

PRESENTED AND ADOPTED:

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECT AND AMENDMENT OF  
FY07 OPERATING BUDGET

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

WHEREAS, Metrobus Routes 70 and 71 along the Georgia Avenue, NW corridor are among the top lines for ridership in the Metrobus system, averaging over 18,000 riders each weekday; and

WHEREAS, The Regional Bus Study provided to the Authority in September 2003 recommends the implementation of a series of Rapid Bus corridors including one for Georgia Avenue, NW to supplement the existing service on Metrobus routes 70 and 71; and

WHEREAS, The FY07 Operating Budget does not contain funds for the operation of the Georgia Avenue Rapid Bus project; and

WHEREAS, To accelerate the creation of the Georgia Avenue Rapid Bus as a regional demonstration project for FY07, the District of Columbia will pay the operating costs of the Georgia Avenue Rapid Bus project for FY07; now, therefore be it


*RESOLVED*, That the Board of Directors hereby approves of the addition of the Georgia Avenue Rapid Bus project to the FY07 Operating Budget as a regional demonstration project; and be it further

*RESOLVED*, That the FY07 Operating Budget is hereby amended to add \$0.2 million in additional revenue, \$1.3 million in additional expenses, and \$1.1 million in additional subsidy to be paid by the District of Columbia; and be it further

*RESOLVED*, That \$884,000 in capital funds from the Metro Matters Bus Customer Facilities Budget will be expended in support of the George Avenue Rapid Bus 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



(Board Copy)  
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority  
**METRO ELECTRONIC ACTION  
DOCUMENT**

### IDENTIFICATION

MEAD ID:	99592	ACTION:	Initiate & Award Transit Service Change
AWARD VALUE:	(Not yet awarded)	CONTRACT: (Proposed)	
FUND SOURCES: ( <a href="#">View</a> )		CONTRACTOR:	
LAST MODIFIED:	06/28/2006		

### DESCRIPTION

SUBJECT:	Implementation of Regional Demonstration Project Georgia Avenue Rapid Bus, Metrobus Route 79.
PURPOSE:	To obtain programmatic approval to implement a Regional Demonstration Project for FY07, Georgia Avenue Rapid Bus (Metrobus Route 79), in the District of Columbia effective September 2006, and (1) amend the FY07 operating budget by \$1.3 million in cost, \$0.2 million in revenue, and \$1.1 million in operating subsidy that will be paid entirely by the District of Columbia; and (2) authorize additional expenditures of up to \$884,000 from the capital budget.

### TRANSIT SERVICE CHANGE CATEGORIES

### ORIGINATION

INITIATOR		DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL	
THOMAS HARRINGTON on 06/21/2006		Approved by REQUA , JOHN 06/21/2006	
PHONE: 202-962-2294	OFFICE: BPPD	DEPT:	Planning and Strategic Pr

### COORDINATION (ROUTING)

OFFICE	NAME	ACTION/DATE
COOB (3211)	REQUA, JOHN	Approved 06/21/2006
(8110)	THOMAS, EDWARD	Approved 06/21/2006
PRMT (7410)	JACKSON, LUCY	Approved 06/21/2006
COOB (3211)	REQUA, JOHN	Approved 07/05/2006
COUN (1410)	O'KEEFFE, CAROL	Approved 07/06/2006

### FINAL APPROVALS

OFFICE	NAME/ACTION
BUDGET_CMTE	Approved for CFO1 by HARRY WOODRUFF on 06/22/2006
JOINT_DEV	Approved for by EMEKA MONEME on 06/22/2006
OPER_CMTE	Approved for OPAS by JAMES HUGHES on 06/22/2006
BEMR	Approved for GOVR by DEBRA JOHNSON on 07/06/2006
GM	Approved for GMGR by GMGR CEO on 07/06/2006
BOARD	BOARD WMATA (Not Yet Approved)



## Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority METRO ELECTRONIC ACTION DOCUMENT

### NARRATIVE

#### Discussion

The Regional Bus Study recommended the development of priority bus corridors, including new Rapid Bus service in the Washington region. Rapid Bus service is generally limited-stop service in corridors with priority running-way improvements, unique branded identity, and enhanced customer facilities. A number of new Rapid Bus corridors are currently in development – Georgia Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue in the District of Columbia, University Boulevard corridor in Maryland, and Jefferson-Davis Highway (Crystal City-Potomac Yard) in Virginia. The Rapid Bus service would have a regional brand identity shared by multiple corridors in the region including a common name, logo, vehicle paint design, and bus stop flag.

The first corridor to be implemented as part of this regional Rapid Bus program is the Georgia Avenue corridor between Silver Spring Station and Archives. This new limited-stop service will complement the existing local bus service. Rapid Bus service on Georgia Avenue was recommended in the Regional Bus Study and the D.C. Transit Alternatives Analysis plans.

The Georgia Avenue-7th Street Line, Metrobus Routes 70, 71, is one of the top two lines in the system for ridership, averaging over 18,000 weekday passengers on 241 trips. Service operates every 7-8 minutes during AM and PM peak periods and every 10 minutes off-peak using articulated buses. There are 54 bus stops along the 7.5 mile route between Silver Spring Metrorail Station and the Archives at 7<sup>th</sup> & Constitution Avenue NW. Due to heavy ridership and frequent stops, one-way travel time between Silver Spring and Archives approaches 60 minutes.

The Georgia Avenue/7th Street corridor between Silver Spring and downtown Washington contains a mix of residential, commercial, and institutional land use. Major activity centers include Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Howard University, Washington Convention Center and Verizon Center. Transit travel in the corridor includes multiple purposes, including connections to Metrorail Red, Green and Yellow Lines, transfers to major crosstown bus lines at Kennedy Street, Irving Street/Columbia Road, Florida Avenue, and H Street, and access to downtown employment, shopping, and entertainment.

New Rapid Bus Route 79 would operate every 10 minutes in both directions during weekday AM and PM peak periods using standard, 40-foot CNG buses. The Rapid Bus route would serve 15 stops in each direction, for an average stop spacing of ½ mile. These 15 stops would be placed at the busiest locations, including transfer points to Metrorail and other bus routes. It is estimated that travel time would be reduced by up to 25 percent compared with local service on Routes 70 and 71. No public hearing is required for this service change because there is no reduction in existing service.

It is estimated that 1,000 new riders would be attracted to this faster service after 18 months. Also, it is anticipated that 2,500 daily riders would switch from local service to the Rapid Bus. The regular \$1.25 fare would be charged on Route 79.

The Rapid Bus service is designed to take advantage of existing bus priority lanes on 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets between Mount Vernon Square and Archives. Other anticipated corridor improvements that would enhance this service include:

- DDOT's transit signal priority pilot project along Georgia Avenue between Eastern Avenue and Rhode Island Avenue
- New bus shelters provided through the District's Adshell contract
- Real-time bus information on electronic displays in the new bus shelters

- New bus maps available through WMATA's bus map project
- Special flags to identify the Rapid Bus stops
- Sidewalk and streetscape improvements through the District's Great Streets program

**PRIOR APPROVALS**

None

**IMPACT ON FUNDING**

**Operating Budget**

Implementation of new Route 79 would have the following impacts on Metrobus operating costs, revenue, and subsidy. As a reimbursable route, the District would pay the full operating subsidy.

	FY 2007 (9 months)	Annual
Operating cost	\$1.3 million	\$1.8 million
Revenue	\$0.2 million	\$0.2 million
Subsidy	\$1.1 million	\$1.6 million

Route 79 would require 11 peak scheduled buses, 13 operators and 4 mechanics. Including three spares, 14 existing buses would be branded and assigned for use on Route 79. These impacts are not included in the approved FY07 budget.

**Capital Budget Information**

Budget Program	Metro Matters Bus Customer Facilities
Current Budget:	\$9,800,000
This Action:*	\$884,000
Prior Actions:	\$4,659,539
Subtotal:	\$5,543,539
Remaining Budget	\$4,256,461

\*Total capital budget of \$884,000 will be used for fareboxes and radios, painting and decaling buses, bus stop flags, traffic signal priority equipment, electronic destination signs, and real time information displays. These expenditure will be funded from the Metro Matters Bus Customer Facilities program created to support the development of priority bus corridors, including the Georgia Avenue Rapid Bus service.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Programmatic approval to implement a Regional Demonstration Project for FY07, Georgia Avenue Rapid Bus (Metrobus Route 79), in the District of Columbia effective September 2006, and (1) amend the FY07 operating budget by \$1.3 million in cost, \$0.2 million in revenue, and \$1.1 million in operating subsidy that will be paid entirely by the District of Columbia; and (2) authorize additional expenditures of up to \$884,000 from the capital budget.