

Naval Support Activity Bethesda Commuter News

Important Events

April

April 6 2011

-Zipe Code Get Together

Ridesharing Matching

Building 1 Room 1643

1300

April 11 2011

-NNMC Command Orientation

April 13 2011

-Transit Benefit Workshop

Building 1 Room 1643

1300

Gate Construction News

Both North and South Gate will soon be under construction and we wanted to provide a quick update on how this will affect your commute.

North Gate began construction first and will receive a dramatic facelift. The construction is operating in phases and will result in a total of four lanes. One dedicated inbound and outbound lane with two center reversible lanes. Three lanes will be inbound in the AM rush and three lanes will be outbound in the PM rush. A traffic signal has received staff level approval from SHA and should be operational by September 2011.

A Pass & ID facility will be built at this site as well along with a small associated parking area.

South Gate is scheduled to go under construction in early April. This project will take less time but will be impactful to traffic in the AM & PM rush. Pedestrian entrances will remain open, however during the project this gate will go down to one lane and North Gate will transition to the 24/7 gate. Appropriate signage will be in place to ensure a smooth transition through the gates.

The traffic pattern will be inbound only during the morning rush hours between 0500-0900. This gate will switch to a no outbound only pattern from 0901-1900 only.

North Gate Rendering



South Gate Rendering



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Every Choice Counts - MTA Commuter Bus

This is part of the 'Every Choice Counts' series that details mass transit experiences in the national capital area.

As a continuation of last month's story, one option open to me is the MTA Commuter Bus that starts in Washington and Frederick Counties and proceeds to Shady Grove Metro ending at the Democracy Plaza office park.

I arrive at the park and ride lot in Frederick at 0553 and immediately find a parking spot. The coach bus pulls into the lot at 0559.

I can see from the line in front of me that the bus is almost full from its first stop near the Frederick MARC station. However, I am able to find a seat after paying my fare. After settling down, I turn on a reading light and pass

the time by reading a book. From my window I see traffic backed up as usual at the intersection of Route 80 and I-270.

The climate on the bus was perfect, seating very comfortable, bathroom facilities provided, and there is very little noise as most of the passengers are catching up on sleep or reading.

We pull into the Shady Grove Metro Station at 0630, approximately 25 minutes after we left the Frederick park and ride lot. The next leg of my trip involves the use of the Metrorail which I will account in the next part of this series.

Have you recently tried an alternative commuting method? Email me and I will include your experience in upcoming issues.



Pedestrian & Vehicle Safety Tips

Be mindful of flaggers at construction zones. . .

Roadways

- Spring forward has resulted in pre-dawn mornings for some motorists & pedestrians.
- **Pedestrians:** Please make yourself more visible by perhaps wearing or carrying reflective items. When crossing a street, be sure to cross in marked crosswalks
- **Motorists:** Please use extra caution around crosswalks & heavily traveled pedestrian areas. Decrease speed & increase following distance.

Garages

- **Pedestrians:** When walking in a parking garage try to stay to the exterior of the floor. Interiors of floors present challenges for motorists line of sight.
- **Motorists:** Speed limit within all garages is 5 MPH. Failure to adhere to safe speed limits could result in vehicle collisions and / or pedestrian impacts.

Flagger Operations

- Flagger operations are in place at various locations across campus to aid in the safety of both motorists & pedestrians. Please adhere to flagger guidance.
- Failure to comply with flagger direction, by either motorist or pedestrian, may result in serious injury. Security is actively monitoring compliance of flagging operations.
- We appreciate your patience during this period of construction. We understand that pedestrian & motorists delays do occur across campus. Please do not allow a moment of impatience to put your life, or someone else's life, in jeopardy.

Bicycle & Pedestrian Improvements

A new project will start at the end of March to improve the sidewalks that surround NSA Bethesda along Jones Bridge Road.

Starting in late March or early April, Montgomery County will begin construction. The current plan involves widening the sidewalks along Jones Bridge Road from 8-10 feet. This will allow for safe pedestrian and bicycle travel along this busy roadway.

The construction will include right lane closures along Jones Bridge Road during the day between the hours of 0900-1500.

An artist rendering is shown at right to identify what the final product will look like.



Commuter Solutions

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