



Accessibility Advisory Committee

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September 8, 2020

Dear Chair Smedberg, and Members of the Board,

On behalf of the AAC, I welcome your return from the summer break, and back to the Fall session of WMATA Board activities.

It is my pleasure to present you with the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) Report for the month of July 2020. The primary issues we reviewed were: 1) Sounds: New Faregates Update, 2) Scooter Hubs, and 3) MetroAccess Vans Design Update.

Issues of the Month

Sounds: New Faregates Update:

Terri Anomnachi, Project Manager, Capital Funding, presented a new set of proposed sounds for the new faregates. The last set of sounds presented to the AAC were not liked for various reasons. In July, Ms. Anomnachi presented a new set of proposed sounds to determine preference, as per the sound purpose. Several sounds were demonstrated for failures, successes, and alarms indicating something that should not be, is happening. The new faregates will have multiple zone sensors to prevent closure on customers' mobility aid and/or luggage. It is mandatory for WMATA to have failure sounds to alert customers. Along with the sounds/alarms, customers will be notified of the issue via text messages displayed on the faregate screens.

There was a discussion that ruled out the use of the sounds similar to train-door chimes and current bus sounds. The AAC recommended to test the sounds for station managers and determine which sound will get their attention. The AAC also recommended wireless or portable devices for station managers enabling them to hear the alarms as they have to move around within the station. Ms. Anomnachi has offered to share further information about sounds for the new faregates with the AAC. We appreciate WMATA's efforts of taking into consideration the feedback of the AAC.

Scooter Hubs:

David Goodman, Jacobs, and Veronica Davis, Nspriegreen, presented possibilities for the scooter hubs on Metro property, specifically on Metrorail stations. Mr. Goodman stated there is no specific location to park shared mobility devices, such as electric scooters. WMATA is looking for designated areas for scooters close to the stations that will not cause hindrance for other customers. Nspiregreen has been asked to develop concepts called Scooter Corrals to review the appearance, size, functionality, and locations. Some scooter corrals could be in the street which may replace a parallel parking space. A parking space may be changed to place many scooters versus one vehicle. Another option could be to utilize landscaping areas on the sidewalks. Criteria is being reviewed for locations at Metro stations.

The AAC was pleased to hear the options and provided feedback concerning existing corrals at a close proximity of a few Metrorail stations. We look forward to receiving updates as they become available.

MetroAccess Vans Design Update:

Glenn Millis, Senior Policy and Planning Officer, Access Service, thanked the Committee for inviting him back. Mr. Millis attended two prior meetings on September 16th, 2019, and April 20th, 2020, to share/receive feedback from the Committee. Mr. Millis received 14 recommendations from the AAC which are under consideration. In addition, WMATA is taking under advisement active collision system to improve safety, space for 1 or 2 wheelchair stations along with space for four other seats, capability of all current MetroAccess vehicles to include CCTV, a lower roof height to reduce overhead accidents, improved reliability. Since Federal funding will be involved this vehicle would be as per Buy America standards. The AAC was glad to hear that as part of the next steps, the Committee and other disability stakeholders will have an opportunity to review the prototype. The AAC also recommends that other paratransit agencies get in the partnership and help promote this prototype as the vehicle for all of the paratransit agencies throughout the nation.

Sincerely,

Philip Posner
Chair