

**WMATA PLATFORM CONSTRUCTION TDM WORK GROUP
MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, April 29, 2020
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

**Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Staff Contact: Nicholas Ramfos 202/962-3313**

1. Introductions

Conference call participants introduced themselves. Participants included:

Pinky Advani (ATP)	Marc Cioffi (VDOT)
Fadi Seikaly (ATP/Commute 66)	Christopher Arabia (VDRPT)
Christy Lee (ATP)	Gabe Ortiz (VDRPT)
Tai Mooney (ATP)	Mosi London (VDRPT/AECOM)
Danelle Carey (goDCgo)	Robin Mack (Telework! VA)
Brian Kalish (MWAA)	Greg Potts (WMATA)
Matt Cheng (NVTC)	Gail Ribas (WMATA)
Holly Morello (PRTC)	Nick Perfili (WMATA)
Joe Stainsby (Vanpool Alliance)	Marc Bowman (WMATA)
Leigh Anderson (GWRideConnect)	Morgan Bassford (WMATA)
Chloe Ritter (Fairfax County)	Nicholas Ramfos (COG/TPB)
Anna Nissinen (Fairfax County)	Daniel Sheehan (COG/TPB)
Haile Mitchell (VDOT)	

2. WMATA Updates on Platform Project Work

Greg Potts, WMATA, began by referencing WMATA's April 23rd press release explaining additional trackwork that is now scheduled to be completed during the summer shutdown. WMATA will be taking advantage of historically low ridership to tie-in the silver line extension to Dulles International Airport. Combining these capital projects will minimize inconvenience to the public once ridership demand returns and will hopefully reduce the number of weekend shutdowns associated with the Silver Line expansion tie-in. There will now be nine stations closed: five Silver Line stations and four Orange Line stations beginning May 23rd. (This does not include the stations closed as a result of COVID-19.) WMATA's contractor is seeking to limit the exposure of frontline workers. During last year's platform improvement project, there were around 100 workers per shift; there will be less workers at one time this year.

Gail Ribas, WMATA, noted that communications strategy for the Platform Improvement Project will remain largely consistent with the original plans. The primary change in plans is a result of social distancing guidelines related to COVID-19: WMATA will no longer be hosting street teams at stations or open houses. Instead, signage at stations, paid advertising in newspapers (including minority language papers), and targeted digital advertising will be used to alert customers of the shutdown and shuttle alternatives. During the shutdown, "yellow vest" operations desk(s) at closed stations will be

available to help direct customers to shuttles. Ms. Ribas also noted that prep work has begun at stations, even though the shutdown doesn't begin until May 23rd.

Nick Perfili, WMATA, announced changes to shuttle operations as a result of the additional station closures. Local and express shuttles will connect riders from closed stations to the Ballston-MU station. A service map has been posted to the [WMATA website](#). There will be three shuttle routes in operation: (1) Orange Line Express from Vienna – Ballston; (2) Orange Line Local from Vienna – Ballston (serving most intermediary stops); and (3) Silver Line Local from Wiehle-Reston East to Ballston (serving most intermediary stops). Shuttles will operate from 5:00am – 9:00pm Monday – Friday. They will align with the first and last trains out of Ballston. They will operate at half the frequency of regular rail service. Shuttles will depart once the seats are filled regardless of scheduled departure time. Mr. Perfili noted this is a much simpler plan than original proposed: There will only be one bus per station. Shuttles will not stop at stations that were closed as a result of COVID-19.

Fadi Seikaly, ATP/Commuter 66, asked if Silver Line service will be suspended just west of Ballston but resume east of Ballston. WMATA representatives answered that there will be no silver line trains in service throughout the network during this time.

3. Fairfax County Update

Anna Nissinen, Fairfax County, announced that the County had published a press release in conjunction with the April 23rd WMATA press release. Fairfax County is taking a two tiered approach to assist Metrorail riders during the shutdown. The first tier involves promotion of shuttle bus alternatives provided by WMATA and the Fairfax Connector. Express Fairfax Connector service to Downtown D.C. and the Pentagon is pending if there is need demonstrated for the service. Additional advertising is also pending due to low ridership as a result of COVID-19. The second tier revolves around telework. The County is currently pursuing telework incentives in partnership with Telework! VA and VDRPT. The County is also promoting GRH.

4. VDOT Update

Marc Cioffi, VDOT, stated that there has been little change in terms of VDOT's support with the Platform Improvement Project. VDOT is looking to maximize low traffic volumes by focusing construction efforts on highway projects.

5. Outreach Activity Updates

a. Commuter Connections

Nicholas Ramfos, COG/TPB staff, shared that Commuter Connections will be promoting Guaranteed Ride Home to affected Metrorail riders. Masks are required of cab/TNC riders in Maryland and D.C.; they are recommended in Virginia. Information about the platform closures and other relevant Commuter Connections alternatives has been posted to the Commuter Connections website.

b. Other Jurisdictions

Pinky Advani, ATP, stated that Arlington County will have a dedicated web page outlining information about the shutdown and transportation alternatives. This page is expected to be “live” by the end of the week. Webinars for Arlington employers will be held on May 12th and 13th. Customized webinars for specific employers may be conducted upon request. ATP also plans on sending a newsletter article about the shutdown and recommended alternatives to employers.

Fadi Seikaly, ATP/Commuter 66, stated that a landing page on the Commuter 66 website will be updated with relevant platform shutdown information. A webinar is setup for May 15th. Paid advertising will be used to direct people to the website, which will inform viewers of tip options during the shutdown.

Joe Stainsby, Vanpool Alliance, shared that Vanpool Alliance’s outreach efforts will continue as previously planned, primarily relaying on Facebook and their website to promote open vanpool seats along the affected routes. They will be cognizant to filter out any vans not currently operating due to COVID-19.

Holly Morello, PRTC, noted that OmniRide is promoting Metro Direct service to Tysons and the shuttle to the Pentagon parking lot. The OmniRide website will also be revamped to prioritize telework.

Chris Arabia, VDRPT, shared about added promotions with Telework! VA. They are thinking ahead in keeping active messaging even as stay-at-home orders are relaxed.

Brian Kalish, MWAA, noted that ground transportation plans at Dulles International Airport are now available upon request.

Greg Potts, WMATA, advised the group to send any landing pages related to the shutdown to WMATA for inclusion on the wmata.com/platforms webpage.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.