

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority  
**Board Action/Information Summary**

Action  Information

MEAD Number:  
202195

Resolution:  
 Yes  No

**TITLE:**

Transit Equity Framework

**PRESENTATION SUMMARY:**

Present information on the Transit Equity Framework

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of the Transit Equity Framework is to advance equitable policies and practices that support Metro's mission.

**DESCRIPTION:**

The mission of WMATA is to provide safe, equitable, reliable and cost-effective public transit by connecting communities, improving mobility, and stimulating economic development. The Metro Board and management are committed to advancing equitable policies and practices that support our mission. The Transit Equity Framework outlines specific areas that will be the focus of review and action plans.

**Key Highlights:**

- The mission of WMATA is to provide safe, equitable, reliable and cost-effective public transit by connecting communities, improving mobility, and stimulating economic development.
- The Metro Board and management are committed to advancing equitable policies and practices that support Metro's mission.
- The Transit Equity Framework outlines specific areas that will be the focus of review and action plans.
- Areas of focus include: policing, public participation, fares and service, sustainability, contracting and performance reporting.

**Background and History:**

Racial and social inequities have been brought to the forefront of the national conversation. While Metro has a longstanding commitment to diversity, transit equity, and inclusion, the Board and management continue to look for ways to elevate the conversation around these critical issues.

**Discussion:**

The Transit Equity Framework will focus on the following areas: policing, public participation, fares and service, sustainability, contracting and performance reporting. Some actions are already underway:

- A task force comprised of Board members and management was established to specifically address transit equity. The task force will lead the agency on these issues to ensure we create safe spaces to discuss this topic and make meaningful changes in culture at all levels of the organization.
- The Board recently established a new, independent Metro Transit Police Department, or MTPD, investigations review panel. The purpose of the panel is to conduct independent and impartial reviews of certain completed investigations, such as customer complaints or use of force incidents, to enhance the training and policies of the MTPD.
- Staff will also examine policies and practices around public participation to ensure meaningful and impactful input opportunities. For instance, staff just completed the most recent RAC recruitment. Recruitment outreach was expanded to a larger network of community-based organizations and amplified the recruitment efforts on social media. Staff also translated the RAC application into Spanish to expand the pool of candidates for the Council.

In the coming months, the Board will undertake a series of trainings on race and transit equity. These will be conducted during Board meetings, similar to the trainings for audit awareness and ethics. The Board will also receive quarterly performance reports during Board meetings to ensure transparency in addressing customer care and other related issues.

Next, Metro will look for ways to strengthen our contracting efforts through our existing Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program and the establishment of a new Minority Business Enterprise program. Also, staff will examine more deeply our underserved communities in terms of fares and service, especially bus, through the Bus Transformation project. And finally, staff will also explore how sustainability and transit equity are linked.

**FUNDING IMPACT:**

Define current or potential funding impact, including source of reimbursable funds.	
Project Manager:	Jennifer Ellison/Paul Wiedefeld
Project Department/Office:	SECT/GMGR

**TIMELINE:**

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<b>Previous Actions</b>	<p>June 2020– Transit Equity Task Force and MTPD Investigations Review Panel established</p> <p>July 2020 – Present the Transit Equity Framework at the Executive Committee</p>
<b>Anticipated actions after presentation</b>	<p>Fall 2020/Winter 2021– Staff work to focus on policies and practices related to policing, public participation, fares and service, sustainability, contracting and performance reporting.</p>

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- No Board action for this item

# Framework for Transit Equity

Executive Committee

July 9, 2020

Paul Smedberg and  
Paul Wiedefeld



# Board's Framework: Advancing Equitable Transit at Metro

Transit Equity Task Force

MTPD Investigations Review Panel

RAC Recruitment

Board Trainings on Race and  
Transit Equity

Examine Fares and Service

Performance Reporting

# Advancing More Equitable Transit

- Beyond Policing

Bus Service Transformation

DBE Goals

Public Participation

Sustainability

# Advancing More Equitable Transit

## Areas of Focus

- What can we do to ensure service equity for bus riders?
- Are all communities being reached and voices heard?
- How do we improve access for doing business with Metro?
- How are transit equity and sustainability linked?

# Advancing More Equitable Transit

## Today

- Sustainability Report
- DBE progress/MBE program

## September

- Policing progress report
- Recommend Board sustainability principles
- Review Board public engagement policy and equity standard for service and fares
- Bus Transformation Project actions

## Fall

- First-ever Board sustainability policy
- Board updates public engagement and equity policy
- GM's FY22 capital and operating budget proposal