

ART Forum

Get on to ART

ART 41 Weekday Schedule Changing Monday, April 4

Look for improved ART 41 weekday service beginning Monday, April 4. The revised schedule will help ensure that buses run on-time and an additional bus will be added to the route to maintain 15 minute bus service during rush hours. As requested by many riders, the new weekday service will start earlier in the morning and run later at night. New ART 41 weekend schedules are in the works and will be implemented soon.

ART 41, a Pike Ride route, is the perfect commuting option for people who need to travel between the Columbia Pike west area, Ballston Common Mall and the Clarendon and Court House areas. ART 41 stops on Greenbrier St., 7th Street South, Columbia Pike, Glebe Road, Ballston Common Mall, and Wilson and Clarendon Boulevards by Clarendon Metro station and Court House Metro station. Look for the green and gold signs at more than 60 stops. Visit arlingtontransit.com for the new weekday schedules and additional information. ■

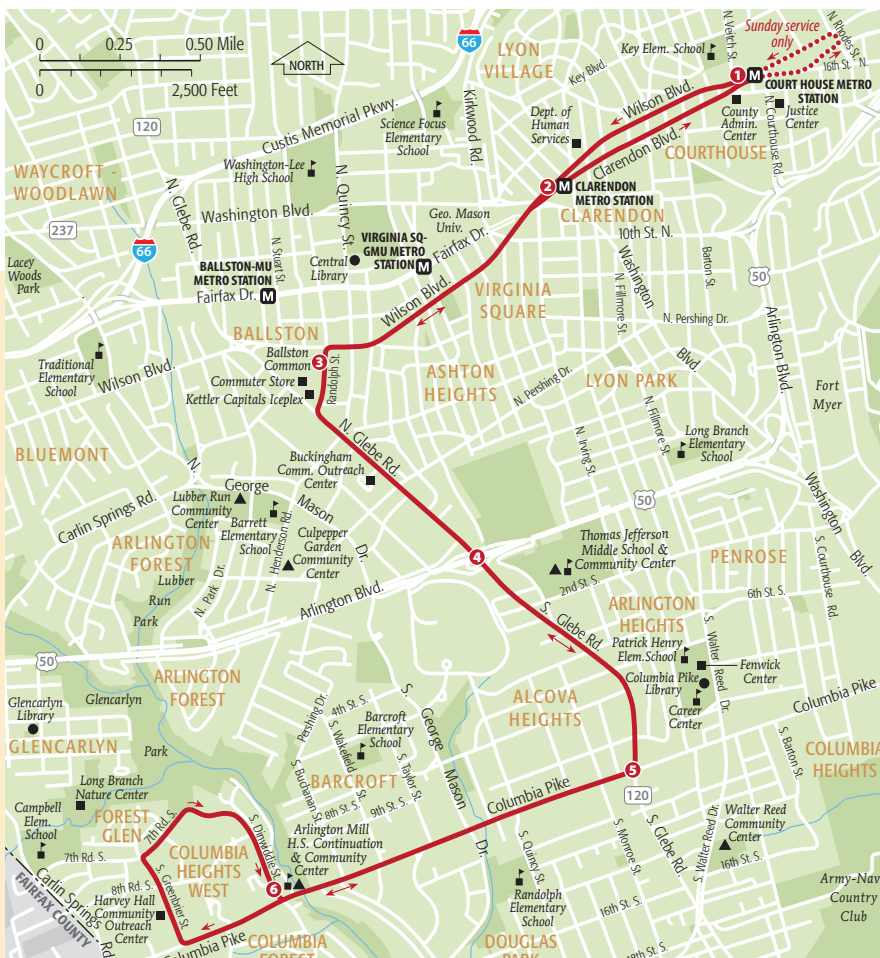
Where to Purchase the NEW 7-Day Regional Bus Pass

On January 29, the paper Weekly Bus Pass was replaced with the new electronic 7-Day Regional Bus Pass that must be loaded onto a SmarTrip Card. Like the old pass, the electronic 7-Day Regional Bus Pass is \$15 for the regular pass and \$7.50 for the Senior and Disabled passes. The pass is good for seven consecutive days and can be used on ART, Metrobus and other regional bus systems.

To purchase a 7-Day Regional Bus Pass, visit a Metro Sales Office, regional transit store, or select retail locations. (See page 4 for Arlington locations.) Passes cannot be bought on the bus. Once you've paid for the pass, the store will automatically upload the pass on to your SmarTrip Card and it will be ready to use.

If your employer pays for your transit fare through a benefit program, such as Smart Benefits, they will pay for your pass and you will be able to upload it onto your SmarTrip Card on the bus. Once the pass has

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Rosslyn Station Project Update

To date, the County's general construction contractor, Clark Construction, has excavated to a depth of over 20' at the location of the new Rosslyn Metrorail Station entrance, where the three new high-speed and high-capacity elevators will be installed. Excavation will soon hit bedrock and will require controlled blasting in order to reach the final depth of over 100' vertically, along with approximately 100' of excavation horizontally, to join the Station's underground platform.

Throughout the planning process for controlled blasting, safety has been the number one priority for both workers at the site and the surrounding community. Because this project is sponsored by Arlington County, additional measures are in place to mitigate the impacts of blasting on the surrounding community. Controlled blasting is often a standard practice for excavation and, due to the small footprint of the work site, the contractor anticipates minimal noise and vibration.

Please subscribe to the County's "Rosslyn Construction Updates" listserve for this project at arlingtonva.us/subscriptions/subscribe.asp. For additional information, you can also visit the County's website at arlingtonva.us and search, "Rosslyn Station Project". ■

Vote for Your Favorite SKEPTIC!

Vote for which skeptics you want to see compete in the Car Free Diet Skeptics Challenge. Skeptics will attempt to go 30 days without a car and will blog and take videos of their experiences. Vote online at carfreedietskeptics.com for who you want to see attempt this challenge!



Arlington Transit Plans and Budgets

Curious about upcoming plans for ART? The Arlington County Transit Development Plan: Fiscal Years 2011-2016 (TDP) describes the changes and improvements that Arlington County hopes to make in transit over the next six years. The plan, developed by the Arlington County Department of Environmental Services—Transit Bureau with the assistance of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), was adopted by the County Board on December 14, 2010, and will be updated annually. Visit arlingtontransit.com under News and Events for more information about the TDP.

The TDP will guide the growth of transit and paratransit services provided by the County through ART and STAR and by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) through Metrorail, Metrobus and MetroAccess. This plan lays the framework for the expansion of transit services in Arlington County. While other jurisdictions have recently cut back service, we've been able to maintain, expand, and increase ART ridership.

In the upcoming years, ART plans to focus on improving the existing bus routes rather than adding a lot of new routes. We will focus on:

- Better connecting bus routes to major transit hubs, such as Metro stations and Metrobus routes;
- Improving on-time performance;
- Increasing the frequency of buses;
- Adding more mid-day, evening and weekend services.

On February 15, 2011, County Manager Barbara Donnellan proposed the Fiscal Year 2012 budget, including the Department of Environmental Services' Transit Program. The budget proposal can be viewed at arlingtonva.us, search for "FY 2012 budget."

Proposed significant budget changes for ART in Fiscal Year 2012 include:

- The full year cost of improvements to the ART 41, 42, 74, 75 and 87 routes that took place in Fiscal Year 2011;
- The cost of additional weekend service on the ART 41;
- Additional costs for maintenance and support of the ART RealTime information system;
- Additional fuel costs; and
- Additional maintenance costs at the ART contractor's facility.

The WMATA General Manager's budget proposal is described in a January, 2011 press release that can be found at wmata.com.

If you have any questions or concerns about the budget proposals, check the Arlington County website at arlingtonva.us or the WMATA website at wmata.com for dates and times of public hearings concerning the proposed budgets. ■

Create Your Own Custom Bus Schedule

ART Point-to-Point is a new web tool that allows you to create your own custom bus schedule on your computer or smartphone. Point-to-Point lets you enter in a starting and destination point and shows you all of the bus options available to go between those two points. You can also specify the time of day you'll be traveling and Point-to-Point will provide information about when the bus will arrive at your stop and what time you should arrive at your destination.

Point-to-Point provides information about ART and also Metrobus, Alexandria DASH, Fairfax City CUE and the Fairfax Connector. It's a great tool to use when you're unsure of how to get to where you need to go.

Visit arlingtontransit.com/point2point to try Point-to-Point on your smartphone or desktop computer. ■



William Alston Named Bus Driver of the Year!



Congratulations to ART Bus driver William Alston for being named Arlington Transit Operator of the Year for 2010 by Forsythe Transportation. Mr. Alston has been an ART bus driver for a year and a half and usually drives the ART 62 route that runs between Ballston and Court House. When asked what he likes most about driving the bus, he said interacting with his passengers. In his spare time he likes to mentor at risk kids.

In March 2010, Mr. Alston was selected as Operator of the Month and became eligible to win the Operator of the Year award. Eligibility requirements for the award include an accident-free driving record, no violations of company safety rules, an outstanding attendance and customer service record and a positive work attitude. Mr. Alston not only met this criteria, he easily exceeded it.

Mr. Alston is a well liked and respected ART bus driver and has received numerous compliments from customers. Matt Marinec, a regular ART 62 rider, had this to say about Mr. Alston: "William is a stand-up guy. Not just a great transit operator, but an all around great person. He cares about his customers very much, from always waiting until you're seated before accelerating to communicating pro-actively about any schedule changes or operation developments, you can always count on William. It is a real pleasure starting and ending each workday on the 62, and his exceptional service is greatly appreciated. I can't imagine a more worthy recipient of the Operator of the Year Award—well done!"

Congratulations to Mr. Alston on this well-deserved award. ■

Follow ART Online!

Keep up with all the latest news about ART by following our new Twitter feed and two Facebook pages. Find us on:



[Twitter.com/ART_Alert](https://twitter.com/ART_Alert) provides service alerts and important information about ART.



ART – Arlington Transit on Facebook is where you can receive news and information about ART, web tools for riding the bus and other fun facts.

ART Alerts on Facebook is where you can receive service alerts and important information about ART.

New 7-Day Regional Bus Pass —continued from page 1

been paid for, simply touch your SmarTrip Card to the target on the fare box at the front of the bus and the 7-Day Regional Bus Pass will automatically be loaded onto your card. You can also activate the bus pass at the fare machines inside the Metro stations. Simply follow the prompts on the machine to load the pass on to your SmarTrip card.



Arlington retail locations where the 7-Day Regional Bus Pass can be purchased and the bus routes to get to them

STORE	ADDRESS	ART ROUTES	METROBUS ROUTES
CVS Pharmacy	3133 Lee Highway	62	3
CVS Pharmacy	3141 Wilson Boulevard	41, 42	38B
CVS Pharmacy	2121 15th Street N.	41, 77	38B, 4B
CVS Pharmacy	2400 Jefferson Davis Highway		9
CVS Pharmacy	Pentagon / Main Concourse / D ring / Area 900 / 2nd Floor		
CVS Pharmacy	256 North Glebe Road	41	4B, 23, 10B
CVS Pharmacy	5017 Columbia Pike	41, 75	16G
CVS Pharmacy	1555 Wilson Boulevard	41, 77	38B, 4B
CVS Pharmacy	1100 Wilson Boulevard	61, 45	3, 38B, 4
Giant Food	3450 Washington Boulevard		38B
Giant Food	3115 Lee Highway	62	3
Giant Food	2901-11 S. Glebe Road	87	23, 10B
Pentagon Sales Office	Pentagon Transit Center, Upper Level Bus Bay	42, 87	Many
Commuter Store at Crystal City	1615-B Crystal Square Arcade		9, 16H, 23
Commuter Store at Ballston	4238 Wilson Boulevard, #1244	51, 52, 53, 61, 62	Many
Commuter Store at Rosslyn	1700 N. Moore Street, Mall #2	61, 45	3, 38B, 4
Shirlington Station Commuter Store	2975 S. Quincy Street	75, 77, 87	22A, 23, 10B, 7



New Arlington Bike and Walk Maps!

Enjoy the warm spring weather by biking and walking around Arlington! New updated editions of the Arlington Bike Map and the WalkArlington Walkabouts brochure have been released and are full of handy maps, useful tips and safety information.

The Arlington Bike Map features an updated network of bike trails, facilities and Capital Bikeshare stations in an easy to read format. There's also information provided about safety, cycling education and bicycle-friendly businesses.

The WalkArlington brochure contains Walkabout routes for Arlington neighborhoods and includes a map for each one with a designated route to take and various places to stop along the way.

To learn more and order copies, visit bikearlington.com or walkarlington.com. ■