

Richard A. White
General Manager
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
600 5th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20001-2693

July 1, 2004

Dear Mr. White,

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee of the Transportation Planning Board Technical Committee would like to bring to your attention WMATA's reduced involvement in the Subcommittee.

Before her retirement last year Sharonlee Vogel attended subcommittee meetings regularly and was able to advise our members on activities within WMATA relevant to bicycling and walking. By custom, the office of Chair of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee rotates annually between a representative from the District of Columbia, Virginia, and Maryland, and WMATA. Sharonlee chaired the subcommittee three years ago. No WMATA representative has attended Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee meetings since her retirement.

Subcommittee members have also expressed concern that they are unsure with whom at WMATA they should be working to improve non-motorized Metro Station access. Jurisdictional bicycle and pedestrian staff believe that efforts to improve bicycle and pedestrian access to Metro could be better coordinated. Some thought that a full-time bicycle and pedestrian coordinator at WMATA would be helpful. The fact that WMATA has an entire department devoted to parking yet no full time staff person devoted to bicycle and pedestrian access was raised at the last Subcommittee meeting. Accordingly, we request:

(1) That a WMATA staff person brief the Subcommittee on the organization and activities of WMATA's Jurisdictional Coordinating Committee and explain, in specific terms, what WMATA is doing to promote bicycle and pedestrian access. We understand that Lora Byala is not available, but we hope that some other staff person can be found to brief the Subcommittee at its next meeting. The next meeting of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee will take place on Tuesday, July

20th at 1 p.m. in Room One on the first floor at the Council of Government's offices.

(2) That a staff person at WMATA be assigned to attend the bi-monthly meetings of the bicycle and pedestrian subcommittee on a regular basis and

(3) That, in view of the numbers of passengers walking and bicycling to WMATA and rising costs for MetroAccess and automobile parking, additional staff time be allocated to bicycle and pedestrian access to Metrorail and Metrobus.

We commend Metro for past progress in accommodating bicycles and pedestrians on the system. We would like WMATA to play a larger role as we move to the next level of non-motorized accessibility.

Sincerely,

James R. Sebastian
Chair, Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee