

Sell your stuff for FREE
On the new GazetteBuyandSell.com



[CLICK HERE](#) WHO NEEDS CRAIG ANYWAY?



Nursing Assistant In Just 4 Weeks!

301-977-7393 Gaithersburg Campus

Medication Technician Training In Just 4 Days! **301-384-6011** Silver Spring Campus

Morning & Evening Classes

www.mstarna.com



Maryland Community Newspapers Online

[Print This Story](#)

Senator's legacy celebrated through area's new transit center

Silver Spring's \$75 million transportation hub named for Paul Sarbanes

Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2006

by Meredith Hooker
Staff Writer

A new Silver Spring transit center will be named after a longtime U.S. senator who worked on that project along with many other transit-oriented initiatives during his nearly 30-year tenure.

Officials celebrated the start of the Paul S. Sarbanes Transit Center Monday morning. Work will begin on an interim center for bus operations, which will open in June 2007. At that time, construction on the transit center will begin and is expected to take about three years.

Officials said Sarbanes, who announced his retirement in 2005 after five terms in office and is the longest serving U.S. senator in Maryland's history, has been an advocate for public transportation. Sarbanes, 73, is responsible for legislation that completed Maryland's Metro system as well as legislation that expanded commuter rail and bus systems statewide. He has helped create many of the grant and formula public transportation programs that are in existence, and helped shape and enact nearly every major piece of transit legislation in use.

"He has been a voice for the voiceless in the transit industry and community for the entire nation," said Gordon Linton, member of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority board and former Federal Transit Administrator.

"What a great tribute and what a great partner," said U.S. Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski (D) of Baltimore. Mikulski and Sarbanes worked together to obtain federal money for the transit center. The project cost about \$75 million in public dollars.

Together, the duo brought about \$50 million to the project, said U.S. Rep. Christopher Van Hollen Jr. (D-Dist. 8) of Kensington, calling Sarbanes the "titan of transit."

"This is a very moving occasion for me," Sarbanes said, adding he appreciated the help and cooperation from the people who helped make the construction of the transit center possible. The project has been in the pipeline for many years; 13 years ago officials gathered to announce the first federal dollars designated for the planning and design of the transit center.

"This is a tremendous transit hub," Sarbanes said. About 60,000 riders pass through the center daily, making it one of the busiest in the region. Officials project it will have more than 100,000 users in the next 20 years.

The transit center, which will include residential and retail space, as well as a hotel, also will continue the revitalization of Silver Spring, Sarbanes said.

"People are making special trips to Silver Spring to see a prime example of urban revitalization," he said.

The new transit center will combine a hiker-biker trail, Metrorail, Metrobus, Ride On, MARC and intercity bus service in one facility. It will also be able to accommodate whatever form the Bi-County Transitway, also known as the Purple Line, takes.

The center will be built on the site of the current Silver Spring Metro station — an area bordered by Colesville Road, Wayne and Ramsey avenues.

The center's design features buses on two levels. A third level will incorporate Metro's Kiss and Ride area, as well as a taxi stand and short-term parking. Rockville-based developer Foulger-Pratt Company will build a hotel, residential units and retail over the center.

Copyright © 2015 Post Community Media, LLC/Gazette.Net
The Gazette | 9030 Comprint Court | Gaithersburg, MD 20877 | main number: 301-670-2565,
classifieds: 301-670-2500