



AAC

Accessibility Advisory Committee

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Washington, DC 20001
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September 3, 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 August 2013. The primary issues we reviewed were: SmarTrip Recharging Stations; Metrorail Emergency Evacuation Poster; a brief on the MetroAccess Fare Calculator; and subcommittee appointments.

Issues of the Month

SmarTrip Recharging Stations

The Bus/Rail Subcommittee (BRS) discussed Metro's new solar-powered SmarTrip Recharging Stations. To reduce the high number of onboard add-value transactions and improve Metrobus performance, Metro will place these devices at various bus stops across the jurisdictions. The SmarTrip Recharging Stations will be available in late 2014 depending on funding and jurisdictional cooperation.

The accessible recharging stations will include interactive audio and be available in Spanish. The BRS suggested that Metro consider the noise level in the placement of the devices; audio functions on recharging stations too close to the street may be inaudible to those who depend on those features. The BRS also agreed with Metro's Rider's Advisory Council (RAC) points on safety, indicating that many of the proposed areas are in locations with a history of security issues. Staff indicated that Metro customers will still have the onboard loading and other options as an alternative. Additionally, the SmarTrip Recharging Stations will be constructed from stainless steel and therefore will be tamper resistant, and the exterior cover of the machine will be graffiti proof.

Metro's Evacuation Poster

The BRS continued its discussion on Metrorail safety with a review of the proposed updated Metrorail Emergency Evacuation poster. The BRS concurred with recommendations from the Department of Access Services to remove the system map from the poster; enlarge the lettering and other safety messages on the poster; and rearrange the placement of some language on the poster. The BRS recommended that, like some recent advertising placement, that Metro consider placing copies of the system map on the ceiling of the railcars. The BRS also reiterated one of the AAC's recommendations on the 7000-series railcar which was not to place the evacuation poster in the same area as the parking area for customers who use mobility devices.

MetroAccess Fare Calculator

For the benefit of new members, the AAC revisited the evolution of the MetroAccess Fare Calculator. The Fare Calculator, which became available on June 1, 2013, allows customers the benefit of the lowest available fare from an array of fares within a 30-minute window. Previously, customers would have been unable to identify that lowest fare without minute-by-minute inquiries to the Metro Trip Planner or the MetroAccess reservations staff. Although many members view the Fare Calculator as a helpful tool, some expressed that the tool has not reached its full potential. The topic will be further discussed at the next MetroAccess Subcommittee meeting.

Subcommittee Appointments

The AAC appointed Dr. Brian Miller as Chairman of the BRS; Dr. William Staderman as Vice-Chair; and Ms. Heidi Case as second Vice-Chair.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Sheehan', written in a cursive style.

Patrick Sheehan, Chairman