Better Bus Launch Update

Safety and Operations Committee











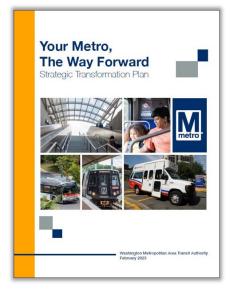








Strategic Transformation Plan: Guides long term strategy and dayto-day decision making of Metro over the next five + years





Day-to-day decisions

- Customer interactions
- Service schedules
- Communications



- **Budget allocation**
- Capital improvements
- Priority projects

Goals — Our priorities to achieve the vision









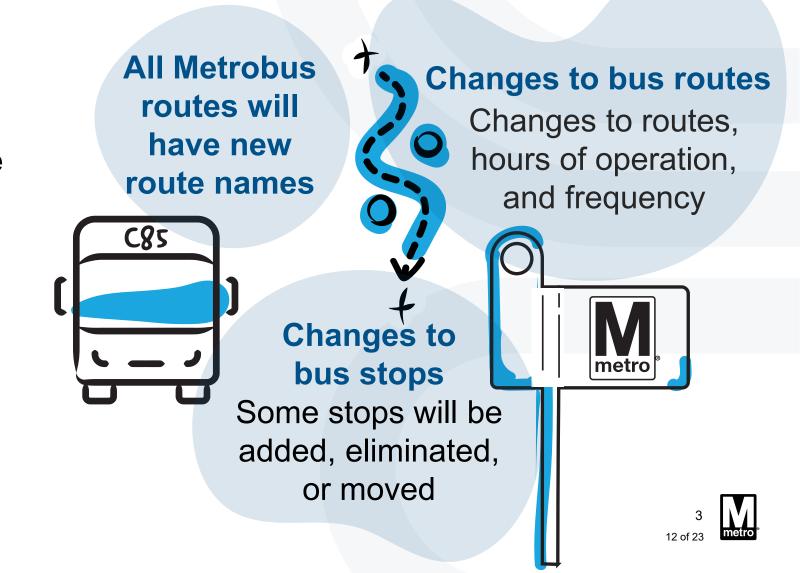


Our Message to Customers: Your Route is Changing on June 29!

Bus routes are changing. Yes, even yours!

With all this change, we have information to help explain what the new network means for you, your family, and your community.

Learn the network one trip at a time! You do not need to learn every single change for the network to work for you.



The Network Was Built on 2 Years of Planning & 23 Weeks of Engagement **Regionwide**



45,000+ interactions at 225 events

21,000+ total comments received

12,000+ survey responses received



120+ briefings with public, stakeholder, elected official, and community group member attendees



111,000+ unique website visitors
3,600+ e-newsletter subscribers

2,490,000+ impressions on social media, Transit App, and online ads

820+ interactions with bus operations employees at 32 events

590+ interactions with Metro employees at 6 coffee chat events

New Network is More Efficient and Effective Using the Same Resources



7% more bus service for the same projected cost



3% fewer bus vehicle miles operated due to a substantial reduction in the amount of travel to and from the beginning and end of bus routes



4% decrease in the peak bus vehicle requirement, resulting in a smaller, more efficient fleet

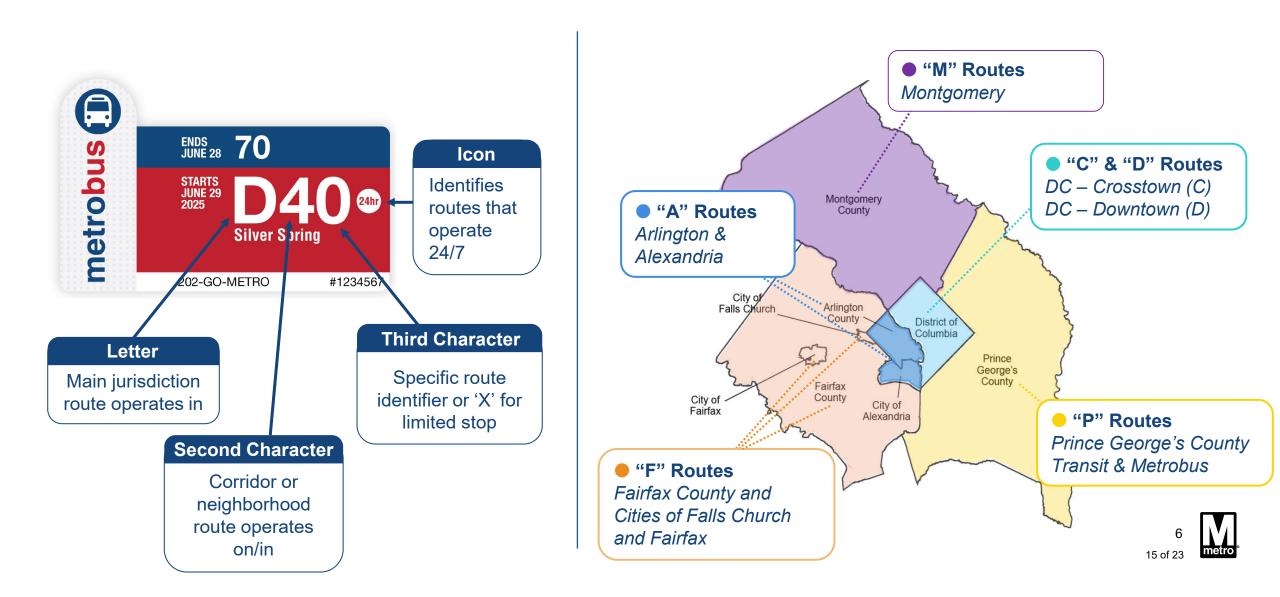


Average resident gains access to at least 5% more key destinations (e.g. hospitals, groceries, entertainment) within 60 minutes at all times during the day/week



Could attract nearly 13,000 more daily weekday trips

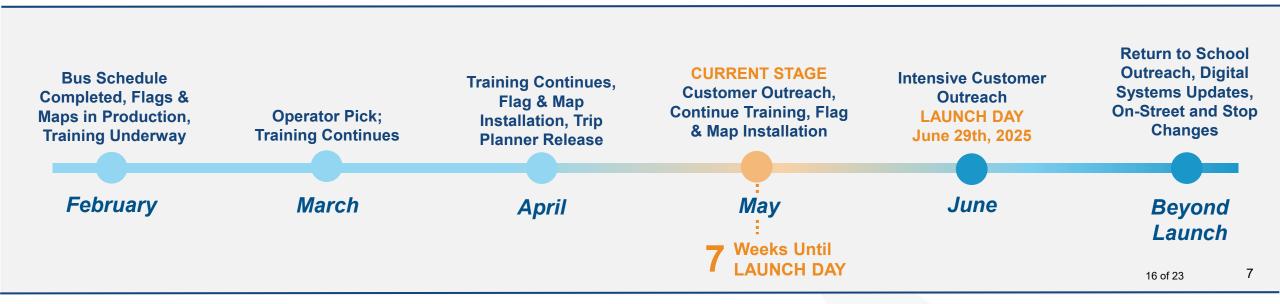
New Route Names and Signs Make It Easier to Ride the Bus



Timeline: Better Bus Network Redesign Launch

- Metro will be the first agency of its size to implement a full network redesign in one phase in less than a year
- Temporary signs and maps ensure customers and employees are ready on Launch Day
- Permanent signs, maps and stop improvements will roll out in the coming year

PROGRAM SCHEDULE



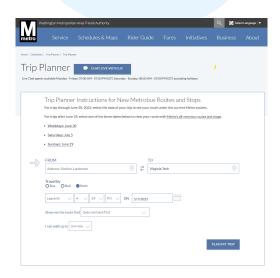
Informational Materials on the New Network

Various tools are available **now** at wmata.com/BetterBus



Plan Your Trip

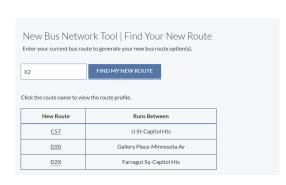
Use the Trip Planner or call 202-GO-METRO to understand how your trip(s) will change





Find Your New Route

Visit the Route Crosswalk webpage to understand which route(s) is replacing your current route





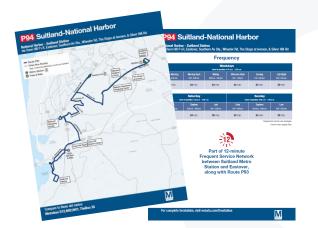
Understand Your Route

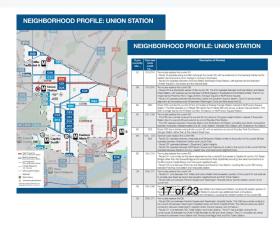
Review Route Profiles with details, hours of operation and frequency for each route in the network



Learn About Changes in your Neighborhood

See Neighborhood Profiles with summaries of changes by geographic area





Multiple Ways We're Spreading the Word In-Person

Starting mid-May, engagement will shift to focus on meeting people where they are

Pop-Ups

- Raise awareness, help customers plan their trip and understand how the new network impacts them
- Target already scheduled outdoor events, such as farmers markets and festivals

Bus Stop Chats

 Raise awareness and inform customers about changes to their bus route

Ride-Alongs

- Raise awareness and inform customers about changes to their bus route
- Focus on high-change routes

On-Street Assistance Staff

 100s of staff in the field to answer questions and provide information













Extending the Reach of Our Engagement

Partnering with Community-Based Organizations (CBO)

Leveraging partnerships with CBOs to extend the reach of our engagement



Elected Official Info Sessions

Briefing elected officials so they're able to answer constituents' questions and point them toward relevant materials



Communications Toolkit

Digital communications toolkit designed for partners to easily share information about the upcoming network changes in newsletters and on social media

Training Partners & Stakeholders

Providing training to stakeholders and partners so they're empowered to share information about the network with their constituents



Mailers

To spread the word in high change areas



Committee Meetings

Spreading the word through Metro's committees (Youth Advisory Council, AAC, RAC)



On buses, in stations, and at other hot spots







Use Our Social Media Presence to Tell the Better Bus Story







Follow us on social media and amplify our posts









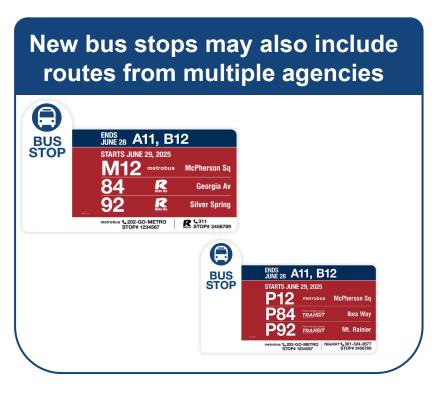


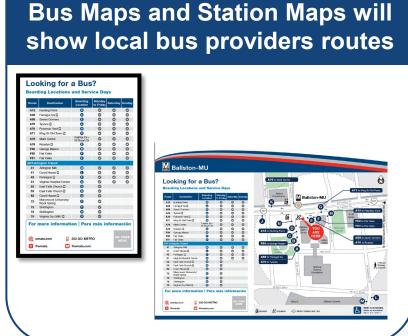
Share newsletter and social media content and talking points from our Communications Toolkit to let your constituents and community know about the new network!



Continuing to work closely with jurisdictional partners to implement the new network

- Working with each jurisdiction on bus stop and on-street improvements, noting that some improvements may not be implemented until after Launch Day
- Transferred 10 buses to support Prince George's County Transit with service







Summary of Other Activities

	Bus Flags	 Installation: early March – mid-June 3600+ Bus Flags installed to date (~47%); 100% of the Bus Flag Removal Notices installed
	Operator Training	 All primary training complete. Training new operators and those who picked into new divisions is underway.
	Digital Systems	 Trip Planner is live, customers can select dates for June 29th and later GTFS files will be available for third party applications on the developer portal in late June Bus Systems and data testing underway
(e)	WMATA Coordination	Activation Plan and Launch Day Management plans are underway
	Maps	Design updates underway 94 Bus Bay Station Maps Complete (~89%) Jurisdictional maps complete, including local providers

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Installation starting once bus flags are complete

What Customers, Community Organizations, and Elected Officials can do ahead of Launch Day June 29, 2025

Customers

- Try out the Trip Planner wmata.com/tripplanner/
- 2 Attend a pop-up event
- Share the route finder "crosswalk" tool wmata.com/betterbus
- Send us feedback and questions wmata.custhelp.com or 202-GO-METRO

Organizations and Elected Officials

- Try out the Trip Planner wmata.com/tripplanner/
- Become a Better Bus Partner

 Better Bus Partner | WMATA
- Use the comms toolkit to spread the word https://www.wmata.com/initiatives/plans/Better-Bus/toolkit.cfm
- Request informational materials to distribute to your constituents

Outreach and engagement has started and will continue into the fall of 2025 to reach schools, children, parents, and those returning to the office after summer

