

Get into ART

ART Forum

NEW SHIRLINGTON BUS STATION First Enclosed Station Serves 2,000 Commuters Daily

The Shirlington Bus Station opened in June, serving one of Arlington's fastest growing destinations. The new station is the County's first enclosed public bus station and is the principal transfer point for Metrobus and ART bus service in South Arlington.

The station houses a Commuter Store staffed by knowledgeable personnel who provide information on transit options and sell tickets, tokens, and passes for all the region's transit systems. The station also includes an indoor waiting area with customer seating and restrooms and a partially covered outdoor plaza.



Congressman Jim Moran

The station's five bus stops incorporate innovative features for riders with visual disabilities, including first-in-the-region audible schedule devices. Additionally, the station incorporates advanced information, safety and security technologies.

Construction began in March 2007 and was completed in June 2008. The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) managed the design-build contract on behalf of the County. Arlington now owns, operates, and maintains the station. The funding for this project came from federal and state grants and Arlington County. ■



Ribbon cutting for the new station

SHIRLINGTON STATION FAST FACTS

LOCATION

2975 S. Quincy St., near the intersection of S. Randolph St. and 31st St., next to Shirley Hwy. (I-395).

- First enclosed bus station
- Serves 2000+ commuters daily

STATION LOBBY HOURS

Mon. – Sat., 6 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Closed Sundays and holidays

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County Board Adopts Transportation Funding

On July 22, 2008, the Arlington County Board adopted the 2009-2014 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) that included a new Transportation Investment Fund. Some of the transit projects that received Fiscal Year 2009 and 2010 funding are:

- ART Fleet—Funding was provided to purchase 12 buses in FY 09.
- Over the six-year CIP period, the plan is to obtain 25 35-foot buses, and 17
- 27-foot buses, all clean-fuel, full-accessible low-floor durable vehicles.
- Rosslyn Station Access Improvements—design and construction of three new high-speed, high-capacity elevators, a mezzanine with fare gates and kiosk, emergency stairs, and related infrastructure for the Rosslyn Metrorail station.
- Columbia Pike Streetcar—Funding is programmed to begin the environmen-

tal planning and preliminary engineering of the Columbia Pike Streetcar, in partnership with Fairfax County.

- Crystal City-Potomac Yard Transitway—This project will implement a transitway with dedicated bus lanes and stations from Arlington's Potomac Yard through Crystal City initially connecting to the Crystal City Metro station.

Dear ART Riders,

If you rode ART in July, specifically on Monday, July 21, you may have had a new driver, and you may have received an ART Alert entitled: "Arlington's ART Bus Service Continues Normal Operations." You also may have heard reports in the media regarding a labor dispute.

Arlington County provides service on the ART system through a contractor, Veolia Transportation Services, Inc. The employees who work for Veolia recently chose to be represented by a labor union, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). Veolia and the union are actively engaged in negotiations to develop their initial contract agreement.

On Monday, July 21, a few ART drivers chose to observe a job action called by the union. Despite this action, working with the contractor and its employees the County was able to maintain full service throughout the day. We regret any inconvenience that may have been caused for you that day.

Arlington County continues to urge Veolia and AFSCME to come to a contract agreement expeditiously as we all strive to serve Arlington Transit's riders.

We encourage you to register for ART Alert which provides real-time information about service disruptions and immediate emergency announcements via email and text messaging. Register for ART Alert at www.commuterpage.com/art.

Sincerely,

Steve Yaffe, *ART Transit Services Manager*



New ART Buses

With the recent adoption of the 2009 budget, the Arlington County Board authorized the purchase of 12 new 35-foot low-floor buses manufactured by the North American Bus Industries (NABI) for the ART system. These buses will replace the mid-size, light duty vehicles that have reached the end of their useful life.

In early July, ART staff traveled to NABI's manufacturing facility in Alabama for a pre-production meeting about the buses. The new buses are similar to the eight NABI buses put into service in August 2007. ART expects delivery of the new buses during 2009. ■



SmartBenefits Made EASY @ CommuterDirect.com®

If your employer uses Metro's SmartBenefits to administer your monthly transit benefit and you have a SmarTrip card, you are eligible for a SmartBenefits Personal Account through CommuterDirect.com.

SmartBenefits Personal Accounts at CommuterDirect.com allows you to designate your monthly transit benefit through SmartBenefits to a SmarTrip account, you then sign up at CommuterDirect.com and choose your specific transit fare tickets.

Account holders have the flexibility to purchase VRE, MARC, RideOn, Metro, ART, DASH, the Circulator, and Georgetown Metro Connection tickets and tokens all through CommuterDirect.com. This also gives you the option of splitting your benefit among different transit providers. For example, if you ride VRE and take ART, you can allocate funds to go towards each system.

Once you choose your transit passes, you can pick up your tickets in person at one of Arlington County's four Commuter Store locations:

- Ballston Common Mall, Suite 2232, 4238 Wilson Boulevard
- Crystal City Shops North, 1615-B Crystal Square Arcade
- Rosslyn Metro Center Mall, Level 2, Suite 235, 1700 N. Moore Street
- Shirlington Bus Station, 2975 S. Quincy Street

Or if you prefer, have the tickets sent directly to your home or office. Once you sign up, your benefits will be processed every month with little upkeep on your part.

Visit www.CommuterDirect.com and click on SmartBenefits to learn more, or call 703-228-RIDE (7433), Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. ■

World Car-Free Day, September 22, 2008

One day every year, people from all over the globe gather together in the streets, intersections, and neighborhood blocks to remind the world that we don't have to accept living in a car-dominated society. As the climate heats up, this kind of event is the perfect way to take the heat off the planet, and put it on city planners and politicians to give priority to cycling, walking and public transportation—instead of to the car.

In Arlington, we want World Car-Free Day to be a showcase for how our county might look, feel, and sound with fewer cars—365 days a year. World Car-Free Day events in Arlington include:



CLARENDON WALKABOUT

Come out for a fun, family-friendly WalkAbout through the streets of Clarendon starting at 6:30 p.m. It's a great opportunity to see and learn about the historical sights, stores and natural beauty of this urban village up close and on foot! For more event info and a



map of the Clarendon WalkAbout, visit walkarlington.com.

CONFIDENT CITY CYCLING CLASS

Join the Washington Area Bicyclist Association for this free cycling class at 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 913 in Arlington. The class runs from 4:00–6:30 p.m. with an optional one hour on-road riding practice to follow. For more information and to register, visit waba.org/events/education.php.

For more information on World Car Free Day and to find out how you can get a free ART ride, t-shirt, book and more, visit carfreediet.com. ■

ART Courtesy and Safety Information

Here are a few tips to make ART more enjoyable for everyone:

- Have your exact change, token, transfer or SmarTrip card ready before boarding. This helps keep buses running on schedule.
- Wait for and board the bus in the designated bus stop area. Buses do not stop to pick up or let passengers off between bus stops.
- Do not run after the bus and bang on the door if you miss the bus. This is

very dangerous, as you could fall and get injured.

- No eating, drinking, or smoking. Please take newspapers and other items with you when you leave.
- Use headphones when listening to music. Talk quietly when on your cell phone.
- Volunteer your seat to a senior citizen or person with a disability when the bus is full.
- If you see someone leave a bag or

package on the bus, please call it to their attention or to the bus driver's attention.

- Do not talk to the bus driver while the bus is in motion.

SAFETY CONCERNS

Please help us keep you safe—if you see anything suspicious, please let your bus driver know immediately. Call 911 if you notice something or someone suspicious at or near a bus stop or Metro station. ■

ART Wants to Know What You Think

ART will be conducting on-board rider surveys in September. This is your opportunity to tell us what you think about ART service, schedules, operations, and more. We'll also get information from you on your commute. The results of this survey will help us better serve you and address any concerns you might have. Look for the survey administrators on the bus and please take the survey if asked. And as a thank you, If you complete a survey, you'll get a token for a free ride on ART.



Opening day for Shirlington Station

SHIRLINGTON STATION FAST FACTS

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BUS SERVICE HOURS

Mon. – Fri., 5 a.m. – 1 a.m.
Sat., 6 a.m. – 3:30 a.m.
Sun., 6 a.m. – midnight

COMMUTER STORE HOURS

Mon - Fri, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
(closed 1:30–2 p.m.)

STATION FEATURES

- Covered outdoor plaza
- Indoor waiting area & seating
- Five bus stops with bench seating
- Comfortable restrooms
- New Commuter Store
- Emergency phone system
- ADA compliant

METROBUS ROUTES SERVED

- 7 A, C, E, F Lincolnia–N. Fairlington
- 10 B Hunting Towers–Ballston
- 22 A Barcroft–S. Fairlington
- 23 A, C McLean–Crystal City
- 25 A, D Ballston–Bradlee–Pentagon

ART ROUTES SERVED

ART 82 Shirlington–Nauck–Pentagon City

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT

- Kelley MacKinnon, station and ART operations, 703-228-7547
- Lynn Rivers, Metrobus operations, 703-228-7929
- Bee Buegler, station design and construction, 703-228-0597

THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE Arlington's Best Business Awards

NEW this Fall: Vote for your favorite Arlington business! Arlington Economic Development introduces the NEW People's Choice ABBIES, which recognizes the best Arlington businesses, decided by YOU.

Vote for your favorite Arlington business in categories like “Best Date Restaurant”, “Best Customer Service” and more! Every vote counts, and any Arlington business is eligible!

Beginning September 1, go to www.arlingtonva.us/ABBIES and nominate your favorite Arlington business. There are twenty categories to choose from; make sure your favorite Arlington establishment is nominated! Then, beginning on September 22, vote for the top finalists. Winners will be presented with a 2008 People's Choice ABBIE Award and will receive recognition throughout the year as an ABBIES winner. For additional details and contest rules, visit: www.arlingtonva.us/ABBIES. ■



ART's 10-Year Anniversary

As we celebrate ART's 10th Anniversary, we thought it would be fun to look back and see how much we've grown.

| | 1998 | 2008 |
|----------------------|---------|-----------|
| Number of Routes | 2 | 11 |
| Buses in Service | 2 | 21 |
| Number of Operators | 4 | 44 |
| Number of Passengers | 118,156 | 1,225,249 |