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Trolley Loop Would Service Coastal Areas

Summer Weekend Schedule Proposed for 2 Counties

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Trolley service targeting marinas, beaches and businesses from northern Calvert into [Anne Arundel County](#) is planned for the summer.

The Beach Trolley Association is seeking \$35,000 to support a trolley that would run between the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum and the Deale area.

The idea is to provide weekend transportation for boaters, visitors and residents to go to the many shops, grocery stores and restaurants, said Stewart B. Cumbo, president of the trolley group.

"It is the first year," said Cumbo, who is also a Chesapeake Beach Town Council member. He said the association initially considered two trolleys but decided on running one. "We wanted to be reasonable, to see what we could afford and see if it is a viable transportation system."

Adjustments to the two-hour loop schedule and service arrangements could be made in the first year and beyond, if the service continues for a second season, he said. The BTA is working on a schedule for the trolley's nearly 55 stops along Routes 261, 2 and 256, which would include some residential communities, such as Burnt Oaks in North Beach.

"We are looking to get a great deal of support from the business community, because we feel they will be the ones who benefit from this," Cumbo said. He added that the group has not sought government grants or other types of funding to support the service because of the accelerated timeline for the project. However, he expressed optimism that a proven service record in the trolley's first year would help secure such grants in subsequent years.

The management of Herrington Harbour North near Tracey's Landing, and Herrington Harbour South in Rosehaven, pledged \$5,000 to get the group started.

"We firmly believe it will be a positive thing for this community by getting a trolley up and running. It is going to show interest in the inaugural year so granting associations will see how beneficial this trolley will be to the area," said Jed Dickman, marina manager at Herrington Harbour South.

Rod 'N' Reel restaurant and marina owner [Gerald W. Donovan](#), who is the mayor of Chesapeake Beach, said the businesses he operates with his brother "will meet or exceed" the Herrington Harbour pledge, but he did not specify an amount.

"I've supported this from the get-go as long as it didn't include public funding," Donovan said.

Beach Trolley Association is working with Virginia Regional Transit, a [Purcellville](#)-based nonprofit transit service that operates bus routes in 17 [Virginia](#) jurisdictions. This is VRT's first route in [Maryland](#).

"We have no intentions of doing additional service in Maryland. We are really just doing this one to assist these folks," said Mark McGregor, VRT's president and CEO.

VRT will hire local drivers and be responsible for the trolley's maintenance, McGregor said. The trolley, which holds 40 people, will be new and kept in Maryland for the summer, he said. If it should break down, a spare trolley will make the 90-minute trip from Purcellville to run the route, he said.

The route through the beach communities is not large enough to warrant a [Maryland Transit Administration](#) vehicle, said Jawauna Green, a spokeswoman for that agency. Green added that there "are tons of opportunities" for grants for this type of shuttle service.

The service is planned for weekends from May 23 through Sept. 1. The hours would be from 3 p.m. Friday through 1 a.m. Saturday; 9 a.m. Saturday through 1 a.m. Sunday; and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sundays and holidays.

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