



**Finance, Administration and Oversight Committee**

**Action Item VII-A**

**November 5, 2009**

**Establish Reimbursable Project – Regional  
Travel Training Initiative**

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

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Action <input type="radio"/> Information	MEAD Number: 100504	Resolution: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
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**TITLE:**

Regional Travel Training Initiative

**PURPOSE:**

To request approval from the Board of Directors to establish a reimbursable capital project (Job Access Reverse Commute [JARC] and New Freedom Grants) and initiate and award four contracts, for a base period of two years to fund the Regional Travel Training Initiative.

**DESCRIPTION:**

Metro, through its Department of Access Services, was recently awarded Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom Program funding through the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) to initiate a two-year regional travel training initiative in cooperation with Centers for Independent Living (CILs), the Inclusion Research Institute, and vocational rehabilitation centers in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

This landmark project spanning the three jurisdictions noted above is one of the first of its kind in the nation. Through a unique public-private partnership, this program will establish best practices by providing essential travel training on a regional scale that will focus on fostering greater use of accessible fixed-route public transportation to places of employment by people with disabilities and low incomes. It will also provide these customers with greater mobility independence throughout their everyday lives. Through this program, the Department of Access Services is taking proactive measures that will assist in offsetting demand and growth for paratransit services by training people with disabilities to travel safely using fixed-route public transit.

This Regional Travel Training Initiative will expand upon the travel training program currently in place at Metro. Training people with disabilities to safely travel using fixed-route public transit will provide a significant benefit to Metro by helping to reduce the dependence on the paratransit service. At the completion of this two-year program, approximately 600 people with disabilities will have been trained to safely use fixed-route public transportation relieving their dependence on paratransit, which could result in future savings

to Metro.

**FUNDING IMPACT:**

Program:	FY 2010 Reimbursables
Project:	Regional Travel Training Initiative
Budget:	\$ 1,234,464
This Action:	\$ 1,234,464
Prior Approval:	N/A
Remaining Budget:	\$ 0
Remarks:	Two-year reimbursable project funded through JARC and New Freedom Grants in the amount of \$1,234,464 (\$ 987,571 of which is reimbursable). The required 20% local match will be funded using a combination of in-kind (non-cash contributions of \$161,893) with the remaining \$85,000 in matching funds coming from the Department of Access Services FY 2010 Operating Budget (Services - Other; line item budgeted in the amount of \$840,00). No additional local funding is required from the jurisdictions.
Operating Budget Impact:	One time contribution of \$85,000 will be drawn from the Department of Access Services FY 2010 Operating Budget (Services - Other). There are no additional future funding requirements.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approval to establish a reimbursable capital project (JARC and New Freedom Grants) and initiate and award four contracts for the Regional Travel Training Initiative to each of the Centers for Independent Living in Maryland, Virginia and D.C. and the Inclusion Research Institute.



**WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

# Regional Travel Training Initiative

*Presented to the Board of Directors:*

Finance, Administration and Oversight Committee

November 5, 2009



## BACKGROUND

- Metro awarded \$1.2M in grants in June under Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom programs
- Will fund a two-year regional travel training initiative in cooperation with three Centers for Independent Living (CILs) in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia, and the Inclusion Research Institute
- Landmark private-public partnership will focus on fostering greater use of accessible fixed-route public transportation



## PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

- Funding will provide two full-time travel trainers to each of the three CILs:
  - ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia
  - DC Center for Independent Living
  - Independence Now of Maryland
- Focus on travel training to employment and job-related activities
  - includes partnerships with vocational rehabilitation agencies in all three jurisdictions
- Evaluation process includes assessment tools and pre/post travel training surveys to be developed by the Inclusion Research Institute



## BENEFITS TO CUSTOMERS

- Encourages greater use of bus and rail by customers with disabilities
- Provides greater travel options and independence
- Proactive measure that will assist in offsetting demand by making customers less dependent on paratransit services





## BENEFITS TO METRO

- Expands upon the current Metro travel training program
- Trains up to 600 people with disabilities to use fixed-route public transit safely
- Promotes greater use of accessible Metrobus and Metrorail
- Establishes best practices through a strong evaluation component



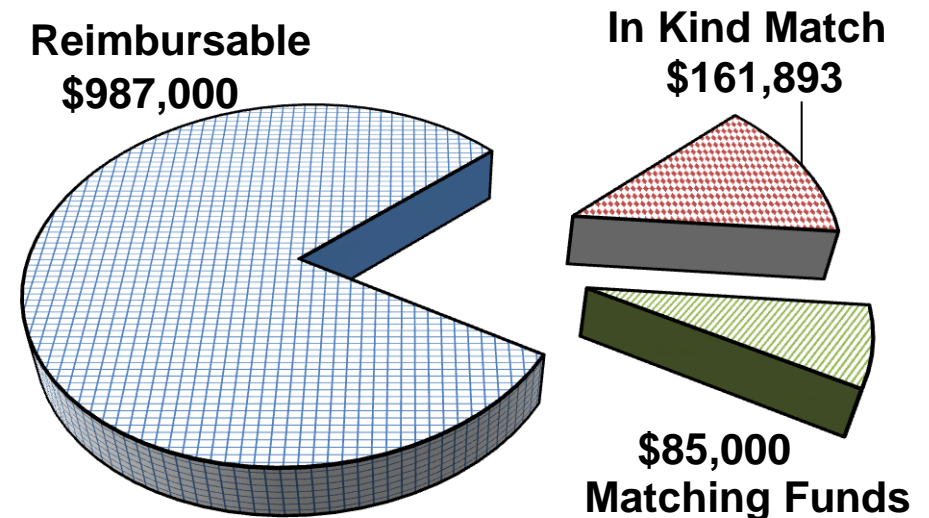




## FUNDING IMPACT

- Reimbursable project requires Budget Amendment
- Majority of matching funds are In Kind
- Remaining match of \$85,000 from Access Services FY 2010 Operating Budget
- No additional local funding required
- No additional future funding requirements

**Grant Funding: \$1.2M**





## RECOMMENDATION

- Amend FY 2010 Budget in the amount of \$ 1,234,464 and establish a reimbursable project entitled “Regional Travel Training Initiative”
- Authorization to initiate and award four contracts for the Regional Travel Training Initiative
- Approve the reimbursable project and budget for the Regional Travel Training Initiative



**SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2010 REIMBURSEABLE PROJECTS BUDGET AND ESTABLISH REGIONAL TRAVEL TRAINING PROJECT AND BUDGET**

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

WHEREAS, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority was recently awarded grants under the Job Action Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom Programs to fund a two-year Regional Travel Training Initiative in cooperation with Centers for Independent Living (CIL) in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, a Budget amendment to the FY 2010 Reimbursable Projects Budget will be required to establish a reimbursable project entitled "Regional Travel Training Initiative" to fund this project; now, therefore be it

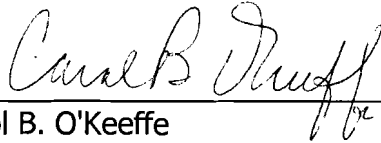
*RESOLVED*, That the FY 2010 Reimbursable Projects Budget be amended from \$34.707M to \$35.941M; and be it further

*RESOLVED*, That authorization is granted to initiate and award four contracts for the Regional Travel Training Initiative; and be it further

*RESOLVED*, That the project for the Regional Travel Training Initiative is approved and a \$1,234,464 project budget is approved; and finally

*RESOLVED*, That this Resolution shall be effective immediately.

Reviewed as to form and legal sufficiency,



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Carol B. O'Keeffe  
General Counsel

PROPOSED