



COVID-19 AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

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National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board

Montgomery County

- How do we coordinate regional services during pandemic? Essential workers travelling between jurisdictions can't get info on linking trips.
- Buses used to support emergency services; transportation for nursing home groups
- Depots closed to employee activity; no break room, locker use, etc.
 - Daily calls with union reps and depot chiefs to get feedback and react quickly to emergent issues
- Offering very limited supplies to riders who do not have masks.
- One COVID-19 death



Prince Georges County

- Similar protocols to Ride On: free fares, 10 passengers/bus, recommending face masks
- 15 out of 28 bus lines in service; Carrying under 2,000 passengers per weekday between 6am to 6pm; Seeing more boardings at Metro Stations and shopping centers.
- Fare suspended in mid-March 2020.
- Ridership trends for the month of April show higher boarding activity on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Regular coordination with our fixed route contractor management team to review ridership trends and to determine appropriate service levels for the upcoming week.
- Looking at right-sizing frequency levels or adopting alternative service models on certain routes as the County starts to ramp up fixed route service levels



- State: statewide freeze non-essential all depts. Gas tax and MVA fees are two major sources HTF.
- All Maryland public transit: required face masks. Plus taxis and other shared ride services.

- Free fares. Rear door boarding
- Three employees tested positive



DC DFHV

- Re-purposing its suspended Microtransit service to get hospital workers to/from work at a few DC hospitals
 - Approached by Howard and United Medical
 - Will continue as long as needed
- Have been able to provide limited quantities of masks and cleaning supplies to taxi operators
- On taxis and TNCs, both operator and passengers must wear masks
- Uber announced they will be providing \$10 million in free rides for essential services, \$300k is planned for the DC metro area.
- Lyft has also said that they are exploring ways to help with giving rides to health care workers.

- Staffing of control centers is an issue. Facilities not designed for social distancing. Are rotating desks to enable cleaning between shifts. Radio communications impacted by mask wearing
- MetroAccess is using two emergency transportation providers to give rides to MetroAccess customers with suspected or confirmed COVID-19

- Regional gas tax impacts are being assessed.



DASH

- Temperature checks for employees as they report. One case of virus in DASH staff.
- 15% normal ridership. Enhanced Sunday plan in effect.
- FY 2021: 50% revenue impact predicted.



- Modified Saturday service schedule. Rear door boarding. No fares
- Paratransit call center staffing cut back.
- Face coverings not required.



Loudoun County

- March 31 – suspended commuter bus. Curtailed Metro Connect service in April
- Continued local service; seen increase in ridership over normal
- Marking off seats, rear door boarding
- Hirings, non-essentials frozen. County rainy day \$100M set aside
- Asked about sharing DC DFHV service for essential transport, as discussed on MATOC TTF call



Fairfax County

- Similar operations and precautions for bus riders.
- Canceled long haul service; mix of cancellations and reduced service for local routes. 170 operators laid off but still getting paid.
- County: Freeze on non-essential spending and hiring. Although some exceptions can be made, and they are trying to fill a few needed vacancies.



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