



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

Thursday, July 28, 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:

Christopher Arabia
Brandon Brown
Jamaica Arnold
Michelle Golden
Rachel Green
Heidi Mitter
Holly Morello
Nicholas Ramfos
Shawntea Smith
Jerry Roberson

2. WMATA Review of initial observations from SafeTrack Surge #5 (July 20 – July 31) East Falls Church – Ballston MU – Line Segment Shutdown and Upcoming Surge #6 (August 1 – August 7) – Takoma – Silver Spring Single Tracking.

Jamaica Arnold stated that Surge 5 has been proceeding and given the heat there are more frequent breaks for maintenance workers; however, all work is anticipated to be completed on schedule. Operations have been running smoothly. Jerry Roberson stated that bus ridership has been down on average of about 55%. Jerry Roberson stated that he would have more specific information on why the bus ridership has been lower which he could share with the group in subsequent work group meetings. Some of the data may relate to routes not being in service during certain days of the week which would have a negative correlation with the ridership percentages. Heidi Mitter asked what the time period was of the data. Jerry Roberson stated he would need to look at the lower ridership and it looks like it's more like about 6% or 9%.

Ms. Arnold reported that Surge 6 Red Line trains would run between Shady Grove and NoMa-Gallaudet every 6 minutes during AM/PM rush; every 12 minutes midday and evening. Passengers traveling to stations north of NoMa-Gallaudet must transfer to continue their trip. Red Line trains will run between Glenmont and Grosvenor every 12 minutes. Customers traveling to stations north of Grosvenor must transfer to continue their trip. After 10pm trains will run between Shady Grove and Glenmont every 15 minutes. Free shuttle service will be provided between Groversonr and Fort Totten during the weekday rush hour periods and express shuttle bus service between Silver Spring, Takoma and Fort Totten and between Grosvenor-Strathmore, Medical Center, Bethesda and Friendship Heights Metrorail stations will be provided. Enhanced weekday rush hour service will be provided on Metrobuses 80, G8, P6, and Y7. Enhanced midday service will also be provided on MetroExtra S9 limited stop service.

3. SafeTrack Surge 5 (July 20 – July 31)

a. Montgomery County Plan:

Michelle Golden stated that Montgomery County will have shuttle buses running every 10 minutes. If there are more customers in need of utilizing buses, there may be additional need for more buses to be provided by Metro. MARC will be adding an additional car for each train. A “Learn the Route” bike event will be held with WABA on Sunday at the Glenmont station at 10 a.m. for those interested in bicycling. Traffic will be monitored and signals will be re-timed. A construction project has been suspended. Parking has also been restricted on certain routes to improve traffic flows. The restricted parking spaces would normally be available after the peak period, but the peak period is being extended in order to use those parking spaces as an added lane. The County is also working with the police on parking enforcement and to get buses in and out of the Transit Center

b. Commuter Connections Plan:

Nicholas Ramfos stated that Geo-targeted messages to employers and employees surrounding the impacted Metrorail stations for

Surge 6 have been developed and will be sent out today. Paid and non-paid Social media outreach will continue during Surge 6.

c. Other Jurisdictional TDM Plans:

Heidi Mitter from VDOT stated that VDOT is continuing to monitor traffic patterns as a result of SafeTrack. VDOT is also participating in NVTC SafeTrack conference calls. The traffic volumes have been somewhat low due to summer vacations. Try Transit Week is also occurring in September and VDOT will be gearing up to promote the event.

4. Other Business

WMATA stated that they would have individuals present on Monday to direct customers to the extra buses. Michelle Golden also stated that the County would also have staff on-site. There was also a “pop-up” event held yesterday to educate customers on their options during Surge 6.

Next Meeting Date: August 2, 2016 10 a.m.