



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – May 20, 2020 Agenda Item 6

Presentation

Bus Stop Accessibility Inventory Presentation by KFH Group

Recommended Council Action

Listen to presentation and provide feedback.

Context with Key Issues

In May 2019, the City of Takoma Park was awarded a Transportation Land Use Connections technical assistance grant from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments for a bus stop accessibility inventory. The purpose of this grant is to inventory all bus stops in the City and evaluate them for ADA compliance, accessibility, and bike and pedestrian improvements to better facilitate region-wide multi-modal transportation and connectivity.

The selected consultants, KFH Group, developed a comprehensive report detailing a plan for coordinated improvements of the City's bus stops. This includes targeted approaches to bring all bus stops into ADA compliance along with a prioritization ranking and the associated costs of these improvements. The final report and recommendations will allow for a targeted and holistic approach to improving bus stops and strengthening the City's overall transit network.

This study aligns with the Planning Department's ongoing work to update and inventory the City's bus stops to encourage bus ridership and use of public transportation. In January 2020, the Council passed a resolution to prioritize bus shelter installation at stops which met relevant ridership, racial equity, climate impact, cost, and safety criteria. This work supports the Council's goals of sustainability and a livable and equitable community for all, while aligning with the newly adapted Housing and Economic Development Strategic Plan.

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 45.7% 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 received \$50,000 in technical assistance from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments to fund the Bus Stop Accessibility study and final report. The associated recommendations and improvements can be partially funded through the City's Capital Improvements Program budget and the City will continue to pursue grant funding for additional improvements.

Racial Equity Considerations

Demographic surveys conducted by Metrobus indicate that bus riders in the region are disproportionately people of color, particularly in comparison to Metrorail riders. Improving access to and amenities at bus stops could improve the transportation experience for all users of the City's public transportation network.

Attachments and Links

KFH Group Final Report

Bus Stop Improvements webpage: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/bus-stop-improvements/>