

DOTS collaborates quickly with SGA and GSG to develop a new 113 route south/southwest of campus.

Shuttle-UM route 113, which was subsidized by the University Town Center Apartments, was discontinued earlier this summer.

The department of Transportation Services (DOTS) has a unique relationship with local apartment complexes that allows for a much more robust commuter transit system than you see at most universities. Each summer, at the change of the fiscal year in July, memorandums of understanding are drafted between several local complexes and DOTS for Shuttle-UM service to stop directly on the apartment's grounds.

This year the University Town Center (UTC) complex decided not to renew their MOU. They made this decision because their analysis determined that there was a steep reduction in the number of leases signed by University of Maryland students. This left DOTS with the problem of stopping service for students who depended on the route and those stops that were between UTC and campus. One of the most popular stops was a local graduate housing complex near the entrance to campus. For campus trips this area was served by the Circulator and the Silver Spring Shuttle-UM route but the transit depended students suddenly had no quick route to the metro and shopping.

After hearing the concerns of the students, David Allen, Director at DOTS suggested that the Graduate Student Group (GSG) and the Student Government Association (SGA) convene and make a commitment to funding the route from mandatory student fees. Budget decisions for the following year typically are not made until later in the school year. However, if they were willing to make a commitment to funding the route for fiscal year 2014 he offered to find a way to pay for the route for the coming school year. (fiscal year 2013) The Shuttle-UM managers developed the new route, which does not stop at UTC and extends into the new and popular retail district including BusBoys and Poets, Elevation Burger and Franklins.

This route will travel around campus before taking Adelphi road past Prince Georges Plaza to Prince Georges Metro station. It then continues into Hyattsville via Queensbury Road, drops south on 42nd and heads back north on Route 1 at Franklin's restaurant. The new route will continue to be identified as #113 but the name will be Hyattsville instead of UTC>

About DOTS:

The Department of Transportation Services will honor the mission and values of the University of Maryland by providing safe, cost effective, and innovative services which anticipate the needs of our campus community and constituents as they relate to accessing institutionally supported facilities and destinations.

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