

RTA Monthly Report

APRIL 2017



Joint Meeting

Central Maryland Transportation & Mobility Commission and RTA Partners Coordination Meeting

1:00 p.m. May 23, 2017

8510 Corridor Road, Suite 110, Savage, MD

AGENDA

- Welcome Clive Graham, Administrator, Howard County
- Review of March and April Minutes
- A April Financial Report Suzanne Brown, Director of Finance
- B Statistical Snapshot Report Mark Pritchard, GM, RTA
- C GM Report/Staff Updates Mark Pritchard, GM, RTA
- D Transit Development Plan Update Clive Graham, Howard County
- E FY 18 Budget, Allocations, Memorandum of Understanding
Clive Graham, Howard County
- F Fare system changes (public hearing schedules)
Kathleen Donodeo, Howard County
- Adjournment



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Topic: April 2017 Financial Report

(Suzanne Brown will provide a verbal update)

Requested Action

Provide input and ask questions of staff.

Topic: Statistical Snapshot Report

(Mark Pritchard will provide a verbal update)

Requested Action

Hear a report and ask questions of staff.

Topic: General Manager Report / Staff Updates

Seven (7) new drivers began in training in April with three (3) beginning in May.

RTA received five (5) used year 2000 full sized vehicles from MTA. Currently it looks as though four of them will be operable by early June.

A number of initial problems with electric buses received in March and manufactured by BYD of Lancaster, CA have been resolved and the buses are operating successfully in test mode. RTA bus operators have simulated driving in real route conditions traveling for periods of 8-12 hours. Buses operating for this long has seen the charge go from no lower than 45%. The inductive chargers that were installed to allow for quick charges at the Columbia Mall transfer point are also working. The buses still need to be wrapped and receive additional testing. Tentatively the buses will go into service in July on Route 401/Green. The buses were funded through a research grant from the Federal Transit Administration coordinated through MTA.

Changes on Route 503/E were implemented on May 1 to serve the emerging Howard County Non-Profit Center Campus on Patuxent Woods Parkway west of the

intersection of Broken Land and Snowden River Parkways. This location will also soon have the Department of Social Services as well. The route restructuring involved reducing service to All Saints Road, Pilgrim and Harvest Way. Signs were placed on the buses and at bus stops planned for discontinuation notifying the riding public. The change in routing has gone smoothly.

Confirmation has been received from manufacturer Coach and Equipment of Penn Yan, NY that the delivery of twelve (12) body on chassis smaller vehicles will start in late June continuing into July. Although designed and used for paratransit service, four (4) of the units will be used for the new service between the Odenton and Savage MARC stations connecting with Ft. Meade, NSA, and National Business Parkway. The remaining eight units will be used for a combination of paratransit and fixed route service. They will be well needed to back up the fixed route service.

Operations Update

Operations continued training Drivers and testing the electric bus batteries for maximum duration on the Green Route. Testing also includes monitoring the new technology with BYD to ensure all components are working and functioning properly.

Supervisors are assessing new route proposals for Howard County. Twenty percent of the routes are complete at this time.

Bus availability was difficult once again for April. Paratransit vehicles were used on 62 routes during the month and there were 49 bus failures with no availability.

April Safety numbers:

PREVENTABLE ACCIDENTS: 2

NON PREVENTABLE ACCIDENTS: 3

PREVENTABLE CLIENT ACCIDENTS: 0

NON PREVENTABLE CLIENT ACCIDENTS: 1

WORK COMP (EE Injury): 2

The April Safety monthly meeting focused on Hazard Identification and Near Miss Reporting.

The organization met the Drug and Alcohol Random quote for the compliance program.

One class of new operators produced one utility worker, three paratransit and four fixed route drivers. There are 3 fixed route drivers signed up the May class.

Communications / Marketing

Branding/Website

- Several landing pages are being constructed on the RTA website or the Electric Bus project. Pages will host information to educate the public on components the buses and show daily monitoring data. Bus wraps should be completed in June.

Outreach plans are in development. Buses will run on the Green Route per grant requirements.

- Bus stop sign installation continues. Bus stop communications are in development for the new RouteShout APP which will include instruction to download RouteShout 2.0 for real time information.

Marketing/Advertising Support

- Baltimore Media Group began a 3 month Digital/Print campaign on April 1st focusing on hiring CDL Drivers and driving customer traffic to our website to increase ridership and brand awareness. The digital campaign is targeting key zip codes throughout our jurisdictions and messaging is in both English and Spanish. Based on robust statistics, another 3 month campaign will be booked for the Fall.

Print advertising is running in all 7 area papers; Maryland Gazette, Laurel Leader, Howard County Times, Soundoff (Ft. Meade), Columbia Flyer, Baltimore Sun. The Greenbelt News Review ads will begin running the beginning of June. Route Match (which will replace NextBus) for fixed route is in development and the installation team will arrive in June. Route Shout will allow Riders the ability to use a mobile device to access real time data through an APP. Roll out will be sometime mid- summer. Communication efforts are in development.

- Route 504 has been finalized and a new schedule to include Piney Orchard is complete. MTA informed us that the bus delivery has been pushed back slightly to September. Public meetings locations should be determined by AA and RTA collectively. A suggested timeframe is set for 2nd week in July.

Outreach/ Administrative Support

- Revenue for bus advertising increased for the month of April producing **\$14,569.80**.

RTA Partners Agenda
Item D
5/23/17

Topic: Transit Development Plan Update

(Clive Graham will provide a verbal review)

Requested Action

Hear a report, provide input and ask questions of staff.

Topic: FY 18 Budget, Allocations, Memorandum of Understand (MOU)

(Clive Graham will provide a verbal update)

Requested Action

Hear a review, provide input and ask questions of staff.

Topic: Shuttle Connecting Odenton/Savage MARC Stations; Impacts on Route 203/M

(Mark Pritchard will provide a verbal update)

Requested Action

Hear a review, provide input and ask questions of staff.