

# Report on the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Transit Forum

Robert Werth, Chair  
Private Providers Task Force  
National Capital Region Transportation Planning  
Board  
July 20, 2005

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## The TPB Private Provider Task Force

- Private Enterprise Participation Policy adopted by the TPB in 1987 and revised in 1995
- Task force established in 1988 to facilitate private provider involvement in transportation planning process
- Task force sponsors an annual forum for transit agencies and private providers



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## Private Providers

- Most local governments contract with private providers for bus services
  - Alexandria
  - Montgomery County
  - Prince George's County
  - PRTC and Prince William County
  - Fairfax County and City
  - Loudoun County
- Play a key role in bus, paratransit and transportation management services



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## Status Report on Federal Transportation Reauthorization Bill

- Harold Morgan  
Taxicab, Limousine and Paratransit Association
- Highlighted the enhanced opportunities for private sector participation in the Senate and House bills

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## Hal Morgan: Accessible Taxi Vehicles

- Wheelchair accessible cabs a challenge in Metro areas nationwide
- In D.C., no accessible cabs
- Innovative Practice: Long Beach, California
  - Transit agency partnered with private taxi operator on ADA paratransit
  - Reduced cost by half
  - Users pleased



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## DC Circulator

- Contract with First Transit
- Public/private partnership between DDOT, WMATA and Business Improvement Districts
- Two Routes
  - Union Station to Georgetown (K Street)
  - Waterfront to Convention Center (7<sup>th</sup> Street)



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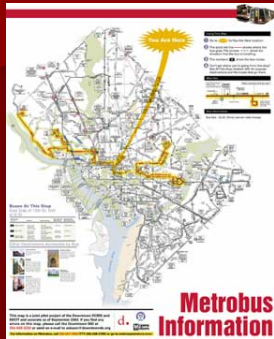
## Local Bus Systems Most Operated by Private Providers

- Growing ridership
- New evening and weekend service
- Increased frequency and new routes
- Limited by budget constraints

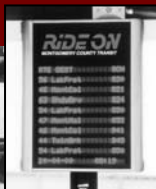


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## Improved Transit Information



- A common goal; plans include:
  - More maps in D.C. bus shelters
  - Automated arrival information at bus stops ("Next Bus" )



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## MetroAccess

- New MetroAccess contractor is being selected
- New contractor expected to begin in January 2006



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## TPB/AFA Study on Demand Responsive Services



- Study is examining:
  - Cost-effective and innovative practices for MetroAccess
  - Potential coordination opportunities
- Study Steering Committee chaired by Kathy Porter
  - Private providers invited to participate
- Expected to be complete in December 2005

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## 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Transit Forum

- Look forward to next year's forum
- Useful and informative meeting
- For More Information
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