



**AAC**

## **Accessibility Advisory Committee**

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

### **BUS AND RAIL SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES: JUNE 28, 2011**

In attendance: Susan Holland, Debbie Brown, Marilyn Lutter, Phil Posner, Tom Dowling, Michael Brownell, and Darrell Drake. Christian Kent represented the Department of Access Services (ACCS). Glenn Millis, Rikki Epstein, Rayann Otto Anderson, and B. Moore Gwynn represented the Office of ADA Programs (ADAP). Frank Roth represented the Office of Eligibility (ELIG).

#### **Call to Order**

Chairman Holland called the June 28, 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 April 26, 2011 minutes and the June 28, 2011 Agenda were approved.

#### **Travel Training Report**

Rikki Epstein presented information on the ACCS Training and Eligibility Referral Project in which MetroAccess (MACS) and Reduced Fare Program (RFP) applicants were evaluated during eligibility application processing to determine if they would benefit from travel training or were eligible for paratransit services provided by other agencies. Initial results are a 50% increase in applicants referred to travel training and increased access to customers all paratransit resources. The Department of Access Services will use the pilot results to capture these improvements for customers.

A briefing was also provided on the Regional Travel Training Project (RTTP) where Centers for Independent Living (CILS) in Maryland, the District and Virginia are travel training customers through a New Freedom grant obtained by Metro. The purpose of the Project is to demonstrate the impact that travel training has the ability of customers with disabilities to use fixed route. Mr. Kent shared that approximately 90% of travel trained customers are reporting increased use of bus and rail and reduced use of paratransit. Mr. Kent offered to provide RTTP reports as they are written to the BRS.

Information was also provided on a Travel Training Forum hosted by Metro, Easter Seals Project Action and MTM of DC. The purpose of the forum is to develop strategies to promote and coordinate travel training in the region and to develop a database of travel training providers. Mr. Kent asked the BRS and the BRS agreed to participate in and advise on this on-going project.

## **Status of Action Items from April 26, 2011 Meeting**

### **Subcommittee Work Plan**

The BRS agreed that as an aid to prioritizing the BRS work plan, work that could be more quickly completed could be given priority over work that would take longer. Mr. Kent stated that when the Subcommittee recommends an action to AAC, the item will appear on the AAC work plan. The AAC can decide to engage in the matter or redirect the issue back to the Subcommittee.

After discussion it was agreed that: work related to the 7000 series car be given first priority; work related to different types of information (signs, announcements) in rail stations receive second priority; and that work related to bus stops be given third priority. Staff was asked to provide an amended Work Plan conforming to these requirements. The BRS agreed to Mr. Kent's recommendation that Metro Communications, Marketing and

Plant Maintenance staff attend future meetings to discuss Metrorail signage, lighting and railcar and station announcements.

The BRS requested that in August, Metro provide an August 2011 presentation on the Union Station Modernization and also a report on the Travel Training Forum. A report on Metro's customer complaint process was requested for September and a Metro staff was requested to investigate if a joint meeting between BRS and the appropriate Riders Advisory Council Subcommittee be arranged in July to address BRS concerns about installation of floor to ceiling stanchions near doorways and priority seating in 7000 series rail cars. Instead of an oral report during each meeting, the BRS requested a written monthly report on the status of travel training including ridership trends by people with disabilities.

The BRS discussed bus stop accessibility and agreed that it was a long term project and requested that Metro arrange the work items in a way that will allow the BRS to move efficiently forward. Mr. Millis agreed to provide a prioritization in the BRS Work Plan for BRS review and approval. It was agreed to defer inviting representatives from local public works departments to discuss bus stop accessibility to a later date.

### **AAC Recruiting**

Mr. Kent reported that the Board will be requested to consider appointments to the AAC in July 2011. Mr. Kent explained that the AAC consists of twenty members, six each from each state and two from the Council of Government's Access for All Committee. Mr. Kent explained that fifteen appointments will be recommended in July and that recruiting will continue with a second round of appointments expected in October. While many highly qualified applicants were interviewed, Mr. Kent stated that additional candidates would be needed to achieve demographic equity ensuring six members from each state and representative distribution between disability types. Mr. Kent also advised that ACCS has begun continuous recruitment in the event of future vacancies on the Committee.

Mr. Kent stated that two of the vacancies would be filled by members from Access for All (AFA).

### **Subcommittee Meeting Dates/Times**

The BRS discussed the benefit of an AAC meeting schedule that would allow the AAC and the BRS and MACS subcommittees to meet in separate weeks allowing easier attendance for committee members. Mr. Millis reported that having the meetings on week apart on Monday's would allow Metro staff time to better support the BRS and also reported that in the event that Monday was a holiday, Metro could provide a meeting room on Tuesday in the same week. The BRS agreed that beginning on August 8, 2011 they will begin to meet on the second Monday of the month from 4pm – 6pm and agreed to recommend to the AAC that the AAC meeting schedule be: the AAC meets the first Monday of each month; the BRS meets the second Monday of each month; the MACS meets the third Monday of each month; and on any Mondays where there is a holiday, the AAC or its Subcommittee will meet on Tuesday instead.

### **New Business**

No new business was introduced.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

### **Attachment: Work Plan**