PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

Local Public Transportation

Taxis and Ubers/Lyfts are plentiful in Washington and can be hailed at nearly any street corner. Cabs are metered and additional fees may be added during rush hour, inclement weather, and if your party includes more than one person.

Public transportation is available throughout Washington. We recommend the use of the Metro for local travel. For more information about how to use the Metro, or to plan your travel route, please consult The Trip Planner on the D.C. Metro website, http://www.wmata.com. You must buy a SmarTrip card and load money, which can be purchased at Metro stations. The DC Metro system consists of six travel lines – Red, Yellow, Green, Blue, Silver, and Orange – and travel direction is designated by the terminal stop on each line. The Metro has a flat rate of $2.00 on weekends, and on weekdays after 9:30pm. Fares vary at all other times, depending on the length of the trip, and the time of day you ride.

Washington also has two bus systems, the Metro Bus and the Circulator Bus. The Metro buses run in and around Washington, and information about routes and fares can be found at http://www.wmata.com. The Circulator Bus has several routes and is very economical, please check http://www.dccirculator.com.

- Metro stops closest to the The Washington Campus are Farragut North on the Red Line and Farragut West on the Blue/Orange/Silver Line.

Local Airports

Reagan National Airport, located in Arlington, Virginia, is approximately 20 minutes from downtown Washington, DC. It is by far the most convenient airport to downtown DC. From Reagan National Airport, you may wish to take a taxi to your hotel. Ask the dispatcher for a DC Taxi, not a Virginia Taxi. The fare is approximately $20, excluding any extra fees for additional passengers and luggage. Ubers/Lyfts can be found at a similar price, depending on traffic.

If you wish to use the Metro subway system, there is a Metro subway stop above ground at Reagan National Airport that serves both the Blue and Yellow lines. By taking the Yellow Line toward Mt. Vernon, you will be able to transfer to any of the other three lines at the L’Enfant Plaza Metro stop. The trip planner on the Metro website, listed above, is an excellent tool to help you determine how to get from the airport to your hotel via Metro.
Dulles International Airport, located in Sterling, Virginia, is approximately 45 minutes (during non-rush hours) from downtown Washington. The cheapest and most convenient way to travel from Dulles to Downtown DC is on the Silver Line Metro, which opened at the airport in late 2022. The Metro ride takes about 50-60 minutes. The Metro fare will be between $2.00-6.00. Taxis, Ubers, as well as a van service to Washington are available at the airport. An Uber/Taxi from Dulles International Airport to your hotel typically costs $50-80.

Baltimore/Washington International Airport, located in Baltimore, Maryland, is approximately one hour’s drive (during non-rush hours) from downtown Washington. If you arrive at BWI, taxis to Washington are available, but are expensive and not all drivers will know their way around Washington, DC. A taxi from BWI to your hotel is approximately $120. (In heavy rush hour traffic on Friday evening, a taxi ride from DC to BWI can take two-and-a-half hours.)

Other options for completing your trip to Washington include The Super Shuttle airport van service, or train service via either Amtrak or MARC Commuter Trains. Super Shuttles must be reserved at www.supershuttle.com.

To use train service from BWI to Union Station in Washington, DC, you will need to take the airport shuttle from outside of the baggage claim area, or a taxi, to the BWI/Amtrak station, which is about 15 minutes away. At the BWI/Amtrak station, you can purchase tickets for either the MARC train (on weekdays) or an Amtrak train to Union Station in Washington, DC. MARC tickets are approximately $8 each way, while Amtrak ticket prices vary throughout the day and are more expensive. Once at Union Station in Washington, you may either take a taxi to your hotel or the Metro subway via the Union Station stop on the Red Line. There are transfer points to the other Metro lines (Yellow, Blue and Orange) along the Red Line.

Local Train Stations

Union Station, located near the U.S. Capitol, has many transportation options if you are traveling from a closer location. Union Station is the connection for Amtrak, Metro, MARC, VRE (Virginia Railway Express), Greyhound, Megabus, and more. As per above, Union Station is serviced by the Metro Red Line.