



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Press Releases

Contact: Esther Bowring, 240-777-6530

Carolyn Biggins, 240-777-5800

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Duncan Opens New Germantown Transit Center; *Additional Commuter Parking Provided*

Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan today celebrated the opening of the new Germantown Transit Center, designed to serve the Germantown community and I-270 employment corridor with improved bus service to Gaithersburg and the Shady Grove Metro Station. The Transit Center includes a 175-space Park and Ride Lot with quick and easy access to I-270.

"This new transit center demonstrates our commitment to making public transportation more attractive, convenient, safe and affordable for daily commuters," said Duncan. "As Germantown continues to grow, providing transit alternatives gives residents more choices and helps us achieve a balanced approach to transportation that encourages smart growth and reduces traffic congestion."

The transit center is located between Crystal Rock Drive, Aircraft Drive, Maryland Route 118, and Century Boulevard, which was extended 600-feet from Aircraft Drive to Crystal Rock Drive. The center features two 50-foot brick and stone wall bus shelters with an innovative design that incorporates glass panels and arched metal roofs. The County's Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) will assess the success of this new design as a prototype for future shelters. Original artwork will decorate the shelter in the next few months. The transit center also includes seven bus bays, brick sidewalks, lighting, taxi stands, landscaping and stormwater management facilities. In the future, a new traffic signal will be installed at the intersection of Century Boulevard and Aircraft Drive.

"With the opening of this Transit Center, the whole Germantown Town Center is coming together," said Councilmember Nancy Dacek. "This is integral to our community vision and something we've been working hard on for a long time."

The new Park and Ride Lot provides access to Ride On's improved service, which began Sunday, May 5. Park and Ride Lot commuters and transit users have priority parking in the lot Monday through Friday from 6 to 11 a.m., not including Federal and State holidays. After 11 a.m., others may park in the lot, as well.

The transit center is located on ten acres of privately owned land, and was constructed through a public/private partnership with the Bellmead Development Corporation, developer of Germantown Town Center East. In an agreement with Bellmead, the County reimbursed the developer for costs associated with design and construction of the transit center and negotiated a cost-sharing arrangement for maintaining the parking lot.

The project cost \$1.9 million, with \$1.6 million contributed by the County and \$300,000 funded through a Maryland Transit Administration Smart Growth Transit Program Grant. S. W. Rodgers Company, Inc.

constructed the Park and Ride Lot and bus bays and Custom Commercial Construction Corporation built the bus shelters.

"The Germantown Transit Center will give people a new commuting option that will save time, money, and the environment by taking more cars off the roads," said Maryland Transportation Secretary John D. Porcari. Governor Glendening has set a goal of doubling state transit ridership by the year 2020, and it is facilities like this that will help us to achieve that objective."

The Ride On bus routes serving the transit center are:

Route 61 - Montgomery College-Germantown to Shady Grove Metro Station

Route 71 - Germantown Transit Center to Shady Grove Metro Station via Clopper Road

Route 73* - Shady Grove Metro Station to Century Boulevard/Milestone

Route 74 - Germantown Transit Center to Shady Grove Metro Station via Great Seneca Highway

Route 77* - Germantown Commons/Waters Landing to Shady Grove Metro Station via I-270/I-370

Route 78 - Germantown Transit Center to Shady Grove Metro Station via Kentlands

* **Note:** These buses are free until June 30, as they are part of Ride On's special 'Free Wheeling Days' promotion. Regular fares apply to all other buses.

For information about Ride On schedules, call the County's Transit Information Center at 240-777-2433, or check the Ride On website at www.RideOnbus.com.

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