

June 2, 2019

Overview

It is a certainty that we, here in Morgantown, WV, are blessed with public transportation. The PRT for instance, provides rapid 'campus-to-campus' trips for students and faculty. There are, however, a few concerns expressed in the following pages. The most immediate concern is the fact that without reliable transportation it is almost impossible to secure and maintain gainful employment.



Morgantown Parking Authority
300 Spruce St
Morgantown, WV 26505

On the surface, this is a lovely setting. It looks modern and clean, a great place to sit down for a moment. But what about when the weather is not so great? This used to be a sheltered bus stop, a place where people could await their bus out of the direct rain or sun. Granted, the last time I saw it and actually sat in it, I did take note that it needed cleaned, desperately. But why not contract someone to do just that? I have seen an employee of the city who, in the morning, gives attention to the sidewalks by collecting some of the garbage and the cigarette butts. With so few places in the downtown area that the bus picks up passengers, I believe this would be a worthy undertaking, especially when you consider the elderly and handicapped.



Stairwell
Morgantown Public Library
373 Spruce St
Morgantown, WV 26505

My lovely shoe, not a pretty sight but, oh, if it could talk. It would tell you tales of how many miles those tired feet it helps cover have walked, some of which have been because of mixed up bus schedules. Yes, it is true, you can't always depend on those buses to keep their schedules. I'm not sure if some businesses, such as the Senior Monongalians, have outdated bus schedules in their supply, this may be a factor. But one instance that is fresh in my mind occurred just yesterday. I was awaiting a ride from bus #3 back to the Westover Terminal. The schedule said that this bus runs every half-hour from Morgantown Mall to Westover Terminal where I planned to neatly pick up Bus #7 back to the City building on Spruce St where the final leg of my journey would be completed once I boarded the "Pink Line". Sounds easy enough, right? Apparently the bus changed it's plan and sent another bus to the Morgantown Mall, and I missed it. Two hours went by and I caught a bus at 6:10. To make a long story short, the best I could do was get a bus ride to the other end of West Run Rd and walk the full distance to 10 West Run Rd. I am sixty years old, I could be in better shape, but I have weak painful ankles, arthritis in my joints, including my toes and my hip, and sciatica pain. Could the same thing happen to a disabled veteran, or a senior citizen?



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119



Old Cheat Rd facing
Easton Hill
North 119 and West Rex Rd Intersection

Here is an interesting picture of highway traffic. Nothing unusual to note, a typical state highway, except for one important factor. This is exactly what a person who desires to catch a bus to downtown Morgantown from my residence has to expose themselves to and navigate. Walking alongside traffic that is moving at 50 MPH is unnerving at best, but when you consider that at any time a driver could lose control of their car, swerve to miss a pothole or garbage and pin you to the guardrail, it becomes downright dangerous and life threatening. I had a brief conversation with a young woman of 18 years who also lives in "my building" and she expressed fear of walking on this road. It may have been a factor in her losing her job that she routinely walked to. I don't know how, but there's got to be a better system. A sidewalk behind a guardrail, preferably up to the shopping plaza?