

Minutes
Finance, Administration and Oversight Committee
February 12, 2009

Mr. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Present were:

Committee Members

Mr. Peter Benjamin, Chair	Ms. Elizabeth Hewlett
Mr. William D. Euille, Vice Chair	Michael Brown
Mr. Chris Zimmerman	Mr. Jeff McKay
Mr. Jim Graham	Mr. Anthony Giancola
Ms. Catherine Hudgins	
Mr. Neil Albert	

Approval of Agenda

The agenda for January 8, 2009 was approved with revisions.

FY2010 Budget Review

A. Review Expenses and Revenue

The discussion of the proposed budget continued and the list of Admin/Operations cuts totals \$81 million. Mr. Graham suggested that the projected revenue from the elimination of paper transfers in the proposed budget should increase from \$5.0 million to \$10.0 million, based on the experiences of other transit systems that eliminated paper transfers.

Mr. Benjamin reiterated that the discussion was for members to make suggestions for additional revenue in order to minimize the need for fare and service changes.

B. Stimulus Recovery Capital Projects

Staff updated the Committee on recent economic stimulus legislative activity, including the selection of projects and the next steps in the process. Versions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act recently passed the House and Senate and are in conference. Metro has finalized prioritization criteria for \$325 million in capital projects and confirmed "shovel readiness".

Action Items

A. 16th Street Line Reimbursable Bus Service

Staff requested the Committee approval for implementation of peak period limited-stop service on Metrobus Route 9S as a demonstration bus service project on 16th Street, NW, and to amend the FY09 budget accordingly. This is a 15-month demonstration project that will be fully funded by the District of Columbia during the demonstration period. If approved, the enhanced limited-stop service will begin on March 29, 2009.

Mr. Graham moved approval, Mr. Giancola seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

B. District of Columbia bus Item – Eliminate Metrobus Service on Route 98

Staff requested approval of the staff report and recommendation to eliminate the non-regional Metrobus Route 98, the Adams Morgan-U Street Link, so that the District of Columbia could transfer this service to a new DC Circulator route.

Mr. Graham moved approval, Mr. Albert seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

C. District of Columbia Bus Item – Purchase Additional Buses for DC Circulator Service

Staff requested approval to expand the DC Circulator bus service program for the purchase of 4 additional 30-foot buses.

Mr. Graham moved approval, Mr. Giancola seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

D. Approval to Modify Line of Credit and Issue Metro Matters Bonds

Staff requested approval to negotiate and execute agreements to extend the expiring \$100 Million Line of Credit Facility for one year from its current expiration date and increase the size of the Line of Credit facility to \$250 million in order to support the capital and operating programs. Staff also sought approval to issue Bonds in an amount of up to \$550 million.

Mr. Albert moved approval, Ms. Hewlett seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

E. Amend FY2009 Budget for Clarendon Pedestrian Canopy Project

Staff requested approval to enter into a sub-recipient grant agreement with Arlington County regarding the Clarendon Metro Canopy and Metro Park Improvement Project, and to amend the Capital Improvement Program by transferring approximately \$300,000 in FTA grant funds on hand at Metro to Arlington County.

Mr. Zimmerman moved approval, Mr. Eulie seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Information Item

A. FY 2009 Monthly Financial Report (December 2008)

Staff presented a review of the operating financials for December 2008. Through the end of the year, Metrorail ridership grew 4 percent, while bus and Access ridership grew 3 and 21 percent, respectively. The ridership growth so far this fiscal year has been factored into the Fiscal 2010 base ridership projections. For the first six months of the fiscal year there was a subsidy savings of \$0.6 million, and that is expected to grow to \$9 million or more by the end of the fiscal year.

The meeting moved to Executive Session at 12:20 p.m.