

# Improving Transportation in Prince William County

## From Prince William County Department of Transportation

### Bus Rapid Transit Feasibility study

#### Study Purpose

This project is a high priority effort Prince William County is pursuing to alleviate the critical traffic congestion along its Route 1 corridor and to provide an environmentally-friendly and multi-modal transportation solution for its residents. The project would engage our Planning and Transportation staff towards solutions that deal with the land-use / transportation issue, with a regional connectivity focus.

This solution is an environmental, cost effective and innovative way to deal with traffic congestion in a high density/transit friendly corridor. The study would be another step towards Transportation Oriented Development (TOD) planning. The BRT system study will include input from staff, public/citizens, the Planning Commission, and the Board of County Supervisors.

#### Benefits

The benefits derived from the improvements would be a significant impact on traffic reduction, decreased rush-hour travel time, higher transit frequency availability, increased reliability in its shared or exclusive transitway, improved accessibility to mobility

impaired and other riders, increased safety and security, increased capacity to handle more riders in higher density neighborhoods. The integration of a BRT system element into mass transportation has demonstrated increased ridership on similar BRT projects implemented in cities such as Los Angeles and Miami, with other projects coming on-line soon.

The study would fit the appropriate choice of system buses with Rt.1 shared lanes. Existing bus stations can be enhanced to provide more passenger amenities such as ticket vending machines and real time traveler information. Improved fare collection could involve electronic fare cards, off-board fare collection, or proof of payment options. Furthermore, state of the art technology applications such as transit signal

priority, advanced communication systems, automated scheduling and dispatch systems are some of BRT element that could also be examined. The study project will further implement the region's multimodal transportation effort and the Prince William County's relationship with transit-supportive land development along the highest density corridor in the County.

#### Implementation

Depending on the results of the study and the proposed alternatives, a preferred route will be identified. The route will be along the Rt-1 corridor with stops along this route's established commuter lot stations. Types of services in terms of scheduling will also be studied depending on the preferred route selected and the ridership demand for express

routes and non-peak hour periods. Type of stations will also be determined once a preferred route is determined and the study will identify cost estimates and potential funding sources for the project's implementation.

**This study will be under contract this spring. Check back regularly for updates.**

