

Washington Area Bus Transformation Project Releases Draft Recommendations

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WASHINGTON – The Washington Area Bus Transformation Project today released draft recommendations for improving bus service in the region. The recommendations were developed with the input of over 140 stakeholders and nearly 6,000 survey responses from the public, and fall under six key areas:

- Make the bus a customer-focused and easy-to-use travel option
- Give priority to buses to efficiently move people quickly and reliably
- Provide frequent and convenient bus service to improve quality of life
- Define local and regional bus system responsibilities
- Streamline back-office functions and share innovation across bus systems
- Establish a regional coalition to transform the bus system

Over 25 draft recommendations have been proposed and are available for public review on the project website, <u>bustransformationproject.com</u>.

The Bus Transformation Project is led by an Executive Steering Committee made up of regional leaders who bring strategic planning expertise from a variety of perspectives.

"The Bus Transformation Project is committed to identifying and implementing steps to make local bus service a world-class travel option for all of our region's residents – I stand proudly behind that," said Rob Puentes, Chair of the Executive Steering Committee and President and CEO of the Eno Center for Transportation. "We are confident the project will result in achieving our bold vision for bus."

The study is also informed by input from a diverse group of stakeholders representing a variety of regional perspectives; experts from local bus operators in the region (ART, CUE, DASH, DC Circulator, Fairfax Connector, Metrobus, Ride On, and TheBus); and a team from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

The public is encouraged to provide feedback on the draft recommendations through May 31 via an electronic survey on the project website, at 13 regional pop-up events, and at 3 public open house events in Maryland, DC, and Virginia. More information about these feedback opportunities can be found on the project website, bustransformationproject.com.

The final recommendations, which will form the Bus Transformation Strategy, will be released in summer 2019. A roadmap for implementation of the Bus Transformation Strategy will be released in late 2019.

For more information, see: <u>bustransformationproject.com</u>. ###