

ITEM 8 - Action
January 18, 2006

Approval of Letter to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Suggesting the Designation of a Point Person for Pedestrian and Bicycle Access at Transit Stations

Staff

Recommendation: Approve the enclosed draft letter from the TPB Chair to the WMATA Board Chair suggesting the designation of a point person for pedestrian and bicycle access at WMATA.

Issues: None

Background: At the December 21, 2005 meeting, the Board received a report from the TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) regarding the Committee's concerns about the need for better coordination of bicycle and pedestrian access to transit stations. The Board expressed interest in the suggestion that a point person be designated at WMATA for pedestrian and bicycle access, and asked that this topic be scheduled as an agenda item for the January 18, 2006 meeting.

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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DRAFT

January 18, 2006

The Honorable Dana Kauffman
Chairman
Board of Directors
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
600 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Coordination of Pedestrian and Bicycle Access to Transit Stations

Dear Chairman Kauffman:

On December 21, 2005, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) received a report from its Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) regarding the Committee's concerns about the need for better coordination of pedestrian and bicycle access to transit stations.

Recognizing that over 60% of riders access the Metrorail system on foot, good pedestrian access is critical to encouraging people to get to Metrorail stations by means other than driving. The TPB's Access for All Advisory Committee has pointed out that an accessible pedestrian environment at bus stops and rail stations is especially critical for people with disabilities. Recently, the TPB's Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee indicated to the TPB Technical Committee as well as the CAC that there is no central point of contact at WMATA for coordinating pedestrian and bicycle issues and projects.

Given the importance of good pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure at Metrorail stations and bus stops, and that the provision of such infrastructure depends upon effective coordination between local governments and transit agencies, the TPB suggests that WMATA consider designating a point person for pedestrian and bicycle access to transit stations.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. I look forward to working with you to further improve pedestrian and bicycle access in the National Capital Region.

Sincerely,

Michael Knapp
Chair, National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board