

Resident Guide

Bethesda Transportation Options



Produced By:

Bethesda
TRANSPORTATION
SOLUTIONS

In Partnership With:


Bethesda
URBAN PARTNERSHIP


Better Ways
To Work!
Montgomery County
Commuter Services

Public Transit Options



Bethesda Circulator

bethesdatransit.org/bethesda/bethesda-circulator

The Bethesda Circulator is a free bus service that connects several neighborhoods in Downtown Bethesda and is managed by the Bethesda Urban Partnership (BUP).

The Circulator runs every 10 minutes: Monday - Friday 7am - 11pm | Saturday 10am - 11pm



Ride On

bethesdatransit.org/bethesda/rideon

The Ride On bus system is owned and operated by Montgomery County and offers routes to take you throughout the County. Many routes provide service in the County's neighborhoods and take people to and from transit centers, such as Metro Stations.

Ride On fares depend upon the type of route (Express, Regular, Ride On extra), but discounted fares are available.



Metrorail/Bus

bethesdatransit.org/bethesda/metrorail

The Metrorail system consists of six lines that serve counties and municipalities in the DC Metro region. The system has 91 stations, including the Bethesda Station on the Red Line. Trains operate seven days a week, however hours of operation vary across stations and between weekends and weekdays. Metrorail fares vary as well.

The Metrobus system serves as an extension of the Metrorail system. Metrobus fares depend on the kind of route (Regular or Express) with discounts available. There are several routes that pass through the Bethesda Metro Station.

Both systems are easier to navigate when you use your SmarTrip Card.



MARC Trains and Commuter Buses

bethesdatransit.org/bethesda/maryland-commuter-bus

bethesdatransit.org/bethesda/marc

MARC Trains are regional commuter trains that connect commuters in other parts of Maryland as well as West Virginia with job centers all over Maryland and Washington, DC. Ticket prices vary with discounts and passes available, and can be purchased at Montgomery County's Mobile Commuter Store, at a MARC Station, or online.

The Maryland Transit Administration (Or MTA) operates more than 50 local bus lines throughout Central Maryland. Many bus lines connect with Light Rail, Metrorail, and MARC Train Service, with stops at many Park & Ride Lots. SmarTrip Cards are not accepted on Commuter Buses. Tickets must be purchased online.



Regional Transit Options

bethesdatransit.org/bethesda/regional-options

- Maryland: The Bus - Prince George's County | VanGo Shuttle - Silver Spring | Frederick TransIT | RTA - Howard County
- Washington, DC: DC Circulator
- Virginia: DASH Bus - Alexandria | PRTC OmniRide - Prince William County | Fairfax County Connector | Loudoun County Transit Commuter BusTransit

Bike Trails



Capital Crescent/Georgetown Branch

bethesdatransit.org/bethesda/bike-routes-serving-bethesda

The Capital Crescent Trail links Downtown Bethesda to Chevy Chase, Washington DC, and Northern Virginia. In the future, the Capital Crescent Trail will connect to Silver Spring via the Georgetown Branch.

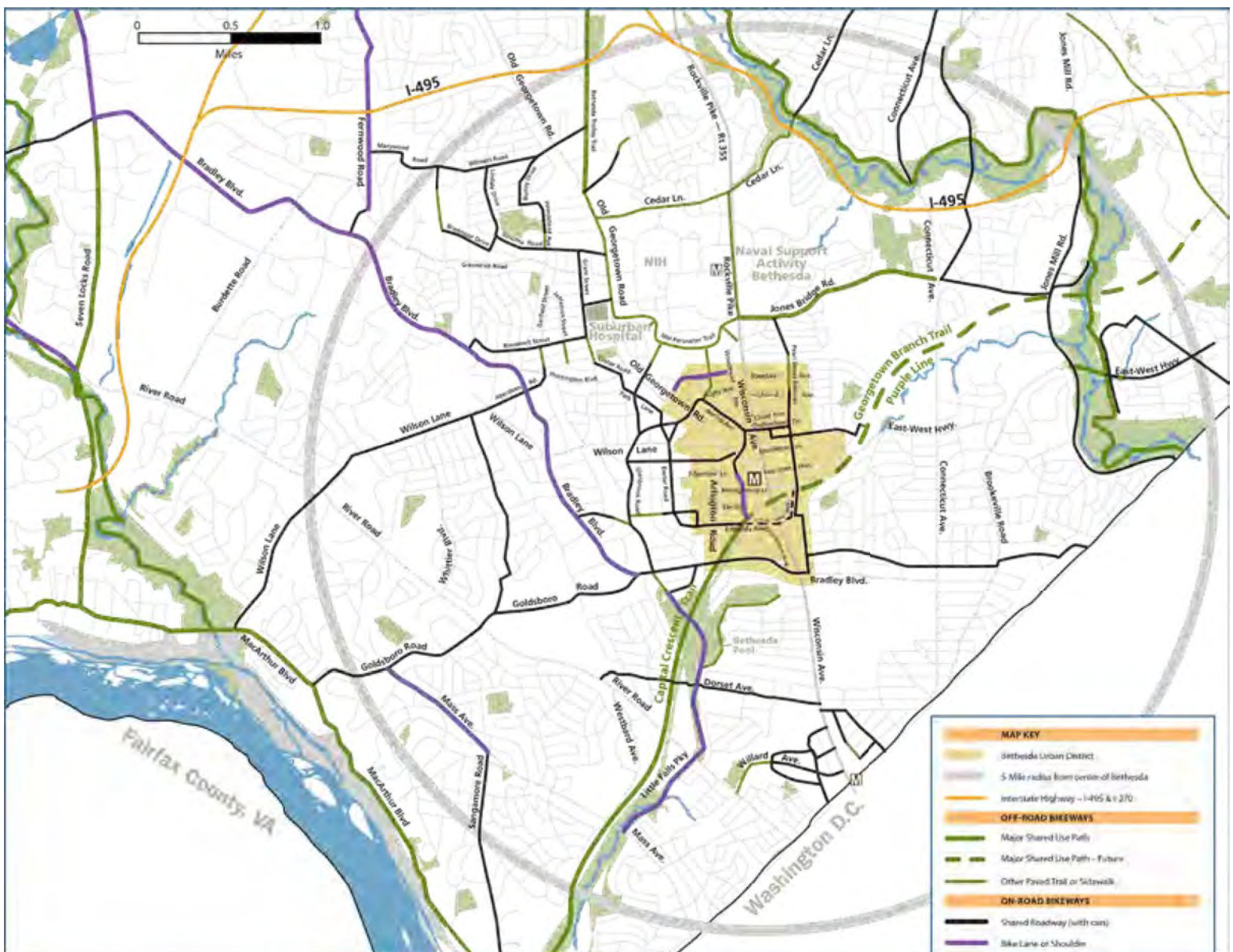
This popular hiker-biker trail is about 11-miles long and is used by tens of thousands of people each week. The CCT is used for both recreational and commuting purposes, connecting residential, commercial and employment centers.



Bethesda Trolley Trail/NIH Perimeter

bethesdatransit.org/bethesda/bike-routes-serving-bethesda

The Bethesda Trolley is a 4-mile long shared-use path that links Bethesda and North Bethesda. It runs along the perimeter of the National Institutes of Health and crosses both I-270 and I-495 via pedestrian and bicycle access only bridges.



Bike Racks and Capital Bikeshare



Bike Racks

bethesdatransit.org/bethesda/bike-racks

There are over 90 public bike racks in Downtown Bethesda, so it's easy to bike to the grocery store, to dinner, or even to work!

To use the U-shaped public bike racks, you simply park the bike in the center and secure it with your own lock. Remember to take any detachable accessories with you before you leave your bike.

Capital Bikeshare

bethesdatransit.org/bethesda/capital-bikeshare

If you don't own a bike, you can rent one using Capital Bikeshare.

To rent a bike, you will need to either join the Capital Bikeshare network, or you may purchase a 24-hour or 3-day membership at any Bikeshare station. Members get the first 30 minutes of their ride free!

Capital Bikeshare Stations in Downtown Bethesda

- 1 Battery Ln & the Trolley Trail
- 2 Norfolk & Rugby Aves
- 3 Cordell & Norfolk Aves
- 4 Fairmont & Norfolk Aves
- 5 Montgomery & East Lns near the Metro
- 6 Bethesda Ave & Arlington Rd near Bethesda Row
- 7 Montgomery Ave & Waverly St
- 8 Elm & 47th Sts at Elm Street Park
- 9 Chevy Chase Dr & Offut Ln
- 10 Wisconsin Ave & East-West Hwy near the Metro
- 11 Woodmont Ave & Strathmore St

Walking



Pedestrian Amenities

bethesdatransit.org/bethesda/walk

With well-lit sidewalks and trails, accessible crosswalks with countdown timers, and way-finding signs, it really could not be easier to walk your way around Downtown Bethesda.

Walking is also faster than you might imagine: You can walk from the Bethesda Library to the Metro Station in a little over five minutes!



Safety Tips

- Cross the street at marked crosswalks and intersections whenever possible
- Stop and look every time before crossing streets, even when you have the right-of-way, and especially at intersections with right turn on red
- Before crossing look left, right, then left again, and over your shoulder for turning vehicles
- Begin crossing the street on "walk" signals – never on a solid or flashing "don't walk"
- Use pedestrian pushbuttons to activate/extend the walk signal
- Use sidewalks. If none, walk facing traffic so you see vehicles, and drivers see you
- Make eye contact with drivers, so they see you
- Stay visible after dark and in bad weather with a reflector or retro-reflective clothing

Other Commuting Options



Carpool and Vanpool

bethesdatransit.org/bethesda/car-van-pool

Take turns driving, either in a shared van or rotating cars amongst your car pool buddies! Carpooling or Vanpooling can help save you money each month, not only on parking in certain areas of Montgomery County, but in gas and vehicle maintenance as well. Throw in being able to use the region's HOV lanes and suddenly 'Pooling becomes an easy choice. BTS will even find folks for you to carpool with! Carpool Karaoke can be strictly optional.



Car Share

bethesdatransit.org/bethesda/carshare

Car Sharing is a smart, easy means of using a car without having the expense of owning one. It allows individuals and businesses to save money, time, and the environment because you only pay for the time you use.

In Downtown Bethesda, there are vehicles from Zipcar parked in the following locations:

- 1 Zipcar at 7805 Woodmont Avenue
- 1 Zipcar at Bethesda and Woodmont Avenues (On Street)
- 3 Zipcars at 7601 Woodmont Avenue in Garage 49 (one minute walk from the Bethesda Metro Station)
- 3 Zipcars at St. Elmo-Cordell Parking Garage 40



Telework

bethesdatransit.org/bethesda/teleflex-work

The best commute is probably the one you can take in your slippers. Teleworking, or working from home, is quickly picking up steam in our area. Ask your employer if it's possible for you to telework one or two days a week or month.



Guaranteed Ride Home

bethesdatransit.org/bethesda/guaranteed-ride-home

If you take transit, carpool, bicycle or walk to work and find yourself needing to get home another way, don't panic! You are eligible for an emergency ride through the Guaranteed Ride Home program!

If you have to leave work or stay late for any unexpected emergency or unplanned overtime, you can call 1-800-745-RIDE and they will send a taxi to your office (the average wait time is 5 minutes) to take you to your destination. To be eligible for a Guaranteed Ride Home, you must be pre-registered for the program. There's no cost to registering, so sign up and have an ace up your sleeve!



Trip Planning

bethesdatransit.org/bethesda/trip-planning-tools

Still need help getting around without a car? Try one of these handy tools:

- WMATA Trip Planner - wmata.com/schedules/trip-planner - Users can choose from bus, rail, or a combination of transit methods to get between two points with the most up-to-date departure and arrival information
- Google Maps - google.com/maps - Pulls everything together by showing routes for not only transit and driving options, but walking and biking as well

There is another way!

www.bethesdatransit.org

Bethesda Transportation Solutions (BTS) is a FREE resource available to commuters and employers in Downtown Bethesda who are looking for mobility options and “another way” to get to work. BTS is a division of the Bethesda Urban Partnership (BUP), which is a non-profit organization responsible for coordinating the maintenance and marketing of Downtown Bethesda. BTS operates under a contract with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) and works diligently to facilitate active partnerships with commuters, employers, civic associations, local governments as well as residents to improve traffic congestion.

BTS Provides the following services:

Transit maps and bus routing information: BTS can provide you with information on Metrorail, Metrobus, Ride On, MARC Rail, Maryland Commuter Buses and the Bethesda Circulator.

Ridesharing Services: BTS helps commuters create carpools and matches riders with existing carpools and vanpools enabling participants to take advantage of priority parking at discounted rates in County parking garages.

Employer Services: BTS helps companies implement employee transportation programs: Guaranteed Ride Home, SmartBenefits, tax incentives, relocation services and compliance with County law requiring employer Traffic Mitigation Plans, Telework, and Flexible Work Schedule Consultation.

Commercial and Residential Property Manager

Assistance: BTS works with Downtown Bethesda property managers to provide information on transportation options for their Downtown Bethesda employees and residents. We host Commuter Information Day events in building lobbies and provide maps, transit schedules and other helpful information while giving out free prizes. BTS also assists property managers in their compliance with their Traffic Mitigation Agreements with MCDOT.

Bicycling: BTS has information on everything from the Capital Crescent Trail and public bike rack locations to bike-on-rail guidelines and Capital Bikeshare. We also host a pit stop for the regional Bike to Work Day event and provide the Bike Spirit Awards. BTS also provides a biking map of the Bethesda area.

Pedestrian Safety and Awareness: BTS works with MCDOT to promote and enhance the education, enforcement and engineering of pedestrian-related projects to make Bethesda an even more walkable community. We host the annual Walk & Ride Challenge each year to encourage employees to get out of their cars, take transit and walk more during their commute to work. BTS also produces a walking map of Downtown Bethesda.

