



AAC

Accessibility Advisory Committee

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Washington, DC 20001
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October 7, 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 September 2013. The primary issues we reviewed were: accessibility of Metro's public hearings; proposed FY2014 Metrobus changes; and the Fare Policy Work Group provided an update of their work in preparation for upcoming fare discussions.

Issues of the Month

Accessibility of Metro's Public Hearings

At the request of the AAC, Loyda Sequeira, Board Secretary, discussed the process for selecting locations for public hearings because the AAC had considered some of the past locations for public hearings to be inaccessible. Ms. Sequeira thoroughly explained the process stating that Metro selects public hearing locations that can capture the largest ridership; must hold a minimum of 60 people, inclusive of customers who use mobility devices; have open availability on the dates and hours needed; offer easy access to the meeting room once inside the building; and provide access via Metrobus, Metrorail, and MetroAccess. Additionally, Metro's public hearings are well-advertised through national and community newspapers, in multiple languages, and on all revenue vehicles.

The AAC suggested that Metro consider holding public hearings at large hospitals, the lobby area of some corporate office buildings, and in movie theaters. Upon motion the AAC recommended that Metro provide the AAC at least 60 to 90 day advance notice of all public hearings. The AAC also recommended shuttle service for certain locations that present barriers or difficulty for customers who use wheelchairs such as the District of Columbia location in Southeast, which was very hilly. Staff will follow-up on all of the recommendations.

FY 2014 Proposed Bus Changes

The AAC received a briefing on proposed FY2014 Metrobus service changes. The changes are designed to ensure Metro remains in a "state of good operations" by reducing crowding; improving reliability; increasing evening and weekend trips; replacing unproductive routes; and improving on-time performance. The AAC considers its review of bus service changes equally important because of the effect such changes can have on MetroAccess service.

MetroAccess Fare Policy Working Group Update

The MetroAccess Subcommittee received an update from the Fare Policy Work Group related to the Board's Finance & Administration Committee report on the reduction in MetroAccess ridership in FY 2013. MetroAccess transported 49,000 fewer passengers in FY 2013 compared to FY 2012, which represents a 2.4 percent reduction and fewer trips than forecasted. The fewer rides taken do not necessarily mean an increase in revenue or savings. The reduction in MetroAccess ridership may point to a greater usage of fixed route service that is attributable to the success of ongoing eligibility screening and travel training efforts. However, the AAC believes that an examination of MetroAccess Fare Policy on ridership must be examined, and it is our understanding that this type of analysis is being conducted by staff.

Federal Government Shutdown

The AAC commended Metro for continuing to provide safe and reliable transportation services during the government shutdown. Additionally, MetroAccess service was praised for promptly suspending some of its policies related to canceled trips for customers affected by the shutdown.

Rosslyn Metrorail Entrance Grand Opening

With a rousing round of applause, the AAC praised Metro for the new mezzanine and high speed elevators at the Rosslyn Metrorail station.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Sheehan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "S".

Patrick Sheehan, Chairman