



Accessibility Advisory Committee

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METROACCESS TRIP TRAVEL TIME: August 19, 2013

What is Fixed Route Travel Time Comparability?

- Americans With Disabilities Act states that paratransit is to be provided at a level of service that is comparable to the level of public transportation services provided to individuals without disabilities
- U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) prohibits *substantial* numbers of trips with *excessive* length. The CFR recognizes that shared rides will result in travel times longer than direct trips

The Travel Time Comparability Calculation

- According to the FTA, travel time comparability standards **ARE NOT**:
 - A multiple of the equivalent fixed route travel time (i.e. twice the time required by the equivalent fixed route trip)
 - A single length of time (i.e. any trip over 2 hours long is not comparable, but any trip under 2 hours is comparable)
- The FTA has stated that paratransit travel times may be compared to the sum of:
 - The walk time from paratransit pick-up location to the first equivalent fixed route transit stop, calculated at 3 miles per hour
 - A 5 minute wait time at the first fixed route stop
 - The total fixed route travel time, including transfer time
 - The walk time from the last equivalent fixed route transit stop to the paratransit drop-off location, calculated at 3 miles per hour
 - A “buffer” to account for ride sharing and the CFR “excessive length” prohibition, which can differ depending on the speed of the comparable mode of fixed route transit used and the characteristics of the service area
 - Metro’s FTA approved buffer times:
 - 30 minutes for “Bus Only”
 - 40 minutes for “Bus and Metrorail”
 - 50 minutes for “Metrorail Only”

- A paratransit trip travel time is considered in compliance if it is less than or equal to the sum of the equivalent fixed route trip segments and the corresponding buffer time.

Most Recent ADA Paratransit Trip Travel Time Compliance Analysis

- Sample size: Highest productivity week in April 2013
- Results: Compliance rate of 98.76% when compared to the fastest equivalent fixed route travel time

MetroAccess Travel Time Comparison Example

Origin: ARC PG – 14750 Sweitzer Ln, Laurel, MD

Destination: Washington Hospital Center - 106 Irving St. NW, Washington, DC

Travel Day and Time: August 19, 2013 at 3:25 PM

Equivalent Fixed Route Itinerary from WMATA Trip Planner:

- 1) Walk to Sweitzer Lane bus stop #14601 (0.03 miles @ 3 mph) = 1 minute
- 2) Wait for the bus = 5 minutes
- 3) Z9 bus to Silver Spring Station, 70 bus to Archives, h4 bus to Brookland Station = 111 minutes
- 4) Walk to 106 Irving St. NW (0.13 miles @ 3mph) = 3 minutes

A fixed route trip would take:

$1 + 5 + 111 + 3 = 120$ minutes (2 hours)

With the addition of the “Bus” buffer, the comparable fixed route travel time for this paratransit trip is:

$120 + 30 = 150$ minutes (2 hours and 30 minutes)