



Regional Transportation Agency of Central Maryland **Media Alert**

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RTA Proposes Route Changes to Improve Schedule Reliability and Increase On-Time Performance

30 day public comment period begins March 3, 2015

ELKRIDGE, MARYLAND- In order to improve the reliability of its public transit service, the Regional Transportation Agency of Central Maryland (the RTA) is proposing to change the scheduled running times on four of its routes effective April 5, 2015. These changes will enable customers to anticipate that the buses will operate on time even though the service changes will result in extended frequency on a few of the routes.

The service changes will impact the 503/E, 301/A, 302/G and the 501/Silver routes. Two of these routes, the 301/A and the 503/E, have had serious running time challenges since the routes were last changed prior to the RTA commencing operation on July 1st, 2014. The running time issues have negatively impacted thousands of customers on a daily basis. The modifications due to take effect on April 5th will significantly improve the predictability of service for RTA customers.

In addition to the improved running time, the changes will allow customers to travel from the Mall in Columbia to South Laurel without changing buses.

“Our goal is to provide our riders with reliable and dependable service. These routes are in critical need of modification to provide a level of quality service that our customers deserve,” said Phil Pumphrey, General Manager of the RTA.

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The RTA proposes the following service improvements:

The 503/E route will continue to operate on a 60-minute frequency leaving the Mall at Columbia on the hour. However, instead of expecting the bus to arrive at the Laurel Mall in less than an hour, the bus will arrive between 10-minutes and 15-minutes after the hour, which coincides with the current actual running time. The increase in scheduled trip time will improve the on-time performance and reliability of the service.

The 503/E trips that leave at 7:30 am, 9:30 am and 4:30 pm from the Laurel Mall and the trips that leave at 8:30 am, 3:30 pm and 5:30 pm will be eliminated due to low ridership.

The Laurel City Loop portion of the 301/A route will be transferred back to the 302/G Route. The loop includes the Van Dusen, Sandy Spring, Main Street and the Washington Boulevard segments. The 301/A route will then run at a 60 minute frequency all day and be interlined with the 503/E route. This will improve the on-time performance and reliability of the service and allow customers to travel from the Mall in Columbia to South Laurel without a transfer.

The 302/G route, which will now include the Laurel City Loop, will be revised from a 45 to a 60 minute schedule all day. The slight increase in running time ensures buses can operate on schedule and on-time performance will be improved.

The first two trips each day on the 501/Silver route will be revised with a start time 8 minutes earlier than currently designated. This adjustment will allow the Baltimore Light Rail passengers arriving at the airport to make scheduled MARC Station connection times. This change improves rider reliability and connectivity.

The RTA opens a 30-day public comment period on Tuesday, March 3rd through Friday, April 3, 2015. During this period, the public is encouraged to provide feedback regarding proposed changes by submitting written comments either online through our website, email or mail to the RTA office. The proposed changes are scheduled to go into effect Sunday, April 5, 2015.

“The proposed route changes are highly necessary in order to provide riders with reliable service. We will continue to evaluate existing routes and take the necessary steps to provide a more efficient and effective service for the public,” said Phil Pumphrey, General Manager for the RTA. “We encourage the public to take advantage of the 30 day comment period.”

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For more information regarding proposed route changes or to comment, visit www.transitRTA.com or call the RTA, Monday- Friday, 8:30 am-5:00 pm at 1-800-270-9553. You may also email your comments to consumer@transitRTA.com with subject heading "Route/Schedule Proposal" or mail comments to 8510 Corridor Road, Suite 110, Savage, Maryland 20763. *Your name and postal address must be included with your comments to become part of the public meeting record.*

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