

ART Forum

Get into ART

ART and Winter Weather Preparedness

Thank you for your patience during Arlington's record 24-hour snowfall on December 19. As you are aware, the snow emergency on Monday, December 21 prompted the federal government to close. ART ran a Saturday service schedule (Routes 41, 42, 51 & 87 only). ART 41 and 51 operated under severe conditions—neighborhood streets could not be served.

More snow will certainly fall this winter, so please be aware of how you can find out if your ART bus is in service and under what level of operation. ART has three levels of service operation during severe weather:

- ❖ **Limited:** Modified routes / Some delays in service
- ❖ **Severe:** Greatly modified routes / Limited service / Expect delays (some routes could be cancelled)
- ❖ **No Service:** Route cancelled

Please note: Routes may be operating on different levels of service depending on road and traffic conditions. Read about ART's weather policy at <http://www.commuterpage.com/art/weatherpolicy.htm>.

You can also sign up for ART Alerts to receive real-time information about service disruptions via email, cell phone text messaging, and RSS feed. Sign up at http://www.commuterpage.com/art/alert_signup.cfm.

The cooperation of neighbors helping neighbors during the recent storm helped all of us return to normal sooner. Arlington County reminds businesses, homeowners, tenants, and building managers to clear a passable sidewalk. Please adopt a bus stop near your home to clear of snow. Safely shovel a path from the bus stop to the street edge for fellow riders, especially those with disabilities. ■



Help ART Plan for the Future— Public Meeting January 28, 2010

Asix-year Transit Development Plan (TDP) is being prepared to guide the growth of Arlington County transit and paratransit services. Please join us for an initial briefing and work-session on Thursday, January 28, 2010, 7:00–9:00 pm. This meeting will be at the Navy League Building, 2300 Wilson Blvd in the main floor conference room. You can use ART 41, 61, 77; Metrobus 38B, 4B; or Metrorail orange line Courthouse station.

The TDP will include ART and STAR services as well as Metrorail, Metrobus and MetroAccess. The TDP will build upon the policies, goals and objectives adopted by the County Board in the Master Transportation Plan and in the Transit Element.

You can see the Master Transportation Plan and the Transit Element at http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/planning/mplan/mtp/MTP_Draft.aspx.

The TDP is being prepared by a consultant team under the oversight of Arlington Transit (ART) and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT). ■

Change Your Life in 30 Days—Take the Car-Free Diet Skeptics Challenge

Hey ART riders—do you know someone who loves their car, but also loves saving money, improving their health and helping the environment? If yes, Arlington County is looking for them.

The Car-Free Diet Skeptics Challenge is designed for Arlington County residents that currently drive their cars frequently, but are willing to attempt car-free living for 30 days. They do not have to go 100% car-free for the entire 30 days, but do have to try. If chosen as one of the final

Skeptics, they will describe their transportation experiences online during the 30-day challenge. They'll

be given several items to use during the challenge that will make going car free easier. And if they successfully complete the challenge, they'll receive more car-free related items.



HOW TO APPLY

Fill out the online application and create a 30 second to 2 minute video that shows why you would make the perfect Car-Free Diet Skeptic. Applications are being accepted through February 28, 2010.

HOW ARE THE SKEPTICS CHOSEN?

From March 1–31, 2010, all eligible entries will appear on carfreediet.com. During this time you can vote online for your favorite Skeptic candidate. At the end of the voting period, two Skeptics will be chosen to go on the Car-Free Diet for 30 days beginning April 22.

SKEPTICS CHALLENGE

The chosen Skeptics will document their challenge online via videos, blogs, Tweets, and Facebook entries. If the Skeptic successfully completes the challenge, they'll get everything needed to travel car free around Arlington and the Washington, DC region for a year.

Visit www.carfreediet.com for complete details and more information on how you can become a Car-Free Diet Skeptic. ■



ART Gets Two Stimulus Grants to Buy Buses

Arlington Transit has received two separate grants through federal stimulus programs to purchase a total of six replacement buses. Three heavy duty, low floor, CNG powered buses, similar to those being used on many ART routes, will be purchased with federal formula funds that come to the County through the Virginia Department of Transportation.

The second grant was a competitive award under the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Transit Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction (TIGGER) program. ART received a \$1.5 Million TIGGER grant that will be used to purchase three (3) CNG-Electric Hybrid buses, which will replace three of the remaining light duty, diesel powered vehicles in the fleet. The use of CNG-Electric Hybrid buses in a local transit service represents a new experience for FTA and ART, and will provide an opportunity to compare fuel consumption and emissions from these vehicles, the former diesel vehicles and the current CNG buses.

In January 2007, ART initiated a plan to convert its fleet of 35 light-duty, body on chasis vehicles to heavy-duty, low floor buses that used cleaner, alternative fuels. With the assistance of these stimulus grants, the ART fleet conversion will be completed in fiscal year 2011. ■

When Will the Next ART Bus Arrive

Arlington Transit is excited to announce the testing of a new web-based service that provides real-time ART bus arrival information. This new service lets you view an online map showing all the ART routes and stops.



This map is linked to the real-time arrivals for each route. You'll be able to scroll over a stop to see when the next bus is scheduled to arrive at your stop. You can conveniently check when the next bus will arrive from your home or office and even from your smart phone.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

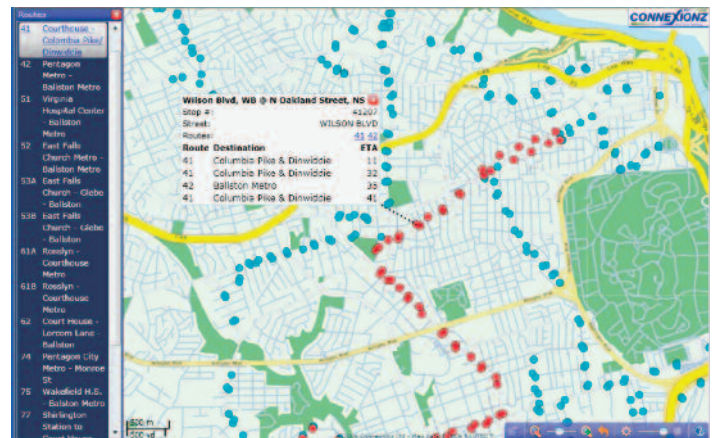
We need your help to test how this new service works. The map can be viewed at <http://realtime.commuterpage.com/RTT/Public/PlatformETMap.aspx>. The first time you access this page you will be asked to download and install Microsoft Silverlight. This program is needed to make the page display properly. After Silverlight has installed you are ready to use the map.

On the left side of the screen is an index with all of the ART routes. By clicking on the route number the current schedule will pop up in a new window. If you double click on the route name the map will center on that route and the stops will be shown in red. All other ART stops will remain blue. The infor-

mation about a stop (street location, 5 digit stop number and routes served) can be seen by holding the cursor above it. If you click on a stop it will give the real-time arrival for the next ART bus. The site will remember your stop and open to the same stop the next time you visit.

An application for smart phones is also being developed. This can be found at <http://www.commuterpage.com/mobile/realtime.cfm>. To use this application you can either select a route and the time points will be displayed or find your 5 digit stop number from the online map and enter it directly at the bottom of the page. Our testing shows that this application will work on most phones except for the older Blackberry.

Please provide feedback, report problems, and successes to Tom Scherer at tscherer@arlingtonva.us. ■



ART BUS ROUTE CHANGES

ART 74 Riders and Nauck / 24th & Glebe Riders — Let's Talk!

ART will hold a community meeting on Wednesday, February 3, 2010 from 7:00–9:00 pm to discuss proposed changes to ART 74 and to introduce a new route, ART 84, to serve Douglas Park and Nauck. ART 74 will continue to serve Columbia Heights, Arlington Village and Arlington View. ART 87 will continue to serve Shirlington, Nauck, Avalon Bay and Arlington Ridge. The meeting will be held at the Arlington Career Center, 816 South Walter Reed Drive in the main level auditorium. You can take ART 77 and Metrobus 10B, 16ABDEFGHJKPWY to the Arlington Career Center. ■

ART 61 Saturday Service to End

ART 61 Saturday service will be discontinued due to low ridership. The last day of Saturday service will be March 27, 2010. Ridership has declined further over the last year despite the extension of the Saturday route to serve retail establishments in Clarendon. ART 61 weekday service will not be affected by this change. ART 61 Saturday riders can use Metrobus 38B, which operates every 30 minutes on Saturdays, to travel to Ballston, Clarendon, Court House, Rosslyn, Georgetown, Farragut North and Farragut West. ■

38,000 Car Trips Eliminated Each Day

Arlington County's efforts to encourage residents, workers and visitors to consider means of travel other than one-driver-one-car are yielding big benefits according to a recent study. "Making an Impact:



ACCS Annual Report FY 2008" shows that Arlington County Commuter Services' (ACCS) efforts to help people find easier, cheaper, more efficient ways to travel cut 38,000 car trips from roads in Arlington in an average day. That equates roughly to the number of vehicles on all eight inbound lanes of I-395 and I-66 during the morning rush period. The reduction in car trips pays many dividends. It eases traffic congestion,

and means that each day in Arlington:

- Vehicle miles of travel are cut by more than 500,000
- Gasoline consumption is cut by 23,000 gallons
- Greenhouse gases emitted are cut by 255 tons or 64,000 tons per year
- We make progress toward achieving the County's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions

ABOUT ACCS

ACCS is a bureau within the Department of Environmental Services Transportation Division. The Bureau encourages use of transit, carpooling, biking, walking,

telework and other alternatives to driving, especially during rush hour. The report on the effectiveness of ACCS's efforts show that we all benefit from these services, whether or not we use them directly.

ABOUT THE RESEARCH

LDA Consulting of Washington and Southeastern Institute of Research of Richmond conducted extensive surveys over several years, culminating in the impact assessment. LDA Consulting carried out the research on behalf of ACCS using data from a variety of studies of ACCS customers, as well as results from regional studies conducted by other organizations, such as the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. Survey methodologies included telephone surveys, web-based surveys and intercept surveys depending on the study.

According to the data, ACCS helps thousands of residents, workers and visitors shift their trips from driving alone to other modes, or avoiding trips altogether through telework. The surveys reveal many benefits to individuals and the community including improved mobility, higher ranking of quality of life and high rankings of Arlington as a business location. The full report and many other studies of interest can be found on the ACCS' Transportation Demand Management Resource Center website at www.commuterpage.com/research. ■



Let's Get Counted in the 2010 Census

The 2010 US Census will officially kick off on April 1, 2010. It is important that all of us get counted for the 2010 Census since it affects us in so many different ways including Congressional Representatives, allocation of over \$400 billion across the U.S., and understanding community needs.

The Census is conducted every 10 years and counts all residents in the United States. This count includes people of all

ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens and non-citizens. Census questionnaires will take less than 10 minutes to complete and will be mailed or delivered to every U.S. household in March 2010. The questions should be answered based on household composition as of April 1, 2010. All responses are confidential and protected by law. Visit www.2010.census.gov for more information. ■