

**Next Steps**

- Conduct Project Initiation Open House – May 23, 2012
- Develop Preliminary Alternatives – Summer/Fall 2012
- Conduct Alternatives Public Workshop – Winter 2012



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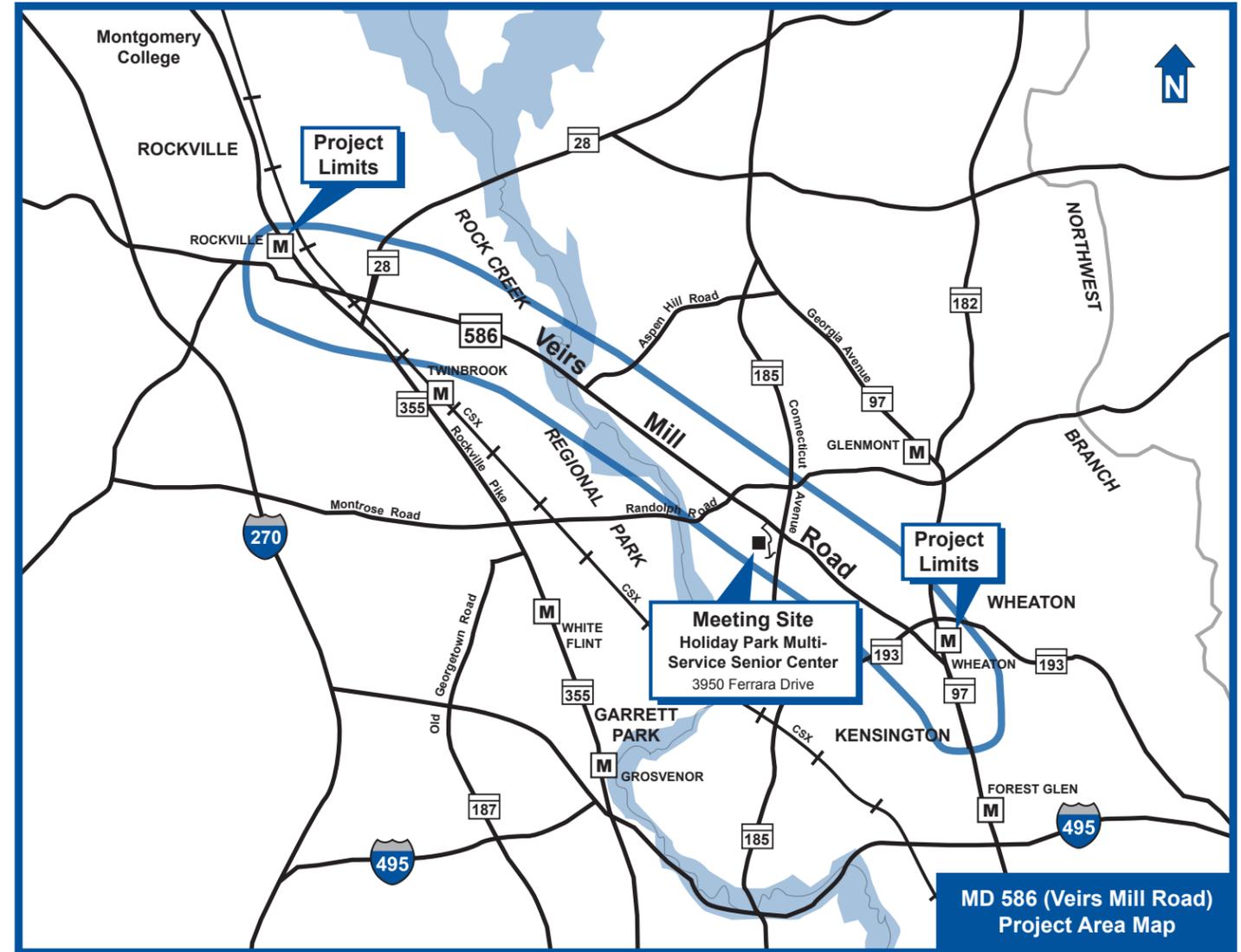
Maryland Department of Transportation  
 STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
 Office of Planning and Preliminary Engineering  
 707 North Calvert Street  
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**PROJECT NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2012**

**MD 586 BRT Project Initiated/Open House Scheduled**

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT), Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA), and Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) have begun a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Planning Study to identify, evaluate, and improve transit service along the MD 586 (Veirs Mill Road) corridor in Montgomery County. The project limits extend 6.7 miles from the Wheaton Metrorail Station to the Rockville Metrorail Station.



MCDOT, SHA, and MTA have scheduled an **Informational Open House for Wednesday, May 23, 2012, from 4:30 PM to 8:00 PM, in the multi-purpose room of the Holiday Park Multi-Service Senior Center** at 3950 Ferrara Drive, Wheaton, Maryland 20906. Members of the project team will present the purpose and need for the project, explain what BRT is and does, and place the current project in the broader context of other county BRT studies. Open House participants may talk with MCDOT, SHA, MTA, and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) representatives at display stations and provide project-related comments and concerns. **The Open House will not include a formal presentation;** participants may walk through the displays at any time during Open House hours.

**SI DESEA UNA COPIA DE ESTE VOLANTE EN ESPAÑOL, POR FAVOR CONTACTARSE CON LA SRA. SUSEELA RAJAN, GERENTE DE PROYECTO, LLAMANDO AL 410-545-8514 (GRATIS AL 1-800-548-5026)**

## Purpose of the Project

The purpose of the MD 586 (Veirs Mill Road) BRT Study is to provide new high-speed, high-efficiency bus transit service between the Rockville Metrorail Station and the Wheaton Metrorail Station along MD 586 (Veirs Mill Road). The project will enhance transit connectivity and improve operational efficiency and travel times, while addressing current and future travel demands in support of Montgomery County's plans for BRT implementation.

## Need for the Project

The WMATA Regional Metro bus system and Montgomery County Ride-On buses currently serve the corridor between Rockville and Wheaton, linking passengers to Bethesda, Wheaton, Rockville, and Silver Spring by various Metro and Ride-On bus routes. The Metrorail Red Line provides service to the Rockville and Wheaton Metrorail stations on opposite ends of the service line.

2010 Census demographic data indicate that nearly 106,000 persons reside within the study area. Montgomery County has identified this corridor as part of a potential BRT network that increases transit use and improves speed of service within the county as a priority for those residents. Within the study area, various bus transit routes operate on at least a portion of the MD 586 (Veirs Mill Road) corridor: Metro Bus routes Q1, Q2, Q4, Q5, Q6, and C4, and Ride-On routes 9, 26, 34, 38, 44, and 48. The Q2 route has the highest bus ridership of any route in Montgomery County.

Roadway congestion, long commutes, lost time, and greater transit dependency create the need for more efficient bus transport through the corridor. Traffic volumes on the arterial regional streets (roadways that function mainly to serve traffic moving through the corridor) of Rockville and Wheaton are forecasted to grow over the next ten years. The Capital Beltway, I-270, the Metrorail, and other transportation facilities within the region experience demand above their design capacities.

## Project Status

The MD 586 (Veirs Mill Road) BRT Study is funded by Montgomery County for Project Planning only. During the Project Planning phase, the study team gives careful consideration to a project's impacts on the community before choosing an alternative for design and construction. Additional time and funding will be required to complete the Final Design, Right-of-Way Acquisition, and Construction phases.

## What is Bus Rapid Transit?

The proposed BRT system is a rapid mode of public transportation that combines the quality of rail transit with the flexibility and lower cost of bus service. BRT buses typically operate on dedicated lanes that set them apart from other roadway traffic and reduce or eliminate delays. Features of the proposed BRT system include:

- Modern bus technology;
- Attractive specialized buses;
- Enhanced stations;
- Improved availability and reliability of service;
- Level boarding from platform to vehicle;
- Off-vehicle ticketing/fare collection;
- Local transfers with park-and-ride access; and
- Traffic signal and intersection modifications.



Cleveland, Ohio

## Project Background

Montgomery County and the City of Rockville have considered MD 586 (Veirs Mill Road) transit improvements since 1999. The corridor has been the focus of three studies:

- 1999: Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) study;
- 2005: DPWT Phase 1 BRT Facility Planning report addressing purpose and need, costs and benefits, consideration of alternatives, and public relations; and
- 2011: MCDOT Countywide BRT Study identifying the corridor as suitable for the provision of BRT services.



Eugene, Oregon

## Public Involvement

SHA and MTA will maintain public involvement throughout the MD 586 (Veirs Mill Road) BRT Study. We encourage transit riders, community members, business owners/operators, and other project stakeholders to identify and discuss transit service improvements. Representatives of MCDOT, SHA, and MTA are available to meet with community groups, civic associations, and other organizations. To request a meeting, receive project information, or add your name to the MD 586 (Veirs Mill Road) project mailing list, please contact:

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**The Maryland Relay Service can assist teletype users at 711.** Persons requiring assistance to participate in the Open House, such as an interpreter for hearing/speech disabilities or assistance with the English language, should contact Ms. Rajan or Mr. Kiegel by **May 16, 2012**.



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