

New bus route to improve public transport links to Westwijk

As of 3 March 2019, Amstelveen Zuid will have a new bus route. While the Amstelveen route is being reconstructed, Westwijk residents will be able to take a shuttle bus between route 51's final stop at Amstelveen Westwijk, Westwijkplein and Amstelland Hospital. This shuttle bus – route 551 – will also serve the Duizendblad and Marne health centres.

Due to the reconstruction of the Amstelveen route, tram 51 will be replaced by bus 55; the bus already calls at the Sacharovlaan stop. The shuttle service will keep southern Westwijk open to passengers who cannot walk or cycle to stops located further away.

Deputy mayor Rob Ellermeijer has welcomed the decision to run the shuttle service. "Residents were concerned about the accessibility of facilities for the elderly, health centres and Amstelland Hospital. Last week at Dignahof I collected 450 signatures, underlining the urgent need for good bus links. The new bus route 551 is expected to be in service until the end of 2020. We are also currently working on installing a more permanent solution for a bus route that will be similar to the former route 199. I'm glad that we can bring this message of Christmas cheer to the residents who have been waiting for news of this bus route."

Route of shuttle service 551

The bus will take the below route; the bus stops are indicated in **bold**.

Final stop route 51 (on the bend at Loethoelilaan, near Duizendblad health centre) – B. von Suttnerlaan - **Westwijkplein** – Sacharovlaan – Beneluxbaan – Gondel – Turfschip Groenelaan, **Seine bus stop (Marne Health Centre)** – Groenelaan – **Amstelland Hospital**

When and how often?

Buses will run every 40 minutes, seven days a week, between 07:00 in the morning and about 23:00 in the evening. Passengers can pay for their journey using an OV-chipkaart. The vehicle is equipped with a wheelchair ramp and has space for one passenger in a wheelchair.

Change to route 55 and Uithoorn R-net routes

In addition to the shuttle bus, an extra travel connection has also been approved linking the R-net routes from Uithoorn and Aalsmeer (347 and 348) to bus route 55. This extra stop will be located near the Zagerij bus stop where the R-net routes 347 and 348 (from/to Uithoorn) stop. Route 55 stops just around the corner, on dr. Willem Dreesweg. This will create a compact connection as an alternative to the one at the Poortwachter stop that will no longer be available as of 3 March. This measure will also apply during the reconstruction of the Amstelveen route.