

Consent Item (C) 07-28-2022

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Board Action/Information Summary

Action Information

MEAD Number:
202371

Resolution:
 Yes No

TITLE:

Waivers for Blue and Yellow Line Closures

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

Staff is seeking a waiver of fares on the Metroway–Potomac Yard Line and parking fees at Franconia-Springfield, Van Dorn St and Huntington Metrorail stations during the Potomac Yard cutover construction. In addition, staff is seeking to eliminate the non-rider parking fee at Franconia-Springfield, for the Yellow Line Tunnel & Bridge Rehab project as a courtesy to customers and to encourage use of the Metrobus or Virginia Railway Express, transit alternatives available at Franconia-Springfield.

PURPOSE:

Request Board approval to waive fares on the Metroway - Potomac Yard Line as well as parking fees at Franconia-Springfield, Van Dorn St and Huntington during planned station closures related to the construction cutover of the Potomac Yard station beginning September 10, 2022, and to eliminate the non-rider fee at Franconia-Springfield, only, for the duration of the Yellow Line Tunnel and Bridge Rehab Project which begins September 10, 2022 and is expected to continue through early summer 2023.

DESCRIPTION:

From September 10, 2022, to October 22, 2022, all Blue and Yellow Line stations south of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport will be closed for the new Potomac Yard Station cutover activities. Three Metrorail stations with parking facilities will be affected by the closure: Franconia-Springfield, Van Dorn St and Huntington.

Also beginning September 10, 2022 and continuing through early summer 2023, there will be no rail service between Huntington and L'Enfant Metro Stations due to the Yellow Line Tunnel and Bridge Rehab Project. During this period, there will be no Yellow Line service throughout the system and Blue Line trains will provide service between Huntington and New Carrollton stations.

At Fairfax County's request, staff recommends waiving fares on the Metroway – Potomac Yard Line as well as parking fees at Franconia-Springfield, Van Dorn St and Huntington stations for the Potomac Yard cutover activities and waiving the non-rider parking fee at Franconia-Springfield, between September 10 to October 22, 2022 to allow customers the option of riding regular Metrobus or the VRE.

Key Highlights:

- All Metrorail stations south of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport will be closed from September 10, 2022 to October 22, 2022 for construction cutover work at the new Potomac Yard station
- Stations with parking facilities impacted by the Potomac Yard construction closure are Franconia-Springfield, Van Dorn St and Huntington
- Yellow Line Tunnel and Bridge Rehab Project will commence September 10, 2022 and last through early summer 2023
- After the six-week shutdown south of National Airport station, Blue Line service will also operate between Huntington and New Carrollton
- Customers will have the option of regular Metrobus service, free shuttle service, and VRE train service from Franconia-Springfield and King St-Old Town
- Another option for impacted customers is the Metroway - Potomac Yard Line, which provides service between Braddock Rd and Pentagon City stations

Background and History:

During various projects over the past three years, Metro’s Board of Directors has waived parking fees to alleviate the impact of lengthy station closures on customers and encourage use of Metrobus service.

The upcoming Potomac Yard cutover construction requiring closure of all Blue and Yellow Line stations south of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and elimination of rail service between Huntington and L’Enfant stations during the Yellow Line Tunnel and Bridge Rehab Project will have similar customer impacts.

The projected revenue loss for the Metroway-Potomac Yard Line is \$70,000. A summary of the parking capacity, usage and projected revenue loss is provided below:

Metrorail Station	Facility Type	# Parking Spaces	Pre-COVID Utilization (2019)	COVID Utilization	Revenue Loss
Franconia- Springfield	Garage/Surface Lot	5,069	55%	11%	\$342,696
Huntington	Garage	2,732	75%	14%	\$169,293
Van Dorn	Surface Lot	361	100%	31%	\$28,830
Total					\$540,819

Discussion:

All Metrorail stations south of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport will be closed for construction cutover activities at the new Potomac Yard station. Staff recommends waiving the fares on the Metroway – Potomac Yard Line as well as the daily parking rate of \$4.95 at Franconia-Springfield, Van Dorn St and Huntington Metrorail stations, as well as the non-rider fee of \$8.95 at Franconia-Springfield and Huntington stations to allow customers to ride Metrobus or the VRE at Franconia-Springfield during the construction period.

During the Yellow Line Tunnel Bridge Rehab Project, after the six-week South of National shutdown, Blue Line service will operate between Huntington and New Carrollton. With

the suspension of rail service between Huntington and L'Enfant Metro stations, staff recommends waiving the non-rider fee of \$8.95 at Franconia-Springfield Station to provide customers the option of riding VRE directly to L'Enfant.

This request promotes continued use of public transit, including an alternate direct link to L'Enfant and reduces potential congestion from increased cars on the road. Staff has determined the risk of non-transit riders utilizing spaces would be minimal and not decrease parking spaces available for Metro's customers.

The estimated revenue loss associated with these waivers during both events is \$610,819 which will be reimbursed from the capital program with no operating subsidy impact to jurisdictions.

FUNDING IMPACT:

Define current or potential funding impact, including source of reimbursable funds.	
Project Manager:	Belinda Barrett
Project Department/Office:	CFO/LAND

TIMELINE:

Previous Actions	
Anticipated actions after presentation	<p>Summer - Customer notification of station closures</p> <p>September 10, 2022 - October 22, 2022 - Period Metro would not collect fares on Metroway - Potomac Yard Line</p> <p>September 10 - October 22, 2022 - Period Metro will not collect parking fees at Franconia Springfield, Huntington and Van Dorn Street Metro Stations.</p> <p>September 10, 2022 to early summer 2023 - Period Metro will not collect non-rider fees at Franconia-Springfield Metro Station.</p>

RECOMMENDATION:

Board approval to waive fares on the Metroway – Potomac Yard Line as well as parking fees at Franconia-Springfield, Van Dorn St and Huntington stations during the Potomac Yard cutover activities from September 10, 2022 to October 22, 2022 and the waiver of non-rider fee at Franconia-Springfield during the Yellow Line Tunnel and Bridge Rehab Project between September 10, 2022 to early summer 2023.

SUBJECT: WAIVER OF COLLECTION OF PARKING FEES DURING POTOMAC YARD STATION CONSTRUCTION AND YELLOW LINE TUNNEL AND BRIDGEPROJECT

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

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Compact Section 60, the Board of Directors has sole and exclusive jurisdiction over the rates and fares to be charged for service performed by transit facilities owned or controlled by WMATA; and

WHEREAS, All Blue and Yellow Line stations south of National Airport will be closed due to the construction of the Potomac Yard Metro station beginning on or about September 10, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Tunnel and bridge work on the Yellow Line beginning on or about September 10, 2022 through early summer 2023 will impact VRE commuters who park at the Franconia-Springfield Metro parking facility; and

WHEREAS, Staff recommends temporarily waiving collection of fares on the Metroway – Potomac Yard Line and parking fees at Franconia-Springfield, Huntington and Van Dorn Street Metro station parking facilities during the approximate six-week rail closure due to the construction of Potomac Yard Metro station; and

WHEREAS, Staff recommends temporarily waiving collection of the non-rider parking fee at the Franconia-Springfield Metro parking facility during the Yellow Line Tunnel and bridge project; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors waives collection of fares on the Metroway - Potomac Yard Line and parking fees at Franconia-Springfield, Huntington and Van Dorn St Metro station parking facilities, during the construction of Potomac Yard Metro station for a period not to exceed four months from implementation of the waiver and authorizes the General Manager and Chief Executive Officer to terminate the waiver sooner;

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors waives collection of the non-rider parking fee at the Franconia-Springfield Metro parking facility during the Yellow Line tunnel and bridge

project for a period not to exceed 12 months from implementation of the waiver and authorizes the General Manager and Chief Executive Officer to terminate the waiver sooner; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That this Resolution shall become effective 30 days after adoption in accordance with Compact Section 8(b).

Reviewed as to form and legal sufficiency,

/s/
Patricia Y. Lee
Executive Vice President and General Counsel

WMATA File Structure No.:
12.8.2 Parking Fees and Fee Collection

PROPOSED