



Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

SERVICE CHANGE STAFF SUMMARY SHEET

ROUTING	TO	BY DATE	FOR	DATE:
			APPROVAL	SUBJECT
			1,2	Reimbursable Metrobus Route S91 (Springfield Mall Parking Lot Shuttle) Service Reduction and Consolidation With TAGS
			VOTE	PREPARED BY:
			3	OPAS - V. Jackson
			CONCURRENCE	EXTENSION:
				x 2237
3	BOARD	7/21/05	INFORMATION	DEPT. APPROVAL:
				DGM/OPER - J. Hughes <i>J. Hughes</i>

CATEGORIES:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUS	<input type="checkbox"/> MAJOR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FREQUENCY	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC HEARING	<input type="checkbox"/> ROUTE ANALYSIS
<input type="checkbox"/> RAPID TRANSIT STATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MINOR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SPAN ROUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> IS X IS NOT REQUIRED	<input type="checkbox"/> IS X IS NOT ATTACHED

PURPOSE

To request Board approval to reduce service on reimbursable Metrobus Route S91, Springfield Mall Parking Lot Shuttle, and consolidate remaining trips with TAGS (Transportation Association of Greater Springfield) shuttle service.

DISCUSSION

Route S91 was implemented in July, 1999 as a Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) funded initiative to relieve additional parking demand at Franconia-Springfield station resulting from construction of the I-95/395/495 "mixing bowl" project. Approximately 200 (later increased to 500) spaces were leased from Springfield Mall to provide supplemental parking for the Franconia-Springfield garage. Route S91 provides service between the mall and Franconia-Springfield station every 12 minutes between 8 and 11 A.M. and 3:30 and 8 P.M. Since implementation, the amount of service has been adjusted as demand or special circumstances warranted; e.g., after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Route S91 service was temporarily expanded to operate all day due to parking restrictions in effect at the Pentagon for several months in late 2001, which resulted in a substantial ridership increase on the Blue Line between Franconia-Springfield and the Pentagon.

COORDINATION (Routing)	Initial	Date	COMP	ENCLOSURES:
RAIL			<i>Peter 7/17</i>	
X BUS	<i>JR</i>	<i>6/30/05</i>	SECT	GENERAL MANAGER ACTION:
X GOVR	<i>DR</i>	<i>7/1/05</i>	<i>HB</i>	Approved
X OPAS	<i>RBO</i>	<i>6/30/05</i>	7/7/05	Approved for Submission to the Board
ADA			Deputy / ADMN	<i>James Barrett / for / 7/15/05</i>
X FIMA	<i>but</i>	<i>7/7/05</i>	Deputy / OPER	Signature
COUN				Date
				BOARD ACTION:
			<i>J. Hughes</i>	Approved by the Board of Directors on
			<i>7/7/05</i>	Secretary

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The Franconia-Springfield garage expansion opened in October, 2003. With a corresponding reduction in ridership and funding from VDOT, a 25 cent fare was implemented on Route S91 in March, 2004. Current ridership on the shuttle service is approximately 500 daily riders on 44 trips.

VDOT has funded Route S91 since its inception. However, VDOT has notified Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and Fairfax County that for Fiscal 2006, funding for the shuttle service will be phased out, with only \$65,000 being provided for approximately three months of service. Fairfax County has expressed a desire to retain Route S91 shuttle service as long as the lease with Springfield Mall for the parking spaces can be maintained, at least for the duration of the mixing bowl project as VDOT originally intended. Additionally, the Franconia-Springfield garage is again nearing capacity and Fairfax County desires to retain some sort of overflow parking option at the mall with frequent shuttle service during the hours service is needed most.

After examining several alternatives, WMATA and Fairfax County determined that shuttle service between Franconia-Springfield and Springfield Mall should be retained between 7 and 9:30 A.M. and 5 and 7:30 P.M. (19 trips). This reduction of the shuttle service to "peak-of-the-peak" trips would still accommodate 75 percent of current shuttle riders. The shuttle trips would be consolidated with TAGS service as short mall-station shuttle trips and would be shown on the TAGS schedule. The schedule of shuttle trips would be adjusted to operate from every 12 minutes to every 15 minutes. Combined with existing TAGS trips operating every 15 minutes, service between Franconia-Springfield and Springfield Mall would be provided every 7½ minutes from 7-9:30 A.M. and 5-7:30 P.M. Before and after these hours, existing TAGS trips would provide service between Springfield Mall and Franconia-Springfield station every 15 minutes. The fare on shuttle trips would remain at 25 cents (same as the current TAGS fare) and the transfer procedures on TAGS would also apply to the shuttle trips. It is proposed to implement the revised shuttle service in September, 2005. Fairfax County has agreed to continue funding operation of the shuttle trips as part of TAGS service when VDOT funding is exhausted after September, 2005.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Retain Route S91 shuttle service as currently scheduled.
2. Discontinue all Route S91 shuttle service.

PRIOR APPROVALS

None

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IMPACT ON FUNDING

The reduction and consolidation of Route S91 service with TAGS would have the following impact on Fairfax County's reimbursable costs beginning in October 2005:

	Current S91+ TAGS service	Revised TAGS service with shuttle trips	Annual Impact
Annual Cost	\$723,000	\$680,000	(\$43,000)
Annual Revenue	\$123,000	\$90,000	\$33,000
Annual Subsidy	\$600,000	\$590,000	(\$10,000)

The existing peak bus assigned to Route S91 would be reassigned to the revised shuttle service as a TAGS bus; therefore, there would be no change in peak scheduled buses, operators or mechanics.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the reduce service on reimbursable Metrobus Route S91, Springfield Mall Parking Lot Shuttle, and consolidate remaining trips with TAGS (Transportation Association of Greater Springfield) shuttle service effective September, 2005.