

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

☒ Action ☐ Information

MEAD Number:  
202007

Resolution:  
☒ Yes ☐ No

**TITLE:**

Fairfax County Fare Buydown

**PRESENTATION SUMMARY:**

Staff is seeking authorization to negotiate and execute a fare buydown program with Fairfax County for a one-school, one-year pilot that will allow J.E.B. Stuart (Justice) High School students to use Metrobus.

**PURPOSE:**

Receive Board of Directors authorization for the General Manager/Chief Executive Officer or his designee to negotiate and execute a one-school, one-year fare buydown agreement for the Fairfax County Free Student Bus Pass Program serving eligible high school students at J.E.B. Stuart (Justice) High School.

**DESCRIPTION:**

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved the creation of a fare Buydown pilot program to reimburse WMATA's full costs and fares associated with J.E.B. Stuart (Justice) High School students' use of Metrobus for the 2018-2019 school year. The students will not pay for their ride; instead Fairfax County will reimburse WMATA all costs and fares associated with the trips taken. This pilot will supplement the existing Fairfax County Free Student Bus Pass program and provide access to Metrobus for students at J.E.B. Stuart (Justice) High School who lack access to Fairfax Connector.

**Key Highlights:**

- Six middle schools and four high schools are not served by Fairfax Connector, but are served currently by Metrobus
- Students at these schools have a limited ability to utilize the Free Student Bus Pass program
- J.E.B. Stuart (Justice) High School has been selected for a Metrobus fare buydown Pilot Program

**Background and History:**

In September 2015, Fairfax Connector launched a pilot program to provide a Free Student Bus Pass to middle and high school students in Fairfax County.

Over the course of the pilot and the larger program, the County identified a coverage gap: not all schools are served by Fairfax Connector.

In June 2018, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors authorized a pilot to pay WMATA the cost of providing free access to Metrobus service to J.E.B. Stuart (Justice) High School students.

#### **Discussion:**

The Fairfax County fare buydown program will allow for additional students in Fairfax County to ride Metrobus, thereby increasing WMATA ridership and revenue. It will alleviate the financial burden on students who pay for Metrobus out of pocket, as well as provide an alternative for students who use other modes of transportation.

#### **FUNDING IMPACT:**

Define current or potential funding impact, including source of reimbursable funds.	
Project Manager:	Tracey Foster
Project Department/Office:	CFO/TRES

WMATA will be reimbursed by Fairfax County. There is no impact on funding to WMATA.

#### **TIMELINE:**

<b>Previous Actions</b>	N/A
<b>Anticipated actions after presentation</b>	Fall 2018 - Program implementation and data collection.  Spring 2019 – Return to the Board of Directors for permanent program based on review of School Year 2018-2019 data.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

WMATA Board approval to negotiate and execute a one-year, one-school Fare Buy Down Agreement with Fairfax County for the reimbursement of all costs and fares associated with the pilot.

**PRESENTED AND ADOPTED: July 12, 2018**

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE A FARE BUYDOWN AGREEMENT FOR A ONE-YEAR FREE STUDENT BUS PASS PILOT PROGRAM FOR FAIRFAX COUNTY**

**2018-29**

RESOLUTION  
OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE  
WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, Resolution 2011-30 requires Board of Directors' approval of agreements under the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Compact Section 79 whereby a local government makes equitable payments for fares lower than those established by WMATA (fare buy down agreements); and

WHEREAS, Fairfax County desires to establish a one-year pilot of its Free Student Bus Pass Program for J.E.B. Stuart (Justice) High School students to have access to free Metrobus service by reimbursing WMATA for the full costs and fares associated with Metrobus rides taken by students; NOW, THEREFORE, be it

*RESOLVED*, That the Board of Directors authorizes the General Manager/Chief Executive Officer or his designee to negotiate and execute a one-year fare buydown agreement with Fairfax County to pay WMATA the full costs and fares associated with the pilot of J.E.B. Stuart (Justice) High School Free Student Bus Pass; and be it finally

*RESOLVED*, That in order to establish this pilot program for the 2018-2019 school year, this resolution shall be effective immediately.

Reviewed as to form and legal sufficiency,



Patricia Y. Lee  
General Counsel

WMATA File Structure No.:  
4.3.1. Fare and Fee Agreements

**Motioned by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Price**

**Ayes: 8 – Mr. Evans, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Corcoran, Mr. McMillin, Mr. Price, Mr. Goldman, Mr. Dorsey and Mr. Horner**