Mark Center Buses Ready to Roll

PRTC is ready to start operating two new OmniRide commuter bus routes to the Mark Center in Alexandria soon after construction is complete on the new Seminary Road HOV ramp.

The Virginia Department of Transportation, which is building the I-395 HOV ramp, estimates it will open in January.

Security is a Priority

A Message from the Interim Executive Director:

In light of recent world events, I’d like to remind all PRTC passengers of the importance of the See Something, Say Something campaign.

If you notice something suspicious or out of the ordinary at the bus stop or on the bus, please tell your bus operator, local law enforcement or call 911.

Safety and security are top priorities for PRTC and its contractor, First Transit. All First Transit employees undergo background checks including fingerprint checks performed by the Virginia State Police, and employees are rechecked every six months. First

Service Change Takes Effect Dec. 7

All PRTC buses will have updated timetables and maps as of December 7 when the bi-annual service change takes effect.

PRTC updates its schedules twice a year to reflect changes in bus stops, routing and the time it takes to travel between timepoints along the routes.

Starting November 30, passengers can see the new schedules online at PRTCtransit.org or ask their bus operator for a new printed schedule.

Once the new schedules are in effect, printed copies also are available on buses and at various locations throughout the community.

Highlights for the Fall Service Change include:
Try Tysons Buses for Christmas Shopping

You’ll avoid the stress of driving and searching for a parking spot at Tysons Corner Center when you use PRTC’s bus services for your Christmas shopping this year!

From the Manassas and Gainesville areas, catch a Manassas Metro Direct or Linton Hall Metro Direct bus on weekdays to the Tysons Corner Metro Station, which is just a short distance on a covered walkway from the shopping destination.

Metro Direct buses serving Manassas operate all day, while buses serving Gainesville operate during the rush hours, so you can take your time shopping and grabbing a bite in the food court, or one of the many restaurants in the area. The one way Metro Direct fare is $6.20 with a SmarTrip card or $8.30 cash.

From the I-95 corridor, board the Tysons OmniRide bus on weekdays at the Woodbridge VRE station or at the I-95/Route 123 Commuter Lot and ride to the Tysons Corner Center stop. Buses run during rush hours. The one way fare is $6.20 with a SmarTrip card or $8.30 cash.

See the timetables and plan your trip at PRTCtransit.org.

Service Change in Effect Dec. 7

Continued from page 1

• Trips serving the Pentagon and Crystal City from Dale City and Lake Ridge will have new timetables;
• Manassas OmniRide trips will have new routing, eliminating Williamson Blvd;
• The MX-1 mid-day trip to the State Department will have new routing;
• Metro Direct routes serving Manassas and Linton Hall will have new timetables;
• Dale City OmniLink will have three morning trips starting from a new location;
• All OmniLink routes will have new timetables; and
• Cross County Connector trips will have new timetables.

For more information about the upcoming Service Change, call PRTC’s Customer Service office at (703) 730-6664 or visit PRTCtransit.org.

Mark Center

Continued from page 1

All of PRTC’s operating expenses for the Mark Center routes will be 100% funded by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), which aims to reduce gridlock on I-395.

These new routes—one starting in Dale City and the other in Lake Ridge—will be the first trips PRTC has ever operated to Alexandria, opening up a new destination for Prince William County residents looking for an alternative to driving alone!

The Dale City route will start at the Dale City Commuter Lot and serve the Lake Ridge Commuter Lot, the Old Bridge and Route 123 Commuter Lot, and the I-95 and Route 123 Commuter Lot before traveling to Alexandria.

The Lake Ridge route will start at the Tacketts Mill Commuter Lot and serve stops along Dale Boulevard before connecting with I-95.

Mark Center passengers will pay the standard OmniRide commuter bus one-way fare of $6.20 with a SmarTrip card or $8.30 cash.

Timetables, maps and updated information about the official start date of the routes can be found at PRTCtransit.org.
First Transit, PRTC’s bus services contract provider, recognizes one outstanding operator each month and one outstanding technician each quarter. If you have a compliment about First Transit personnel, please let us know!

**Operator of the Month**

**Reginald Thomas - June 2015**
Mr. Thomas, a Washington, D.C. native who now lives in Woodbridge, has been operating PRTC buses for three years. He currently operates a trip to Crystal City and trips on the Prince William Metro Direct and Rosslyn OmniRide routes. In his free time, he enjoys watching sports including boxing, football and basketball. He requested that his photo not be included.

**Kwame Tisiboe - July 2015**
“If you love what you do, every day is a good day,” is Mr. Tisiboe’s motto. He said the best part of his job is facing everyday challenges and meeting the expectations of his customers. Mr. Tisiboe, a Ghana native, now lives in Manassas. He has been operating buses at PRTC for 3 1/2 years and currently operates trips on the Woodbridge OmniLink route. He is married with two children and enjoys watching movies, soccer, swimming and boxing.

**Baba Muhammed - August 2015**
After more than 7 years operating buses at PRTC, Mr. Muhammed is currently assigned as an extra board operator—ready to fill in on any route when other operators are on vacation. And he says the best part of his job is being assigned a different route every day. A resident of Alexandria, Mr. Muhammed is originally from Ghana. He has three children and enjoys playing soccer.

**Ahmed Kamoul - September 2015**
Helping passengers is Mr. Kamoul’s goal every day. He has been operating buses at PRTC for more than 7 years and currently operates trips on the Montclair and Dale City OmniRide routes. He moved to the area 16 years ago from Morocco and now resides in Woodbridge. He is married with children and says he enjoys spending time outside with his family.

**Phouthon Amphaphonh - October 2015**
A native of Laos, Mr. Amphaphonh has been in the area for 13 years and now calls Manassas home. He has operated buses at PRTC for nearly six years and currently is assigned to trips on the Rosslyn OmniRide route and also serves as a standby operator. He is married with two children, and in his free time he enjoys walking, running and tennis. Mr. Amphaphonh requested that his photo not be included.

**Technician of the Quarter**

**Angel Quinteros - April to June 2015**
Mr. Quinteros, who has been with First Transit at PRTC since 2014, was recognized for his dedication in the maintenance department. He is an ASE technician and a resident of Prince William. In his free time, he enjoys riding his Harley.

---

**A Double Decker Trip**

PRTC recently arranged for a test drive on a double decker bus. The low-floor bus allows for easy boarding and carries up to 47% more riders than our current commuter buses, which would help PRTC save money on operating costs. We may consider adding double decker buses to our fleet in the future.
Why does my bus now have automated announcements?

I like the automated announcements on my bus. What else does the system do?

—R.G. of Manassas Park

The Computer-Aided Dispatch/Automatic Vehicle Location (CAD/AVL) system offers several benefits to passengers other than the automated announcements of bus stops inside and outside the bus. Other features include:

- Automatic passenger counting which can trigger signs alerting boarding passengers if the bus is standing room only, and provide PRTC with more accurate ridership data;
- Audible announcements about important items, such as service changes and holiday schedules;
- Turn-by-turn navigation to help bus operators follow the correct routing and detours when necessary; and
- In 2016, the system will enable PRTC to offer real-time bus arrival information on our website and via Rider Express email and text alerts.

The CAD/AVL was purchased in 2012 using $4.4 million in grant funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation plus $971,000 in federal, state and local funds.

We look forward to fully-implementing this technology to improve your bus riding experience.