

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Board Action/Information Summary

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Action <input type="radio"/> Information	MEAD Number: 100250	Resolution: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
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TITLE:

Metrobus Route 98, Adams Morgan-U Street Link

PURPOSE:

To request Board approval of the staff report and recommendation to eliminate non-regional Metrobus Route 98, the Adams Morgan-U Street Link.

DESCRIPTION:

The proposed change would discontinue all service on Route 98, as described in Docket No. B08-4, so that the District of Columbia could transfer this service to a new DC Circulator route to be established to serve the Adams Morgan-U Street area.

One public hearing was conducted at the Jackson Graham Building on November 19, 2008. Ten persons attended the public hearing and four witnesses testified for the record. In addition, one person submitted written testimony for the record.

Three of the witnesses commented on the proposed DC Circulator service. The other two witnesses represented ATU Local 689. One asked whether this proposed change would result in any layoffs of Metrobus operators. Staff analysis has indicated that it would not.

After reviewing the public hearing testimony, staff recommends that Route 98 be eliminated as proposed in Docket No. B08-4.

FUNDING IMPACT:

Elimination of non-regional Route 98 would have the following impacts on the Metrobus operating revenue, cost and subsidy allocated to the District of Columbia. The FY09 impact is based on three months, assuming elimination of service effective March 29, 2009.

	Annual Impact	FY09 Impact
Revenue	(\$60,200)	(\$15,050)
Operating Cost	(\$941,400)	(\$235,350)

Subsidy	(\$881,200)	(\$220,300)
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RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of the staff report and recommendations to eliminate Metrobus Route 98, effective March 29, 2009.

SUBJECT: REQUEST BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVAL OF THE STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO ELIMINATE METROBUS ROUTE 98, THE ADAMS MORGAN-U STREET LINK

PROPOSED
RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, It is proposed to discontinue all service on non-regional Route 98, as described in Public Hearing Docket No. B08-4, so that the District of Columbia could transfer its service to a new DC Circulator route to be established to serve the Adams Morgan-U Street area; and

WHEREAS, That one public hearing was conducted at the Jackson Graham Building on November 19, 2008; and

WHEREAS, That four witnesses testified at the public hearing and one person submitted written testimony for the record; and

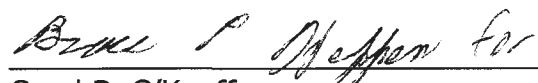
WHEREAS, That staff has reviewed the public hearing testimony and recommends that Route 98 be eliminated as proposed in Public Hearing Docket No. B08-4; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors approves the staff report and recommendations to eliminate Route 98; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the budget be amended to reduce the District's subsidy by \$220,300 in FY09 and by \$881,200 annually; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That this Resolution shall be effective immediately.

Reviewed as to form and legal sufficiency,



Carol B. O'Keeffe
General Counsel

**STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON
PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF METROBUS ROUTE 98
ADAMS MORGAN - U STREET LINK SERVICE
DOCKET NO. B08-4**

I. BACKGROUND

Metrobus Route 98 (Adams Morgan - U Street Link) was established in September 1999 in order to provide a convenient, low-cost transit connection between the Metrorail Red and Green Lines and the busy commercial and entertainment areas in Adams Morgan and U Street as a way to relieve traffic congestion and parking demand. Route 98 operates between the Woodley Park-Zoo/Adams Morgan Metrorail Station and the U St/African Amer Civil War Memorial/Cardozo Metrorail Station via Calvert Street, 18th Street and U Street. Service is provided every 10 minutes Sunday thru Thursday evenings from 6 p.m. to midnight, Friday evenings from 6 p.m. to 3 a.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 a.m. The District of Columbia provides 100 percent of the funding to subsidize this service.

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) notified the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) of its intent to transfer operation of the Route 98 Adams Morgan - U Street Link service to the DC Circulator effective March 29, 2009. Therefore, it was proposed to discontinue all service on Route 98 so that DDOT can transfer this subsidy to a new DC Circulator route to be established to serve the Adams Morgan - U Street area. Details of the proposed DC Circulator route were developed as part of the joint WMATA/DDOT Neighborhood Circulation Study.

II. REVIEW OF PUBLIC HEARING RECORD

The public hearing record consists of the notice of public hearing, the staff statement describing the proposals, a transcript of the proceedings, and written statements submitted for the record.

A. Public notification

Notice of this public hearing was made by publication in the Washington Post, Washington Hispanic and El Tiempo Latino newspapers pursuant to Article XIII, Section 62c of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority compact. In addition, notices were sent to area libraries in the District of Columbia and posted on wmata.com.

B. Review of Transcript

Public Hearing Number 535 was convened at 6:35 p.m. on Wednesday, November 19, 2008, at the Jackson Graham Building, 600 5th Street NW, Washington, DC. Ten persons attended the hearing and four witnesses testified for the record.

C. Additional Material Submitted for the Record

The record for the public hearing was held open until 5 p.m. November 26, 2008, to receive additional comments and material from interested parties. One person submitted written testimony for the record.

III. DISCUSSION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING RECORD

One witness requested that two additional stops be included on the proposed DC Circulator route.

One witness asked about the span of service for the proposed DC Circulator route and was informed that service would end at the same time as Route 98.

Two witnesses representing ATU Local 689 testified, one in opposition to the takeover of service by the DC Circulator. The other asked whether this would result in any layoffs of Metrobus operators. Staff analysis has indicated that it would not.

One witness requested that the fare on the Proposed DC Circulator route be 25 cents, matching the Route 98 fare.

IV. MINORITY OR LOW INCOME AREA IMPACT

As specified in the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA's) Title VI Circular 4702.1A, WMATA has evaluated the proposed elimination of Route 98 to determine whether these changes have a discriminatory impact on minority and low-income populations. Decisions regarding District of Columbia bus transportation reside with the funding jurisdiction. WMATA, upon request from the District, relinquishes the provision of service and thereby, is unable to mitigate any disparate impacts, should any exist as a result of this change.

V. RECOMMENDATION

After review of the public hearing testimony, staff recommends that Route 98 be eliminated as proposed in Docket No. B08-4.