

FACT SHEET: Identifying Transit Improvements for Columbia Pike, Crystal City-Pentagon City

Spring 2015

Summary

In November 2014, the Arlington County Board voted to discontinue the Streetcar Program for Columbia Pike and Crystal City-Pentagon City, and instructed the County Manager to identify new ways to enhance transit options and capacity for these vital corridors. Work to identify transit improvements is starting in 2015 as part of the County's Transit Development Plan update.

Identifying Transit Improvements

The Transit Development Plan (TDP) is required by the State and is thoroughly updated every six years. This year's update will include a review of the Columbia Pike and Crystal City-Pentagon City corridors and recommendations for new services and supporting infrastructure, based on anticipated funding.

Identifying transit improvements for Columbia Pike and Crystal City-Pentagon City as part of the TDP enables them to be coordinated with improvements in other parts of the County. It also ensures any proposed service or infrastructure is eligible for State funding, one of the County's main funding sources for transit.

Near-term bus service

Enhancements to ART bus service are proposed in the County's FY 2016 budget. If approved, these would improve service along Columbia Pike, Crystal City-Pentagon City and to destinations in the Rosslyn/Ballston corridor, starting in summer 2015.

What Types of Improvements Will Be Considered?

Transit improvements for these corridors could include extending the new dedicated Transitway lanes in Crystal City and Potomac Yard to Pentagon City and looking at ways to enhance Columbia Pike bus service by extending hours, improving frequency, adding features to improve travel time and/or offering limited-stop service.

The TDP will outline additional efforts needed to refine and implement any new transit strategies. For example, proposals that require expanding the County's ART bus fleet, or purchasing larger buses, will also require developing new facilities for parking and servicing these vehicles.



Transitway station under construction in Potomac Yard



New 40-foot Arlington Transit bus

How You Can Be Involved

Development of the TDP will start with an analysis of transit service in Arlington, including demographic, travel and ridership trends. County staff will seek community input using a survey, and will review prior surveys where residents and riders offered their views on transit service.

Once recommendations for new services and transit infrastructure are developed, expected in fall 2015, County staff will engage the community for their review and feedback. A link to the survey and announcements of public meetings and briefings will be available on the TDP webpage - *visit arlingtonva.us and search "transit development plan"*

	TDP Activity	Opportunities for Public Involvement
Spring 2015	Compiling data	Take our TDP survey to provide feedback on current and future transit service
Fall 2015	Developing transit service and infrastructure recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in public meetings on service/infrastructure recommendations • Attend County staff presentations at community groups and commissions
Spring 2016	County Board review and approval of service and infrastructure recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide public comment at Board meeting • Attend County staff presentations at community groups and commissions

After the TDP – Next Steps

Detailed planning and engineering work

Once the Transit Development Plan is adopted by the County Board in spring 2016, additional work will be needed to move improvements from proposal to reality. This could include undertaking design work or developing new bus routes and schedules. County staff also will start the process of securing funding for improvements and then procuring any needed bus vehicles and/or engineering services.

For more information

Visit arlingtonva.us and search "moving forward after streetcar"

Updates of County land use plans

Several County land use plans referenced the streetcar and may need updating to reflect new transit proposals. Once the TDP is complete, the County will start examining its sector and area plans for Columbia Pike and Crystal City to identify the impact of transit improvements on the neighborhoods' development potential. This work is expected to begin in spring/summer 2016 and will involve community participation and input.