



TPB REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Meeting Summary: October 25, 2016

ATTENDEES

Pierre Holloman, Alexandria
Gary Erenrich, Montgomery
Kyle Nembhard, MTA
Patricia Happ, NVTC
Nick Perfili, WMATA
Jonathan Parker, WMATA
Catherine Vanderwaart, WMATA
Emily Stock, DRPT
Randy White, Fairfax Co.
Steve Yaffe, Arlington,
Veronica Lowe, Frederick Translt

Faisal Hameed, Parsons/DC2RVA Team
Kari Synder, MDOT (phone)
Malcom Watson, Fairfax County (phone)
Oscar Gonzalez, VRE (phone)
Scott Gross, Loudoun County (phone)
Sonali Soneji, VRE (phone)
Lyn Erickson, TPB
Rich Roisman, TPB
Ken Joh, TPB
Bill Orleans, Public

AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS, *Pierre Holloman, Chair*

Call to order and introductions.

2. FREDERICK TRANSIT'S EZFARE MOBILE APP, *Veronica Lowe, Frederick Translt*

- Spoke to a presentation. TSCF stands for Transit Services of Frederick County.
- Transfer is good for one hour and 4 minutes, to allow any connecting bus to be met. In the event of unusual delay, drivers would be instructed on accepting late transfers.
- Customers lose their phones, so website allows tickets to be retrieved onto new phones.
- The \$4 day pass is only available for mobile ticketing users, as an incentive.
- About 1300 riders, out of a daily ridership of 3,000, not using the app.
- Still working on stored credit card information.
- Agencies can buy tickets and push to recipients. Some County agencies are doing this.

Questions:

- How are mobile ticketing trips recorded? Drivers record use of mobile tickets with a tablet key.
- Any tracking of the trips of individual users? No.

3. DC2RVA HSR PROGRESS / NEXT STEPS, *Emily Stock, DRPT*

- Spoke to a presentation.
- Tier 2 study, working on the FRA network originally identified in 1991.
- Focus on reliability and capacity for improvements. Speeds will max at 90 mph.

- Draft EIS is with FRA for review. Hope to be available for release to the public in December. Hearings would take place starting in January.
- Final EIS goal is end of 2017, which would identify preferred alternatives and segments.
- Note that FRA process is wider than that of FTA.
- Long range plan is to double Amtrak trains in corridor.
- Same 3rd Track sections now, some under consideration. Goal is 3rd track all the way between DC and Richmond.
- Need to build crossovers, sidings, and bypasses (e.g., Fredericksburg), and straighten some curves. Ashland downtown is especially tough.
- Richmond station will be key. Five alternatives for the main station.
- The website has specific maps and alignments.
- Atlantic Gateway project of CSX moving ahead, including with FASTLANE grant.

Questions:

- Kyle Nembhard: What affects maximum speed limits, track geometry or the vehicles? Both, though the Amtrak vehicles could handle that speed.
- Gary Erenrich: Is Union Station still a bottleneck? How many trains can it handle? Could trains from the south terminate at Alexandria? That could be a short-term option, but hoping Long Bridge and Union Station projects move ahead.
- What is project ridership and costs? There will be a ridership and revenue analysis released with the Draft EIS.
- Bill Orleans: The track owner is CSX, yes? Yes, though they are bound by interoperability and maintenance requirements to support passenger service. The bypasses are more for freight than for passenger trains.
- Bill Orleans: State should own ROW, not a private company. This is the subject of active legislation and litigation.
- How far will this study go? Will cover all planning requirements and 30% of Preliminary Engineering.
- Steve Yaffe: Any calculation of how many jobs would be created for ongoing maintenance as well as constriction? No ROI calculation of that sort has been constructed.
- KJ: How much of this depends on Long Bridge Study? A lot. How many grade crossings are there, and is there a plan to change those? There are 11 grade crossings that are being examined for separation.
- Jonathan Parker: What are the maintenance standards for CSX? This is a developing area.
- Randy White: Regarding the Atlantic Gateway, a bottleneck is the combination of the Occoquan and Rappahannock rivers. That is being looked at for through train routing.

4. WMATA REGIONAL RIDERSHIP DISCUSSION, *Catherine Vanderwaart, WMATA*

- Spoke to a presentation.
- Follow up to July meeting at WMATA, want to continue discussion and identify possible next steps.
 - 1) Metrobus survey may provide information; any interest in regional add-ons?
 - 2) SmarTrip data can be harvested and analyzed.
 - 3) TPB study option; what would this consist of?

Questions:

- Gary Erenrich: There are a lot of studies and surveys out there, including State of Commute,

BRT education surveys, etc. What do people see as problems? Montgomery County also has detailed surveys from TMA districts. Would be useful to hire a survey market firm to assess the whole region. Also need statistics valid for the region. What are the questions people ask in surveys: reliability, frequency, and security of transit.

- Pierre Holloman: NYC bus turn around project. Route structure and adapting to land use. Bikeshare and walk density also important to understand.
- Patricia Happ: NVTC bus project looking at same issues, as well as importance of connections.
- Bill Orleans: What is TheBus ridership? What are Metro options?
- Steve Yaffe: ART ridership is up after taking over some Metrobus routes, but riders are down on some routes. Riders change, maturing from Connector to FASTRAN. Millennial expectations are for service and frequency, along with complete visibility.
- Jonathan Parker: Overall trends are one thing, but also need to dig deep, which provides a different picture. Some routes or areas down, but others are up. Pattern is uneven. There was data from TNCs in 2014, but already obsolete. Need a better handle on transit trips per person.
- Gary Erenrich: Firms have goals, they are meeting them or would leave business. But commute only 17% of all trips. Need to look at corridors where transit is performing well. For instance, Q9 bus along New Hampshire Avenue, the improvement in quality of service has made a difference. So will bus improvements along MD 355 next year.
- Steve Yaffe: What is the status of the Metrobus survey? Has it been discussed at JCC? Is this RFP already issued? Would want to participate with Metro.
- NP: Participation in regional survey would be of interest; info is needed on costs.
- Catherine Vanderwaart: For a meta-study, are people interested? How could this be done? Don't have resources at WMATA.

5. FEDERAL RULEMAKING UPDATE: TRANSIT ASSET MANAGEMENT AND TRANSIT SAFETY, Eric Randall, TPB

- Spoke to a presentation.

6. WORK PROGRAM UPDATE AND TRANSIT SURVEY SUMMARY, Eric Randall, TPB

- Spoke to a presentation.

7. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.

All meeting materials are available for download from the subcommittee's website:
https://www.mwcog.org/events/2016/?F_committee=165