

PG Bus 17 fare-free Pilot Program ends December 31.

DOTS officials cite lack of interest in funding additional years of fare-free service.

Last December DOTS entered a relationship with PG County, THE BUS Route 17, to provide fare-free for UMD ID holders from IKEA to Mt. Ranier. The bus stops on Route 1 near campus as well as near popular student housing locations and the new restaurant area in Hyattsville. Regular fare for THE BUS is currently one dollar per ride. This pilot was initiated to support the campus relationship with the local community.

DOTS agreed to pay the fare for UMD ridership as reported by the bus. DOTS officials anticipated ridership in the range of 10,000 to 15,000. Instead, the Bus was reporting numbers consistent with annual ridership higher than 40,000.

This fall DOTS presented the cost estimates to student leadership. They indicated that with the new Shuttle-UM route 113 providing service to Hyattsville, they would prefer not to fund the fare-free program.

The one year contract expires on December 21st. THE BUS is also announcing a fare increase. When the contract ends University of Maryland ID holders will need to pay \$1.25 per ride to ride THE BUS Route 17.

Route and Schedule

<http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/Government/AgencyIndex/DPW&T/Transit/pdfs/route-17.pdf>

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.

Contact:

Beverly Malone, Director of Communications
Department of Transportation Services
301-314-7275

<http://www.transportation.umd.edu>

###