



Notice of Metrobus Public Hearing No. 534

Proposed Changes to the Metrobus Charter Service Fare

Docket No. B08-3

Notice is hereby given that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority will hold a public hearing on the above proposal:

Hearing Number 534
Monday, September 15, 2008
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
600 Fifth Street NW
Washington, DC 20001
6:30 p.m.

This public hearing is being conducted in a location accessible to persons with disabilities. Any individual who requires special assistance, such as a sign language interpreter, to participate in the public hearings should contact Ms. Danise Peña at 202-962-2511 or TTY: 202-638-3780 as early as possible for WMATA to make necessary arrangements. For language assistance, call 202-962-2384.



Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
600 Fifth Street N.W. Washington, DC 20001

Purpose. WMATA is currently providing charter services to Compact jurisdictions. WMATA established charter service in 1973 as a service to the Compact jurisdictions. However, new Federal Transit Administration regulations governing charter bus service have severely restricted WMATA from providing charter service. Since the regulation has been in effect, circumstances have dictated that WMATA provide charter service in certain limited cases, after securing an FTA waiver. Since it is reasonable to expect that Metro may still be required to provide some charter service, WMATA proposes to increase the charge for providing charter services from the current rate to a rate that will fully capture the cost of providing charter service.

Proposal. The proposal is to increase the charge of providing charter services. The current minimum charter charge is \$373.50, which includes the current hourly charter rate of \$83.00 with a 3 hour minimum and 1.5 hours of travel time. An additional rush hour charge of \$15.00 also applies. This proposal seeks to cover all WMATA costs, including direct costs, indirect costs, maintenance, fuel and depreciation. The proposed rate is \$159.00 per hour, with 1.5 hours of travel time, for minimum charge of \$715.50. WMATA reserves the right to discount charter rates for jurisdictions within the Compact area.

How to Register to Speak at Public Hearings. All organizations or individuals desiring to be heard with respect to this proposal may present their views, make supporting statements and offer alternative proposals. Individuals and representatives of organizations who wish to be heard at the public hearing are requested to furnish in writing their name, address, telephone number and organization affiliation, if any, by noon on the date of the hearing to the Office of the Secretary, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, 600 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001. Alternatively, you may fax this information to the Office of the Secretary at 202-962-1133. Please submit only one speaker's name per letter. Lists of individual speakers will not be accepted. Others present at the hearing may be heard after those persons on the witness list have been called and heard. Public officials will be heard first and will be allowed five minutes each to make their presentations. All others will be allowed three minutes each and will be heard in order of registration. Relinquishing of time by one speaker to another will not be permitted. Those who are unable to speak at the hearing are encouraged to submit written statements.

How to Submit Written Statements. Written statements and exhibits may be submitted until 5 p.m. on September 22, 2008, to the Office of the Secretary, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, 600 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001. Alternatively, you may send testimony by e-mail to public-hearing-testimony@wmata.com or by fax to 202-962-1133. Please reference the Hearing and/or Docket Number shown on the front of this document in your submission. All comments received will be posted without change to www.wmata.com/about/community, including any personal information provided.

WMATA is currently providing charter services to Compact jurisdictions. WMATA established charter service in 1973 as a service to the Compact jurisdictions. However, new Federal Transit Administration (FTA) regulations governing charter bus service have severely restricted WMATA from providing charter service. Since the regulation has been in effect, circumstances have dictated that WMATA provide charter service in certain limited cases, after securing an FTA waiver. Since it is reasonable to expect that Metro may still be required to provide some charter service, WMATA proposes to increase the charge for providing charter services from the current rate to a rate that will fully capture the cost of providing charter service.

The proposal is to increase the charge for providing charter services. The current minimum charter charge is \$373.50, which includes the current hourly charter rate of \$83.00 with a 3 hour minimum and 1.5 hours of travel time. An additional rush hour charge of \$15.00 also applies. This proposal seeks to cover all WMATA costs. The proposed rate is \$159.00 per hour, with 1.5 hours of travel time, for minimum charge of \$715.50. WMATA reserves the right to discount charter rates for jurisdictions within the Compact area.

Proposed Metrobus Fare Adjustments for Charter Rates and Fees

- a. No changes are proposed to the minimum contracting time. Buses contracted within and outside the transit zone will continue to be charged a minimum of 4.5 hours. This will allow three (3) hours of customer service and 1.5 hours travel/garage time.
- b. No changes are proposed to the unused vehicle fee policy. The unused vehicle fee is 4.5 hours. This charge is generally referred to as a REPORT CHARGE or CANCELLATION CHARGE. This is the minimum charge for subcontract service.
- c. Increase the hourly charge for non-lecture service from \$83.00 per hour to \$159.00 per hour. This represents a 92% increase in cost. The minimum charge for non-lecture service is proposed to be \$715.50. Non-lecture service refers to the use of a vehicle without the benefit of the operator lecturing on surrounding sites.
- d. Increase the hourly charge for lecture service from \$90.00 per hour to \$172.00 per hour. This represents a 91% increase. The minimum charge for lecture service is proposed to be \$774.00. Lecture service refers to any service requesting a microphone to be placed on the vehicle. Lecture operators conduct a sightseeing tour of the Washington Metropolitan area.

- e. No change is requested in the additional charge for service performed between the hours of 5:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. and/or 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. The charge is currently \$15.00 per time period/per vehicle.
- f. Service originating and/or terminating at Dulles Airport, B.W.I. Airport or outlying hotels (i.e., Fair Oaks, VA; Sterling, VA; Chantilly, VA; Gaithersburg, MD; Clinton, MD, etc.) will be assessed an additional one hour charge to cover the travel/garage time.
- g. It is proposed to incorporate a new rate for service requiring supervisory personnel to provide coverage for large capacity charters and movements. This rate is proposed to be \$67.00 per hour and covers the cost for supervisory activity.
- h. It is proposed that the rates for jurisdictions reserved by WMATA for governmental entities located entirely within the Transit Zone, excluding Loudoun County, Virginia, remain at current levels. Specifically, those entities are the District of Columbia; the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church and Fairfax and the counties of Arlington and Fairfax, and other political subdivisions within the Commonwealth of Virginia located within these counties; and the counties of Montgomery and Prince George's and other political subdivisions within those counties, all of which are in the State of Maryland. Those governmental entities described above, along with local public, parochial and day schools located within the Metropolitan area when used on school days only, for school-related functions, between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. for service wholly within the transit zone are defined as "local jurisdictions."