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- Metro's gradual recovery plan promotes safety first, while ramping up regional mobility



For immediate release: May 11, 2020

Metro's gradual recovery plan promotes safety first, while ramping up regional mobility

Metro today released preliminary details of its [Covid-19 pandemic recovery plan](#), outlining a flexible blueprint for ramping up service, while protecting customers and employees, as the region prepares for recovery from the public health crisis. The recovery strategy will be discussed at Metro's Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, May 14.

Metro's plan is closely aligned with steps planned by local governments and employers, including the federal government. Its success depends on a sustained downward trajectory in infections and a gradual ramp-up in service and ridership. The phases of the plan coincide with the relaxing of stay-at-home policies, return to workplaces, and the widespread availability of testing, treatment and a vaccine, among other variables.

Protecting Customers and Employees

Metro's priority continues to be protecting the health and safety of its customers and employees while providing transportation for essential trips throughout the region. Efforts to reduce exposure to the virus will continue until treatments and /or a vaccine are developed to lessen the public health risk. Metro's Pandemic Task Force is monitoring infection and ridership trends as well as actions by local governments and employers, and will aim to increase service ahead of demand to allow for adequate social distancing. Modified work schedules and practices for Metro employees will continue for the foreseeable future, with adjustments possible, to limit risk to employees.

Phases of recovery

Metro has been in a 'crisis response' posture since moving into stage 3 of its Pandemic Response Plan on March 13. (Metro activated its Pandemic Response Plan on January 29, 2020.) The next phase of Metro's pandemic response includes:

- **Stabilization:** As stay-at-home orders are expected to be lifted this summer, Metro will continue to ask customers to use the system only for essential trips, and to protect themselves and others through hand hygiene and by wearing face masks or coverings when using the Metro system.
- **Managed re-entry:** As regional businesses and governments scale back teleworking and schools reopen, Metro will aim to ramp up service ahead of demand to allow for proper social distancing for those who need to travel. In this phase, all Metrorail stations currently closed as part of the Covid-19 response will reopen. All Metrobus routes will operate, with some service limitations such as reduced intervals between bus departures. The tentative managed re-entry period is this fall when schools reopen.
- **Recovery:** When a treatment and /or vaccine is widely available, Metro will continue to ramp up service to meet ridership demand as economic activity increases. The system will return to post-pandemic hours of service.

- Resilience: Post-pandemic, Metro will analyze the response to Covid-19 to make the system safer and more resilient to future pandemics.

Summer track work

During the stabilization period this summer, Metro will take advantage of low ridership to reduce impacts to customers from critical state of good repair construction projects. It's recovery plan includes targeted week-long shutdowns of 3-5 stations at a time for track maintenance and upgrades. Bus bridges will be provided in the shutdown zones, and headways throughout the rest of the system will not be affected. Track work will be announced weeks in advance. The first track work shutdown is currently targeted for June 7-13 at L'Enfant Plaza, Waterfront, and Navy Yard stations.

Metro continues to encourage the public to follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), as well as all applicable executive orders and local guidance intended to limit travel. Metro should be used for essential travel only. All customers using the system should wear a cloth face covering or mask, as recommended by the CDC. For additional information, visit wmata.com/covid19.

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