



1-800-270-9553

The Transportation Challenge

Leadership Howard County is partnering with Howard Transit to offer an introduction to transportation resources within the county. Howard County offers a variety of transportation options to make travel throughout the County and the region easier, less expensive and more relaxing.

One of the best methods of learning is to experience. To help you experience Howard Transit, we have developed this educational tool for you to use to learn about public bus transportation in and around Howard County.

You will be given a set of tools and a scenario to follow – similar to a scavenger hunt. During the completion of your task please consider the transportation issues in Howard County by identifying the highlights and the challenges.

Background

Howard Transit is a fixed route bus service operating on established schedules and stopping at designated bus stops along specified routes. Printed schedules detail where the buses run and the location of the bus stops. Howard Transit also offers connecting service to Baltimore, Washington and other surrounding areas via transfers to MARC trains, Connect-A-Ride buses, METRO and MTA buses.

Service Area

Howard Transit's service area includes Clarksville, Columbia, Elkrige, Ellicott City, Jessup, North Laurel and Savage. Service is available to BWI Airport, selected MARC rail stations, and industrial parks along the US Route 1 corridor in Howard County.

Days/Hours of Operation

Most routes operate Monday through Saturday. Selected routes offer Sunday service. Hours of operation vary by route but generally run 6 am to 10 pm Monday through Friday; 9 am to 9 pm Saturdays and 10 am to 6 pm on Sundays.

Fares

Howard Transit offers a variety of fare media including regular, reduced fare that are paid as you board the bus. Multi-Ride passes are also available by calling 1-800-270-9553.

Regular Fare \$1.50

Reduced Fare \$.50

Available to seniors (ages 60 and older), persons with disabilities, and Medicare Card Holders (with valid I.D.), and students.

Child under 5 years FREE

Transfers

Transfers within the Howard Transit system or between Howard Transit and Connect-A-Ride are free with a valid paper transfer issued by the bus driver. Transfers are valid for two hours. Transfer to another system may require a fee.

Tools

You are provided with a set of tools that will allow you to navigate the Howard Transit system. They include:

Howard Transit Ride Guide

Although this publication was printed in 2002, it is still a fine resource to learn about Howard Transit and other options in and around the Howard County area. Using this publication you should be able to:

- Generally learn where the fixed routes travel
- Learn how to use a schedule and read a timetable
- Know where to catch the bus by identifying shelters and bus stops
- Understand how to obtain transfers
- Navigate boarding and exiting buses

Some information in the Howard Transit Ride Guide publication is out-dated including the fares information, All-Day Passes and the System map located in the center of the publication.

Howard Transit Schedules

Schedules are easy to read, color-coded and identify origin and destination for each route. Page 11 of the **Howard Transit Ride Guide** describes other schedule features such as the map, transfer points, time stops, intermediate stops and the timetable.

Regional Map

The regional map provided to you includes not only Howard Transit but the Connect-A-Ride system as well. Use the key located at the side to acclimate yourself to the region and the two transit systems. Please note that the Connect-A-Ride routes are identified by letters as opposed to the Howard Transit system that is color-coded.

Trip Planning

When planning a trip, be organized and utilize all the materials at hand. It is recommended that if you know what time you need to be there you should work backwards from the final arrival time.

Here are some helpful hints when planning your trip:

- Know the address of your final destination
- Consult maps -- if necessary, use local map to find destination and then use the transit map to see what fixed-route bus travels to or near that destination
- Use appropriate route schedule(s) to determine which route and departure times you would prefer to use.
- Make sure that you are at the appropriate bus stop or shelter at least 5 minutes prior to the scheduled departure time.
- Review the Schedule Features section from the Howard Transit Ride Guide, if necessary.

The Transportation Challenge

To get the most out of your experience of traveling on Howard Transit, we would like you to take a trip to two destinations and then return to your starting point. This trip will require you to make transfers within the Howard

Transit system and you will be required to pick something up at each destination and turn those items in along with your transfers to _____ at Leadership Howard County.

Starting Point

Columbia Medical Practice
5450 Knoll North Drive
Columbia, MD 21045

First Destination

Howard County General Hospital
5755 Cedar Lane
Columbia, MD 21044
<http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/organizations/HCGH/>

Please go to the Information Desk and request a Visitors Pass.

Second Destination

Heavenly Ham
4725 Dorsey Hall Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

<http://www.columbiavillagecenters.com/>

You will need to pick up a menu from Heavenly Ham.

Final Destination

Return to Columbia Medical Practice.

Congratulations, you have been able to navigate the Howard Transit system. Please turn your destination items and transfers in to _____ at Leadership Howard County and be prepared to discuss your transit experience.