



ESP EMERGENCY SERVICE PLAN FOR NON-WINTER WEATHER EVENTS

Along with winter weather, there are other challenging conditions that can impact travel in PRTC's service area.

Extreme traffic jams, road closures, political rallies, and miscellaneous events that simply can't be predicted can all affect PRTC's services. When events such as these occur, PRTC may find it necessary to implement the Emergency Service Plan (ESP).

GENERAL INFORMATION

DURING NON-WINTER WEATHER EVENTS

- The ESP may be independently activated for OmniRide, Metro Direct and OmniLink / Cross County Connector services based on emergency conditions.
- If the ESP is activated for OmniRide and/or Metro Direct buses in the morning, regular service may resume in the afternoon based on the status of the emergency; or the ESP may be activated in the afternoon even if buses operated on the regular schedule in the morning.
- If the ESP is activated for OmniLink / Cross County Connector services, it will remain in effect for the rest of the day.

HOW WILL YOU KNOW THE PLAN IS IN EFFECT?

Communication methods will be the same as described in the *ESP For Winter Weather Events*, but notification times may vary as circumstances dictate.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

When **unanticipated** events cause PRTC to activate the ESP, PRTC bus rides will be FREE on the first day the plan is activated.

- When the ESP is in effect on OmniRide, fares are also free on Metro Direct buses; passengers on all other PRTC buses pay regular fares. Passengers completing their commutes by train or neighboring regional bus service must pay the appropriate fare on the connecting service.
- When the ESP is in effect on OmniLink, fares are also free on the Cross County Connector. Passengers on all other PRTC buses pay regular fares.

For **scheduled events**, or when the ESP is activated for multiple consecutive days, PRTC bus passengers will pay the current Metro Direct fare (for service to/from Metrorail stations) or the current local fare (for service beginning and ending in Prince William, Manassas and Manassas Park).

PRTC may implement the ESP in only the morning or afternoon and for only OmniRide or Metro Direct and OmniLink / Cross County Connector services as circumstances dictate. We will do our best to notify customers through the established methods of communication and to get buses to the Metrorail stations as quickly as possible. If you haven't already done so, sign up at PRTCtransit.org to receive Rider Express emails and text messages.

OMNIRIDE AND METRO DIRECT

- OmniRide commuter buses will operate regular local routing to/from the Franconia-Springfield or Tysons Corner Metrorail stations only. (No service to/from DC, Pentagon, Crystal City, Rosslyn/Ballston or Mark Center.)
- These routes WILL NOT OPERATE: Capitol Hill, Dale City - Mark Center, Lake Ridge - Mark Center, and Tysons Corner OmniRide.

MORNING PLAN

- All other OmniRide and Metro Direct buses that travel along the I-95 corridor will operate to the Franconia-Springfield Metro station only. All OmniRide and Metro Direct buses that travel along the I-66 corridor will operate to the Tysons Corner Metrorail station only. Passengers can transfer to Metrorail or a neighboring regional bus service to continue on to their destinations in the morning, with the reverse in effect for afternoon travel if the ESP remains in effect all day.
- All buses will begin at normal start times and operate regular routing.

OMNILINK AND CROSS COUNTY CONNECTOR

ALL DAY PLAN

Because OmniLink and Cross County Connector buses operate only in the local area, PRTC does not anticipate needing to implement the *ESP For Non-Winter Weather Events* for these services. However, if activation is required, buses will operate along standard routes and will serve all signed PRTC bus stops.

AFTERNOON PLAN

If the ESP was implemented in the morning but the situation is resolved by the late morning, PRTC will resume operating regular service as soon as possible.

If the ESP is in effect in the PM, it will be implemented as follows:

- Midday OmniRide buses will depart Metro stations at the time they are scheduled to depart the Pentagon, and then serve regular local routing, unless circumstances dictate otherwise.
- OmniRide buses will leave the Metrorail stations about every 20 minutes **starting at 2 p.m.**, with the last buses departing at 7:30 p.m. Buses will operate as described in the ESP for Winter Weather Events, unless circumstances dictate otherwise.
- After 7:30 p.m., Prince William Metro Direct and Manassas Metro Direct buses will operate as close to the regular schedules as possible until the last published departure time.

- When the ESP is activated for OmniLink and Cross County Connector services, it will be in effect for the rest of the day. Buses will operate regular routes and schedules, but OmniLink local buses WILL NOT make off-route trips and will not serve on-demand stops.

Register for Rider Express email and text alerts at **PRTCtransit.org**

Whatever the situation, PRTC will make the decision to implement the Emergency Service Plan with your needs in mind. Our goal, as always, is to provide customers with safe, consistent transportation at maximum service levels.

We're available to answer your questions Monday – Friday 5:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. (703) 730-6664 or (888) 730-6664 Omni@OmniRide.com PRTCtransit.org



ESP Emergency Service Plan



Passenger Guide for Snow and Other Emergency Conditions



Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission



ESP EMERGENCY SERVICE PLAN FOR WINTER WEATHER EVENTS

The Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission has developed an Emergency Service Plan (ESP) with customer needs and comfort in mind. PRTC will offer full service whenever possible. However, when service must be altered due to weather or other emergency conditions, this plan will provide passengers with the safest and most efficient transportation possible under challenging conditions.

GENERAL INFORMATION

DURING WINTER WEATHER EVENTS

- The ESP may be independently activated for OmniRide, Metro Direct and OmniLink / Cross County Connector services based on emergency conditions.
- PRTC services will begin at normal start times. Road conditions may cause delays.
- Prince William area bus stop signs with a snowflake sticker ARE NOT SERVED when the ESP is in effect.
- Roads that are unsafe for bus travel will not be serviced including, but not limited to, roads listed in this brochure's Snow Routing section. Snow routing will be in effect in the morning when the ESP is implemented and in the afternoon/evening if neighborhood streets are deemed unsafe.

WHEN WILL THE PLAN BE ACTIVATED?

PRTC will check weather service forecasts by 3 a.m. to determine if the ESP will be activated that morning. Another check will be made at 10 a.m. to determine the level of afternoon/evening service.

The plan will be activated if forecasts predict the Washington, D.C. metro area will receive:

- Four or more inches of snow or
- Accumulations of freezing rain or ice.

HOW WILL YOU KNOW THE PLAN IS IN EFFECT?

No news is good news! PRTC announces a change in its operating status only when it is NOT operating as regularly scheduled. If you don't see or hear alerts as listed below, PRTC buses are operating regular service.

Starting at 4 a.m. for morning service and at 11 a.m. for afternoon service, customers should check for:

- A Rider Express email or text message (sign up at PRTCtransit.org)
- An alert at PRTCtransit.org
- A recorded message at (703) 730-6664 or toll free at (888) 730-6664
- Announcements on local television stations and on WTOP radio (103.5 FM) if time and circumstances warrant.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

- When the ESP is in effect because of winter weather, bus rides on that PRTC service are FREE.
- Passengers completing their commutes by train or neighboring regional bus service must pay the appropriate fare on the connecting service.
- When the ESP is in effect on OmniRide, fares are also free on Metro Direct buses; passengers on all other PRTC buses pay regular fares.
- When the ESP is in effect on OmniLink, fares are also free on the Cross County Connector; passengers on all other PRTC buses pay regular fares.

OMNIRIDE AND METRO DIRECT

MORNING PLAN

- OmniRide commuter buses will transport passengers to the Franconia-Springfield or Tysons Corner Metrorail stations only. (No service to or from DC, Pentagon, Crystal City, Rosslyn/Ballston or Mark Center.)
- These OmniRide routes WILL NOT OPERATE: Capitol Hill, Dale City – Mark Center, Lake Ridge – Mark Center, and Tysons Corner OmniRide.
- All other OmniRide and Metro Direct buses that travel along the I-95 corridor will operate to the Franconia-Springfield Metro station only. All OmniRide and Metro Direct buses that travel along the I-66 corridor will operate to the Tysons Corner Metrorail station only. Passengers can transfer to Metrorail or a neighboring regional bus service to continue on to their destinations in the morning, with the reverse in effect for afternoon travel if the ESP remains in effect all day.
- Buses will travel along the Snow Routing outlined in this brochure. (See Snow Routing section for specific route information.)
- OmniRide services will begin at normal start times. Road conditions may cause delays.
- All Metro Direct routes will operate according to published schedules. Road conditions may cause delays.
- During winter weather events, OmniRide and Metro Direct bus service is dependent on Metrorail serving its above-ground stations. If Metrorail service is expected to stop in the morning, OmniRide and Metro Direct service may be cancelled for the entire day. If Metrorail service is suspended midday, OmniRide and Metro Direct service will operate until picking up passengers from the final Metrorail train.
- Under certain circumstances, OmniRide services may be cancelled while Metro Direct services continue to operate. In extreme situations, PRTC may need to delay, further reduce or cease bus service entirely. An announcement will be made via the communication methods outlined in this brochure.

AFTERNOON & EVENING PLAN

If the ESP was implemented in the morning but weather and road conditions are expected to improve considerably by the afternoon, PRTC will resume operating regular service starting with the MX-1 bus to the State Department. All other commuter buses will resume regular service at 12 noon.

If the mid-morning forecast predicts afternoon conditions for the Washington, D.C. area that meet established criteria, the ESP will be implemented as follows:

- OmniRide commuter buses will transport passengers from the Franconia-Springfield or Tysons Corner Metrorail stations only. (No service from DC, Pentagon, Crystal City, Rosslyn/Ballston or Mark Center.)
- These OmniRide routes WILL NOT OPERATE: Capitol Hill, Dale City – Mark Center, Lake Ridge – Mark Center, and Tysons Corner OmniRide.
- All other OmniRide and Metro Direct buses that travel along the I-95 corridor will operate from the Franconia-Springfield Metro station only. All OmniRide and Metro Direct buses that travel along the I-66 corridor will operate from the Tysons Corner Metrorail station only.
- Buses will leave the Metro stations about every 20 minutes starting at 12 noon, with the last buses departing at 7:30 p.m.
- After 7:30 p.m., Prince William Metro Direct and Manassas Metro Direct buses will operate as close to the regular schedule as conditions allow until the last published departure time.
- At the Tysons Corner Metro station, passengers can find PRTC buses by exiting the Metro station and looking for the OmniRide bus stop sign at the northside bus bay along Route 123. At Franconia-Springfield, the Prince William Metro Direct route will serve its regular stop to the left of the station exit. All other OmniRide buses will be located to the right of the station exit.
- Buses will follow normal routing as long as the streets are safe for bus travel. If local streets are unsafe, buses will follow the Snow Routing outlined in this brochure. (See Snow Routing section for specific route information.)

OMNILINK AND CROSS COUNTY CONNECTOR

ALL DAY PLAN

- OmniLink local buses will operate on the ESP all day long and Snow Routing will be in effect as necessary. (See Snow Routing section for specific route information)
- OmniLink local buses WILL NOT make off-route trips, and on-demand stops will not be served.
- The Cross County Connector will operate according to published schedules as road conditions allow.

SNOW ROUTING

OMNIRIDE AND METRO DIRECT

EASTERN PRINCE WILLIAM

In eastern Prince William, buses on the following routes will operate regular local routing: Dale City-Washington, Dale City-Pentagon, Dale City-Washington Navy Yard, Montclair OmniRide, Prince William Metro Direct and Rosslyn/Ballston OmniRide.

Capitol Hill: The Capitol Hill route is suspended under the Emergency Service Plan. C-1 passengers should catch a Dale City or Lake Ridge OmniRide bus.

Lake Ridge: Bus stops inside Dillingham Square Shopping Center and on Griffith, Cottonmill, Mohican, Seminole, Antietam, Deepford and Oakwood ARE NOT SERVED. Buses serve stops on Old Bridge Road from Cricket to Oakwood and then start regular routing. Trips beginning at the Tacketts Mill Commuter Lot operate regular local routing.

Mark Center: Routes serving the Mark Center are suspended under the Emergency Service Plan. Mark Center passengers should catch a Dale City or Lake Ridge OmniRide bus.

South Route 1: Bus stops on River Heritage, Kirby, River Ridge and Wayside ARE NOT SERVED. Service begins at the bus stop on Route 1 after Fox Lair and continues on Route 1, stopping at OmniLink bus stops at River Ridge, Allen Dent/River Heritage and Wayside, then starts regular routing.

WESTERN PRINCE WILLIAM

In western Prince William, buses on the following routes will operate regular local routing: Gainesville OmniRide, Linton Hall Metro Direct

Manassas Metro Direct: Buses operate along the regular route to/from the Tysons Corner Metrorail station. Buses switch to afternoon routing on the first trip departing Tysons at/after 12 noon.

Manassas OmniRide: Buses operate regular routing in the morning and follow Manassas Metro Direct routing in the afternoon/evening.

OMNILINK AND CROSS COUNTY CONNECTOR

OMNILINK

When the ESP is activated, ALL OmniLink off-route trips are cancelled for that day, and on-demand stops are not served. To learn if the ESP has been activated, customers with off-route reservations should use any of the methods listed in this brochure. (See "How Will You Know the Plan is in Effect?")

If the ESP is activated in the morning, buses will operate on Snow Routing. If road conditions improve, buses may return to regular routing in the afternoon. Road conditions may cause delays.

OMNILINK SNOW EMERGENCY ROUTES

OmniLink buses will stop at all signed PRTC bus stops where it is safe to do so except:

- Bus stops with a snowflake sticker
- Dale City – No service along Darbydale Avenue or to the stop at Dale Boulevard/Gideon Drive

CROSS COUNTY CONNECTOR

Buses will start at regularly scheduled times and operate along regular routes. Road conditions may cause delays.

Tysons Corner: The Tysons Corner OmniRide route is suspended under the Emergency Service Plan. Tysons Corner passengers should catch a Lake Ridge OmniRide or Prince William Metro Direct bus.

LEAVING FRANCONIA-SPRINGFIELD METRORAIL STATION

- Dale City and Rosslyn/Ballston – riders will use a combined bus. Passengers who need to reach bus stops on Minnieville and Caton Hill Roads should remain on the bus past the Lindendale Commuter Lot.
- Montclair and South Route 1 – riders will use a combined bus. South Route 1 passengers will transfer to a waiting bus at the Route 234 Park and Ride Lot to reach destinations along the Route 1 corridor. Montclair passengers should remain on the bus.
- Lake Ridge and Prince William Metro Direct – separate buses will be used for each route.

LEAVING TYSONS CORNER METRORAIL STATION

- Manassas routes – riders will use a combined bus.
- Gainesville and Linton Hall routes – riders will use a combined bus.

- Dumfries – No service along Neabsco Mills Road between Route 1 and Opitz Boulevard, Fuller Heights Road or Old Triangle Road
- Route 1 – No service on River Ridge or Powells Creek (except for the stop at Powells Creek and Woodmark)