



## Press Release

### Maryland Transit Administration

6 St. Paul Street • Baltimore, MD 21202-1614 • 410-767-3936 • Fax 410-333-0893 • [www.mta.maryland.gov](http://www.mta.maryland.gov)

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MEDIA CONTACT: Paul Shepard  
Office 410-767-3935  
Cell: 443-622-4181

### MARC Increases Weekend Service to National Cherry Blossom Festival

*Extra Saturday Train With New Bike Car Added to Meet Demand*

**BALTIMORE, MD (APRIL 7, 2015)** – The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) today announced it will add one new southbound train and extra cars, including its new bike car, to its popular MARC Penn Line Weekend Service to meet a potential record-breaking number of riders traveling to Washington, D.C., for the National Cherry Blossom Festival this Saturday, April 11, and Sunday, April 12. The world-famous festival, which annually draws more than one million visitors to Washington, D.C., will be highlighted by the annual parade taking place this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 Noon.

MARC will add one train with five coaches and one bike car that will leave Penn Station in Baltimore on Saturday at 11:20 a.m. This train departure is in addition to regularly scheduled southbound trains. The bike car is equipped to hold 23 full-sized bicycles and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. MARC also will add cars to existing trains leaving Baltimore on Saturday and Sunday to meet the expected surge in ridership. Bike trains will be available on several existing weekend trains and are identified on the schedule by a bike symbol next to the train number.

Last year, which was the first year of weekend service, approximately 13,500 passengers rode MARC Penn Line trains on the final weekend of the Cherry Blossom Festival. Current weekend ridership has averaged around 6,500 passengers.

MARC Train Weekend Service offers nine round trips between Penn Station and Union Station on Saturdays and six round trips on Sundays for the same \$7.00 one-way fare offered on weekdays, with monthly and weekly passes honored. Serving Martin State Airport, Baltimore's Penn Station, West Baltimore, Halethorpe, BWI, Odenton, Bowie, New Carrollton and Washington, D.C.'s Union Station, the complete schedule, which includes fares from each station, is available online at [http://mta.maryland.gov/sites/default/files/PENN-Weekend\\_122014.pdf](http://mta.maryland.gov/sites/default/files/PENN-Weekend_122014.pdf)

MARC customers are reminded to purchase their tickets before boarding to avoid the on-board \$3 surcharge at stations that have ticket kiosks. MTA also strongly encourages riders to arrive at their station approximately 30 minutes early to allow enough time to purchase tickets and board the train.

For the latest information on MTA service, passengers are urged to check the MTA website at [www.mta.maryland.gov](http://www.mta.maryland.gov). Customers also can call the MTA Transit Information Contact Center Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. at 410-539-5000 or TTY 410-539-3497. To receive email alerts about service modifications and delays, go to [www.mta.maryland.gov/enotifications](http://www.mta.maryland.gov/enotifications). We invite you to join the conversation by visiting MTA's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/mtamaryland> or Twitter feed at <http://twitter.com/mtamaryland>

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