 2021 wmata.com/smartbenefits



# Welcome Back Agenda

Doing Our Part (5 mins)

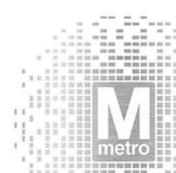


Platform Improvement Project Status (5 mins)

New Faregates & First-Generation SmarTrip Card Elimination (10 mins)

What Participants May Experience When They Commute Again (25 mins)

Reminders and Q&A (10 mins)



# Doing Our Part

#### Face Masks Required; Hand Sanitizing Stations; Deep Cleaning

#### Real Time Crowding Info

- Real-time for bus
- Predicted for rail using historical data
- Available on NextBus and 3<sup>rd</sup> party apps





# Platform Improvement Projects

Summer 2021 on the **Green & Yellow Lines** 

Sign up for project updates



Effective: May 29-September 6, 2021

#### LIMITED-STOP SERVICE

#### **Greenbelt-Fort Totten**

Between Greenbelt, College Park-U of Md & Fort Totten

#### Prince George's Plaza-Fort Totten

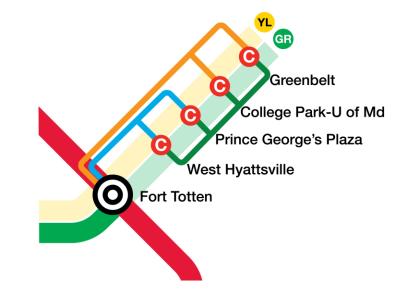
Between Prince George's Plaza, **West Hyattsville & Fort Totten** 

#### **LOCAL SERVICE**

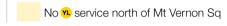
#### **Greenbelt-West Hyattsville**

Between Greenbelt, College Park-U of Md, Prince George's Plaza & West Hyattsville

Does not serve Fort Totten



No GB service north of Fort Totten





Transfer station Static





# New Faregates

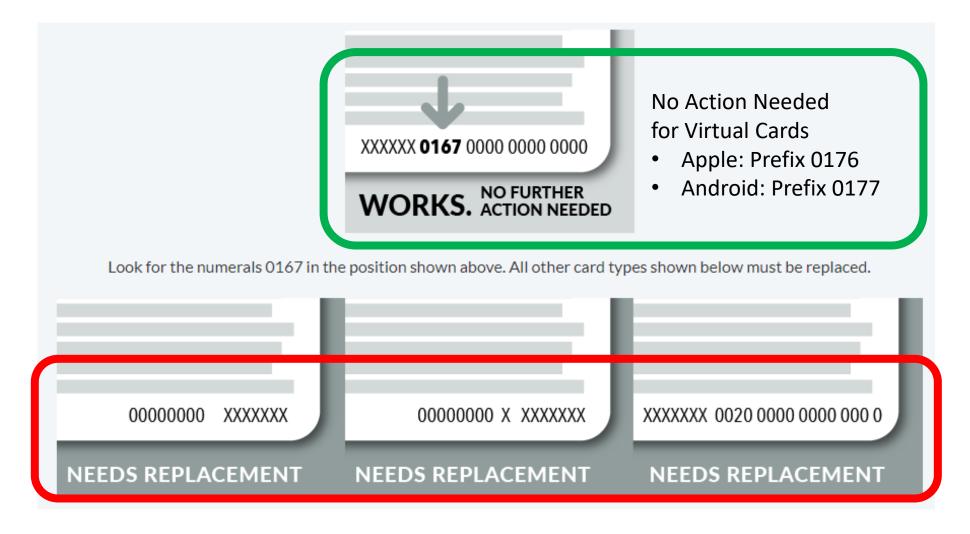
- ✓ Faster Opening Gates
- ✓ Larger, Easier to Read Display
- ✓ Larger, Brighter Entry/Exit Lights
- ✓ Installation
  - Notice via in-station signage 30-days before change
  - Starts ~July 2021
  - Ends ~June 2022



**New Gates Do Not Accept First-Generation SmarTrip Cards** 



## First-Generation SmarTrip Card Replacement (part 1)



**About 45,000 SmartBenefits Participants Must Replace their SmarTrip Cards** 



## First-Generation SmarTrip Card Replacement (part 2)

#### **Card Replacement Timing for SmartBenefits Participants**

- SmartBenefits online, self-service card replacement will start 30-days before the 1<sup>st</sup> station is converted (may start third week of June)
- Once open to SmartBenefits, replacements will be limited to cards tapped within
   7-days of the replacement request (due to system restrictions will adjust as ridership increases)
- No mail-in replacement option for SmartBenefits > Online Only

#### **Participant Actions**

- Update <u>SmarTrip account</u> email address now to receive notifications
- Obtain and register a replacement card ahead of time
   (Buy plastic cards in stations, online and at some retailers buy virtual cards using your iPhone)
- Replacement Process: Start <u>here</u> and follow the prompts and email notifications

#### **SmartBenefits Admin Actions**

- Educate your participants about online, self-service card replacement
  - Self-service replacement is easier, faster, and transfers both stored value & benefits
  - For best results, avoid performing "reassigns" for first-generation card replacement









#### What participants may experience when they commute again (part 1)

#### 'Catch-up' Rollover Benefits

- Issued to rollover participants who did not tap their card in one or more calendar months after March 2020 while their benefit status was "enrolled"
- Balance adjusted for retrieve transactions
- Sending emails encouraging these participants to tap their cards to load their catch-up

## Expired "Remove" & "Retrieve" Processing

- Remove and retrieve autoloads expire after 30-days
- Expired Remove: Automatically re-issued when card benefit balance drops below backend balance
- Expired Retrieve: Will reissue and adjust card balances as participants start riding again

## **Mobile Pay**

- SmarTrip on iPhone and Apple Watch (cards start with 0176)
- SmarTrip on Android started June 8th (cards start with 0177)
- Find your phone's sweet spot for tapping (learn phone antenna location and adjust distance from target)



## What participants may experience when they commute again (part 2)

#### Combined Balance Display (started Oct 2020)

- Faregates & Fare Vendors: total of all transit benefits + personal stored value
- Parking Gates: total of all parking benefits + stored value
- Example 1: Faregate Entry
  - Card has \$5 grace period credit, \$200 transit benefit, \$50 parking benefit, \$10 stored value
  - Old Way: \$5 grace period credit displayed (led to "missing SmartBenefits" customer service calls)
  - New Way: \$215 displayed (\$5 + \$200 + \$10)
- Example 2: Parking Exit
  - Old Way: \$45 displayed (\$50 parking benefit \$5 rider parking fee)
  - New Way: \$55 displayed (\$50 parking benefit + \$10 SV \$5 rider parking fee)

#### Proposed Service & Fare Improvements (pending WMATA Board vote)

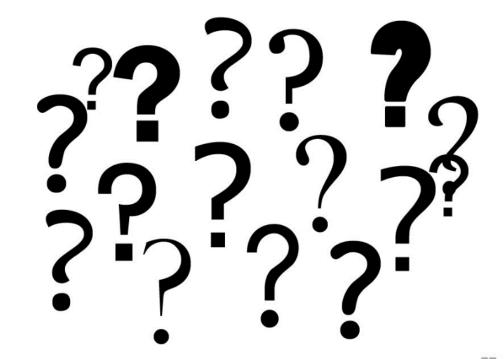
- Rush hour Trains: Every 5 mins on the Red Line; every 10 mins all other lines.
- Bus Frequency: Every 12 minutes on 20 key routes.
- Lower bus/rail transfer fee
- 7-day bus pass fare may drop from \$15 to \$13

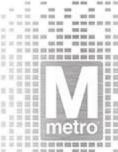


## Reminders and Q&A

#### Reminders

- Pay attention to your order deadlines (private sector changed to 21<sup>st</sup> during Covid)
- Participant benefit status and benefit category changes permitted between 1st and order deadline
- If you're a new administrator, update your contact info under Account Admin / Modify Account





# We are here to help

#### Online

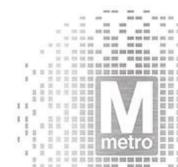
- Customer Support & FAQ
- SmartBenefits Web App Training Videos

### SmarTrip Customer Support

- Employers: 202-962-1326 (have your SB account # ready)
- Employees: 1-888-SMARTRIP (have your ST card # ready)
- email: smartrip@wmata.com
- Hours: 7 AM 8 PM ET Monday Friday

#### **SmartBenefits Account Executives**





# Thank you for your time

**SmartBenefits**<sup>®</sup>

Smart for Employers. Smart for Employees. Smart for You.

wmata.com/smartbenefits

M Smarlrip

smartbenefits@wmata.com

