



Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority SERVICE CHANGE STAFF SUMMARY SHEET

ROUTING	TO	BY DATE	FOR	DATE:	
1	CEO	5/5/06	1 APPROVAL	SUBJECT Staff Report and Recommendations on Proposed Elimination of Regional Metrobus Routes 9B and 10P (Docket No. B06-1)	
2	BUDGET COMMITTEE	5/11/06	2,3 VOTE		PREPARED BY: OPAS - V. Jackson <i>V. Jackson</i>
3	BOARD	5/18/06	CONCURRENCE		EXTENSION: x 2237
			INFORMATION	DEPT. APPROVAL: AGM/OPER - J. Hughes	

CATEGORIES:

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MAJOR | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FREQUENCY | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC HEARING | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ROUTE ANALYSIS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RAPID TRANSIT | <input type="checkbox"/> MINOR | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SPAN | <input type="checkbox"/> IS REQUIRED | <input type="checkbox"/> IS NOT ATTACHED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STATIONS | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ROUTING | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IS NOT REQUIRED | |

PURPOSE

To request Board approval of the staff report and recommendations on the proposed elimination of regional Metrobus Routes 9B (Hunting Towers-Potomac Yard-Crystal City Line) and 10P (Mount Vernon Avenue-Potomac Yard-Crystal City Line) in the City of Alexandria and Arlington County, Virginia.

DISCUSSION

A public hearing was conducted in Alexandria, Virginia on Thursday, March 9, 2006 on the proposed elimination of Routes 9B and 10P. Eleven persons attended the hearing and three witnesses testified for the record. Five emails and one petition containing 20 signatures were received for the record. All three witnesses, four of the five emails, and the petition opposed the elimination of one or both routes. One email was in favor of eliminating both routes.

After reviewing the public hearing testimony and after coordination with City of Alexandria and Arlington County staffs, it is recommended that regional Metrobus Routes 9B and 10P be discontinued (see attached staff report on the public hearing). If approved by the Board, Routes 9B and 10P would be discontinued effective June 25, 2006. DASH Routes AT10 and AT11 will provide replacement service over most of Routes 9B and 10P effective June 25, 2006.

COORDINATION (Routing)	Initial	Date	COMP SECT	ENCLOSURES:
			<i>[Signature]</i>	Staff Report and Recommendations on Public Hearing No. 518 (Docket No. B06-1)
X	<i>JM</i>	4/13/06	Deputy / ADMIN	GENERAL MANAGER ACTION: <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved for Submission to the Board
X	<i>RBO</i>	4/13/06	<i>[Signature]</i>	Signature: _____ Date: <u>5/5/06</u>
X	<i>[Signature]</i>	4/13/06	Deputy / OPER	BOARD ACTION: Approved by the Board of Directors on _____
			<i>[Signature]</i>	Secretary

ALTERNATIVE

Do not approve the recommended elimination of Metrobus Routes 9B and 10P.

PRIOR APPROVAL

On February 16, 2006, the Board authorized a public hearing on the proposed elimination of regional Metrobus Routes 9B and 10P in the City of Alexandria and Arlington County, Virginia, as described in Docket No. B06-1.

IMPACT ON FUNDING

The recommended elimination of routes 9B and 10P would have the following impacts on the costs, revenue and subsidy in Fiscal Year 2007:

	FY 2007
Cost	(\$1,256,000)
Revenue	(\$125,000)
Subsidy	(\$1,131,000)

The recommended elimination of Routes 9B and 10P would have the following annual impacts on Metrobus regional subsidies:

Jurisdiction	Annual Impact
District of Columbia	(\$133,000)
Montgomery County	(\$76,000)
Prince George's County	(\$73,000)
Alexandria	(\$629,000)
Arlington County	(\$150,000)
Fairfax City	(\$2,000)
Fairfax County	(\$66,000)
Falls Church	(\$2,000)
Total	(\$1,131,000)

The recommended elimination of Routes 9B and 10P would reduce peak schedule requirements by four buses and seven operators. These impacts are not included in the proposed Fiscal 2007 budget.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the staff report and recommendations on the proposed elimination of regional Metrobus Routes 9B and 10P in the City of Alexandria and Arlington County, Virginia, effective June 25, 2006.

**STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON
PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF REGIONAL METROBUS ROUTES 9B AND 10P IN THE
CITY OF ALEXANDRIA AND ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA
DOCKET NO. B06-1**

I. BACKGROUND

Regional Metrobus Routes 9B (Hunting Towers-Potomac Yard-Crystal City Line) and 10P (Mount Vernon Avenue-Potomac Yard-Crystal City Line) were established in March, 2001 to provide direct public transportation between Potomac Yard shopping center, the Mount Vernon Avenue and Old Town corridors in Alexandria, and Crystal City in Arlington. Both routes operate every 36 minutes from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. on weekdays only, with the schedules of both routes coordinated to provide a combined 18 minute frequency of service between Potomac Yard and Crystal City.

Metro staff has monitored ridership on both routes since implementation. On Route 9B, ridership averages 248 daily riders on 47 trips, or approximately five passengers per trip. Route 10P productivity is somewhat better, averaging 460 daily riders on 47 trips, or approximately 10 passengers per trip. However, since implementation neither route has consistently met the Authority's productivity indicators to justify continued retention and there is alternative service available.

As a result of the poor performance of both routes, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria requested that a public hearing be held to discontinue Routes 9B and 10P. The City of Alexandria indicated that would consider replacing all or portions of Routes 9B and/or 10P with DASH service.

A public hearing was held on Thursday, March 9, 2006 on the proposed service elimination. A total of 11 persons attended the hearing and three witnesses testified for the record.

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

The official notice of the public hearing was published in The Washington Post newspaper pursuant to Article XIII, Section 62 (c) of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority compact. In addition, notices were posted in all of the Authority's vehicles operating in revenue service over the affected routes.

B. **Review of Transcript**

Public Hearing Number 518 was convened at 7:07 p.m. on Thursday, March 9, 2006, at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe Street, Alexandria, Virginia. Eleven persons attended the hearing and three witnesses testified for the record.

C. **Additional Material Submitted for the Record**

The record for the public hearing was held open for five days to receive additional comments and material from interested parties. Five emails and one petition containing 20 signatures were received for the record.

III. **DISCUSSION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING RECORD**

All of the witnesses and most of the written correspondence received opposed the elimination of Route 9B. Following are specific comments on each route:

A. **Hunting Towers - Potomac Yard - Crystal City Line, Route 9B**

Discussion: Three witnesses and four emails received for the record opposed the elimination of this route. One petition containing 20 signatures also opposed elimination of the route. One email was in favor of eliminating the route. Specific comments made for the record included the following:

- Service was not adequately promoted
- Elimination would pose a hardship to seniors and the disabled
- Suggestion was made to retain 9B service during rush hours only
- 9B or similar service will be needed in the future with the redevelopment of the Hunting Towers/Hunting Terrace area at the south end of Washington Street in Alexandria (adjacent to the Wilson Bridge)
- 9B trip times should be better coordinated with Route 9A along the Jefferson Davis Highway (Route 1) corridor between Crystal City and Alexandria
- The email received in favor of the proposal stated that the current service does not provide a direct connection between Slaters Lane and Braddock Road station, whereas the replacement DASH service being considered would do so (see below)

At the public hearing, a representative from the Alexandria Office of Transit Services stated that the City was considering providing DASH service to replace Route 9B, and that the replacement service would also operate on Saturdays. (NOTE: Subsequent to the public hearing, the City of Alexandria finalized plans to provide replacement service over most of Routes 9B and 10P with new DASH Routes AT10 and AT11, effective June 25, 2006.)

B. Mount Vernon Avenue - Potomac Yard - Crystal City Line, Route 10P

No witnesses spoke concerning this route. One email received for the record was in favor of the proposal to discontinue the route. Two emails opposed elimination of the route, with one stating that a number of apartment developments and businesses in the Mount Vernon Avenue corridor had not been adequately notified of the proposal to eliminate the 10P. Also, the email stated that bus service along the corridor would be reduced by one-third if the 10P were eliminated. (NOTE: Subsequent to the public hearing, the City of Alexandria finalized plans to provide replacement service over most of Routes 9B and 10P with new DASH Routes AT10 and AT11, effective June 25, 2006.)

IV. MINORITY OR LOW INCOME AREA IMPACT

The recommended service changes will not have a negative impact on minority or low income passengers.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

After review of the public hearing testimony and approval of City of Alexandria and Arlington County staffs, it is recommended that regional Metrobus Routes 9B (Hunting Towers-Potomac Yard-Crystal City Line), and Route 10P (Mount Vernon Avenue-Potomac Yard-Crystal City Line) be discontinued effective June 25, 2006.