



AAC

Accessibility Advisory Committee

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

Meeting Minutes: June 6, 2011

Attendees, Review of Agenda and Approval of Minutes

Chairman Sheehan called the June 6, 2011 Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Present: Patrick Sheehan (Chairman), Phil Posner (Vice-Chair), Julius Fleischman, Carolyn Bellamy, Marilyn Lutter, Emily Lucio, Tapan Banerjee, Tom Dowling, Paul Semelfort, Michael Brownell, and Debbie Brown. Not present: Joyce Callahan, Darrell Drake, McKinley Young, Susan Holland and Elliott Lapin. The May 2, 2011 minutes and the Chairman's report to the Metro Board dated June 6, 2011 were accepted.

Public Comments

Comments were offered about brighter station lighting near escalators, fare gates and in mezzanines and truncated domes in Metrorail Stations. It was noted that all on the Bus Rail Subcommittee (BRS) Work Plan. A comment was made about communication of customer disability and mobility aid information to MetroAccess drivers and drivers of non-dedicated MetroAccess vehicles. Mr. Kent stated that disability and mobility aid information are provided to all MetroAccess operators including those of non-dedicated vehicles. Mr. Kent stressed the importance of customers providing vehicle number, date and other information to facilitate full investigation of customer concerns.

Status of Action Items from Previous Meetings

Mr. Kent explained the format of the AAC Work Plan which tracks and demonstrates the activities and accomplishments of the AAC Committee. MetroAccess (MACS) and Bus Rail Subcommittee (BRS) Work Plan Items will appear on the AAC Work Plan when these Subcommittees recommend action by the full AAC. Mr. Kent described the AAC quorum requirement as being 11 members and shared that there is no specific quorum requirement for AAC Subcommittees. The AAC expressed an interest in obtaining additional information on accessible formats for meeting materials and information and this item was placed on the BRS Work Plan. Mr. Millis reported on the availability and cost of transcription services to accompany AAC meeting podcasts and advised that the cost is being evaluated.

To ensure sufficient time for the AAC Subcommittees to coordinate activities and reports to the AAC, it was discussed that AAC Subcommittees meet on the second and third Mondays of each month. The AAC also discussed a possibility of the second and third Tuesdays of each month. The AAC agreed that a choice will be made in July when new members are appointed to the AAC and can participate. Metro staff will research meeting room availability and this item was placed on the AAC Work plan.

The AAC agreed to provide specific recommendations to the Metro Board on pending issues and actions impacting people with disabilities and that these recommendations will be presented by the AAC Chairman, Mr. Sheehan, or his designee. The AAC agreed to continue discussion of Metro Access Fare Policy. It was discussed that a consultant has been retained by Metro to analyze Metrobus and Metrorail fare issues.

Bus Rail Subcommittee Report

Ms. Brown reported that the BRS will invite Prince George's County representative from Metro's Jurisdictional Coordinating Committee and Prince George's Department of Public Works to discuss bus stop accessibility. Ms. Brown stated that BRS Work plan now includes Metrorail Station lighting and Metrorail train announcements. Ms. Brown advised that seven AAC and BRS members will attend the 7000 Series Railcar Mockup Inspection scheduled for June 7, 2011 at New Carrollton Rail Yard. Ms. Brown reported that Metro's Department of Access Services (ACCS) and Easter Seals Project Action will host an October Travel Training Conference to improve information on and coordination of Metro region travel training services. Ms. Brown reported Metro staff is developing a new Consumer Guide for Metro's Accessible Bus and Rail services. Ms. Brown announced the next BRS Subcommittee will be June 28, 2011 from 4 to 6pm.

Metro Access Subcommittee Report

Mr. Semelfort thanked Tapan Banerjee and Phil Posner for managing the May 23, 2011 meeting. Mr. Semelfort presented the Committee with an overview of meeting discussion which included: the Subcommittee work plan, MACS Operational Performance Report and the MACS On-time Performance Report Initiative. Mr. Semelfort stated that there is increased use of MACS Web-Book which provides easy internet reservation of MetroAccess trips and also in EZ-Pay which provides facilitated payment for trips.

MV Transportation presented on the On-time Performance Report. The Subcommittee suggested improvements in communication between drivers and dispatchers which will be evaluated and reported on at the next MACS Subcommittee meeting. A presentation was provided by staff on how MetroAccess fares are calculated. This discussion will be continued at the next MACS Subcommittee meeting on June 27, 2011.

New Business

Mr. Sheehan welcomed Ms. Mary Hynes, a Metro Board Principal Director from Arlington County and Chair of the Metro Board Governance Committee and thanked Ms. Hynes for her meeting with the AAC to discuss Metro Board of Directors governance. Ms. Hynes shared that Metro's Board is strongly interested in feedback from the AAC on issues affecting the disability community and has taken steps to empower the AAC including new By-Laws and increased membership.

Ms. Hynes provided a description of Metro Board meetings including that all Board meetings are public and are audio captioned on Metro's website for visually disabled persons. Ms. Hynes stated that the Board has increased time and opportunity for public comments during Board meetings and noted that each Board Committee Chair can selectively receive public comments during Board Committee meetings. The Metro Board will also accept written comments from the public on designated agenda items. Metro Board Agendas are available on Fridays on Metro's website.

Ms. Hynes explained how Metro jurisdictional Board members are selected. The selection process is different for Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. In Maryland, Metro Board Principal Directors are selected by the Governor of Maryland and alternate members represent Prince George's and Montgomery Counties. In Virginia, Metro Principal Board members are appointed by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, one each from Fairfax County and from Arlington County. Ms. Hynes discussed pending Virginia legislation allowing the Governor to appoint one of Virginia's Metro Board Principal Directors. In the District of Columbia, Principal Board members are appointed by the City Council and the Mayor. The Board also has Federal members.

Ms. Hynes encouraged the AAC to continue its work in advising Metro's Board on matters involving transportation of persons with disabilities.

Michael Brownell and Tom Dowling announced that they were attending their last meeting of the AAC. Chairman Sheehan gave a heartfelt thanks to all retiring members for their service.

Meeting adjourned: Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Attachment: Status of Recommendations and Actions (completed items are reported once in minutes and then tracked along with all pending recommendations and actions in the AAC Compiled Work Plan.)



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STATUS OF FY 2012 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS

Info/Action Item Number	Description	Date Initiated	Originating Group	Status	Completion Date
Info-06	Research closed captioning of meeting podcasts	3/7/2011	AAC	Pending	
Info-07	Review MetroAccess Fare Policy	5/2/2011	MACS	Pending gathering of additional customer testimony. Comments included in May Board report. Further recommendations to follow. Consultant fare study to include AAC input, expected 9/2011.	
Info-11	Subcommittee Meeting Times	5/2/2011	AAC	BRS, 2nd week; MACS 3rd week. Final selection of day of week pending meeting room availability and arrival of new committee members in 7/ 2011.	
Info-12	Track Maintenance PIDS Outage Announcements	5/2/2011	BRS	Moved to BRS work plan with anticipated review in 9/2011.	