

# ART Forum

Get into ART

## ART Celebrates 10 Years of Service



Arlington Transit, ART, the County's local transit service has entered its tenth year of service to the community. Begun in 1998 with a single community circulator in Crystal City, the Arlington Trolley, ART now serves more than a million passengers a year on a system of ten routes. As illustrated in the table below, ART has experienced steady growth.

In response to the ever growing demand for more and better transit service, ART has taken steps during the last year to ensure a sustainable future with the purchase of new low-floor, heavy-duty vehicles and the relocation of the ART fleet and operations to the ART House site on S. Eads Street.

As we commemorate the past ten years of achievements, we know that there is more we can do to fulfill our mission to bring high quality, safe and accessible transit service to all Arlingtonians. Over the course of the next year, the ART staff will be planning a series of community meetings throughout Arlington. Through these meetings we will share with you more information about our current services and plans for the future, and gain from you insights about how we may better serve your communities. **Our first meeting will be Thursday, May 15, 6:30 pm–8:00 pm, at the Dawson Terrace Community Center, 2133 N. Taft Street.** For future meeting dates, times, and locations check [www.ArlingtonTransit.com](http://www.ArlingtonTransit.com). ■

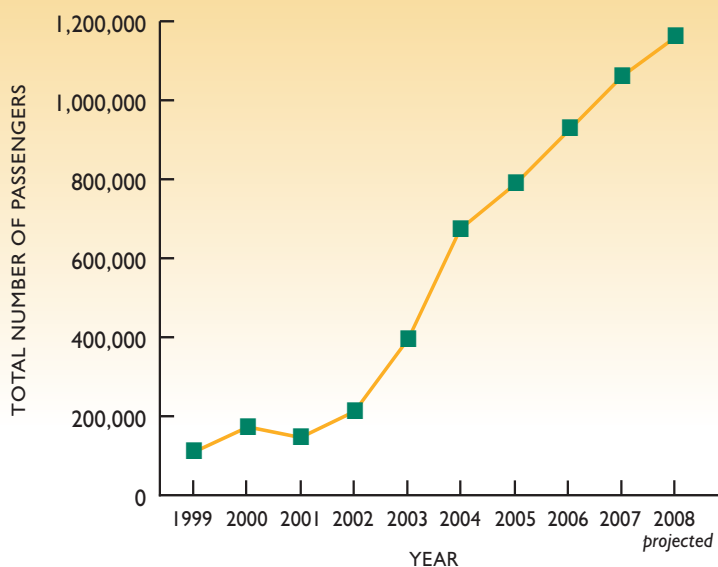
## Do You Have a SmarTrip Card?

ART's new fare boxes accept SmarTrip cards and by using one you could save money. The Arlington County Board may approve a proposed fare increase for ART at their mid-April meeting. Beginning July 1, 2008, regular ART fares paid in cash or with tokens would cost \$1.35 and the cost of cash or token transfer from Metrorail to ART would be \$0.45. However, if you pay with a SmarTrip card, your full fare will remain at \$1.25 and \$0.35 for a transfer. Metrobus currently charges the same fares for riders using SmarTrip cards.

SmarTrip cards are permanent, rechargeable farecards that can be used on Metrorail, Metrobus, and many

—continued on page 4

## ART RIDERSHIP FY 1999–FY 2008





## Construction to Begin in Rosslyn

**T**wo new construction projects that are slated to begin this year in Rosslyn will impact the Rosslyn Metro Station. Rosslyn Central Place will begin demolition of buildings on the block between North Moore Street, 19th Street, North Lynn Street and Wilson Boulevard this spring. The 1812 North Moore Street project is located immediately north of the existing Metrorail station entrance between North Moore Street and Ft. Myer Drive, and will begin demolition this summer. The County Department of Transportation is working with the developers of both projects, and with WMATA and other transportation providers to ensure that access and services are maintained during construction.

The Rosslyn Central Place development will include an office building with an observation deck on the 31st floor, retail shops, and a residential building. A public plaza will be the centerpiece of the development and three new high-speed, high-capacity elevators to the Metro Station will be built as part of the plaza on the east side of North Moore Street. The plaza will also have direct access via the new elevators to the station through a new entrance mezzanine complete with fare gates and a station manager kiosk.

The 1812 North Moore Street development will be an office building with retail on the ground level which will include a relocated Commuter Store. The Commuter Store will have access to both 1812 North Moore Street and the Metro Station. The building's lobby will contain a 24-hour accessible pedestrian passage way from Ft. Myer Drive to North Moore Street and will house real-time bus and Metro information. As part of the construction, there will be new ADA access to the Metro Station from Ft. Myer Drive.

Plans call for relocating the North Moore Street mid-block cross walk and several bus stops as well as reconstructing North Moore Street. These station access improvements will provide many long term benefits to support the anticipated increase in rail ridership that will result from the completion of these projects. The projects are anticipated to be completed in 2011. Updates on Rosslyn construction will be provided in the *ART Forum* and at [www.CommuterPage.com](http://www.CommuterPage.com). ■

## Be a Member of the Transit Advisory Committee

**A**rlington County is looking for residents with an interest in public transit to serve on the Transit Advisory Committee. Members are appointed by the County Manager to represent a cross section of transit riders from throughout Arlington. The committee meets monthly and advises the County Manager and staff on transit policies and issues related to Metro, ART and STAR services.

If you are interested in serving on the committee, write Richard Hartman, Transportation Division, Arlington County, 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 900, Arlington, Virginia 22201 or email him at [rchartman@arlingtonva.us](mailto:rchartman@arlingtonva.us).

## Shirlington Station Update

**S**hirlington Station, Arlington's first enclosed public bus station, is moving along at a steady pace. This station will serve as the principal transfer point for Metrobus and ART bus service and also house a Commuter Store. The station is located at the intersection of South Randolph Street and 31st Street South next to Shirley Highway (I-395), across from the Quincy Tower office building. Station opening is scheduled for late Spring. ■



Buses practice pulling into the new station.

# Mark Your Calendar for Two Upcoming Bike Events

## BIKE TO WORK DAY – MAY 16

Join thousands of area commuters for a celebration of bicycling as a clean, fun and healthy way to get to work. This year's ride is on Friday, May 16 with two great pit stops to choose from in Rosslyn and Crystal City. Bicycle commuter caravans begin in the suburbs and make their way through Arlington to the central pit stop at Freedom Plaza in D.C. Pit stops will have snacks, beverages, music, raffles and giveaways. Registration is free and all registered participants will receive a t-shirt. To register and for more information, go to [www.BikeArlington.com](http://www.BikeArlington.com) and click on the yellow "Bike to Work" box.



## ARLINGTON & ALEXANDRIA COMMUNITY BIKE RIDE – JUNE 7



The 4th Annual Arlington & Alexandria Community Bike Ride presented by Crystal Ride takes place on Saturday, June 7. The ride starts and finishes on Crystal Drive in Crystal City. There are two routes to choose from: the 8-mile Family Ride and 23-mile Community Tour.

The Family Ride will take place exclusively on trails (perfect for the less-experienced rider), with views of the Potomac as you glide along the Mt. Vernon Trail. The Community Tour is great for the more experienced rider with a loop through neighborhoods in Arlington and Alexandria on scenic trails and bike lanes. Both routes will have full service rest stops and refreshments. And, the fun doesn't stop once you've crossed the finish line—there will be live music, face painting for the young and young-at-heart, a Moonbounce for the little ones, and a chance for riders to win prizes. Visit [www.BikeArlington.com](http://www.BikeArlington.com) and click on the green "Community Bike Ride" box for more information and to register. ■

## Ride ART Free on Code Red Bad Air Days

**F**orecast Code Red Bad Air days occurs when ozone levels are expected to be extremely high and air quality to be very poor. On forecast Code Red air quality days, you can ride the ART bus and other Northern Virginia buses for FREE. Here's how it works:

1. From May 1–September 15 tune into your local radio or television stations to hear the air quality forecast for the next day. Or go to one of the following web-sites:

■ [ridefreenova.org](http://ridefreenova.org)

■ [mwcog.org/environment/air/forecast/](http://mwcog.org/environment/air/forecast/)  
■ [CommuterPage.com](http://CommuterPage.com), or  
■ [ArlingtonTransit.com](http://ArlingtonTransit.com) and sign up for ART Alert email notification.

2. If the forecast for the next day is Code Red you ride FREE all day.

3. Go to an ART bus stop and hop-on. Fareboxes will be covered with a red plastic bag as a reminder not to pay. Participating bus systems include:

■ Alexandria Transit Co. DASH  
■ Arlington Transit–ART  
■ City of Fairfax CUE

■ City of Falls Church GEORGE  
■ Fairfax Connector  
■ Loudoun County Transit  
■ Metrobus in Northern Virginia  
■ PRTC OmniRide and  
■ Virginia Regional Transit.

A Code Red Free Ride Preview Day will be held on Wednesday, April 30, with free rides on ART all day. ART staff will be at the Pentagon City Metro Station from 6:00 am to 10:00 am to answer questions and help plan future trips. ■

## Meet Frank Stone ART's Safety and Training Manager



As ART's Safety and Training Manager, Frank is responsible for providing continuing education training for the bus operators. The latest training program was a refresher course on ADA regulations and sensitivity awareness for passengers with disabilities. Future topics will include Defensive Driving Techniques, Customer Service Communication, and Emergency Preparedness Training.

Before joining Arlington Transit, Frank was the General Manager for the Charles County Public Transportation Project which included both fixed route and para-transit services.

When not working, Frank spends most of his time on the Chesapeake Bay as a sports fisherman. His other hobbies include SCUBA diving, camping and gardening. He's been married for 27 years and has a 21 year old daughter. ■



## More Weekend Pike Ride Service

### SUNDAYS—16 line buses serve both Pentagon and Pentagon City

Sundays between 9:00 am and 10:00 pm, 16J and 16B buses are rerouted to serve the Pentagon City Metrorail station. Route 16J buses are renamed 16P, and 16B buses affected by this change are renamed 16E.

### SATURDAYS—16 line buses run every 15 minutes

Saturdays between 7:30 am and 9:00 pm, buses operate every 15 minutes. Combined, 16B, 16G and 16J buses run every 7 ½ minutes along Columbia Pike in Arlington.

See new Metrobus 16 line timetables or visit [www.CommuterPage.com](http://www.CommuterPage.com) or [www.wmata.com](http://www.wmata.com) for more information.

## Are you on Arlington's Car-Free Diet?

[carfreediet.com](http://carfreediet.com)



## Do You Have a SmarTrip Card? — continued from page 1

regional transit systems. SmarTrip cards are plastic like a credit card and embedded with a special computer chip that keeps track of the value of the card.

### WHERE TO BUY A SMARTRIP CARD

You can buy a SmarTrip card for a \$5.00 fee at the following Arlington locations:

#### ■ Crystal City Commuter Store

Crystal City Shops North, 1615-B Crystal Square Arcade  
(Directly across from Hamburger Hamlet)  
HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

#### ■ Ballston Commuter Store

Ballston Common Mall, Suite 1244, 4238 Wilson Blvd.  
HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Sat. 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

#### ■ Rosslyn Commuter Store

Rosslyn Metro Center Mall, Level 2, 1700 N. Moore Street  
HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

#### ■ Mobile Commuter Store

At various locations around Arlington. Visit [www.commuterpage.com/mobilestore.htm](http://www.commuterpage.com/mobilestore.htm) for exact locations and times.

#### ■ CommuterDirect.com

Can't make it to one of our stores? Order online at [CommuterDirect.com](http://CommuterDirect.com) and have your SmarTrip card as well as tickets, tokens, or passes delivered to your home or office.

For more information on SmarTrip cards, visit WMATA's website at [www.wmata.com/riding/smartrip.cfm](http://www.wmata.com/riding/smartrip.cfm). ■