

STOPtalk



Many Routes Experience Capacity Challenges

Ridership increased by 4.8 percent in January 2012. For MTD riders, this comes as no surprise. Many routes are reaching standing-room-only capacities at peak service times. Dispatchers often send an extra bus to alleviate the strain and maintain on-time service. But this option is sometimes unavailable during peak times because there are over 90 vehicles on the street and few buses left in the garage. This year, MTD has increased its fleet by three buses to accommodate this growth.

Capacity is a good problem...nay, challenge, to have. MTD staff is always monitoring ridership trends across the District. The data we collect informs a route's frequency and the number of buses assigned to it.

Unfortunately it is difficult to establish steadfast policies to handle overcapacity. To set a capacity rule by the number of passengers would inevitably be thrown off by the addition of wheelchairs, strollers, luggage, backpacks, etc. These factors change the total number of people that are able to board.

The primary rule that must be followed involves the white standee line painted on the floor next to the operator. MTD's buses, like many across the country, are designed for and encourage standing passengers. But if passengers cannot stand behind the line due to lack of space, the bus is considered at capacity. Passengers are prohibited from standing in front of the standee line.

At the end of January, contributors to the subreddit "UIUC" on Reddit began a [conversation](#) about good riding practices that help keep buses moving and make capacity less felt. Apologies for their curt tones:

"I would hope by now everyone knows not to stand in front of the door. Fill empty seats, as far back as possible. Enter in the front, exit in the back."

"I love it when a big group of people is boarding a bus and the first 5 or so get on and take about 4 steps past the white line and then just stay there, blocking everyone else from getting on."

"Standing in front of a door with a large group of people trying to get through it drives everyone crazy...I'd say a large percentage of the times that it happens, it is someone with headphones on, on the phone, or literally just standing there talking to someone next to them...at least try and be somewhat aware of your surroundings."

"I dream about a day where a nearly empty bus is boarded by 20+ people, everyone moves as far back as possible, then nearly simultaneously sit down. I get really excited thinking about how much time that would save."

Let's make dreams a reality, MTD riders. Please be courteous to your fellow passengers by keeping your belongings close and only stand near the doors if your

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University of Illinois Transportation Fee Contract Renewal

The Illinois Student Senate asked MTD to collect 3,000 student signatures to get the transportation fee referendum on the 2012 election ballot. MTD staff and operators collected **4,362** signatures in five days.

Ballot Measure:

"Do you support a yearly increase to the Campus Transportation Fee of \$2/\$4/\$3 (for FY 2013, '14 & '15, respectfully) to sustain campus bus service at current levels and increase SafeRides service for all students?"

Why the increase?

To maintain all campus services (10-minute frequency, 60-foot buses, service past 2:00 am, etc.) there are inflationary costs. Per request, adding SafeRides during fall, winter, and spring breaks along with an extra van on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday comes at a cost.

theINSIDELANE

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stop is near.



Sculptures Installed at MTD Properties

MTD recently coordinated with the [Public Art League](#) to provide space for the installation of two sculptures. The first, titled [Array](#), was installed at our Administration and Operations Facility in Urbana located at 1101 E. University Ave. The second, [Fallen Angel Watcher](#), is located on the northwest side of Illinois Terminal, MTD's multimodal facility.

Public Art League president, David Wilcoxon is grateful for the District's participation in the program.

"In our first two years, PAL has brought over \$400,000 worth of public art to the Champaign-Urbana community. This would not have been possible without the generous support of sponsors such as MTD. Our mission is to improve the aesthetic awareness and creative climate in our community through sculpture. As a sponsor, MTD helps PAL achieve this mission. Together we create opportunities for people to connect and relate to our urban environment in new and exciting ways."

Thanks for making MTD a part of this community project, PAL!

[Find more sculptures in Champaign-Urbana](#)



Community Outreach

Is your organization hosting a community event this spring or summer? Invite MTD to participate! We'll send MTD staff with schedule books, STOPwatch information, and some of those adorable bus erasers. MTD is all about [feedback](#) and continuous improvement. Public outreach is a valuable opportunity for us to answer questions and concerns.

Want to visit with us? MTD attends several events annually including [Playing it Safe](#), [Taste of Champaign Urbana](#), the [Urbana Sweetcorn Festival](#), and many more. We announce where we'll be in the community on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages. For media inquiries, email mtypress@cumtd.com. If you want more information based on something you see on our social networks, email social@cumtd.com.



Socialize with us.

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