

**Next Steps**

- Conduct Project Informational Open House  
June 26, 2012
- Develop Purpose and Need  
Summer/Fall 2012
- Develop Preliminary Alternatives  
Summer 2013
- Conduct Alternatives Public Workshop  
Winter 2013/2014



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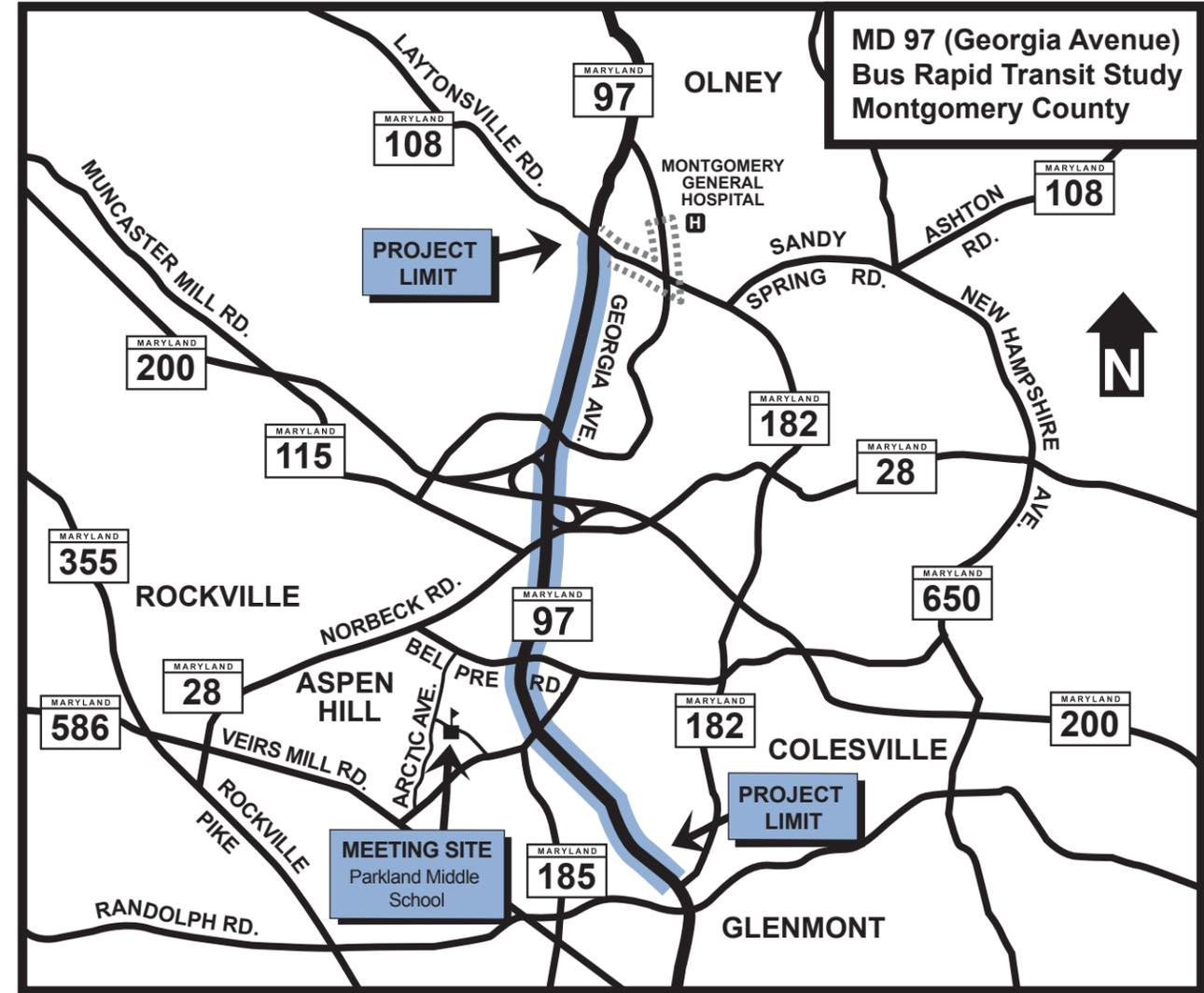
Maryland Department of Transportation  
 STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
 Office of Planning and Preliminary Engineering  
 707 North Calvert Street  
 Mail Stop C-301  
 Baltimore, MD 21202

**MARYLAND 97** MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Study from the Glenmont Metrorail Station to Montgomery General Hospital

**PROJECT NEWSLETTER • SPRING / SUMMER 2012**

**MD 97 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 97 (Georgia Avenue) corridor in Montgomery County. The project limits extend seven miles from the Glenmont Metrorail Station to Montgomery General Hospital.



MCDOT, SHA, and MTA have scheduled an **Informational Open House on Tuesday, June 26, 2012, from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM, at Parkland Middle School, 4610 W. Frankfort Drive, Rockville, MD 20853.** 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 representatives of MCDOT, SHA, MTA, and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) 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 GERENTE DE PROYECTO, LLAMANDO AL 410-545-8522 (GRATIS AL 1-800-548-5026).**

## Purpose of the Project

The purpose of the MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) BRT Study is to provide new high-speed, high-efficiency bus transit service from the Glenmont Metrorail Station to MD 108 along MD 97 (Georgia Avenue). The study will also investigate feasible bus improvements in the vicinity of Montgomery General Hospital and address pedestrian accessibility along the project corridor. 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 the Glenmont Metrorail Station and Olney, linking passengers to Wheaton, Rockville, and Silver Spring by various Metro and Ride-On bus routes. The Metrorail Red Line provides service to the Glenmont and Wheaton Metrorail stations along MD 97.

Montgomery County has identified the MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) BRT as part of a potential BRT network that increases transit use and improves speed of service within the county. Within the study area, several Metro Bus transit routes operate on at least one portion of the MD 97 corridor. Metro Bus routes Y5, Y7, Y8, and Y9 provide service to Montgomery General Hospital, Olney, Intercounty Connector (ICC) Park & Ride (Y5 and Y7 only), Leisure World (Y5 and Y8 only), Aspen Hill, Glenmont Metrorail Station, Wheaton Metrorail Station, Forest Glen Metrorail Station, and Silver Spring Metrorail Station.

Roadway congestion, long commutes, lost time, and greater transit dependency create the need for more efficient bus transport through the corridor. Traffic volumes between the Glenmont Metrorail Station and Olney are forecasted to grow over the next 10 years. The Capital Beltway, I-270, the Metrorail, and other transportation facilities within the region experience demand above their design capacities. Although the ICC, which opened in 2011 to help commuters travel from I-95 in Laurel to I-270/I-370, has helped alleviate traffic congestion in the area, more roadway improvements are needed.

## Project Status

The MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) BRT Study is funded by Montgomery County for Project Planning only. During the Project Planning phase, the project 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?

A 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.



Los Angeles, California

## Project Background

Montgomery County has endorsed the MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) BRT Study since 1994. The project has been the focus of five studies:

- 1994: Aspen Hill Master Plan;
- 1995: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) Alternatives Report of the Transitway and High-Occupancy-Vehicle Network Master Plan;
- 1997: Sector Plan for the Glenmont Transit Impact Area and Vicinity;
- 1999: M-NCPPC Georgia Avenue Busway Study;
- 2011: MCDOT Countywide BRT Study identifying the corridor as suitable for the provision of BRT services.

## Related Project

MCDOT, SHA, and MTA have also initiated a BRT study for MD 586 (Veirs Mill Road) from the Wheaton Metrorail Station to the Rockville Metrorail Station. A member of the project team will be available during the open house to discuss your concerns and answer your questions about the MD 586 (Veirs Mill Road) BRT Study.



Eugene, Oregon

## Public Involvement

MCDOT, SHA, and MTA will maintain public involvement throughout the MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) 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 97 (Georgia Avenue) BRT Study 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. Carmeletta Harris or Mr. Rick Kiegel by June 19, 2012. For more information on this and other projects, please visit our website at [www.roads.maryland.gov](http://www.roads.maryland.gov) and click on **Projects and Studies, SHA Projects Page, and Montgomery County.**



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