



# THE DISPATCH



Prince George's County's Department of Public Works & Transportation's

Monthly Newsletter

July 2020

## Heroes Work Here!



*Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation Director Terry L. Bellamy and Associate Director Vernon Stinnett unveil sign to honor department's frontline employees*

The Department of Public Works and Transportation's (DPW&T) frontline employees are real heroes. In the course of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

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### Popular Links

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pandemic, these heroes have truly shown us their superpowers, by showing up, working hard and remaining committed to DPW&T's mission.

Even during these uncertain times, our employees have remained steadfast and continue to serve Prince George's County daily with stellar service, while taking necessary safety precautions. Thank you for all the extraordinary things you do!



*Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Distribution and mowing operations*

## COVID-19 Response

*TheBus* and *Call-A-Bus* vehicles and operators have been assisting with the County's COVID-19 response efforts in addition to meeting the transportation needs of the general public. Most recently, DPW&T collaborated with the Office of Emergency Management and Office of Central Services Fleet Services to transform one of our transit vehicles into a mobile health screening and testing unit, which is being used to assist with testing throughout the County.

- [CountyClick 3-1-1](#)
- [SHA Projects & Studies](#)
- [SHA Customer Service](#)

## Social Media



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The Agency also partnered with the Office of Emergency Management and the Department of Social Services to transport 40 men from a men's shelter in Capitol Heights to alternative housing in Beltsville, helping support safety precautions and social distancing requirements. We strive to support all of our agencies, employees and Prince Georgians.



*COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Testing and Emergency Transport*

## Crews Respond to Emergencies Caused by Flooding





*Damage and repairs at 11700 Brandywine Road*

Over the last few weeks, DPW&T crews responded to hazardous road conditions caused by flooding due to heavy rainfall. In some cases, crews worked into the night to ensure roadways were cleared, repaired and safe.

Along Brandywine Road, crews removed damaged sections of asphalt and underlying sub-base and replaced it. The impacted area will ultimately be reconstructed as part of the larger Brandywine Road Bridge Replacement project, which addresses stormwater management issues, slated to begin in late 2021. For additional information on the upcoming project, click [here](#).



*Culvert inspection following flooding in late June*

Members of our Office of Engineering and Project Management also headed out to the field, along with the City of Laurel's Public Works Director, Rob Ferree, to inspect the City of Laurel's DPW&T-maintained culvert following significant rainfall and flash flooding on Wednesday, June 22, 2020. Findings indicated no damage to the culvert.

Culverts are structures created to allow for water flow under roads, railroads and trails from one side to the other.

To report damages or concerns, call 3-1-1 or submit a service request online at [countyclick311.com](https://countyclick311.com).

## Projects Continue to Move Forward During the Pandemic



*Sunnyside Avenue Bridge Replacement Capital Improvement Project (CIP)*

**Sunnyside Avenue Bridge Replacement Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Update:**

Work continues on the Sunnyside Avenue Bridge Replacement project, with new road surfaces, recently added sidewalks and traffic signal installations. Crews also installed new guardrails along the Sunnyside Avenue Bridge. You can find more information on this project [here](#).





*Ager Road Green Complete Street Capital Improvement Project (CIP)*

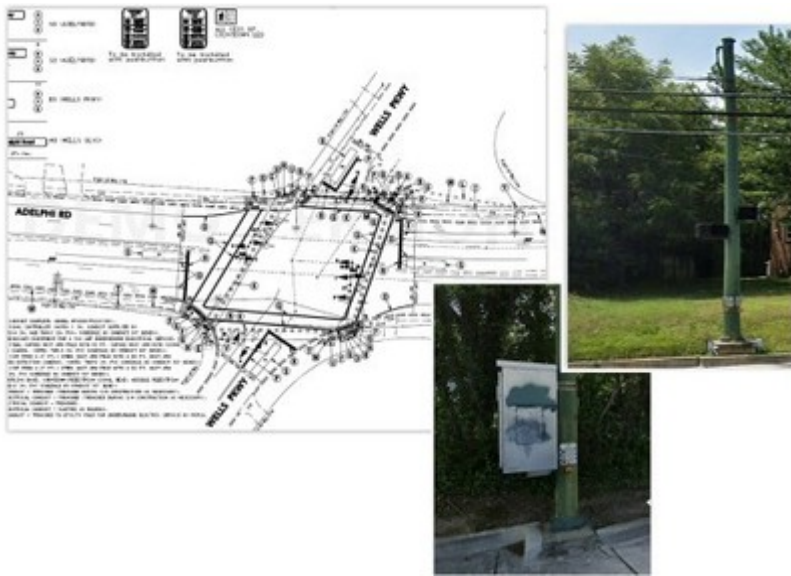
### **Ager Road Green Complete Street Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Update:**

The Ager Road Green Complete Street project continues to move along with extensive work being completed on the bridge over Northwest Branch, which now has a new concrete riding surface. For more information on this project, click [here](#).

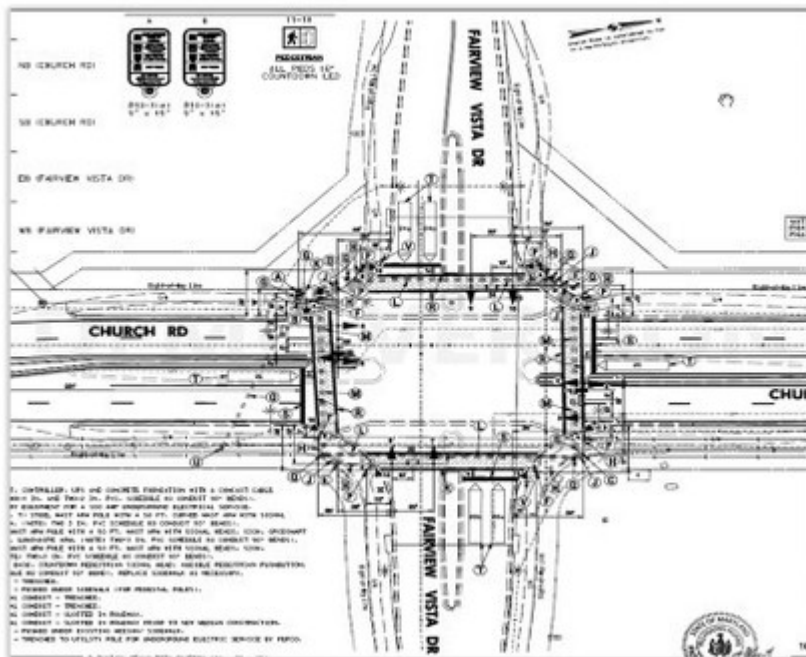
DPW&T is working on many other projects to enhance quality of life, improve mobility and make our roadways safer. See a full list of projects [here](#).

### **Be on the Lookout for these Upcoming Projects**

DPW&T is working to modernize some of the older traffic signals throughout the county and upgrade them to our latest standard, which includes launching audible pedestrian signal heads with count down timers, advanced video detection systems and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant ramps to improve accessibility and safety. The latest pedestrian equipment, ADA ramps and GRIDSMART video detection cameras will also be featured at these locations.



Church Road at Fairview Vista Drive Signal Improvement Project



Adelphi Road at Wells Parkway Signal Improvement Project

## RATP Dev USA Begins Partnership with DPW&T





*From left to right: Sean Smith, General Manager; Semia Hackett, Deputy Associate Director; Martin Harris, Deputy Director; Robert Smith, RAPT-Dev USA; Arnaud Legrand, President and CEO, RAPT-Dev USA; Michael Birch, RAPT-Dev USA; Gwendolyn Clerkley, Deputy Director*

DPW&T selected a new contractor, RATP Dev USA, for the County's fixed route transit system, *TheBus*. RATP Dev USA assumed day-to-day control of the 97-bus fleet on Wednesday, July 1, 2020.

RATP Dev USA has managed and operated transit systems throughout the U.S. since 1972, and today supports over 40 cities and communities throughout North America.

"We understand the importance of providing a reliable, safe and efficient transit system for Prince Georgians," said Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "RATP Dev USA has a proven track record for delivering successful operations and maintenance services, and they will provide groundbreaking technologies and services to our County that will serve our residents well."

The County is re-imagining transit services to better meet the needs of County residents. Service will be provided through a combination of traditional 'big' buses and smaller, more flexible vehicles that will increase efficiency. RATP-Dev USA is committed to improving the passenger experience through reliable service and enhanced maintenance protocols. Extensive safety, cleaning and social distancing protocols are in place to provide for a safe transportation experience for riders and operators.

For more information about *TheBus* schedules and services, visit [mypgc.us/thebus](https://mypgc.us/thebus).

To learn more about RATP Dev USA, please visit <https://www.ratpdevusa.com/>.

## Roadway Safety Advocate Ron Weiss Battles the Effects of COVID-19

DPW&T would like to send our support to Ron Weiss, a friend and passionate roadway safety advocate in Prince George's County. Mr. Weiss has long been a community activist, partnering in efforts to help make our roads safer for all users. Now he is battling the effects of COVID-19 after first testing positive in May.

Mr. Weiss is in need of heart surgery as a result of the virus and is navigating the healthcare system with new challenges. His story, one that other Americans and Prince Georgians may also be facing during this pandemic, was recently highlighted by NBC 4 Washington.

View Mr. Wiess' story by visiting <https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/community-activist-cant-get-care-for-covid-19-damaged-heart-due-to-positive-tests/2357278/>.

We are wishing Ron a full and speedy recovery.

Prince George's County's Department of Public Works & Transportation

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