

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority  
**Board Action/Information Summary**

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Action <input type="radio"/> Information	MEAD Number: 101157	Resolution: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
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**TITLE:**

International Travel: Nat Bottigheimer, AGM PLJD

**PURPOSE:**

Obtain Board approval for Nat Bottigheimer to travel to Europe for approximately four weeks in the summer of 2011 to conduct transportation research approved and funded by the Comparative Domestic Policy Program of the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

**DESCRIPTION:**

A major challenge for Metro to overcome in the coming years - and for the Department of Planning and Joint Development in particular - will be to maximize the benefits of transit proximity to land surrounding Metrorail stations in suburban settings in a growing region that is increasingly focused on transit-oriented development (TOD) and sustainability.

Nat Bottigheimer's research project is titled "Balancing Transit Mode of Access with Urban Design in Suburban Settings: A Comparative Assessment of Four European Transit Systems". Its purpose is to identify planning approaches used in four peer European regions (Munich, Germany; Lyon, France; Brussels, Belgium, and Copenhagen, Denmark) that can help Metro negotiate this challenge. To the extent that many other US rail transit systems, both planned and existing, face this challenge, it is anticipated that this research will have applicability nationally as well.

The research will focus on:

- The mix of transit access facilities provided at different locations in different systems, and the policy and pricing frameworks that complement these facilities;
- The transportation and land use policy motivations for the specific amounts and balance of these facilities, and related access policies; and
- The methods used to coordinate transit, highway, and land use policy

objectives and to resolve policy differences among agencies and stakeholders.

As a result, the research will:

- Document how large urban rail systems in Europe provide access to transit patrons at suburban rail stations;
- Identify which land use authorities and road management agencies work together with transit agencies to "program" suburban transit station access facilities, and how they do this; and,
- Establish what processes these agencies use to collaborate and to involve the public in the programming and design of these stations.

**FUNDING IMPACT:**

None. This research and the associated travel cost will be funded by the Comparative Domestic Policy Program of the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approval for Nat Bottigheimer to travel to Europe for approximately four weeks in the summer of 2011 to conduct transportation research approved and funded by the Comparative Domestic Policy Program of the German Marshall Fund of the United States.