



Finance, Administration and Oversight Committee

Action Item III-A

June 11, 2009

**Capital Budget Amendment for the Columbia
Pike Streetcar – Environmental Planning and
Preliminary Engineering**

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Board Action/Information Summary

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Action <input type="radio"/> Information	MEAD Number: 100341	Resolution: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
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TITLE:

Columbia Pk Streetcar - Environ Plng & Prelim Engr

PURPOSE:

Obtain approval to (1) establish a reimbursable project entitled "Columbia Pike Streetcar - Environmental Planning and Preliminary Engineering" to be included in the FY 2010 Reimbursable Projects Budget and (2) negotiate and execute separate reimbursable agreements with Arlington County and Fairfax County.

DESCRIPTION:

Metro has been managing the Columbia Pike transit initiative since 2004. The Columbia Pike Transit Alternatives Analysis was conducted by Metro and its planning consultants in cooperation with Arlington County and Fairfax County from 2004 to 2006. Based on the analysis and input received from the community and stakeholders, the study recommended that a streetcar alternative that combined streetcar and buses be advanced to the environmental planning and preliminary engineering phase. This recommendation was based on (1) the ability of this alternative to generate transit ridership, to serve transit demand in the corridor and to serve as a catalyst for economic development; and (2) overall project affordability, including attractiveness for private-sector funding.

The Columbia Pike Streetcar transit alignment is approximately 5 miles long, with 14 identified station locations. The alignment connects the Skyline complex on the western end via Columbia Pike to the Pentagon City Metrorail station on the eastern end. For most of the distance along Columbia Pike, the streetcar would operate in mixed traffic, generally running in the curb lane of the street.

In 2006 the Arlington County Board and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors endorsed the streetcar alternative as the preferred transit alternative for the Columbia Pike corridor. The project is included in the Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) for the region. Since

2006, Metro, in coordination with Arlington County and Fairfax County, has continued collaboration with project stakeholders and conducted technical analyses to advance the streetcar project.

For a number of years, Metro staff and its consultants have played a key role in the planning of future transit in the Columbia Pike corridor. Arlington County and Fairfax County have requested that Metro staff serve as the project manager for the NEPA and preliminary engineering phase based on extensive staff knowledge of the corridor, technical expertise, and project management experience. In March 2009, both the Arlington County Board and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved funding for this project. Subsequent phases of this project including final design, procurement and project implementation are envisioned as being the responsibility of Arlington County and Fairfax County.

The next step is for Metro to establish the project, then negotiate and execute reimbursable agreements with Arlington County and Fairfax County. Once these agreements are executed, tasks will be issued to Metro's on-call consultant, AECOM, to perform the technical analyses associated with the environmental documentation and preliminary engineering.

There are several ongoing light rail and streetcar projects in the region in varying stages of project development. While each project is being advanced independently, as the regional transit provider, Metro has a vested interest in ensuring a minimum level of compatibility between the different systems. As part of the FY 2010 work program, Metro staff will conduct a study to develop standards for minimum levels of interoperability for light rail and streetcars.

FUNDING IMPACT:

The budget for this reimbursable project will be included in the Reimbursable Projects section of Fiscal 2010-2011 Metro Annual Budget. The total budget for this project is \$4,060,000.

The estimated cost allocation for each county is:

\$3,148,000	Arlington County
<u>\$ 912,000</u>	Fairfax County
\$4,060,000	Total

The estimated cost per fiscal year is:

\$2,000,000	FY 2010
<u>\$2,060,000</u>	FY 2011
\$4,060,000	Total

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize (1) establishment of a reimbursable project entitled "Columbia Pike Streetcar - Environmental Planning and Preliminary Engineering" to be included in the FY 2010 Reimbursable Projects Budget and (2) negotiation and execution of separate reimbursable agreements with Arlington County and Fairfax County.



Columbia Pike Streetcar Project: Environmental Planning and Preliminary Engineering

Presented to the Board of Directors:

Finance, Administration and Oversight Committee

June 11, 2009





Purpose

Obtain approval to:

- Establish a reimbursable project entitled "Columbia Pike Streetcar - Environmental Planning and Preliminary Engineering" to be included in the FY 2010 Reimbursable Projects Budget
- Negotiate and execute separate reimbursable agreements with Arlington County and Fairfax County

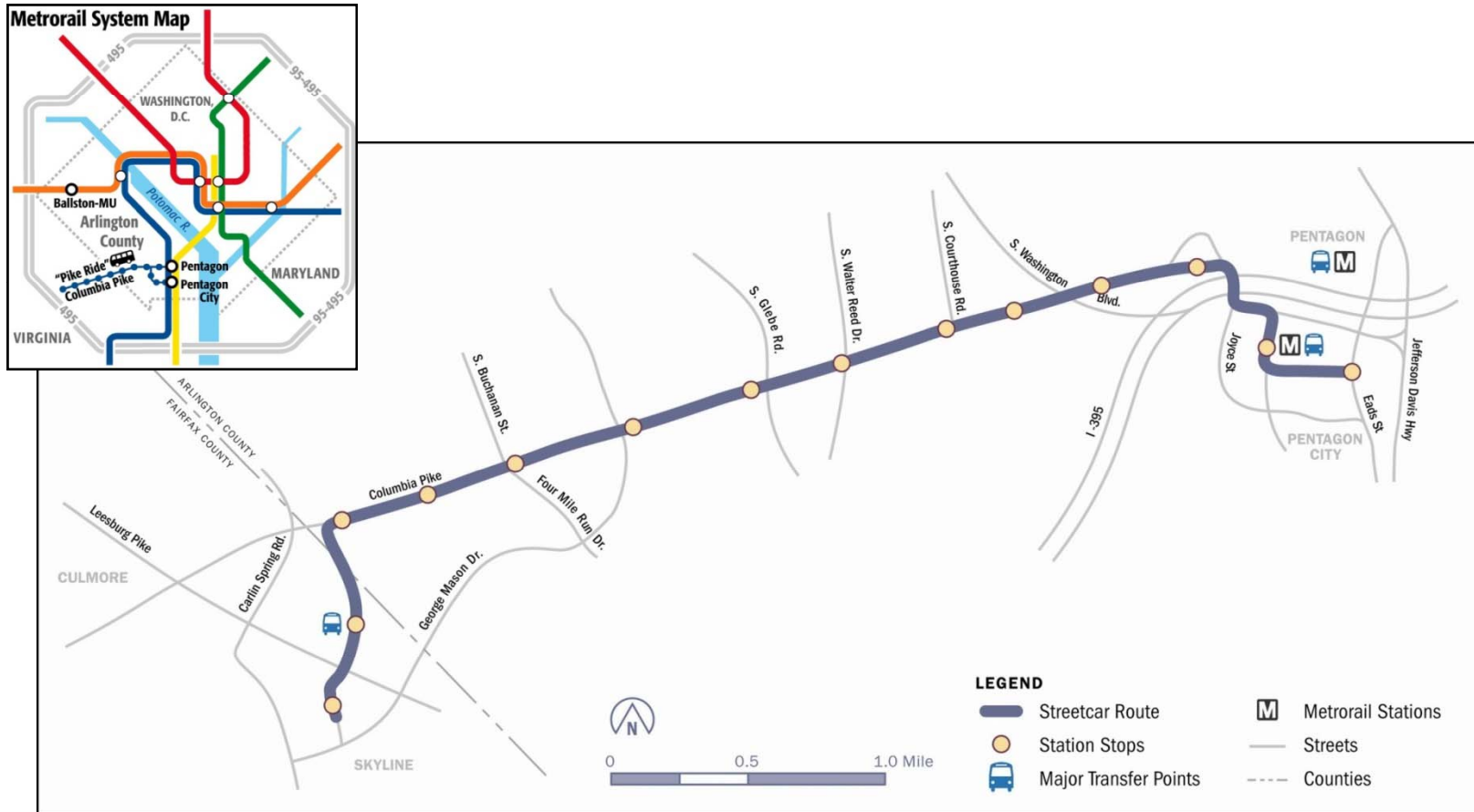


Project Actions

- Arlington and Fairfax counties requested Metro participate as the project manager for the Columbia Pike Streetcar environmental planning and preliminary engineering work
- Total project budget is estimated to be \$4,060,000
- Arlington County Board approved this project on March 14, 2009 and authorized \$3,148,000 (78%) for this work
- Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved this project on March 30, 2009 and authorized \$912,000 (22%) for this work



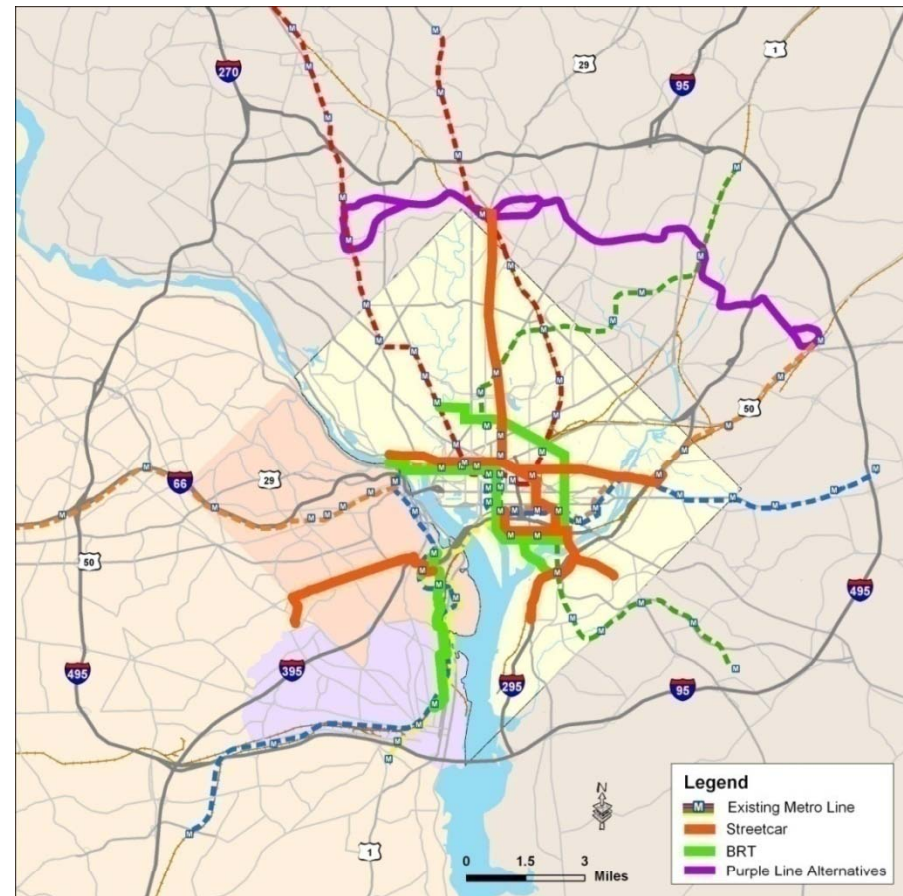
Columbia Pike Streetcar Alignment





Need for Enhanced Transit

- Light rail and streetcars are planned for corridors in the Washington Metropolitan Region that have a need for higher capacity service than can be provided by standard buses
- Metro proposes to develop interoperability standards for light rail and streetcars under the FY 2010 Project Development Program





Metro's Role As Project Manager

- As project manager for this phase Metro staff would bring:
 - Project management continuity
 - Established expertise in environmental planning
 - Established expertise in transit design and operations
 - Regional transit planning perspective
- Project budget of \$4,060,000 includes \$3,800,000 for consultant services and \$260,000 for Metro project management and staff support:
 - FY 2010 - \$2,000,000
 - FY 2011 - \$2,060,000



Project History

- Alternatives Analysis completed in June 2005
 - Public stakeholder involvement
 - Evaluation of alternatives
 - Selection of preferred alternative: Pentagon City to Skyline area
- Technical Studies conducted in 2006-2008
 - Utility analysis
 - Right-of-way analysis
 - Funding and delivery options
 - Agency coordination



Photo Rendering of Streetcars on Columbia Pike



Project Scope and Schedule

- The 18-24 environmental planning and preliminary engineering process includes:
 - Environmental documentation in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - Agency coordination and public outreach
 - Project funding plan
 - Project delivery plan
 - Preliminary design



Tacoma, Washington



Recommendations

Approve:

- Establishment of a reimbursable project entitled “Columbia Pike Streetcar - Environmental Planning and Preliminary Engineering” to be included in the FY 2010 Reimbursable Projects Budget
- Negotiation and execution of separate reimbursable agreements with Arlington County and Fairfax County

SUBJECT: ESTABLISH A NEW REIMBURSABLE PROJECT "COLUMBIA PIKE STREETCAR-ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING"

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

WHEREAS, Arlington County and Fairfax County have requested Metro to provide technical support for completion of environmental planning and preliminary engineering for the Columbia Pike Streetcar project; and

WHEREAS, Arlington County approved this project on March 14, 2009 and authorized \$3,148,000 for this work; and

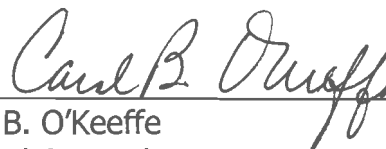
WHEREAS, Fairfax County approved this project on March 30, 2009 and authorized \$912,000 for this work; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors approves establishment of a reimbursable project entitled "Columbia Pike Streetcar – Environmental Planning and Preliminary Engineering" to be included in the FY 2010 Reimbursable Projects Budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors authorizes staff to implement the project by (1) negotiating and executing an Addendum to the existing Agreement between Metro and Arlington County for the Design and Approval (Phase I) of Certain Public Transportation Projects for the Arlington County portion of this project; and (2) negotiating and executing a corresponding Agreement between Metro and Fairfax County for the Fairfax County portion of this project; 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