

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIORITY BUS TRANSIT IN THE WASHINGTON REGION
*A One-Day Conference on Providing New Transportation Choices through Transit
Prioritization Strategies*

Sponsored by the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

Washington, DC
TENTATIVE DATE: June 23, 2009
DRAFT 11 (April 14, 2009)

Background

Buses carry nearly half of all transit trips in the Washington region. As regional transit demand grows, bus service can be quickly implemented or upgraded to meet that demand.

To ensure continued success, challenges to existing bus service must be addressed, including overcrowding, schedule adherence, and reliability. Larger buses, traffic priority treatments, and other strategies can improve the capacity and efficiency of bus service.

The Washington region currently has numerous high performance bus and bus rapid transit projects under development or implementation. These include WMATA's proposed Priority Corridor Network, the District of Columbia's K Street Busway, express bus enhancements as part of the Shirley Highway HOT Lanes projects, and the ICC Enhanced Transit Plan.

At the same time, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) will provide the region with hundreds of millions of dollars in formula funding, as well as the opportunity to seek discretionary funding under a new multimodal program. The members and staff of the Scenario Study Task Force of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) is developing a plan for the first phase of a regional enhanced bus network, with the intention of seeking funding for this plan through the new program.

Purpose

This workshop is designed to support the region's efforts by bringing together key stakeholders to discuss implementation of a priority bus network as well as other critical bus-related projects. The workshop also will build support for the regional enhanced bus network plan to be submitted for funding under the ARRA.

Organization

The workshop will be one full day. First, participants will learn about plans and prospects for priority bus transit in the region and examples of where similar projects have been implemented around the country. Then, stakeholder groups, transportation agency heads and local officials will discuss strategies and potential challenges towards providing priority bus transit in the Washington region.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIORITY BUS TRANSIT IN THE WASHINGTON REGION
A One-Day Conference on Providing New Transportation Choices through Transit
Prioritization Strategies

- | | | |
|--|---|----------|
| 1 | Registration and Continental Breakfast | 8:00 AM |
| 2 | Welcome and Introduction to Priority Bus Projects in the Washington Region <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Charles Jenkins, Chair, Transportation Planning Board, Moderator</i>• <i>Christopher Zimmerman, Chairman, Arlington County Board</i>• <i>Harriet Tregoning, Director, DC Office of Planning</i>• <i>Nat Bottigheimer, WMATA</i> | 8:30 AM |
| 3 | Examples of Priority Bus Transit in the United States <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>William Vincent, Breakthrough Technologies Institute, Moderator</i>• <i>Cleveland's HealthLine, Euclid Corridor</i>• <i>Los Angeles' Orange Line and Metro Rapid</i>• <i>Boston's Silver Line</i>• <i>Houston's BRT on Managed Lanes</i> | 9:15 AM |
| | <i>Break</i> | 10:45 AM |
| 4 | Perspectives from Stakeholder Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Robert F. Kirby, Transportation Planning Board, Moderator</i>• <i>Panel of representatives from 3 or 4 stakeholder groups.</i> | 11:00 AM |
| Lunch: 12:00 – 1:30 PM. Keynote Speaker: FTA Administrator / Representative | | |
| 5 | Prioritizing Bus Transit in the Washington Region <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Nat Bottigheimer, WMATA, Moderator</i>• <i>Panel of senior representatives from WMATA and state DOTs.</i> | 1:30 PM |
| | <i>Break</i> | 2:45 PM |
| 6 | Achieving Regional Consensus for Priority Bus Transit <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Chris Zimmerman, Arlington County Board, Moderator</i>• <i>Panel of local government officials.</i> | 3:00 PM |
| 7 | Adjourn | 4:15 PM |