

MTA Project Update

July 2013

KIRK DIVISION MODERNIZATION

Kirk Division Modernization Project to Start Construction Late this Summer

The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) is happy to announce that the much anticipated construction for Phase I of the Kirk Bus Facility Replacement Project is expected to start at the end of the summer. Phase I involves the construction of a \$53 million, state-of-the-art, sustainable design, energy efficient/green technology building that will house maintenance operations for the Kirk Bus Division.

This investment will help to address long standing concerns of the community over noise, emissions and parking, as well as improve the efficiency of MTA's maintenance operation. This project will allow the MTA to better control noise, exhaust fumes, and visibility of the buses to the surrounding community. Last July, the state was awarded \$40 million in federal funding to move forward with replacing the aging, inefficient, Kirk Division site. Governor Martin O'Malley applauded the decision, saying, "For decades MTA's bus operation and its neighbors have coexisted but it is clear that we must improve the Kirk facility and do more to

Rendering of Phase I Maintenance Building



address the noise and air quality issues that impact our neighbors. With this grant, MTA can begin to move forward and address these concerns while improving transit in Baltimore."

The construction of the new maintenance facility is projected to support or create jobs, and a Hiring Plan has been developed by MTA (see inside) as a testimony to their commitment to reducing barriers to employment and supporting a diverse workforce.



Community Greenspace Coming!

Along with the construction of a State of the Art Maintenance Facility MTA will also be developing a Green Space available for community use, at the SE corner (intersection of Kirk Ave and Bartlett Alley) of the existing Kirk Bus Division property. The project has been a joint effort between MTA and the Community to address some of the immediate visibility concerns raised by the neighborhood. The landscaped space will feature an open lawn, gazebo with seating, a walking path with a bench, fencing, pedestrian lighting, ornamental planting and trees. Existing and new planting along Bartlett Alley - will serve as a visual buffer between the houses and the bus division. The project is slated to start construction at the end of Summer 2013, with a projected completion in Spring of 2014.

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Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor



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KIRK DIVISION MODERNIZATION

MTA Replacing Air Starter Buses with Hybrids

In 2004, the MTA promised to remove older diesel buses with air starters from the Kirk Division, replacing them with cleaner, quieter buses. That year, the MTA purchased 125 new buses that conformed to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2002 emission standards and have electric starters. Of these buses, 82 were assigned to the Kirk Division, replacing 82 of the older buses with higher emission standards and noisy air starters.

Additional replacements have occurred:

- 2014 – The MTA plans to purchase 53 more Xcelsior buses, 12 of which will be placed at the Kirk Division. These will conform to 2013 emission standards and be even more efficient.
- 2012 – The MTA purchased 53 new Hybrid Electric Diesel buses, and 3 were placed at the Kirk Division. 6 clean diesel buses were also placed at Kirk. All 9 buses conformed to the 2007 EPA emission standards.
- 2011 – The MTA purchased 57 New Flyer Xcelsior Hybrid Diesel Electric Buses, which conform to 2010 EPA emission standards and are all electric starter equipped. 27 of the Xcelsior buses were placed in service at Kirk thus 27 more older buses were either retired or reassigned.
- 2009 – The MTA purchased 100 new Hybrid Electric Diesel buses, and 34 were placed in service at the Kirk Division. These buses met 2007 EPA emission standards and are equipped with electric starters. This removed 34 more of the older less efficient buses from Kirk.

Since 2004, MTA has removed 143 air starter equipped buses from Kirk Avenue. These buses have been replaced with 70 Hybrid Electric buses to the Kirk Division Fleet. MTA plans on adding 12 more beginning this fall. At present, there are 25 buses left at Kirk with Air Starters, about half of the remaining buses with air starters are slated to be replaced this fall. This will also increase the number of Hybrids to 82 of 172 total buses assigned to Kirk.



Reese Press Abatement Activities

The Reese Press building has been surveyed for all hazardous materials. Samples were taken and analyzed for asbestos content. From the survey, EA Engineering, Inc. developed a work plan for the abatement of hazardous materials and the work plan was provided to MTA. MTA anticipates starting the abatement work in July 2013. This work will be completed by early/mid August. After the abatement work is finished, MTA will have the Phase I contractor start construction of the maintenance building.

Hiring Plan for Phase I of the Kirk Bus Division Modernization Project

The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) is committed to reducing barriers to employment in the construction industry and ensuring a diverse workforce. To support this commitment, MTA is instituting measures to increase the participation of workers residing in economically distressed areas and of disadvantaged workers to construct Phase I of the Kirk Avenue Division Modernization Project.

As a major step towards workforce diversity, MTA has established a target hiring goal by stipulating that 15% of all work hours on the Kirk Avenue Division Modernization Project be performed by workers residing in economically distressed areas and of disadvantaged workers.

The project's successful contractor is expected to meet and/or exceed the targeted hiring goal. To assist the contractor, MTA will form a Workforce Supportive Services Committee including the following:

- (a) MTA;
- (b) the Maryland Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation (DLLR), or their designee from the local Workforce Investment Board; and
- (c) Community-based Workforce Development Organization.

This Committee will work with the contractor to access the Maryland Workforce Exchange and national resources (labor unions, non-profit job developers, etc.) to identify a pool of qualified candidates for this project. Upon request by the Contractor, DLLR and community-based workforce development organizations can also provide certain training or counseling to job candidates or link the Contractor to training programs for employment on this project.

The Workforce Supportive Services Committee will be charged with:

- (a) Reviewing the Hiring Plan;
- (b) Meeting quarterly with the contractor to review progress towards the target hiring goal; and
- (c) Assisting the contractor by providing recommendations on specific measures to increase the participation of nationally targeted workers.

To achieve these objectives and ensure that this approach has results, MTA will also provide continuing guidance, assistance and compliance review.



*Rendering
of Phase I
Maintenance
Building Interior*

Community Events

- St. Ann Roman Catholic Church wishes to thank the MTA and Judy Bellamy, Community Liaison, for their participation in the May 18th, 2013 Community Health Fair. Special thanks to the more than 250 residents who came out and joined in the celebration which included a marching band, face painting, DJ, health care providers (private and public) and lots of healthy foods and gifts! Upcoming events include:
 - **Black Catholic History Bus Tour of Southern Maryland**
Saturday, September 21st, 2013
Call: 410-235-8169 for ticket information
 - **140th Anniversary Mass Celebration**
Sunday, October 20, 2013
Reunion of all former and present parishioners and community residents, priests & religious and former students of St. Ann School. Mass will begin at 10:00 a.m. St. Ann's Church – Greenmount Ave. & 22nd St. Followed by Reception & Entertainment in the hall of Mother Seton Academy next door.



Construction Community Liaison Position Filled

MTA is pleased to announce that Sandra Coles, a member of the Kirk community has been selected as the Construction Community Liaison for Phase I of the project. Many resumes were submitted in response to the advertised employment opportunity and, after a thorough interview process, Sandra was chosen as the best qualified to serve the community as construction liaison. More to come on this exciting new hire!

Stay Connected

If you would like to be notified of the next community meeting, please opt-in to our mailing list by contacting Judy Bellamy, Community Liaison at **410-767-1757**, or **JBellamy@mta.maryland.gov**