

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20002-4290 (202) 962-3310 Fax: (202) 962-3202 TDD: (202) 962-3213

Item #5

MEMORANDUM

November 17, 2010

TO: Transportation Planning Board

FROM: Ronald F. Kirby
Director, Department of
Transportation Planning

RE: Letters Sent/Received Since the October 20th TPB Meeting

The attached letters were sent/received since the October 20th TPB meeting. The letters will be reviewed under Agenda #5 of the November 17th TPB agenda.

Attachments

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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November 16, 2010

Mr. Peter Benjamin
Chairman, Board of Directors
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)
600 5th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Benjamin:

On behalf of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB), I am forwarding comments relevant to the WMATA Board made during the public comment period of a recent TPB meeting.

At our October 20, 2010 meeting, Mr. Bill Orleans, a resident of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, spoke in regard to recent action by the WMATA Board to alter Metrobus service routes and schedules. Mr. Orleans asserted that the WMATA Board did not conduct a public hearing on these changes, in conflict with a WMATA Compact requirement that a public hearing be held when any major service change is proposed. He noted that the service changes include major reductions of service coverage and hours in Maryland and the elimination of a route in Virginia. He asked that the TPB request of the WMATA Board that it adhere to the WMATA Compact in its process for considering major service changes.

As TPB Chairman, I felt it was appropriate that Mr. Orleans' comments be forwarded to WMATA for consideration and possible response.

Sincerely,



David Snyder
Chair, National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board



Local governments working together for a better metropolitan region

November 2, 2010

District of Columbia

*Bladensburg**

Bowie

College Park

Frederick

Frederick County

Gaithersburg

Greenbelt

Montgomery County

Prince George's County

Rockville

Takoma Park

Alexandria

Arlington County

Fairfax

Fairfax County

Falls Church

Loudoun County

Manassas

Manassas Park

Prince William County

**Adjunct member*

Richard Sarles
General Manager
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
600 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Sarles:

Thank you for your letter of October 29 regarding a "MetroAccess Same-Day Service Pilot" that is currently being discussed as a potential regional project by the Human Service Transportation Coordination (HSTC) Task Force, of which Metro is a long-standing member.

The potential regional projects are based on the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)'s Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan, adopted in 2009. A "Same-Day Service Pilot for Paratransit Users" is one of the recommended projects in the Coordinated Plan.

Your feedback is appreciated and appropriate. As a member of the HSTC, Metro's Department of Access Services is aware that the Task Force has requested comments on potential regional projects for the TPB's 2011 solicitation for Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom projects. A same-day service pilot was one of six potential projects discussed at the October 14 meeting and included in an email of October 18 seeking comment by October 29. Based on the comments received, further discussion will occur at the November 18 meeting.

I will forward your comments to the HSTC Chair, D.C. Councilmember Muriel Bowser. In addition, I recommend that Metro staff take the opportunity to discuss these comments with other task force members at the November 18 meeting.

COG and the TPB are committed to working with Metro to serve vital transportation needs in the Washington region and welcome any comments or concerns that you have.

Sincerely,

David J. Robertson
Executive Director



October 29, 2010

David Robertson
Executive Director
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. Robertson:

Metro and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) have enjoyed a long standing collaborative relationship, and together, we have accomplished many things that have served vital transportation needs in the Washington metropolitan area. Currently, COG is initiating its process for administering this year's grant funds from the Job Access / Reverse Commute and New Freedom programs, and as Metro prepares to engage in this discussion, we would like to bring to your attention a concern that we have identified with the process.

The Human Services Transportation Coordination Task Force (HSTC), with input from the Access for All Committee, has invited comment on a draft set of grant proposals, including a "MetroAccess Same-Day Service Pilot Project" in which Metro is named as a lead agency and funding source. The proposal calls for Metro to provide a new level of paratransit service that exceeds ADA requirements and would obligate Metro to a 50 percent match on funding. I believe it is inappropriate to proceed in this fashion without prior consultation and approval by Metro.

Given that the HSTC proposal would require additional budgetary resources as well as explicit authorization from our Board of Directors, we are unable to support the proposed project, at this time. However, in keeping with the main purpose of the HSTC, we will continue to advocate for identification of regional resources outside of Metro to complement the services we currently provide. The proposal entitled "Regional Study of Promising Alternative Paratransit Options" is an excellent example, and one we fully support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Sarles', written in a cursive style.

Richard Sarles
General Manager

**Washington
Metropolitan Area
Transit Authority**

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Washington, DC 20001
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www.metroopensdoors.com

A District of Columbia,
Maryland and Virginia
Transit Partnership

Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force
 October 14, 2010
 For Task Force Discussion

Project	MetroAccess Same-Day Service Pilot
Description	Establish a limited same-day service program under MetroAccess; users would pay a higher fare but could get same-day service for medical appointments. The conclusion of the pilot project would provide an opportunity to review any policy issues or obstacles that arise (including the reasonable limits, to both provider and user, of the sliding scale fee), and test solutions for resolving them. The Coordinated Plan identifies such a pilot as a recommended strategy.
Funding Program	New Freedom
Match Requirement	50 percent
Lead Agency	WMATA
Potential Partners	Local jurisdictions, taxicab companies, Maryland Transit Administration, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

Project	Regional Study of Promising Alternative Paratransit Options
Description	This project could fund smaller demonstration projects that offer alternatives to MetroAccess for consumers with disabilities. Jurisdictions within the National Capital Region could chose an alternative to pilot, such as an increase in the number of wheelchair accessible cabs, same day taxi service, a more robust call and ride program, making pedestrian infrastructure more accessible or travel training. The study would gather data on demand, service quality, customer satisfaction, costs and savings of such alternative programs to share with the region as it grapples with growing demand and cost of ADA paratransit.
Funding	New Freedom or JARC

Program	
Match Requirement	50 percent for the pilot programs 20 percent for the study
Lead Agency	DDOT, TPB
Potential Partners	Local jurisdictions, Maryland Transit Administration, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation