

**MINUTES
BOARD BUDGET COMMITTEE
February 23, 2006**

Mr. Graham called the meeting to order at 9:20 A.M. Present were:

Committee Members

Mr. Jim Graham
Mr. Gordon Linton
Mrs. Gladys W. Mack
Mr. Dana Kauffman
Mr. Robert J. Smith
Mr. Marcell Solomon
Mr. Charles Deegan
Mr. William D. Euille

Other Board Members

Mrs. Catherine Hudgins

I. Information Items:

A. Follow-Up Questions and Answers from February 9 BBC

Staff provided the Committee with written responses to questions and information requested during the session on February 9, 2006.

B. FY07 Review of Service Levels for Bus, Rail, and Paratransit

Staff provided a summary overview of the service improvements in the proposed FY07 for bus, rail, and paratransit. For the bus service, staff stated that the low productive services would be eliminated and the savings would be reinvested for initial relief of overcrowding. Staff also presented unfunded additional relief of overcrowded bus routes and priority bus corridor improvements. Mrs. Mack requested staff to identify funds to accommodate the unfunded needs. Staff noted that a public hearing would be required for adjustment of the bus routes. Mr. Graham suggested that the public hearing should be conducted prior to the adoption of the FY07 budget in June, and requested for the motion to authorize staff to conduct the public hearing for adjustments to the bus and rail services. Mrs. Mack moved; Mr. Smith seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

For the rail service, staff indicated that the proposed budget included a deployment of new rail cars in the summer of this year, with 136 of the 182 rail cars to arrive by the end of FY07. Staff also proposed two unfunded initiatives to increase a service for non-seasonal off-peak period for rail, and to increase bus and rail service levels on four holidays to weekday schedule. Staff stated that the Mrs. Mack requested staff to include a budget for the bus and rail survey in the FY07 budget.

For the paratransit, staff highlighted service levels and planned improvements included in the proposed FY07 budget. Mr. Graham suggested that a pilot program for equipping MetroAccess vans with cellular phones should be considered. Staff responded that the pilot program was already under discussion with MV, and the outline of the plan would be presented to the Board in the near future.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 P.M.