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Dear Fairfax County Employer:

I am writing to share information about the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (WMATA/Metro) SafeTrack plan and how Fairfax County is coordinating with Metro and our neighboring local governments in the National Capital Region to mitigate the reduced level of service provided by Metrorail while critical maintenance is completed.

As you may be aware, tens of thousands of employees travel by Metrorail to jobs in Fairfax County and neighboring jurisdictions every day. Starting on June 4<sup>th</sup>, commuting by Metrorail will become difficult for many employees during the 15 separate periods of SafeTrack maintenance which make up the year-long program of rail safety and rehabilitation work.

Fairfax County is encouraging employers in the National Capital Region to allow employees to work from home or use other alternatives to get to work during the upcoming Metrorail track work. To keep up to date, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/safetrack](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/safetrack) and sign-up for employer and commuter email/text alerts via Fairfax Alerts.

Even if your employees do not regularly use Metrorail to commute, they may still be impacted by the changes in traffic patterns. In Fairfax County, people travelling on the major corridors (I-66, I-495, Dulles Toll Road, I-95) could be significantly affected by Metro's track work due to the influx of additional traffic from rail riders who are driving to work.

Some alternatives that you and your employees might consider include:

- Telework
- Flexible Work Schedules
- Ridesharing and Carsharing
- Metro Bus
- Fairfax Connector Bus
- Biking
- Virginia Railway Express

Please see the attached document for additional information about these options or visit [www.commuterconnections.org/](http://www.commuterconnections.org/) for resources for employers and commuters. Additionally, there are many resources available to you and your employees in Fairfax County and throughout the region. Please contact Fairfax County Department of Transportation's Employer Outreach team at 703-877-5600, TTY 711, for assistance in implementing employee commuter programs, or find information online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot), or at [www.commuterconnections.org/employers/](http://www.commuterconnections.org/employers/).

Fairfax County appreciates your cooperation in offering commuting solutions to your employees, as it is critical to regional mobility while WMATA makes its necessary safety and reliability improvements over the next 12 months. With your help, we can keep the region moving in a "business as usual" way by providing alternatives for commuters.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Bulova". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'S'.

Sharon Bulova

## Commuting Options and Alternatives

Fairfax County is asking employers to encourage their employees to try alternatives which do not involve driving alone. **Commuter Connections** is the premier online resource for both **commuter** and **employer** information on all commuting options and services available in the region:

- **TELEWORK** is an important option for keeping our transportation network functioning. Working from home or from a telework center is easier than ever before, with so many options for connecting to the workplace remotely. Online meetings, conference calls, and communications can keep the work flowing seamlessly without having to travel to the office.
- **FLEXIBLE WORK SCHEDULES** can allow employees to commute outside of the normal peak-hours, which will help traffic flow more smoothly. Arriving earlier or later than the typical work hours, or working a compressed schedule with four 10-hour days instead of five 8-hour days also can improve rush hour traffic.
- **RIDESHARING AND CARSHARING** are also options that reduce the number of vehicles on the road. Many resources and incentives are available to make ridesharing easy and convenient. **Free ride-matching service is available through Commuter Connections** to help commuters find others in their neighborhoods who are interested in sharing a ride, whether it's a 3-person carpool or a 9-person vanpool.
  - Employers can help employees find colleagues for carpools or vanpools by hosting **"Zip Code Parties"** in the office, where employees from the same zip code can meet and exchange information.
  - Employers may be able to **offer reserved parking spaces at the office for carpools or vanpools**, as an incentive for employees who rideshare.
  - Employees with 3 or more people per vehicle can **use the I-95 and I-495 Express Lanes for FREE** with the E-ZPass Flex Transponder.
  - **Vanpools are eligible to receive SmartBenefits, just as bus and rail riders can receive SmartBenefits from their employers.** SmartBenefits are an electronic way of providing employees with bus, rail, parking or vanpool fares through WMATA's SmarTrip cards. It can be offered as a direct employee benefit, a pre-tax deduction, or a combination of both.
  - **Employees who rideshare can sign-up for the regional Guaranteed Ride Home program**, which provides a safety net for employees who carpool or take the bus to work, but need to leave work early for unexpected emergencies, like a sick child.

- **More than 40 Park-and-Ride facilities are available throughout Fairfax County** where employees can park and meet their carpools, vanpools, or bus. All Park-and-Ride facilities in Fairfax County offer free parking except those located at Metrorail stations, and the two privately operated facilities in McLean and Tysons.
- **FAIRFAX CONNECTOR provides bus service on 85 routes throughout Fairfax County, connecting neighborhoods and business centers. Many employees may have a Fairfax Connector or Metrobus bus stop on their street and could easily take advantage of this convenient transit service.**
  - **View the Fairfax Connector System Map online and check out schedules at www.fairfaxconnector.com for every bus route.** If you need help or have questions, call Fairfax Connector's telephone information center at **703-339-7200, TTY 703-339-1608, or visit one of the walk-in Connector Transit Stores** at Franconia-Springfield Metro Station, Tysons-West\*Park Transit Station, Wiehle-Reston East Metro Station, Reston Town Center Transit Station, or Herndon-Monroe Park-and-Ride.
  - **Employees who have a SmarTrip card for use on Metrorail can use their SmarTrip card for bus fare, as well.**
  - **All buses are equipped with bicycle racks, so employees can ride their bikes to a bus stop, easily load the bike in the rack, and hop on board.**
  - **Employees who don't live near a bus stop can drive to one of the 40 Park-and-Ride facilities in Fairfax County and catch a bus from there.**
  - Fairfax County **High School and Middle School students can ride Fairfax Connector for FREE**, with a Student Bus Pass issued by their school administration.
  - **Fairfax Connector staff is coordinating with WMATA to provide some additional bus service during the 15 separate periods of SafeTrack maintenance.** For the most up-to-date information, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/safetrack](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/safetrack) and sign-up for employer and commuter email/text alerts via [Fairfax Alerts](#).
- **BIKING is a great way to commute, especially with the network of bike paths and trails throughout Fairfax County.**
  - **View the Fairfax County Bicycle Map online to find the most bicycle-friendly routes throughout the county.**

- **Employers may provide bike racks or even a secure bike room** for employees to store their bikes while at the office.
  - Several **Park-and-Ride facilities offer secure bike lockers or bike rooms available** for minimal rental fees or memberships.
  - **All Fairfax Connector buses are equipped with bike racks**, to make it easy to bike-and-ride.
- **VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS (VRE)** is another rail option for employees in Fairfax County. **VRE operates two rail lines to Union Station from Manassas and Fredericksburg which parallel the Metrorail Orange line and Blue line.** Find information about tickets and schedules at [www.vre.org](http://www.vre.org).
    - **There are five VRE stations in Fairfax County:** Burke Centre, Rolling Road, and Backlick Road on the Manassas Line, and Lorton and Franconia-Springfield on the Fredericksburg Line.
    - **Each station is served by Fairfax Connector or Metrobus**, so passengers can connect to neighborhoods and business centers.

For any questions or additional resources, please contact Fairfax County Department of Transportation's **Employer Outreach team** at 703-877-5600, TTY 711, for assistance in implementing employee commuter programs, or find information online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot), or at [www.commuterconnections.org/employers/](http://www.commuterconnections.org/employers/).