

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action <input type="checkbox"/> Information	MEAD Number: 99885	Resolution: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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**PURPOSE**

To request Board authorization to conduct a Public Hearing to discontinue Route L7 of the Connecticut Avenue-Maryland Line and reinvest the subsidy in more frequent L8 service and in improved service on other routes in Montgomery County.

**DESCRIPTION**

- Route L7 operates between Wheaton Station and Friendship Heights Station on a 30 minute frequency during peak periods only.
- Route L8 service operates between Aspen Hill and Friendship Heights Station on a 20 minute frequency during peak periods and at a 30 minute frequency off-peak, Saturdays, and Sundays. On Saturday and Sunday Route L8 service is operated by Ride On.
- Weekday ridership for Routes L7 and L8 averages 2,900. Of these approximately 180 are L7 riders.
- During rush periods 72% of the flow direction ridership boards in the morning or alights in the evening on the L8 branch between Aspen Hill and Kensington, 15% boards or alights on the L7 branch between Wheaton and Kensington, and 14% boards or alights on the trunk of the line between Kensington and Friendship Heights.
- As a consequence of this ridership distribution, L7 trips are underutilized and L8 trips may be overcrowded.
- At the frequencies presently provided, it is not possible to coordinate L7 and L8 service over the portion of the line between Kensington and Friendship Heights, which is served by both routes. As a consequence, the available excess capacity on L7 trips cannot be optimally utilized.
- Ride On Routes 6 and 34 operate over the same routing as L7 between Wheaton and Kensington on a combined 15 minute frequency and have capacity available sufficient to accommodate L7 riders.

It is proposed to discontinue all L7 service and to increase L8 rush period service from every 20 minutes to every 15 minutes to relieve overcrowding. This would provide even intervals of service everywhere on the line.

### **FUNDING IMPACT**

There is no impact on the FY08 budget. The Connecticut Avenue-Maryland Line is non-regional and chargeable to Montgomery County. It is proposed to reinvest the subsidy from the elimination of L7 in more frequent L8 service and in improved service on other routes in Montgomery County.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Authorize staff to conduct a public hearing to discontinue Route L7 of the Connecticut Avenue-Maryland Line and reinvest the subsidy in more frequent L8 service and in improved service on other routes in Montgomery County.