



TPB REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Meeting Summary: March 28, 2017

ATTENDEES

- Kyle Nembhard, MTA
- Patricia Happ, NVTC
- Michael Eichler, WMATA
- Nick Perfili, WMATA
- Brandon Buchanan, American Bus Association
- Randy White, Fairfax County
- Steve Yaffe, Arlington County
- Henry Dunbar, Arlington County
- Deanna Archey, Montgomery County
- Gary Erenrich, Montgomery County
- Andrew Bossi, Montgomery County
- Kari Snyder, MDOT
- Raymond Mui, DASH
- Josh Baker, DASH
- David Koch, DDOT
- Betsy Massie, PRTC (phone)
- Malcolm Watson, Fairfax Co. (phone)
- Tim Roseboom, DRPT (phone)
- Andy Meese, TPB
- Lyn Erickson, TPB
- Arianna Koudounas, TPB
- Ken Joh, TPB
- Mike Farrell, TPB
- Bill Orleans, Public

AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS, *Kyle Nembhard, Chair*

Call to order and introductions.

2. WHITE OAK NON-AUTO DRIVER MODE SHARE, *Gary Erenrich and Andrew Bossi, Montgomery County*

- Gary Erenrich introduced this item. He spoke of the long-term moratorium on development in the White Oak sector, pending transportation improvements. It is the location of the Food and Drug Administration, but has additional development in the pipeline.
- The Master Plan was adopted in 2014. The County is also working to implement 3 BRT lines and other transit services. There is a necessary emphasis on being even-handed to new development with transportation.
- Decision to identify a transportation impact fee, based on PM-peak hour trips. Just approved by Council last week.
- Andrew Bossi then spoke to a presentation. He presented multiple maps to show the region and potential roadway improvements, with a focus on upgrading intersections.
- The concept is to improve NADMS (Non-Auto Driver Mode Share).
- He noted the Adventist Hospital and Transit Center are now under construction. The Viva development would be on the scale of Silver Spring.

- The impact fee is a one-time \$5,010 fee, required at time of permit and before occupancy. Based on PM-peak hour tips. Note that this is above and beyond the 30% non-auto share goal and also the usual TMD fee of \$0.10 per square foot.

Questions:

- Bill Orleans: What about transit connections to Burtonsville or Prince George's? Service by the bus or RTACM? Montgomery County is working closely with Howard County on transit options. The primary service will be the BRT line on US-29 from Silver Spring up to White Oak and then possibly beyond. For Prince George's the current Z line provides service and could be expanded in the future, as well as connections to Laurel.

3. ARLINGTON PARATRANSIT OVERVIEW, *Steve Yaffe, Arlington County*

- Steve Yaffe spoke to a presentation.
- Focus is on the three-part RFP shortly to be issued that will provide contracted service to run a reorganized paratransit service, the call center, and shared taxi services.
- STAR service is currently cheaper per trip than MetroAccess by about \$20, but still not as productive as Arlington would like. Part of this is due to the need for an updated computer and scheduling system.
- He mentioned the "Arlington Way" in which everyone gets to weigh-in.
- Many issues with service, including adult day care passengers.
- Customer base in Arlington is very intense: federal workers, well educated.
- Currently, STAR has the tightest known pick-up window for paratransit service, from 0-10 minutes. Use Trapeze, with trips faxed to provider Diamond the night before. 11% cancellation rate, 7% same-day booking / ready-now trips.
- New contract will have slightly larger pick-up window, plus or minus 10 minutes. All vehicles will have tablets, enabling real-time assignment.
- Moving from scrip for fare payment to mag swipe or smart card.
- Will work to improve and provide fixed route or flex route service. Flex route is the way of the future. It has already been introduced elsewhere, in Denver in particular. Shared ride is not just paratransit anymore.
- RFP to be released soon, with likely implementation in August.

Questions:

- Bill Orleans: How many trips per year? About 86,000. Close to about 300 per day. Why not use taxis? Tough market for taxis, shrinking the available pool. Not feasible at this time with their business model and the need for specialized assistance.

4. ARLINGTON TDM OVERVIEW, *Henry Dunbar, Arlington County*

- Henry Dunbar spoke to a presentation on TDM measures and first-last mile connections in Arlington.
- He mentioned the Predictable-Alert-Lawful safety campaign, and how "pal-entines" are given out to travelers adhering to these principles.
- He noted that Arlington saw its one-millionth bikeshare trip last year, and that there were 260,000 bikeshare trips in 2016.
- He noted the new travelshed tool which provides multiple layers for people to research transportation options specific to a location.

5. INTERCITY BUS COUNTS, Arianna Koudounas, TPB Transportation Planner

- Arianna Koudounas spoke to a comprehensive presentation on this survey conducted by TPB.

Questions:

- Brandon Buchanan: What do you define as an intercity bus? Why don't you include longer-distance (100-150 mile) commuter buses?
- Raymond Mui: Why did you not look more at service on weekends? This is the peak travel period for these providers; intercity bus is the reverse of the local public transit market, with more demand on the weekend, which is when they make their profits, running weekday service at a loss. Response that TPB is looking for an overall daily average result. Further survey efforts could collect more data, including more on weekends. This was a preliminary effort.
- Kyle Nembhard: Are these scheduled services? Some providers offer only very occasional service. Response used the website information and driver interviews to capture providers and trips, but there may well be some that were missed.
- Gary Erenrich: Would like to work more with intercity providers. Have issues in Bethesda with pedestrian lines and parking, creating a nuisance. Also would like to work on covered waiting areas, seats, restrooms, and other amenities. Brandon Buchanan responded that he would be happy to assist if invited to a meeting, and encouraged all jurisdictional staff to integrate intercity bus providers and needs in planning.
- Tim Roseboom stated that DRPT is issuing an RFP for provision of a scheduled service between Blacksburg and DC.
- Michael Eichler mentioned he would like to see a heat map of the intercity service, along with more information on number and days of scheduled arrivals and departures. He also suggested that trips be used to estimate the capacity required in numbers of bus trips.

6. WMATA SELECTPASS, Michael Eichler, WMATA

- Michael Eichler spoke to a presentation on this new pass option offered by WMATA.
- He reviewed the other current WMATA pass options, and noted that these are only used in 3% of trips.
- For expansion of SelectPass, WMATA is awaiting technical fixes from Cubic, which will enable more price points.
- There will then be a new marketing push with the goals of further SmartBenefits integration, bus pass options, and inclusion of other regional operators.

Questions:

- Gary Erenrich: What is the current breakeven point versus the 36-trip multiple of the pass? This is a conundrum; if the SelectPass is used more that folks would use for fares, WMATA could be accused of giving away service. If the SelectPass is used less often, then WMATA could be accused of taking extra money. So the answer is that overall WMATA tries for revenue neutral, while also focusing on that goal that more popular pass products will improve ridership and customer satisfaction.
- Kari Snyder: Customers will choose the SelectPass who want the fixed price surety.
- Arianna Koudounas: How do the weekly and daily passes translate to SelectPass. They don't; purely calendar month based.
- Nick Perfili: How will the bus pass options work? Customer would buy at same time.
- Patricia Happ: Can you expand on the purchase process? Presentation is missing that slide, but there is a website that works through the process.

- Bill Orleans: How many people are using SelectPass, how were the pilot group users selected? About 4,000 people have used the SelectPass. It was an open pilot and anyone could participate.

7. WORK PROGRAM UPDATE, *Eric Randall, TPB*

- Spoke to a presentation. There were no comments.

8. ADJOURN

- The Cherry Blossom festival was mentioned, with a Blossom Bus and bikeshare Blossom Bike, submitted pictures of which qualify the sender for prize awards. Use hashtag: #blossombus
- It was announced the TPB's Private Providers Annual Transit Forum has been tentatively scheduled for May 9. A formal announcement will be sent out in April.
- The meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.

All meeting materials are available for download from the subcommittee's website:
<https://www.mwcog.org/committees/regional-public-transportation-subcommittee/>