

Item: 5

JARC Funds Update

INFORMATION ITEM

Project Name: Federal Funds for Paratransit	Date: 06/26/2006
Prepared by: H. Charles Woodruff, II	
Prepared for: July 6, 2006 Budget Board Committee	

BACKGROUND:

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) established the Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program. The federal JARC program was designed to provide funding for (1) transportation services designed to transport welfare recipients and low-income individuals to and from jobs and (2) transportation services for residents of urban centers and rural and suburban areas to suburban employment opportunities.

In the past, WMATA has used JARC federal funds on several projects, such as the "One-Stop Trip Information, Referral and Dispatching Center" to provide a centralized source of information on available transportation services in the region, and the Tysons reverse commute program providing two-way service between L'Enfant Plaza in downtown Washington, DC and Tyson's Corner in Fairfax County, Virginia. However, with the expansion of local bus services, WMATA has had difficulty in sustaining a JARC program because certain states and local governments were unable to provide the required 50/50 match.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005 authorized WMATA to reprogram unused JARC funds from previous years for paratransit purposes. As a result, \$6.1 million of previously appropriated JARC federal funds are available to be spent for paratransit purposes at WMATA. The required federal match can be met by state and local contributions from Compact members already provided for paratransit purposes at WMATA.

BUDGET IMPACT:

There is no immediate budget impact. The purpose of this information item is to inform the Board of Directors that \$6.1 million in JARC federal funds are available to WMATA for paratransit purposes. Staff will prepare an expenditure plan for these funds to be presented to the Board Budget Committee in the fall of 2006.

ACTION(S) TAKEN:

Staff has two recommendations related to the \$6.1 million of previously appropriated JARC federal funds.

1. The Chief Operating Officer for Community Transportation Services will report back to the Board Budget Committee in the fall of 2006 with a plan and timeline for expending the \$6.1 million in JARC federal funds.
2. The plan will be developed, to the extent possible, consistent with recommendations provided by the MetroAccess Ad Hoc Advisory Committee report which was guided by the recommendations for improving MetroAccess service in the TPB Access for All Committee report "Improving Demand Responsive Services for People with Disabilities in the Washington Region", as well as the 2004 WMATA Regional Task Force report titled "Specialized Transportation Study".