

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch  
City Manager

SUBJECT: *Status Report*

DATE: September 5, 2013

1. City Election

Today Councilmember James Marcos filed his candidacy paperwork for the District 1 Council seat.

2. Speed Signs

Public Works recently moved the speed signs to the following locations: **Quarterhorse Drive** (fr. Triple Crown Road), **Rocky Spring Lane** (fr. Winchester Lane), **Danbury Drive** (fr. Jenkins Ridge Road), **Traymore Lane** (fr. Maddox Lane), **Kavanaugh Lane** (fr. Foxhill Lane), and **Nashua Lane** (fr. Holiday Lane).

3. Funding for MD 197 Engineering

The Maryland Department of Transportation's Draft Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) was released yesterday, and \$11 million has been included for Engineering for the MD 197 widening project, between Kenhill Drive and MD 450. The funding is spread over the full six years of the program, beginning with \$250,000 in FY 2014. The bulk of the funding (\$7 million) is not programmed until FY 2019. (Staff will draft a letter to Senator Peters and others for the Mayor's signature, for Council's review, urging the acceleration of the project. The current schedule would suggest the middle of the next decade before the project is completed.) Funding comes from the Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act of 2013. None of the other existing projects slated for Bowie received funding in the draft program. The State's annual CTP Tour for elected officials in Prince George's County will be held on Wednesday, November 6, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. at the SHA District 3 office in Greenbelt.

#### 4. BizBus Update

The Bowie Business Shuttle Bus (BizBus) began operations at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday morning. During this week's operations we are confirming the route timings and further validating the schedule, as well as letting the targeted riders become familiar with the availability and reliability of the service.

Temporary "bus stop" signs have been placed at all locations **except** the Park & Ride which doesn't yet have a spot for easy installation.

A page on the City's website is set up for the latest BizBus information. It is found by direct entry of the URL <http://www.cityofbowie.org/bizbus>.

Inovalon has sent their employees e-mails announcing the availability of the bus service. St. John Properties surveyed their tenants and two of the BizBus stops at Melford serve employees at other Melford tenant businesses; St. John Properties has also sent e-mails to their tenants telling them about the BizBus.

All day service stops at Inovalon Headquarters, 16901 Melford, 16900 Science, and Bowie Town Center. The Northview Park & Ride is served during the 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. commute times. At lunchtime, added service stops at Inovalon Headquarters, Bowie Town Center, 16901 Melford, 4861 Telsa, 16900 Science from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

#### 5. Meeting with WNEW Radio

As a follow-up to a discussion at a recent Council Meeting about communicating with Bowie residents via radio during and after emergencies, staff recently met with Robert Sanchez, Program Director and Executive Editor of WNEW and other key members of his staff. The station broadcasts as "WNEW 99.1, Bowie", although their offices are outside the City, near Martin Luther King Boulevard, and their transmitter is between Bowie and Crofton. The station was established in early 2012 with an all-news format and is a part of the CBS radio family of stations in the DC area. The other stations include WPGC (95.5 FM), FreshFM (94.7), El Zol (107.9), and CBS Sports Radio (106.7 & 1580AM).

The broadcast area of WNEW is the entire Washington region, but the management of WNEW is very interested in expanding their coverage of Bowie news and events, since their data shows that residents of the Bowie Zip Codes are among their top listeners, especially 20715 which is their #1 key Zip Code.

Essentially WNEW would like to be the "go to" station for Bowie news. Because we believe that there is mutual benefit to the station and to the City in that goal, staff will be working to share more Bowie news with their reporters and will encourage them to cover more of our events. They have also agreed to share Bowie-specific news with our residents during a local or regional emergency, and give it prominent coverage. We will begin including the station call letters/frequency in our emergency materials and referring to them in alerts when we suggest that residents monitor local media for more details.