

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20002-4290 (202) 962-3310 Fax: (202) 962-3202 TDD: (202) 962-3213

Item #5

MEMORANDUM

November 18, 2009

TO: Transportation Planning Board

FROM: Ronald F. Kirby
Director, Department of
Transportation Planning

RE: Additional Letters Sent/Received

The attached letters were sent/received since the October 21st TPB meeting. The letters will be reviewed under Agenda #5 of the November 18th TPB agenda.

Attachment



October 23, 2009

Mr. Charles Jenkins
Chair
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
777 North Capitol Street, NE - Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Chairman Jenkins:

Thank you for your September 29, 2009 letter requesting funding support from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro) for the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board's FY2010 Street Smart Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Campaign. I am pleased to inform you that Metro will again provide funding for the campaign, in the amount of \$150,000. As with last year's contribution, we again provide the caveat that we must annually evaluate the value of our funding commitment to this program in the context of our financial position.

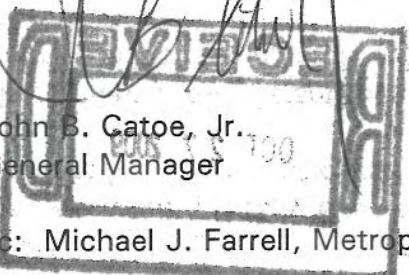
Metro views the Street Smart campaign as an important element in our overall pedestrian and bicyclist safety program. It allows us to reach the hundreds of thousands of pedestrians and cyclists in our region who use our system every day with messages to help keep them safe. Continued safety education in the region for pedestrians, cyclists and operators of all types of vehicles is critical to all our safety efforts. As with Metro's contribution last year, this year's contribution would be linked to the provision of Street Smart program advertising on Metrorail and Metrobus vehicles.

We look forward to fully participating in this effort with the TPB and our regional partners.

Sincerely,


John B. Catoe, Jr.
General Manager

cc: Michael J. Farrell, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments



Washington
Metropolitan Area
Transit Authority

600 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
202/962-1234

By Metrorail:
Judiciary Square—Red Line
Gallery Place-Chinatown—
Red, Green and
Yellow Lines
By Metrobus:
Routes D1, D3, D6, P6,
70, 71, 80, X2



Maryland Department of Transportation
The Secretary's Office

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

Beverley K. Swaim-Staley
Secretary

Harold M. Bartlett
Deputy Secretary

November 3, 2009

Mr. Ronald Kirby
Transportation Planning Director
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, NE
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. Kirby:

On behalf of the Maryland Department of Transportation, the Maryland Department of the Environment and the University of Maryland, I am writing to invite you to attend an upcoming symposium entitled *Moving Maryland: A Symposium on Transportation, Growth, and the Economy*, to be held **November 20th, 2009** at the University of Maryland College Park campus. Your participation would be a tremendous asset to the Symposium discussion and help us achieve its overall objectives.

The Symposium is aimed at fostering dialogue among invited participants on key policy questions relating to transportation mobility and access, economic vitality, and environmental performance. The event is intended to inform the debate on these complex and increasingly intertwined policy arenas and to provide a forum to collectively consider how best to measure Maryland's progress toward achieving these multiple policy goals.

As we work to move Maryland forward effectively, this session will offer lessons learned from around the country and, hopefully, spur dialogue among policymakers, transportation stakeholders, and other interested groups as we address such key questions as:

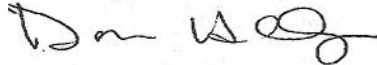
- What is the relationship between transportation and economic growth?
- How do "vehicle miles traveled" (VMT) relate to the economy and the environment? Specifically, how does land use and growth relate to VMT, congestion, and greenhouse gas emissions/climate change?
- What have others done and what can be learned from these experiences? How does Maryland compare? What makes Maryland unique relative to other states and regions of the country?
- How might we be most effective and how can we best make progress?

My telephone number is _____
Toll Free Number 1-888-713-1414 TTY Users Call Via MD Relay
7201 Corporate Center Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076

Mr. Ronald Kirby
Page Two

A copy of the preliminary agenda is attached for your reference. Due to space constraints, we ask that you RSVP as soon as possible and no later than **Monday, November 9th** by visiting www.movingmaryland.net. If you have any questions about the Symposium, please do not hesitate to contact Michelle Martin, Assistant Director in the Office of Planning and Capital Programming. Michelle can be reached directly at 410-865-1285, toll-free at 888-713-1414 or via email at mmartin@mdot.state.md.us. Thank you for your consideration of this invitation.

Sincerely,



Donald A. Halligan
Director
Office of Planning and Capital Programming

Attachment

cc: Ms. Michelle D. Martin, Assistant Director of Planning and Capital Programming,
Maryland Department of Transportation
Ms. Caitlin Hughes Rayman, Assistant Secretary, Maryland Department of
Transportation
Mr. Jeff Tosi, Office of Policy and Government Affairs, Maryland Department of
Transportation

**Moving Maryland:
A Symposium on Transportation, Growth, and the Economy**

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Symposium Purpose: *To facilitate dialogue on key policy questions related to transportation mobility and access, economic vitality, and environmental performance and to collectively consider how best to measure Maryland's progress toward achieving these multiple policy goals.*

8:30 AM Sign in (Continental Breakfast)

9:00 AM Welcome and Introductions

The Big Picture: Framing the Issues from the National Policy Context

- Cindy Burbank, Conference Moderator, PB

How Maryland Measures Up - State of the Practice on Sustainable Transportation, Growth, and Performance Indicators

- Terry Moore, University of Maryland National Center on Smart Growth Research and Education

What Are the Right Questions for Maryland? - Facilitated Discussion

- Cindy Burbank and Conference Participants

10:30 AM Break

10:45 AM What Are the Possible Answers? - Policy Strategies and Measuring Progress

- Transportation and Economic Growth - *TBD*
- Transportation, Land Use, and VMT - Jose Gomez-Ibanez (*invited*)

Maryland State Legislator Roundtable Discussion

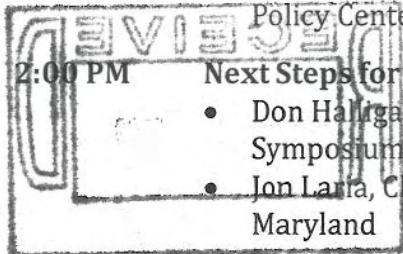
- Senator Frosh, Senator Pipkin

12:30 PM Luncheon and Luncheon Address

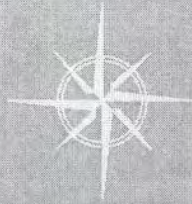
- Emil Frankel, National Transportation Policy Project of the Bipartisan Policy Center

2:00 PM Next Steps for Maryland

- Don Halligan, Maryland Department of Transportation, and other Symposium sponsors
- Jon Lurie, Chair, Task Force on the Future for Growth and Development in Maryland



ADAM Announces
The Kick-Off Meeting of the



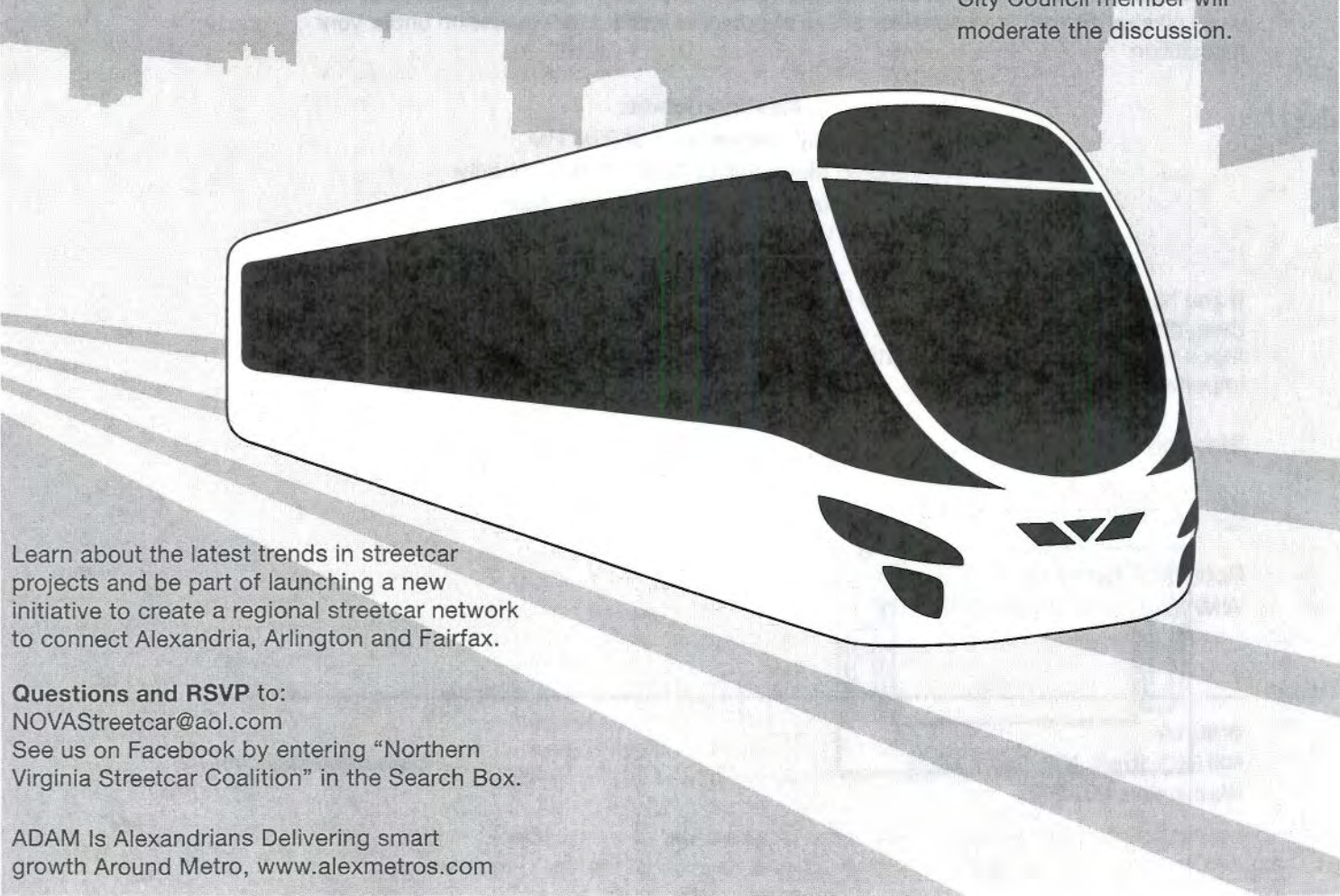
northern virginia STREETCAR COALITION

Join Us for Our Official Launch
On November 18th

WHERE Alexandria Campus of the Northern
Virginia Community College,
Bisdorf Building Room 158

WHEN Wednesday
November 18th
7-9 pm

SPEAKERS **Chris Zimmerman**
Arlington County Commissioner
Stewart Schwartz
Coalition for Smarter Growth
David Vozzolo - HDR
Jim McClellan
NOVA Community College
Kai Reynolds - JBG
Tim Lovain - former Alexandria
City Council member will
moderate the discussion.



Learn about the latest trends in streetcar
projects and be part of launching a new
initiative to create a regional streetcar network
to connect Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax.

Questions and RSVP to:

NOVAStreetcar@aol.com

See us on Facebook by entering "Northern
Virginia Streetcar Coalition" in the Search Box.

ADAM Is Alexandrians Delivering smart
growth Around Metro, www.alexmetros.com



November 13, 2009

Ronald Kirby
Director, Department of Transportation Planning
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Re: Columbia Pike Transit Initiative—Project Information and Agency Coordination Meeting

Dear Ronald Kirby:

Your participation is requested in a project information and agency coordination meeting on December 1, 2009 to present and discuss the Columbia Pike Transit Initiative. The lead federal agency for this effort is the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) which has identified the probable NEPA class of action as an Environmental Assessment (EA). This invitation is a follow-up to an earlier project initiation letter which you received in late September.

At the December agency meeting the project team, consisting of Arlington County, Fairfax County, and WMATA, will provide a brief overview presentation of the project and request comment, feedback, and questions from attendees. Prior to the meeting, we encourage you to review the materials sent with the previous correspondence, study the project at its web site, www.piketransit.com, and consider areas of potential interest for discussion under your jurisdiction.

Meeting Details:

Tuesday, December 1 at 2:00 PM
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
600 5th Street NW, Board Meeting Room
Washington, DC 20001

If you have any questions about the December 1st meeting or would like to comment before then, please feel free to contact us at (202) 962-1114 or mcelhennysmith@wmata.com. We thank you in advance for your participation and look forward to working with you on this important study.

Sincerely,

Robin McElhenry-Smith
WMATA Deputy Project Manager

WMATA
600 Fifth Street, NW, Room 5B-26
Washington, DC 20001

www.piketransit.com



METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300 Washington, D.C. 20002-4239

Telephone (202) 962-3200 TDD (202) 962-3213 Fax (202) 962-3201 Internet: www.mwcog.org

For Immediate Release

November 18, 2009

CONTACT: Steven Kania, 202-962-3249

**National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
Wins WTS Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award**

TPB Recognized for Initiatives that Serve the Transportation Needs of Region's Diverse Populations

Washington, D.C. – At the Awards Ceremony of the D.C. Chapter of WTS on December 3, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board will be honored with the Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award for its initiatives that serve the transportation needs of the region's diverse populations. WTS, an international organization dedicated to the professional advancement of women in transportation, highlighted recent work by the TPB such as bringing wheelchair-accessible taxi service to the District of Columbia, conducting a review of MetroAccess, reaching out to the Hispanic community in pedestrian safety campaigns, and training community leaders and activists to get more engaged in the transportation planning process.

“We are very honored that the TPB has been recognized for its commitment to making sure that all of the region's residents are better served by our transportation system,” said Ron Kirby, Director of Transportation Planning at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. “This award is possible thanks to the combined efforts of our board members, citizen and stakeholders groups, and our own diverse staff.”

The TPB's Access for All Advisory Committee advises the board on transportation issues, programs, policies and services that are important to low-income communities, minority communities and people with disabilities. It has conducted a study of transit access for limited-English proficiency customers, worked with WMATA to implement some of the recommendations, and conducted a review of MetroAccess efforts to improve paratransit service.

The Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force was created by the TPB to oversee the development of the region's Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan and two federally-funded programs to help transportation-disadvantaged individuals gain access to transportation services. Over the past three years, the TPB has awarded over \$7 million for these projects, including one to bring wheelchair-accessible taxis to D.C. for the first time. The service will begin in December, and by January 2010, all 20 new vehicles will be in service.

The TPB's Community Leadership Institute has taught a diverse group of over 100 community leaders and activists to be more engaged in transportation decision-making. It has focused on communities that are sometimes left out of the planning process, including immigrant communities and senior citizens.

Street Smart is a public outreach campaign that uses news and advertising media, as well as increased law enforcement activity, to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety. Because studies show that Hispanics are significantly overrepresented in pedestrian crash statistics, Street Smart has aggressively reached out to the Hispanic community through Spanish-language advertisements and materials.

The TPB is the regional transportation planning organization for the Washington region. It includes local governments, state transportation agencies, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), and members of the Maryland and Virginia General Assemblies.

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METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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Telephone (202) 962-3200 TDD (202) 962-3213 Fax (202) 962-3201 Internet: www.mwcog.org

November 10, 2009

CONTACT: Wendy Klancher (202) 962-3321 / wklancher@mwcog.org; Lewis Miller (202) 962-3209 / lmiller@mwcog.org

- MEDIA ADVISORY -

Wheelchair-Accessible Cabs Coming Soon to the District

Vehicle demonstrations to be held Thursday, Pilot service to begin in December

WHAT: In 2008, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) approved funding for a wheelchair-accessible taxicab pilot for the District of Columbia. A demonstration of the accessible cabs that begin limited service in December 2009 will be held on Thursday.

WHO: Councilmember Muriel Bowser, District of Columbia; Chair, TPB Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force;
Roy Spooner, Sr., General Manager, Yellow Cab;
Ariel Emata, Service Manager, Royal Cab;
Wendy Klancher, Senior Transportation Planner, COG/TPB

WHEN: Thursday, November 12, 2009, 11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

WHERE: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20002
Level B-1

BACKGROUND:

In 2008, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) approved funding to bring wheelchair accessible taxicabs to the District of Columbia, with a portion of the required matching funds provided by the D.C. Taxicab Commission. Grant recipients Yellow Cab and Royal Cab will be providing the new service and will demonstrate their vehicles on Thursday, November 12. Four cabs will be in service in the District in December, with the complete initial fleet of 20 accessible cabs beginning service in January 2010.

Currently, none of the District's 6,500 taxis can serve passengers with wheelchairs who require a ramp or lift to get into a vehicle. Most of the neighboring jurisdictions have accessible taxi service, including Arlington, Alexandria, Montgomery County and Prince George's County. The District is one of the few remaining major U.S. cities without accessible cabs.

Funding for the accessible cabs was approved by the TPB through the New Freedom programs of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

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www.mwcog.org

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