Customer Services and Operations Committee

Board Information Item IV-A

October 14, 2010

Accessibility Advisory Committee Governance

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Board Action/Information Summary

○ Action ◉ Information	MEAD Number:	Resolution: ○ Yes ◉ No

TITLE:

Accessibility Advisory Committee

PURPOSE:

To provide the Board information on a proposal to amend the reporting relationship of the Accessibility Advisory Committee so that the Committee will now advise the Authority`s Board of Directors.

DESCRIPTION:

Metro established the Accessibility Advisory Committee in 1979 as a way to provide for active consumer participation in the transportation planning process. The Committee advises Metro on transportation issues which may affect the accessibility of public transportation of seniors and persons with disabilities within Metro`s service area. Currently, the Committee reports to the General Manager.

Metro wants to ensure that the advice of the Committee, intended to ensure safe, reliable, efficient, and accessible transportation services to seniors and persons who have disabilities is provided directly to Metro`s Board of Directors in a manner consistent with the process already approved for the other main citizen advisory body, the Riders` Advisory Council.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee provides a forum for active customer participation in the transportation planning process. Having the Committee enter into a direct reporting relationship with the Board of Directors enhances Metro`s image by increasing the level of community involvement in Metro`s planning process, in support of Metro`s goals.

This change would be in the best interest of the public and Metro, as it would increase the level of community involvement in Metro`s planning process which is essential to maintaining an open and transparent relationship with our customers.

FUNDING IMPACT:

Increasing the involvement of the community often results in the implementation of recommendations which create efficiencies and improve the overall operation of Metro.	
Project Manager:	Glenn D. Millis

Project Department/Office:	Department of Access Services

RECOMMENDATION:

None

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Background

- Metro established what is now the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) in 1979 per Department of Transportation regulations requiring public involvement in the planning process of federally supported programs
- The AAC has been instrumental in recommending numerous safety and accessibility improvements in the Metro system that benefit all customers
- The AAC operates under an agreement with the General Manager
- The Riders' Advisory Council, formed in 2006, reports directly to the Board of Directors, and includes a permanent seat for the AAC Chair

Next Steps

- Establish a more direct reporting relationship to the Board of Directors in similar fashion to the Riders' Advisory Council
- Staff will work with the AAC and the General Manager to present the Board with candidates for membership in the AAC as the current members' terms expire
- Minutes of the AAC Meetings will be transmitted monthly to the General Manager and the Board of Directors
- Periodic reports to Board Members can be made either at regular meetings of the Board or the AAC as determined by the Board