



## Takoma Park City Council Meeting – January 22, 2020 Agenda Item 2

### **Voting Session**

Bus Shelter Plan and Installation

### **Recommended Council Action**

Review and approve the Resolution regarding the Bus Shelter Plan and Prioritization

### **Context with Key Issues**

In an effort to encourage alternative modes of transportation, and to support of the Council's goals of sustainability and equity, staff has developed a plan for bus shelter installations with prioritized locations. This work coordinates with the City's current Bus Stop accessibility project, funded through a grant from the MWCOG's Transportation-Land Use Connections (TLC) Program.

Research indicates that better amenities at bus stops (particularly shelters) make public transportation more appealing and in turn increase ridership and decrease the number of cars on the road. According to Ride-On and WMATA, stops with 50 or more boardings a day should be equipped with a bus shelter. The average bus stop in Takoma Park experiences 30 boardings per day, therefore staff recommends that any bus stop with at least 30 boardings be considered for bus shelter installation.

The City has a contract with Insite to install bus shelters at no cost to the City if the locations meet Insite's criteria, as well as a requirement for shelters at specific locations including New Hampshire and Holton Lane, and New Hampshire and East-West Highway on the east and westbound sides at no cost to the City. Staff recommends that these stops be prioritized for shelter installation. Following this action, additional stops with 30+ boardings could then be evaluated for shelter installation.

Attached is a link to an interactive map which highlights bus stops with no shelter and at least 30 boardings per day. Stops fall into 3 categories of urgency: 50+ boardings per day, 40+ boardings per day, and 30+ boardings per day. Clicking on individual stops displays all current data for each bus stop including bus routes, ridership numbers, and bus stop amenities.

### **Council Priority**

- A Livable Community for All – Further efforts related to racial equity
- Environmentally Sustainable Community

### **Environmental Considerations**

In Resolution 2019-15, Declaring a Climate Change Emergency, Council resolved to "consider opportunities for reducing GHG emissions in the transportation sector through local initiatives and collaboration region-wide." Transportation contributes 46% of GHG emissions in Takoma Park, according to the City's Green House Gas Inventory (2017). Research shows that improving public transit amenities by installing bus shelters results in increased ridership due to factors of comfort,

convenience and safety. Increased use of public transit would reduce the number of single-occupancy vehicles on the road, thereby reducing GHG in the City.

### **Fiscal Considerations**

The City's current contract with Insite requires the installation of shelters at three of the sites with the highest ridership as well as the maintenance or replacement of existing shelters. For locations that Insite does not deem suitable, the City has the option to purchase shelters from Insite (approximately \$12,500 each) or to develop creative alternatives where the standard shelter isn't suitable.

### **Racial Equity Considerations**

According to a survey by Metrobus, riders on the K6 route are 79% black, Hispanic or mixed race and on the F4 line, 89% people of color. Generally, bus riders in the region are disproportionately people of color. We believe this Council action will improve access for people of color, including immigrants and refugees, and improve public transit by making the experience a better option.

### **Attachments and Links**

- Bus Stop Improvements webpage:  
<https://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/bus-stop-improvements/>
- [Bus Stop Map](#)
- [Demographic Charts of K6 and F4 Ridership](#)

Introduced by:

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

**RESOLUTION 2020-XX**

**BUS SHELTER PLAN AND PRIORITIZATION**

WHEREAS, in Resolution 2019-15, Council resolved to “consider opportunities for reducing Green House Gas (GHG) emissions in the transportation sector through local initiatives and collaboration region-wide,” and transportation contributes 46% of GHG emissions in Takoma Park, according to the City’s Green House Gas Inventory (2017); and

WHEREAS, research shows that improving public transit amenities by installing bus shelters results in increased ridership due to factors of comfort, convenience and safety; and

WHEREAS, increased use of public transit would reduce the number of single-occupancy vehicles on the road, thereby reducing GHG in the City; and

WHEREAS, Council is committed to considering their work through a racial equity lens, and bus riders in the region are disproportionately people of color; and

WHEREAS, the City staff has identified the need to make improvements to bus stops as a means of enhancing alternative transportation options, and highlighting bus shelters as an infrastructure improvement to help address broader Council goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND THAT the Council ~~seeks to install more bus shelters throughout the City. prioritizes bus shelters at bus stops with 30 or more boardings a day and Council~~ directs staff to move forward on installation of prioritized bus shelters throughout the City as funds and staff time permit, with the following criteria: ridership (30 or more boarding per day), racial equity, climate impact, cost and safety. beginning with the stops with the highest ridership.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of January, 2020.

ATTEST:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC  
City Clerk