

# Transit and Pedestrian Advisory Group Meeting



September 15, 2020

Howard County Office of Transportation  
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043

4:00 p.m.

Held via WebEx



Howard County  
OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION

# Responsibilities of the Transit and Pedestrian Advisory Group



1. Advise and inform the Office on transportation matters
2. Provide additional subject matter expertise to the Office
3. Provide feedback and Technical Assistance on the Implementation of Master Plans and other initiatives and policy issues

# Today's Agenda



1. Welcome, review, and approval
  - ✦ Agenda
  - ✦ Minutes from last meeting
2. Key topics
  - ✦ MDOT Consolidated Transportation Program Reductions
  - ✦ Transit Challenges (Funding and Safety)
  - ✦ Transit Improvements (Fleet, Bus Stops and Technology)
3. Upcoming events
4. Open discussion
5. Adjournment

# Review and Approval



1. Tonight's agenda
2. TPAG Minutes - June 15, 2020

# MDOT Consolidated Transportation Program Reductions



On September 1, MDOT released the draft 6-year Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) for FY2021-2026. Citing revenue reductions from the COVID-19 pandemic, the proposed CTP shows a \$2.9 billion reduction over the last 6-year plan.

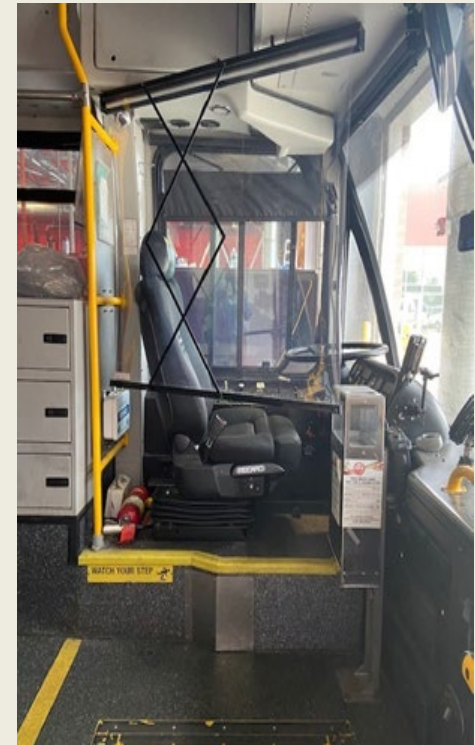
## Key points:

- Cuts are distributed across MDOT modes, Maryland's contribution to WMATA is 100% funded for capital and operating.
- \$150 million in cuts to MTA on top of last year's \$303 million reduction to the 6-year CTP.
- MDOT has proposed a 20% reduction in MTA transit service, including cuts to core bus, MARC (eliminate 2 Camden Line trips), commuter bus, and paratransit services.
- Reduce bus service by 36%: discontinue 25 bus routes, eliminate all the Express Bus Service (including 150 to Howard County), and reductions and modifications to 24 other routes.

# Local Transit Challenges (RTA)



- **Financial Impacts of Covid-19**
  - \$7.6 million in federal grants through CARES Act
  - 20% reduction in operating grants from MTA
  - No State Capital Funding in FY 2021 and FY 2022 (maybe longer)
  - \$1 million loss in fare revenue in CY 2020
  - Ridership at 30–50 percent of 2019 levels in CY 2021
- **Current Covid-19 Service Restrictions**
  - Modified service levels projected through January 1
  - Extra trippers are sometime used to ensure appropriate social distancing on vehicles
  - Protective barriers are being installed in buses between now and November
  - Fare collection will resume in January 2021



# RTA Fleet Replacement Plan



## Summary of Howard County Bus Purchases (Delivery between 11-21 and 5-22)

Grant	Type	Federal	Local	Total
FY20 ATP *	Bus	\$ 380,259	\$ 42,251	\$ 422,510
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FY21 ATP	Bus	\$ 315,750	\$ 78,938	\$ 394,688
FY21 ATP	Bus	\$ 315,750	\$ 78,938	\$ 394,688
VW Grant	Bus	\$ 316,883	\$ 105,628	\$ 422,511
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Bus & Bus Facilities	Bus	\$ 338,008	\$ 84,501	\$ 422,509
Bus & Bus Facilities	Bus	\$ 338,008	\$ 84,501	\$ 422,509
Bus & Bus Facilities	Bus	\$ 338,008	\$ 84,501	\$ 422,509
Bus & Bus Facilities	Annunciators	\$ 225,000	\$ 25,002	\$ 250,002
<b>Total Funding by Source</b>		<b>\$ 3,581,691</b>	<b>\$ 837,767</b>	<b>\$ 4,419,458</b>
* = Federal funding amount includes \$42,251 in State match				

# RTA Bus Stop Improvements



- New shelters with solar lighting installed at the Columbia Mall
- State Transit Innovation Grant Improvements for CY 2021
  - Assessment of locations for improvements underway
  - Selection of up to 10 sites to be complete by November 1
  - Construction in CY 2020
  - Procurement of vendor for Smart Digital Display at Columbia Mall in CY 2021



# RTA Technology Improvements Transit App Campaign



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**Bus location**  
Updated just now by RTA



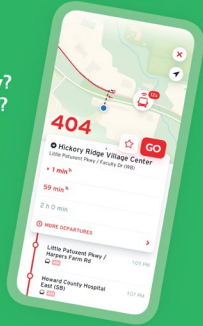

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# Upcoming Events



- RTA and Transit App
  - ✦ Official Campaign Launch – September 21
- Love to Ride initiatives available from BMC
  - ✦ [Bike to Work Week](#) – September 21-27
  - ✦ [Cycle September](#)
- Complete Streets *Community Engagement Plan* Workshops
  - ✦ September 23 at 1pm and 7 pm
- Robert Fulton Shared-Use Pathway – October 21, 7pm
- Virtual Transportation Forum – November 18
- Reinstating RTA fares – January 1, 2021
- Phase 3, General Paratransit fare increase – Jan. 1, 2021

# Open Discussion



## **Among TPAG Members**

# Adjournment



**2021 Schedule under  
Development**