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## Silver Spring Transit Center opening delayed 6 months

New date set for December due to relocating utility lines

by Kristi Tousignant | Staff Writer

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The Silver Spring Transit Center's completion has been pushed back from June to December.

The delay is a result of relocating utility lines, like water, sewer, gas and PEPCO electric lines, during the initial phase of construction, said David Dise, director of the Montgomery County Department of General Services.

"It's a tight sight if utilities end up not being where we thought they were going to be, it really proves to be more difficult than originally expected," Dise said.

Work on the site began September 2008.

Drilling during the construction of the foundation has also proved more difficult than expected, Dise said. Two additional drills needed to be brought

in, he said since the rock they drilled into was harder than expected.

The transit center will be a three-story building that will serve as a transportation hub for the city. It will increase bus capacity by around 50 percent. It will have connections to MARC train platforms and hiker and biker trails. The design would also accommodate the proposed Purple Line.

The additional six months of construction will add to the project cost. The projected cost before the delay was \$95 million. Dise said the county is still negotiating with the contractor and a final number has not been reached.

Once the foundation work has been completed, the construction process will speed up significantly, Dise said. The developers are still working on concrete pours, which should be completed this spring, Dise said.

"This is typical for a lot of construction," Dise said. "The underground phase takes forever."

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