



Planning and Development Committee

Board Information Item III-A

September 21, 2006

Regional Bus Conference Update

**Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority
Board Action/Information Summary**

Action
 Information

MEAD Number:

Resolution:
 Yes No

PURPOSE

To provide the Planning and Development Committee with a status report on the planning and preparations for the Regional Bus Conference requested by the Board of Directors. The conference is scheduled for November 30, 2006.

DESCRIPTION

The WMATA Regional Bus Study (2001) and Regional Mobility Initiative (2004) identified numerous opportunities to work with local and state governments to improve regional and local bus service. Three strategies were highlighted: 1) bus stop improvement, including better access for individuals with disabilities, and maintenance; 2) bus travel time enhancement through a variety of priority bus treatments and traffic management techniques; and 3) bus customer information improvements. Much of these improvements would be made in high priority bus corridors.

WMATA executed the Metro Matters funding agreement in October 2004. This agreement provides capital funds to replace aged buses, to expand the bus fleet with new buses, to build a new bus garage, and to make investments in customer facilities including providing bus customers with real time information and building bus centers in high priority bus corridors. Each of these capital improvements are in the implementation phase. Additional bus operating support was approved in the FY'07 Budget. The budget proposal focuses on high performing bus routes experiencing crowded conditions and high priority bus corridors where there are running time problems.

At the February 23, 2006 Special Budget Committee meeting, Board Member Gordon Linton proposed a Regional Bus Conference. He noted that the conference could bring WMATA and regional partners together to discuss ways to secure regional commitment towards implementing the recommended local and

state government strategies in the Regional Bus Study and Regional Mobility Initiative.

The purpose of the conference is to lay the foundation for improving the overall experience of bus riders. The primary goal is to provide customers with seamless end-to-end bus trips with ease and comfort.

FUNDING IMPACT

\$100,000 from FY 2007 Project Development Program

RECOMMENDATION

None



Regional Bus Conference Update

Presented to the Board of Directors:
Planning and Development Committee

September 21, 2006





Regional Bus Conference

Goal: A seamless end to end trip for bus riders





Regional Bus Conference

Objectives

1. Exchange information on regional, national and international best practice
2. Call for regional action on:
 - Traffic management to improve bus running time
 - Bus Stops that are accessible, maintained, and based on a minimum set of design standards
 - Fare policy to better match fares with service and markets
 - Regional and local bus service integration and corridor planning





Regional Bus Conference

Conference Venue and Date

Where: Marriott Bethesda North Hotel &
Conference Center, Bethesda, Maryland

When: November 30, 2006
9:00a.m to 4:00p.m.

Theme: *"Charting A Common Route"*





Regional Bus Conference

On-going Implementation Activities

1. Regular Working Team Meetings
2. Jurisdiction Coordination Monthly Meetings
3. Development of Metro and Local Bus Showcase
4. Outreach to other organizations





Regional Bus Conference

Next Steps



- Working Groups to complete draft action plans
- Seek participation of operating staff
- Brief TPB, Board of Trade and Regional TMAs
- Follow-up with WMATA RAC and E&D Committee
- Finalize Agenda
- Confirm luncheon guest speaker