



October 29, 2010

David Robertson
Executive Director
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. Robertson:

Metro and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) have enjoyed a long standing collaborative relationship, and together, we have accomplished many things that have served vital transportation needs in the Washington metropolitan area. Currently, COG is initiating its process for administering this year's grant funds from the Job Access / Reverse Commute and New Freedom programs, and as Metro prepares to engage in this discussion, we would like to bring to your attention a concern that we have identified with the process.

The Human Services Transportation Coordination Task Force (HSTC), with input from the Access for All Committee, has invited comment on a draft set of grant proposals, including a "MetroAccess Same-Day Service Pilot Project" in which Metro is named as a lead agency and funding source. The proposal calls for Metro to provide a new level of paratransit service that exceeds ADA requirements and would obligate Metro to a 50 percent match on funding. I believe it is inappropriate to proceed in this fashion without prior consultation and approval by Metro.

Given that the HSTC proposal would require additional budgetary resources as well as explicit authorization from our Board of Directors, we are unable to support the proposed project, at this time. However, in keeping with the main purpose of the HSTC, we will continue to advocate for identification of regional resources outside of Metro to complement the services we currently provide. The proposal entitled "Regional Study of Promising Alternative Paratransit Options" is an excellent example, and one we fully support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Sarles', written in a cursive style.

Richard Sarles
General Manager

**Washington
Metropolitan Area
Transit Authority**

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A District of Columbia,
Maryland and Virginia
Transit Partnership

Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force
 October 14, 2010
 For Task Force Discussion

Project	MetroAccess Same-Day Service Pilot
Description	Establish a limited same-day service program under MetroAccess; users would pay a higher fare but could get same-day service for medical appointments. The conclusion of the pilot project would provide an opportunity to review any policy issues or obstacles that arise (including the reasonable limits, to both provider and user, of the sliding scale fee), and test solutions for resolving them. The Coordinated Plan identifies such a pilot as a recommended strategy.
Funding Program	New Freedom
Match Requirement	50 percent
Lead Agency	WMATA
Potential Partners	Local jurisdictions, taxicab companies, Maryland Transit Administration, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

Project	Regional Study of Promising Alternative Paratransit Options
Description	This project could fund smaller demonstration projects that offer alternatives to MetroAccess for consumers with disabilities. Jurisdictions within the National Capital Region could chose an alternative to pilot, such as an increase in the number of wheelchair accessible cabs, same day taxi service, a more robust call and ride program, making pedestrian infrastructure more accessible or travel training. The study would gather data on demand, service quality, customer satisfaction, costs and savings of such alternative programs to share with the region as it grapples with growing demand and cost of ADA paratransit.
Funding	New Freedom or JARC

Program	
Match Requirement	50 percent for the pilot programs 20 percent for the study
Lead Agency	DDOT, TPB
Potential Partners	Local jurisdictions, Maryland Transit Administration, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation