

Worksession

Agenda Item #	7
Meeting Date	March 16, 2009
Prepared By	Suzanne Ludlow, Deputy City Manager
Approved By	Barbara B. Matthews, City Manager

Discussion Item	Discussion of Proposed Ride On Bus Route Changes
Background	<p>On May 5, 2008, the Transportation Committee of the Tower Senior Association of Victory Tower asked the Takoma Park City Council to support its efforts to obtain public bus service to connect their building at 7051 Carroll Avenue to the Takoma Park Community Center. The City Council subsequently adopted Resolution #2008-46, a copy of which is attached. Staff also worked with Ride On bus staff and Victory Tower representatives to encourage the bus service.</p> <p>As part of the County budget reductions, Ride On is required to make cuts in service. A proposal to make bus service changes across Montgomery County was put forward; a public forum on those proposed changes is scheduled for March 24. Ride On worked to meet the request of the Victory Tower residents as part of its changes to service in the Takoma Park area.</p> <p>In the Takoma Park area, the following changes are proposed:</p> <p>End the Route 3 service on Piney Branch Road and Dale Drive. Route 3 currently has limited rush hour service only.</p> <p>Reduce the frequency of buses in the evening hours for Route 15. The last bus is scheduled to depart at approximately the same time as it does now.</p> <p>Reduce the frequency of buses in the evening hours for Route 17. Regular evening service will end earlier than currently, but special departures will be scheduled to operate at irregular intervals at later times.</p> <p>Change the Route 18 bus route. Currently it runs from the Takoma Metro down Carroll Avenue to University and the Takoma/Langley area and back. The new route would divert from Carroll Avenue, down Philadelphia, down Maple Avenue, through Washington Adventist Hospital and then return to the Carroll Avenue route. (See attachment for details.) Route 18 service along part of Maple Avenue will provide service during the day to help replace the reduction in Route 25 bus service.</p> <p>Change the Route 25 bus from all day service to rush hour service only. Have the route extended to the Takoma/Langley area. (See attachment for details.)</p>
Policy	From the draft Strategic Plan: “Create and maintain a livable community that is vibrant, healthy, and safe, with convenient transportation for all of its residents.”
Fiscal Impact	n/a

Attachments	Resolution #2008-46; Current Takoma Park bus map; Ride On Notice of Public Forum; Information on proposed changes to Routes 18 and 25
Recommendation	Hear information; provide direction on testimony for March 24 public forum.
Special Consideration	

Introduced By: Councilmember Seamens

RESOLUTION #2008-46

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING MONTGOMERY COUNTY RIDE ON
TO EVALUATE THE NO. 25 BUS ROUTE**

- WHEREAS, on May 5, 2008, the Transportation Committee of the Tower Senior Association of Victory Tower asked the Takoma Park City Council to support its efforts to obtain public bus service that directly connects their building at 7051 Carroll Avenue to the Takoma Park Community Center at 7500 Maple Avenue; AND
- WHEREAS, to use public transportation today between the two facilities requires a transfer to another bus, can require an hour or more to go the short distance between the buildings, and is a hardship for the seniors and residents with disabilities who live in Victory Tower; AND
- WHEREAS, if the Ride On Route 25 bus route were changed to proceed from the Takoma Metro station to Carroll Avenue, Philadelphia Avenue, and then to the current route along Maple Avenue, the senior citizens and disabled residents at Victory Tower would have much more convenient access to the Takoma Park Public Library, senior programs and recreation activities at the Takoma Park Community Center, the public swimming pool at Piney Branch Elementary School, and the entrance to the Washington Adventist Hospital; AND
- WHEREAS, having a bus route that could avoid the section of Maple Avenue between Carroll Street and Philadelphia Avenue would also avoid the seven speed humps, one raised intersection and one raised crosswalk that are installed in this section, which is seen as advantageous by those with physical disabilities that are aggravated by riding on unsmooth surfaces; AND
- WHEREAS, after making the proposal to alter Ride On Route 25, other suggestions for changes to Route 25 and adjacent bus routes have been made, such as:
- extending Route 25 to the Long Branch commercial district near Flower Avenue and Piney Branch Road;
 - modifying either the Route 12 or 13 bus to accommodate the request by Victory Tower, such that one of the two routes could be directed onto Philadelphia and Maple Avenues and through the Washington Adventist Hospital property before rejoining its original route on Carroll and Flower Avenues;

- examining other routes that could meet the needs identified by residents of Victory Tower and Maple Avenue;
- maintaining the current Route 25 route during rush hours to expedite travel to and from the Takoma Metro while avoiding congestion at the Carroll Avenue/ Philadelphia Avenue intersection, but using the route proposed by Victory Tower during non-rush hours; and
- altering the Route 25 route as suggested by the residents of Victory Tower, but avoiding the Carroll Avenue/Philadelphia Avenue intersection by continuing to Maple Avenue via Tulip Avenue or by looping through the Victory Tower property, returning to Maple and Carroll Streets and then proceeding down Maple Avenue; AND

WHEREAS, many residents have submitted helpful comments and suggestions regarding bus service in Takoma Park during the consideration of this request to change Route 25; AND

WHEREAS, the Takoma Park City Council supports the efforts of Victory Tower to pursue convenient and sufficient public transportation to allow them to obtain services and enjoy the facilities and opportunities available in Takoma Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Takoma Park urges officials of Montgomery County Ride On to consider modifying bus service in Takoma Park to allow the residents of Victory Tower to more conveniently and comfortably ride to the Takoma Park Community Center by Ride On bus, AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Takoma Park urges Ride On, in meeting the needs of Victory Tower residents, to also meet other needs of Takoma Park residents to connect easily to nearby commercial areas, to the Washington Adventist Hospital and to Metro stations and other bus routes.

ADOPTED this 27th day of May, 2008.



Silver Spring Station

Hillandale

Langley Park

Takoma/Langley Crossroads

Takoma Junction

Old Takoma

Ethan Allen Gateway

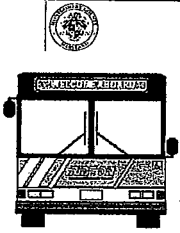
Washington D.C.

To: Fort Totten

To: White Oak

To: Prince George's Plaza College Park (F6)
Riverdale Road (F4)
New Carrollton Station

Council



RECEIVED

Montgomery County / Ride On

FEB 24 2009

Notice of Public Forum
On Proposed

Service Changes & Reductions

Office of the City Manager

Montgomery County hereby notifies the general public and other interested parties that a public forum will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2009 starting at 6:30 p.m. and ending after the last speaker at the Executive Office Building Cafeteria, located on the Terrace Level at 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, Maryland.

Montgomery County is forced to make difficult decisions to close a \$450 million projected budget shortfall in fiscal year 2010. The County Executive has directed every Department in the County to propose savings in order to balance the budget. Ride On service cuts are a possibility. These services that are being proposed for change and/or elimination are because of their relatively weak performance. They are generally low ridership routes or route segments with minimal riders per hour. The following are being proposed for elimination and/or reduction in service.

Discontinuations

<u>Weekdays</u>	<u>Saturdays</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Route 3	Route 29	Route 83
Route 7	Route 98	Route L8
Route 31	Route L8	Route T2
Route 53	Route T2	
Route 93	Route Z2	

Discontinuations- Route Segments

<u>Weekdays</u>
Route 32 – Woodrock Extension only
Route 43 – Fallsgrove only

Frequency Reductions **evening service will be scheduled to run less frequently than currently, but the last trip will be scheduled to depart at approximately the current time.

<u>Weekdays</u>	<u>Saturdays</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Route 15 (evening only)	Route 15 (evening only)	Route 15 (evening only)
Route 43 (peak periods only)		

Evening Service Reductions ** regular evening service will end earlier than currently, but special departures will be scheduled to operate at irregular intervals at later times.

<u>Weekdays</u>	<u>Saturdays</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Route 17	Route 17	Route 34
Route 34	Route 34	Route 57
Route 49		
Route 57		
Route 61		
Route 83		

Route Restructuring

- Routes 6 & 37 - Grosvenor/Wheaton Realignment
- Routes 18 & 25 - Takoma Park Realignment

Individuals and representatives of organizations who would like to speak at the public forum are requested to furnish in writing, on or before March 17, 2009, their name, home address, telephone number, e-mail address and organization to Carolyn G. Biggins, Chief, Division of Transit Services, 101 Monroe Street, 5th Floor, Rockville, Maryland 20850. Individuals who have signed up to speak must bring two (2) printed copies of their testimony for the record. Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible but not less than 3 business days prior to the date of the forum. Large print format is available upon request. All comments will be considered before any changes are finalized.

Comments may be written, faxed or e-mailed on the proposed service changes and reductions to the Division of Transit Services by 5:00 p.m. on March 31, 2009. Send your comments to:

Carolyn G. Biggins, Chief
Division of Transit Services
101 Monroe Street, 5th Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850
(240) 777-5800 (phone)
(240) 777-5801 (fax)
mcdot.rideonbus@montgomerycountymd.gov



These changes as proposed are in conformance with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) guidance. --42 U.S.C. 2000d

- Proposed changes to Routes 18 and 25:

	Existing	Proposed
<p>Route 18 to be changed to connect 7000-7100 blocks of Carroll Ave to Takoma Park Community Center on Maple Ave. The 7200-7500 blocks of Carroll would no longer have Route 18 bus service. Routes 17 and 18 will serve the 7500-7700 blocks of Maple Avenue during rush hour and off-peak hours.</p>		
<p>Route 25 would go to Rush Hour Service ONLY and would no longer serve the hospital directly. It will go to the Takoma-Langley area and have two-way service on Houston Ave. Maple and Houston Avenues will NOT be served by Route 25 during off-peak hours.</p>		