

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Board Action/Information Summary

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Action <input type="radio"/> Information	MEAD Number: 100435	Resolution: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
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TITLE:

Route Q2 Restructuring Public Hearing Request

PURPOSE:

To request Board approval to conduct public hearings on proposed restructuring of regional Metrobus Route Q2 which comprises the Veirs Mill Road Line.

DESCRIPTION:

Metro, in partnership with Montgomery County and the Maryland Department of Transportation, has been studying ways of improving transit service in the Veirs Mill Road Corridor. Current Q2 line service runs from the Silver Spring Metrorail station to the Shady Grove Metrorail station.

The Q2 line is one of the highest ridership Metrobus lines in the Washington metropolitan area with 10,200 daily riders. The line connects some of Montgomery County's highest density residential and commercial neighborhoods including the central business districts of Silver Spring, Wheaton, and Rockville; and the Metrorail stations at Silver Spring, Forest Glen, Wheaton, Rockville, and Shady Grove. However, because of its popularity and heavy traffic along its route, the line suffers from frequent overcrowding and poor schedule adherence.

Following extensive public involvement, the study has developed many short-term and long-term recommendations for improvements to service, operations, stops and facilities, customer information, safety and security, traffic operations and management, vehicles and vehicle assignments, and fare collection. The recommended changes to routes and service, which would be the main subject of public hearings, are described below:

- Split current Q2 route into two routes: Route Q2-A will provide service between Shady Grove and Wheaton; and Route Q2-B will provide service between Rockville and Silver Spring.
- Routes Q2-A and Q2-B will provide overlapping service along Veirs Mill Road, between Wheaton and Rockville Metrorail Stations and will operate as the all-day, base service.

- Service levels will focus on improved frequencies along the higher-demand Veirs Mill Road segment (Rockville to Wheaton) with 7.5-minute peak service and 15-minute off-peak service. Service will provide wider headways along the lower-demand Rockville Pike segment (Shady Grove to Rockville) and the well-served Georgia Avenue segment (Wheaton to Silver Spring) with 15-minute peak service and 30-minute off-peak service.

Metro staff will also:

- Explore a fare transfer mechanism for transfer between Metrorail at Wheaton and the new Q2-A route which will mitigate the increased rail fare for travelers who would otherwise use the bus between Wheaton and Silver Spring.
- Work with Montgomery County to initiate a traffic engineering study to address: (1) modified approaches at Shady Grove, Rockville, and Wheaton Metrorail Stations; (2) construction of queue jumpers at six major intersections along the corridor; (3) implementation of a traffic signal priority system along the corridor; and (4) introduction of a bus-only lane along Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring.

FUNDING IMPACT:

The proposed service plan is estimated to be cost-neutral for FY 2010. The final subsidy impact will be subject to the final service plan recommendations for which specific funding recommendations will be developed and presented to the Board along with the final staff recommendation. If approved following the public hearing, service implementation is planned for December 2009.

Budget: **Operating Budget, Fiscal 2010**

Office: **BPLN**

Account:

This Action: **\$0**

Remarks: **Minimal Impact**

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval to conduct a public hearing on the proposed restructuring of regional Metrobus Route Q2 which comprises the Veirs Mill Road Line.

SUBJECT: METROBUS Q2 LINE RESTRUCTURING - AUTHORIZATION TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING

**2009-62
RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

WHEREAS, The Q2 Line is one of the highest ridership Metrobus Lines in the Metro system with approximately 10,200 weekday riders; and

WHEREAS, The Q2 Line connects some of Montgomery County's highest density residential and commercial neighborhoods including Silver Spring, Wheaton, and Rockville; and

WHEREAS, The Q2 Line has long suffered from continuing performance-related issues including on-time adherence, traffic congestion and passenger crowding; and

WHEREAS, In Winter/Spring 2009, Metro, in partnership with Maryland Department of Transportation and Montgomery County Department of Transportation, studied ways of improving transit service in the Veirs Mill Road Corridor; and

WHEREAS, This study process included substantial public input and participation in developing recommendations to respond to consumer needs, maximization of resources, and enhancement of line effectiveness and performance; and

WHEREAS, Staff worked with Montgomery County Department of Transportation and Maryland Department of Transportation to prepare recommendations for implementing an integrated, comprehensive and coordinated strategy of operational and service enhancements as shown on Attachment A; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors authorizes staff to hold a public hearing on the proposed service plan; and be it further

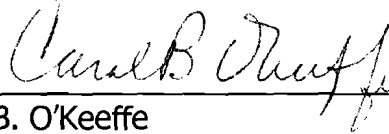
RESOLVED, That the General Manager, in coordination with the Board of Directors, will establish the date, time and location of the hearing; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors authorizes the General Manager to release the Public Hearing Staff Report for public comment, as soon as the Staff Report is available, subject to later submission of the Staff Report Supplement, with final staff

recommendations, to the Board of Directors for its approval. All Board members will receive the Staff Report concurrently with its release for public review; 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

Route	Proposed Service Change
Q2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Split current Q2 route into two routes: Route Q2-A will provide service between Shady Grove and Wheaton; and route Q2-B will provide service between Rockville and Silver Spring.• Routes Q2-A and Q2-B will provide overlapping service along Veirs Mill Road between Wheaton and Rockville Metrorail Stations and will operate as the all-day, base service.• Service levels will focus on improved frequencies along the higher demand Veirs Mill Road segment (Rockville to Wheaton) with 7.5-minute peak service and 15-minute off-peak service. Service will provide wider headways along the lower-demand Rockville Pike segment (Shady Grove to Rockville) and the well-served Georgia Avenue segment (Wheaton to Silver Spring) with 15-minute peak service and 30-minute off-peak service.