



For Immediate Release:
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Robin McElhenny, (202) 962-1114

Citizens to Help Design Columbia Pike's Transit Future

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) will host a series of public workshops and open houses to help design transit alternatives for the Columbia Pike corridor.

Public Workshop Schedule

When:	Tuesday, May 18, 2004	Wednesday, May 19, 2004
When:	7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Where:	Arlington Career Center 816 S. Walter Reed Drive Arlington, VA 22204	Mason District Government Center Community Room 6507 Columbia Pike Annandale, VA 22003

Open House Schedule

When:	Friday, May 21, 2004	Friday, May 21, 2004
When:	11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Where:	Goodwin House (Baileys Crossroads) 3440 S. Jefferson Street Falls Church, VA 22041	Sheraton National Hotel Galaxy Room 900 S. Orme Street Arlington, VA 22204

The Pike Transit Initiative will analyze alternatives for a new high-capacity and environmentally friendly transit service along Columbia Pike from the Pentagon/Pentagon City area to Baileys Crossroads. The study team is working with local jurisdictions, neighborhoods and community groups to determine whether bus rapid transit, streetcar or light rail is best suited for the corridor.

At the public workshops, citizens will be given a brief overview of the Pike Transit Initiative and have an opportunity to provide comments and suggestions. The two workshops will be identical in format. The public is encouraged to attend the workshop at the location most convenient for them.

The two open houses will be held to present initial findings gathered from the workshops and obtain additional public comments. The two open houses will be identical in format.

If you require auxiliary aid and services as addressed in the Americans with Disabilities Act, call our project information line at 703-892-2776 at least one week in advance of the meetings.

Background:

WMATA, the lead agency conducting the Pike Transit Initiative, is working closely with Arlington and Fairfax Counties, the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation to engage the community in the development and evaluation of transit alternatives for Columbia Pike. The study will be carried out in conjunction with recommendations outlined in previous Arlington County studies and in Fairfax County's Comprehensive Plan. The Pike Transit Initiative will recommend transit investments to accomplish the following goals:

- Increase mobility within the corridor;
- Contribute to and serve as a catalyst for economic development;
- Provide a safe environment for all modes of travel;
- Improve regional transportation connections; and
- Complement community goals to create a pedestrian-friendly environment in the corridor.

In 2002, the Arlington County Board approved the *Columbia Pike Initiative – A Revitalization Plan*, which established a vision for transportation and development along the Columbia Pike corridor and outlined the necessary steps to realize the vision. One of the goals was to evaluate and plan for long term higher-capacity transit options along Columbia Pike.

In addition, recognizing the growing need for alternatives to the automobile, Fairfax County's Comprehensive Plan supports measures to increase the use of public transit. Transit connections linking neighborhoods, employment centers, and the regional Metrorail system are cited as specific policy goals. The Pike Transit Initiative will help to plan for this higher capacity system along the section of Columbia Pike within Fairfax County.

For More Information:

For more information or directions to the meetings, call the project information line at 703-892-2776 or visit the project website at www.piketransit.com.

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