



AAC

Accessibility Advisory Committee

600 Fifth Street NW
Washington, DC 20001
202-962-6060

BUS AND RAIL SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES: AUGUST 8, 2011

In attendance: Susan Holland, Debbie Brown, Regina Lee Marilyn Lutter, Phil Posner, Emily Singer Lucio, Elver Ariza-Silva, Brian Hurley, Doris Ray, David Winser and Darrell Drake. Christian Kent, Glenn Millis, Frank Roth, Rikki Epstein, and Rayann Otto Anderson represented the Department of Access Services (ACCS).

Call to Order

Chairman Holland called the August 8, 2011 Bus/Rail Subcommittee (BRS) meeting to order at 4:00 pm

Public Comments

Persons attending the meeting did not offer public comments.

Review of Agenda, Minutes

The Subcommittee deferred approval of the June 28, 2011 Minutes until the next Subcommittee meeting to provide additional time for Subcommittee members to complete their review.

Status of Action Items from June 28, 2011 Meeting

Mr. Joseph Reynolds, Chief Engineer for Railcars provided an update on the final design of the 7000 Series Railcars. Mr. Reynolds advised that the final design incorporates additional accessibility improvements to include: large wall mounted displays providing line, station and destination information; a twenty-five percent increase in handholds; vinyl seating replacing cloth seating; designated wheelchair parking at the middle doors; open space under priority seats for service animals; emergency intercoms at the ends and middle of the car and 2" wider aisles to better accommodate mobility aid users. Floor to ceiling stanchions at middle car

doors have been removed as requested by the AAC. Carpet will be replaced by easy to keep clean and maintain non-slip vinyl. The Subcommittee asked about the possibility that vinyl floors could become slippery when wet and also asked about arm rests at priority seating stations. Mr. Reynolds stated that the new floor is a slip-resistant, rubberized surface and that there are hand holds at priority seating to allow customers to better lift themselves from seats. Mr. Reynolds also advised that 7000 cars will have an automated station announcement feature and are also able to make priority seating announcements.

Mr. Kent suggested that the Subcommittee provide an itemized list of the requested accessibility features for the 7000 series railcars. The Subcommittee agreed to present its recommendations on the 7000 Series for AAC approval at the September 6, 2011 meeting. Mr. Reynolds agreed to provide the presentation to the Subcommittee.

Mr. Kenny Spain, Project Manager Red-line Rehabilitation Project provided an update on the Union Station Rehabilitation Project. Mr. Spain stated that the air conditioning, electrical system and the station manager kiosk have been upgraded, and some of the ceiling tile has been replaced. Mr. Spain also stated that many of the repairs on the Metrorail escalators and elevator at Union Station have been completed. The Subcommittee expressed concern about the need for brighter lighting in the Metrorail system. Mr. Spain reported that lighting upgrades are part of a large system-wide Metrorail initiative but also that all lighting in Union Station is in full ADA compliance. The system wide station lighting is on the Subcommittee 2012 work plan.

Subcommittee Work Plan

After discussion, the BRS added obtaining a report on Metrorail “skip stop announcements” and a review of the new Customer Guide to accessibility features on bus and rail to the BRS work plan. The BRS discussed priorities in the work plan. Chairman Holland advised new members of the Subcommittee that the work plan priorities were set previously after

extensive review by the existing Subcommittee and that it was her preference to move forward with the existing Work Plan. The BRS received written monthly reports on Travel Training, Elevator Status and the Accessible Bus Summary.

New Business

No new business was introduced.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Attachment: Work Plan