

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Board Action/Information Summary

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Action <input type="radio"/> Information	MEAD Number: 100341	Resolution: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input 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.

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

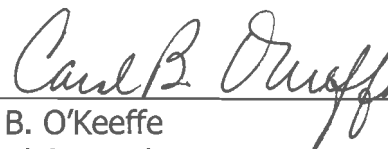
WHEREAS, Fairfax County approved this project on March 30, 2009 and authorized \$912,000 for this work; now, therefore be it

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