

Get into ART

# ART Forum

## ART Service Changes Are Coming

**A**RT bus service is changing to better serve our current riders and attract new riders. ART 77 Shirlington-Lyon Park-Court House will begin on Monday, June 8. This new route will connect Shirlington Station, the Trade Center, the Arlington Career Center, Fort Myer's Hatfield Gate, Clarendon, the Stambaugh Human Services Building, and Arlington County offices near Court House Metro. New low-floor, heavy-duty, compressed natural gas buses will circulate every 30 minutes on weekdays, between 6:00 am and 7:55 pm.

With the introduction of ART 77, service on ART 74 Douglas Park-Arlington Village-Arlington View-Pentagon City will be reduced by removing the second bus currently assigned to the route. The morning trips departing at 16th and Barton Streets will be at 6:11, 6:45, 7:19, 7:53, 8:27 and 9:01. In the evening, the trips from Pentagon City will be at 3:30, 4:06, 4:42, 5:17, 5:52, 6:27, 7:02 and 7:36. This change will align service with ridership levels.

On Monday, June 29, the new ART 87 Pentagon Metro-Army Navy Drive-Shirlington Station will replace the current services of ART 82 and Metrobus 22B. This route will begin at the Shirlington Station and continue to Four Mile Run Drive,

— continued page 3



## PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and the Transit Bureau within Arlington County's Department of Environmental Services have scheduled two public meetings in Arlington to discuss these route changes.

- **WMATA Public Meeting**  
Wednesday, April 15, 6:30 pm  
2100 Courthouse Plaza  
County Board Room, 3rd Floor
- **Arlington County Transit Bureau Public Meeting**  
Thursday, April 30, 7:00–9:00 pm  
Arlington Career Center  
816 S. Walter Reed Drive

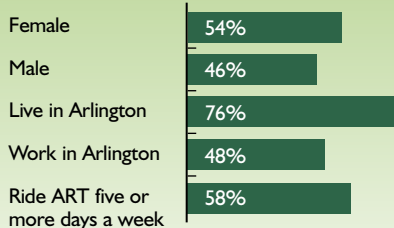
Visit [www.arlingtontransit.com](http://www.arlingtontransit.com) for more information.



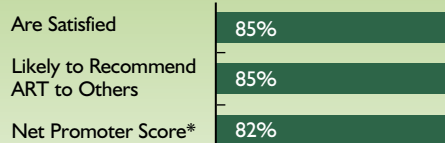
## Survey Says...

Many of our riders, 2017 riders to be exact, took a survey about ART last September. The purpose of the survey was to understand who is using ART and how they are using it, how ART is currently performing, identify ways to improve ART, and establish benchmarks for future performance. The results are in! Here are a few findings:

### RIDERS



### SATISFACTION WITH ART



\* Those likely to recommend ART minus those who would not recommend ART

— continued page 4



## Events and Farmers' Markets in Arlington

Take ART, Metrobus, Metrorail, walk, or bike to these fun events and farmers' markets in Arlington.

EVENT	DAY/TIME	COST	LOCATION	CAR-FREE OPTIONS
<b>Mondays at the Movies</b>	Mondays until April 27 6 pm	Free	Rosslyn Dome Theatre	ART 61; Metrobus 3ABE, 4ABEH, 15KL, 38B Metrorail Orange & Blue Rosslyn station
<b>Rosslyn Outdoor Film Festival</b>	Fridays, May 1–Sept. 4 Dusk	Free	Rosslyn Gateway Park	ART 61; Metrobus 3ABE, 4ABEH, 15KL, 38B Metrorail Orange & Blue Rosslyn station
<b>Crystal Screen</b>	Mondays, May 4–Sept. 21 Sundown	Free	18th & Bell Sts. Courtyard across from Crystal City Metro & Marriott Hotel	Metrobus 9AES, 10AE, 13FG, 23AC Metrorail Blue & Yellow Crystal City station
<b>Bike to Work Day</b>	May 15 7 am–9 am	Free (pre-registration required)	Pit Stops at Rosslyn Gateway Park & Crystal City Water Park	Biking
<b>Taste of Arlington</b>	May 17 Noon–5 pm	\$20 advance \$25 on-site Common Mall	Wilson Blvd. in front of Ballston Metrorail	ART 41, 51; Metrobus 1ABEFZ, 2ABCG, 10B, 22A, 23AC, 24P, 25AFGJPR, 38B Orange Ballston-MU station
<b>Columbia Pike Blues Festival</b>	June 13 1 pm–8 pm	Free	S. Walter Reed Dr. at Columbia Pike	ART 41; Metrobus 10B 16ABDEJG, 23AC
<b>Arlington Farmers' Market</b>	Saturdays, Year-Round 8 am–noon		14th St. North & North Courthouse Rd.	ART 41, 61; Metrobus 4BE, 38B Metrorail Orange Court House
<b>Columbia Pike Farmers' Market</b>	Sundays starting May 3 9 am–1 pm		S. Walter Reed Dr. at Columbia Pike	ART 41; Metrobus 10B 16ABDFJGHKLWY, 22A, 23C
<b>Clarendon Market</b>	Wednesdays, starting in May 3 pm–7 pm		Clarendon Metro Park	ART 41, Metrobus 24P, 38B Metrorail Orange Clarendon
<b>Rosslyn Farmers' Market</b>	Thursdays, starting in mid-May 11 am–3 pm		North Lynn St. at Metro Park	ART 61, 53; Metrobus 3ABE, 4ABEH, 15KL, 38B Metrorail Orange & Blue Rosslyn station
<b>Crystal City Farmers' Market</b>	Tuesdays, May 12–Oct. 27 3 pm–7 pm		Crystal Dr. between 18th & 20th St.	Metrobus 9AES, 10AE, 13FG, 23AC Metrorail Blue & Yellow Crystal City station
<b>Ballston Farmers' Market</b>	Fridays, starting in June 11 am–3 pm		Wellburn Square at 9th St. N & N. Stuart St.	ART 41, 51, 52, 53; Metrobus 1ABEFZ, 2ABCG 10B, 22A, 23AC, 24P, 25AFGJPR, 38B Metrorail Orange Ballston-MU station

# Transit Stimulus—What it Means for ART

**W**ith all the attention given to the Federal Stimulus legislation (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009), here's a local view of what it may mean for ART riders. The short answer is that the Metro system will be a big beneficiary, while ART may see little of the stimulus funds.



The first thing to know is that the stimulus funds are for capital projects not operating costs. Most of the transit funding comes through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), with almost \$5.9 billion going directly to the larger transit agencies under existing formula programs. Metro will get approximately \$200 million, which it will use for improvements to the existing systems and facilities, vehicle purchases, etc. For more information on what projects Metro will fund, visit [www.wmata.com/stimulus/projects.cfm](http://www.wmata.com/stimulus/projects.cfm).

ART may be able to take advantage of a few other sources of stimulus funds. Most of these are competitive grants that will be distributed nationwide. Two programs, one with FTA (\$100 million) and another through the Department of Energy (\$300 million), will provide grants to purchase clean energy vehicles or transit facilities. Additional Homeland Security grants may be available for safety and security improvements. Another competitive grant program has \$1.5 billion for larger multi-modal projects such as the Rosslyn Station Access Improvements project. While ART staff will pursue these grants, there is no assurance ART will be awarded any grant monies.

Arlington will receive some stimulus funds through the Federal Highway Administration and the Virginia Department of Transportation. These funds flow directly to the County under existing formulas and can be used for various types of projects including transit, bike and pedestrian projects, and roads. Arlington anticipates getting less than \$5 million from this funding stream and is still deciding the priorities for these funds. ■



## ART 61 Connects Rosslyn to Whole Foods on Saturdays

**A**RT 61 makes it easy for you to go shopping. Saturday service has been realigned to serve Whole Foods and the Market Common Clarendon. The 61A clockwise loop has been extended on Wilson and Clarendon Boulevards to N. Garfield Street every 25 minutes between 10:15 am and 3:10 pm. For schedule information check [arlingtontransit.com](http://arlingtontransit.com). ■

## ART Service Changes

— continued from page 1

Nauck, Drew Community Center, Avalon Bay, Shirley Park, Pentagon City—Macy's, and the Pentagon Metro. ART 87 will have the same service span that Metrobus 22B now offers—weekdays from 5:50 am to 10:20 pm and Saturdays from 6:44 am to 9:24 pm. Avalon Bay and Shirley Park riders will have a direct route to Shirlington, while Nauck riders will gain midday, evening and Saturday service. ART 82 riders should note that their new route will be ART 87 and will connect to Metrorail at the Pentagon instead of Pentagon City. ART 87 will stop at Macy's on Army Navy Drive as well as the Pentagon.

Later this year, ART 42 will take over weekday Metrobus 24P operations. ART 42 currently runs Metrobus 24P service on Saturdays. This route connects the Pentagon with Ballston Metro. The weekday schedule will not change and there will be no disruption of service. ■

# Tax-Free Transit Benefit Increase

Good news for commuters—The American Recovery and Reinvestment ACT of 2009 provides savings for transit and vanpool riders. The new stimulus bill, signed into law on February 17, 2009 by President Obama, included a provision that increases the monthly pre-tax transit and vanpool benefit amount allowable to employees by their employers.

The enactment of the bill raises the IRS-qualified transportation fringe benefit for transit and vanpool [IRC 132 (f)] to match that of the currently allowable pre-tax amount for parking. Employers can now provide employees with up to \$230 in pre-tax dollars for transit and vanpool use to and from the worksite. The new act nearly doubles the previous tax-free transit and vanpool benefit amount of \$120.

If you do not currently receive a tax-free transit benefit, have your employer contact Arlington Transportation Partners (ATP) at 703-247-9299 or email solutions@transpartners.com. ATP works with employers to help implement transit benefit programs.



# ART House Expands

Arlington County recently purchased an additional parcel of land for ART to use. The new parcel is the former Thrifty Car Rental property located just north of the current ART House lot between S. Eads and Jefferson Davis Highway. The purchase of this adjacent property was completed using previously-obligated County bond funds and support from the Transportation Investment Fund. The County plans to rehab the existing building on the new lot, which will replace the temporary administrative offices on the current site. The new property will allow ART to accommodate future growth of its fleet. ART is now working with a consultant on a revised concept plan for use of both sites. The plans will include fueling, maintenance and bus wash facilities, administrative offices and vehicle parking. ■

## Survey Says ... — continued from page 1

Respondents reported that the bus being reliable, safe, on time, clean, comfortable, well lit with enough seating was very important. When it comes to routes, riders want direct routes with short wait times. Riders also thought it was important to have courteous drivers and an easy payment method. The results are shown in the chart to the right. The top two ratings (where 5 is excellent and 4 is very good) are combined for the question, “Based on your experience, how would you rate ART on these attributes?”

ART staff is working to address the concerns expressed in the survey. To improve on-time performance, ART staff has reworked the schedules for ART 41 and 53 and is monitoring drivers. ART staff is also holding training classes to work on driver courtesy. ART will add 12 new heavy-duty, low-floor, CNG buses later this spring and retire older, less reliable buses. Finally, ART staff is exploring options for expanding service. However, in the current economic climate, budgets are being trimmed and other needs compete for tax dollars. ■

## THE ART EXPERIENCE

