



# AAC

## Accessibility Advisory Committee

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July 1, 2013

Dear Chair Downs and Members of the Board,

It is my pleasure to present you with the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) report for the month of June 2013. The primary issues that we reviewed were: prospective fare gates for the new Silver Line; literature on Metrorail emergency evacuation; implementation of the MetroAccess Fare Calculator; and our FY13 accomplishments.

### **Issues of the Month**

#### Fare Gate

The AAC was invited to survey proposed Metrorail New Electronic Payment Program fare gate equipment during a demonstration held on the B1 Level of the Jackson Graham Building. Several AAC members were in favor of the clamshell design and liked the idea of being able to use one fare card to allow multiple individuals to move through the fare gate at the same time. This will benefit customers who are being assisted with their mobility devices, as one example. Audio output on the fare gate equipment is another important feature that the AAC recommends be incorporated into any final design.

#### Brochure on Metrorail Evacuation Procedures for Customers with Disabilities

As a follow-up to an action item developed during the AAC's quarterly meeting with the Board's Executive Committee, the Bus and Rail Subcommittee (BRS) discussed Metro's brochures for safety procedures on Metrorail. In addition to the information in the current brochure, upon motion, the BRS recommended updating the brochure with more pictures and fewer words, which will benefit customers with intellectual disabilities and some seniors. The BRS also recommended that the brochure be updated to include information on bumpy tiles, the Emergency Tunnel Evacuation Cart (ETEC), and international symbols.

The review of materials will also include the Metrobus Safety brochure. The BRS recommended that the Metrobus brochure add information on how customers with disabilities are evacuated during an emergency.

#### Work Plans

The AAC reflected on its FY13 work plan and is proud of its results in providing constructive and informative advice on serving customers with disabilities in public transportation for Metro.

The information below highlights some of the accomplishments in the FY13 work plan:

Bus/Rail Subcommittee

- Informed the design of the accessibility features for the 7000-series railcar
- Made prioritized recommendations for station lighting improvements and associated funding
- Hosted presentations by jurisdictional staff on bus stop accessibility, and advocated for funding of improvements
- Advised on the accessibility features of the SmarTrip machines and other locations for loading fare cards
- Advised on the accessible signage on Metrobus

MetroAccess Subcommittee

- Championed the development of the MetroAccess Fare Calculator
- Advised on the performance requirements of MetroAccess Contracts
- Recommended locations for MetroAccess stops at Metrorail stations
- Provided technical advice on the self-service MetroAccess Trip History tool

In FY14, the AAC has developed a robust work plan that will be shared at the AAC Quarterly Leadership meeting with Metro's Executive Board on July 25, 2013.

MetroAccess Fare Calculator

The MetroAccess Subcommittee (MAS) received an update on the MetroAccess Fare Calculator. The Fare Calculator is the first of its kind in the nation, and it allows MetroAccess customers to incorporate trip cost in their travel planning in the same manner that Metrobus and Metrorail customers can. The AAC thanks Metro and its staff for making the lowest available fare accessible to all MetroAccess customers.

Sincerely,



Patrick Sheehan, Chairman