

Howard County Transportation


September MTB Meeting

September 29, 2020





Today's Agenda

- 1) **Approval of Agenda for Meeting** – Chairperson Schoen
 - 2) **Approval of AUGUST 25, 2020 Meeting Minutes** – Chairperson Schoen
 - 3) **Public Comment – General Topics** (*Participants that have signed up in advance will have 3 minutes each to address the MTB*)
 - 4) **Follow up on Roadway Safety Plan Comments (verbal)** – David Cookson & Cindy Burch
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5) Approval
of Complete
Streets
Engagement
Plan –

Chris Eatough

No presentation will be provided. For review
of materials please see:

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/County-Administration/Transportation/Complete-Streets/Community-Engagement>



6) MDOT CTP Overview and MTA Service Reductions

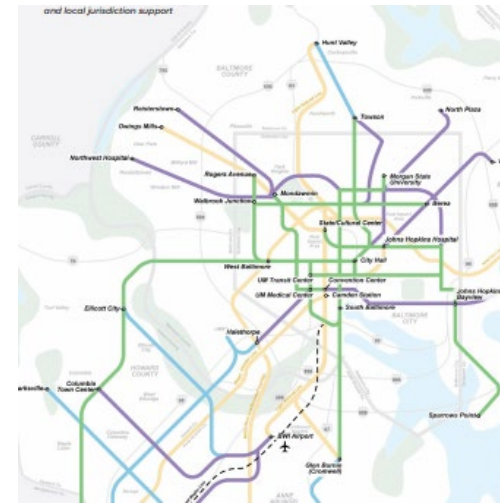
Bruce Gartner

MDOT CTP Statewide book – includes overview and capital program for all business units with the exception of MDOT-SHA County capital programs. Link for document:

http://www.mdot.maryland.gov/newMDOT/Planning/CTP/CTP_21_26/Draft_Documents/Entire%20FY%2021-26%20CTP.pdf

Long Term State Funding Decisions Negatively Impact Baltimore Region

- Significant Transit Reductions in Baltimore Region versus limited impact to Washington Suburbs creates a concern about regional equity.
- How will the Purple Line legal and contracting problems impact Baltimore Region?
- What Can MDOT and Governor Hogan do to reallocate existing state or future federal funds to scale back some of the transit reductions being proposed in this CTP?



Central MD Transit Plan



MDOT Consolidated Transportation Program Reductions

MDOT's draft 6-year Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) for FY2021-2026. shows a \$2.9 billion reduction over the last 6-year plan

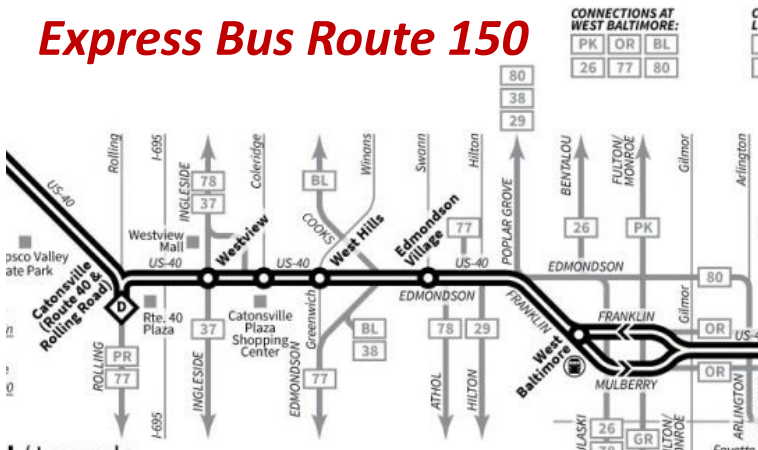
- While the cuts are distributed across MDOT modes, Maryland's contribution to WMATA is 100% funded for capital and operating (as of 9-25-20)
- \$150 million in cuts to MTA on top of last year's \$303 million reduction to the 6-year CTP will further impact the failing transit network in the Baltimore region
- Cuts to system preservation budgets for all MDOT modes has a longer term fiscal impact on our transportation network.
- Reductions to SHA's \$7.6 billion program account for almost half (\$909 million) of the total reductions which is similar to their relative share of the total program
- Reductions to MTA's \$2.69 billion program account for 8 percent of the capital program reductions which is less than their 17.7 percent share of the total program
- WMATA has not been impacted by any capital reductions despite representing 17.7 percent of the MDOT capital program

MDOT Consolidated Transportation Program Operating Reductions

- To sustain the six-year financial plan that supports the capital program, MDOT-MTA has:
- Proposed a 20% reduction in MTA transit service, including cuts to core bus, MARC, commuter bus, and paratransit services.
- Proposed to reduce bus service by 36%: discontinue 25 bus routes, eliminate all the Express Bus Service (primarily to the suburbs), and reductions and modifications to 24 other routes.
- **Key Points:**
- TransitCenter found that 40% of transit commuters in Baltimore City and 35% of transit riders in the state work in essential job sectors, with hospital and health care workers being the largest share of riders.
- No plans for restoration of service when ridership and revenues rebound
- Route 150 between Baltimore City and Howard County is eliminated. Further comments are included in your talking points on why this service should be maintained
- The 3 mid-day slots will be given up to CSX for MARC Camden Line reverse commute service will be extremely difficult to restore. Further points are made in your remarks

Transit Reductions Impacting Howard County

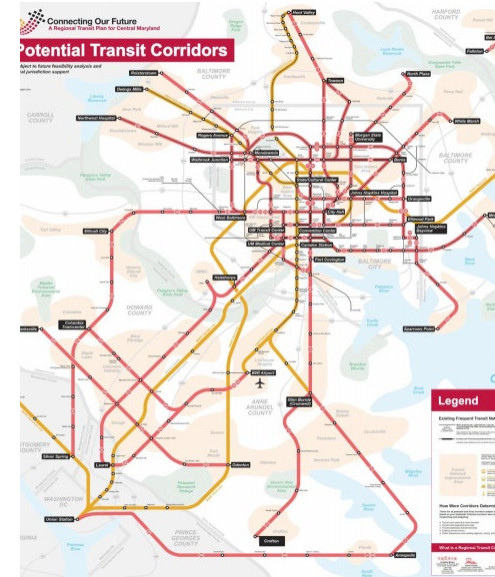
Express Bus Route 150



- MTA - #150 Express Bus eliminated from Columbia to Harbor East via Ellicott City
 - Five trips per day in each direction
 - Only reverse commute options (2 trips) from Baltimore City
- Three MARC Camden Line Trips cut
 - Trains 844 (7:30am) and 848 (3:30pm) from Union Station
 - Train 855 to Union Station (4:45pm)
 - Impact on TOD at Dorsey, Savage and Laurel Park
- Commuter Bus Trip Reductions on Route 320 (Balt) & 4 routes to (DC region)
- Local grant funding in FY 2023 & beyond

Howard County CTP msg - Moving the Region Forward

- Howard County is Actively Participating in MDOT's Central Maryland and Statewide Planning Efforts
- The Central Maryland Regional Transit Plan includes two high priority corridors in Howard County:
 - 1) The East/West Connection to Baltimore City (US 40 Corridor)
 - 2) The North/South Connections to Montgomery County and DC Metro Area (US 29 Corridor)
- MDOT Support for these Continued Efforts is Essential to prepare for the day when funding is available



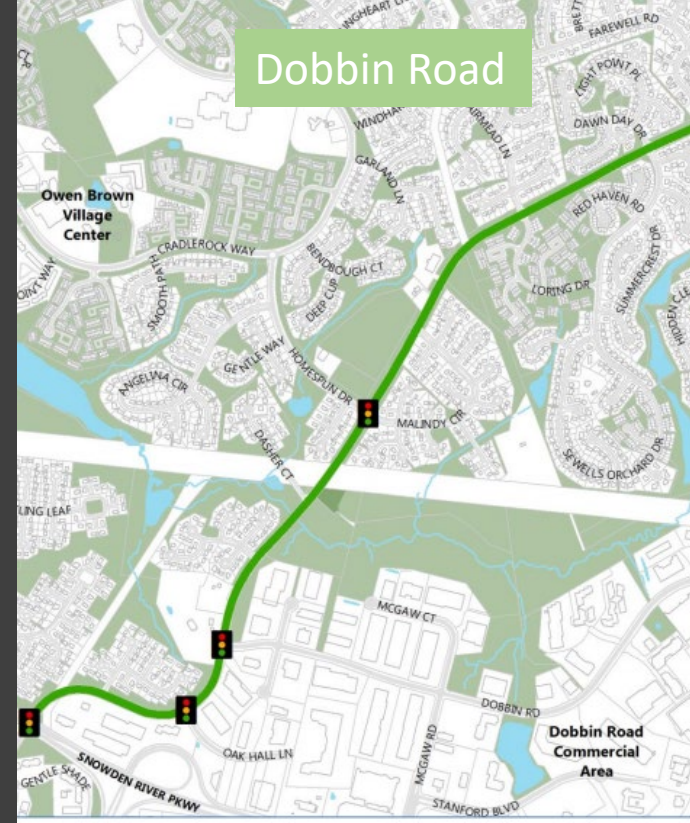
MARYLAND STATEWIDE TRANSIT PLAN

Regional Roundtable Meeting – Round 1 – Baltimore



Howard County CTP Msg - Partnerships with MDOT are necessary to Improve Safety

- Bike/Ped Projects to support our Complete Streets initiatives
- US 1 Safety Plan improvements
- County Safety Plan



Links for MDOT CTP Reference Materials

- 2020 Priority Letter for Howard County (April 1, 2020)
<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Portals/0/Documents/Transportation/Priority%20Letter%202021/Howard%20County%20CTP%20Priority%20Letter%20FY%202021-2026%20Final%20Signed.pdf>
- MDOT Summary of Capital Program Reductions
http://mdot.maryland.gov/newMDOT/planning/CTP/CTP_21_26/Draft_Documents/MDOT_FY21-FY26_Capital_Budget_Reductions.pdf
- MDOT Summary of Operating Reductions
http://mdot.maryland.gov/newMDOT/planning/CTP/CTP_21_26/Draft_Documents/MDOT_FY21_Operating_Budget_Reductions.pdf
- Camden line train #855 leaves Dorsey for Union Station at 4:45pm <https://www.mta.maryland.gov/schedule/timetable/marc-camden>
[Camden Line #855](https://www.mta.maryland.gov/schedule/timetable/marc-camden)
- Camden line trains #844 and #848 leave Union Station at 7:30am 3:30pm respectively
https://www.mta.maryland.gov/schedule/timetable/marc-camden?origin=11958&destination=12008&direction=1&schedule_date=09%2F22%2F2020
- Express Bus 150 provides 3 inbound (Columbia via Ellicott City and Catonsville to Harbor East) and 3 outbound peak trips each weekday and 2 reverse commute trips to Howard County from Harbor East each weekday. Trip times are approximately 1 hour
<https://s3.amazonaws.com/mta-website-staging/mta-website-staging/files/Routes+Schedules/150.pdf>

6iii) Howard County MTB Resolution Opposing MDOT Transit Reductions to Baltimore Region

The Howard County Multimodal Transportation Board has read of the planned elimination of the MTA system of local, express and commuter buses, effective January 2021.

While cutbacks of state and state-supported services are inevitable during the current pandemic, using the situation to eliminate an important public resource is **problematic** and will have serious congestion, environmental and economic consequences even in medium-term.

We urge the MTA to reconsider its plans, and urge that all county officials and elected representatives use whatever influence they have to help enable a reconsideration of these reductions.

At a minimum, the MTB would hope for reconsideration of the Route 150 elimination and encourage efforts by the MTA to retain future rights to bring back the MARC Camden line trips in 1-3 years when demand returns

7) Development Update – David Cookson

Upcoming Public Meetings

Project	Meeting Date	Meeting Type	Notes
ZB-1119M Redevelopment of Hickory Ridge Village Center	September 30	Zoning Board	Redevelopment of Hickory Ridge Village Center to amend the Preliminary development Plan to add an apartment building and remodel the shopping center.
ZRA 192 Annapolis Junction Town Center LLC	October 1	Planning Board	Applicant is requesting to increase the height limit for buildings in the TOD.
ZB 1118M Erickson at Limestone Valley	October 7	Zoning Board	Continuation of rezoning case for continuing care retirement community and to permit the expansion/relocation and architectural enhancement of the existing Freestate Gasoline Service Station.
BA 766-D – British American Bldg., LLC, et al	October 16	Hearing Examiner	Appeal of approval of the Royal Farm Store on Snowden River Parkway.

Agenda Items (continued)



8) Future Meeting Items

Discussion with new DPW Director

Follow up on Pedestrian Crossing Policies and
Projects

Complete Streets Implementation Updates-
Ongoing



9) Adjournment



10) Next Meeting – October 27, 2020 – 7:00pm

Thank You

