



Planning and Development Committee

Board Information Item IV-A

November 16, 2006

Findings of Bus Network Evaluation

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

<input type="checkbox"/> Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information	MEAD Number:	Resolution: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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PURPOSE

To update the Planning and Development Committee on the Bus Network Evaluation recommendation concerning expansion bus acquisition.

DESCRIPTION

In November 2004, the WMATA Board signed the Metro Matters Funding Agreement (MMFA). The agreement funds the purchase of 185 expansion buses. The MMFA stipulates that before WMATA purchases the 51st bus it must conduct a network evaluation to validate the need for all 185 Metro Matters expansion buses.

In 2001, WMATA completed the Regional Bus Study, which included the first Comprehensive Operations Analysis in the history of the agency. The Regional Bus Study identified a number of markets in which WMATA should initiate or improve service. It also identified markets best served by local jurisdictional services.

For the Bus Network Evaluation, WMATA and jurisdictional staff, evaluated the need and efficiency of existing service and the continued relevance of the Regional Bus Study recommendations. It also identified services which WMATA and jurisdictional staff felt may shift from WMATA to local operations and vice versa. Finally, WMATA and jurisdictional staff worked together to identify any new service needs that have developed since the Regional Bus Study was completed.

The Bus Network Evaluation validates the need to purchase 185 buses to maintain existing service levels and expand service to meet ridership demand and local project planning. In December 2006, WMATA will finalize the Bus Network Evaluation report. In January 2007, WMATA staff will recommend that the Board accept the findings of the Bus Network Evaluation and authorize the purchase of 135 (in addition to other 50 MMFA expansion buses) expansion buses as part of the Multi-Year Bus Procurement. WMATA will not actually

purchase the buses until the Board approves each annual bus procurement and associated annual service costs.

FUNDING IMPACT

No impact on funding at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

There is no recommended action associated with this item.



Bus Network Evaluation

Presented to the Board of Directors:

Planning and Development Committee

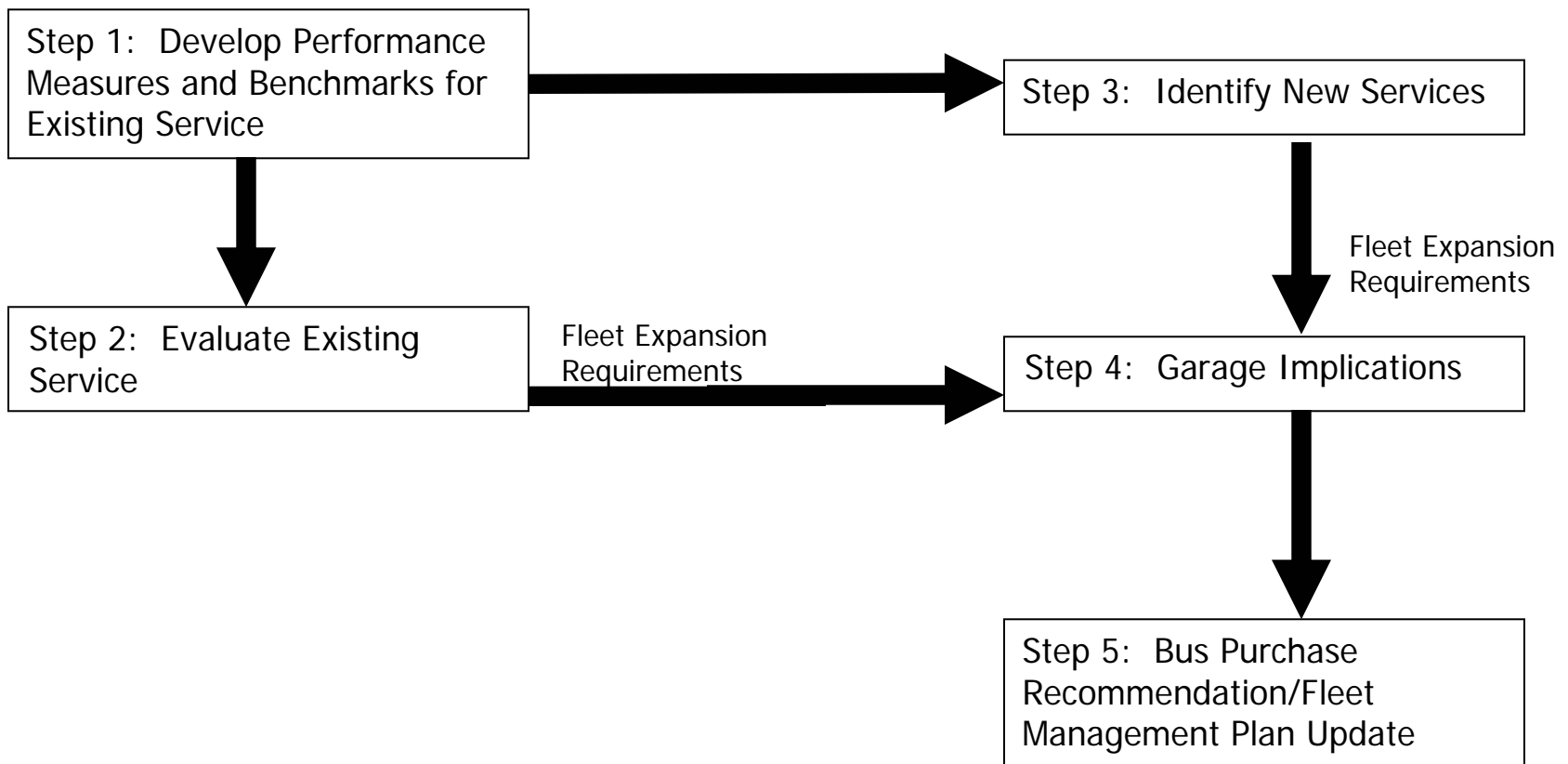
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Study Approach

- Study Participants
 - Operations Planning
 - Business Planning
 - Bus Service
 - Jurisdictional Coordinating Committee



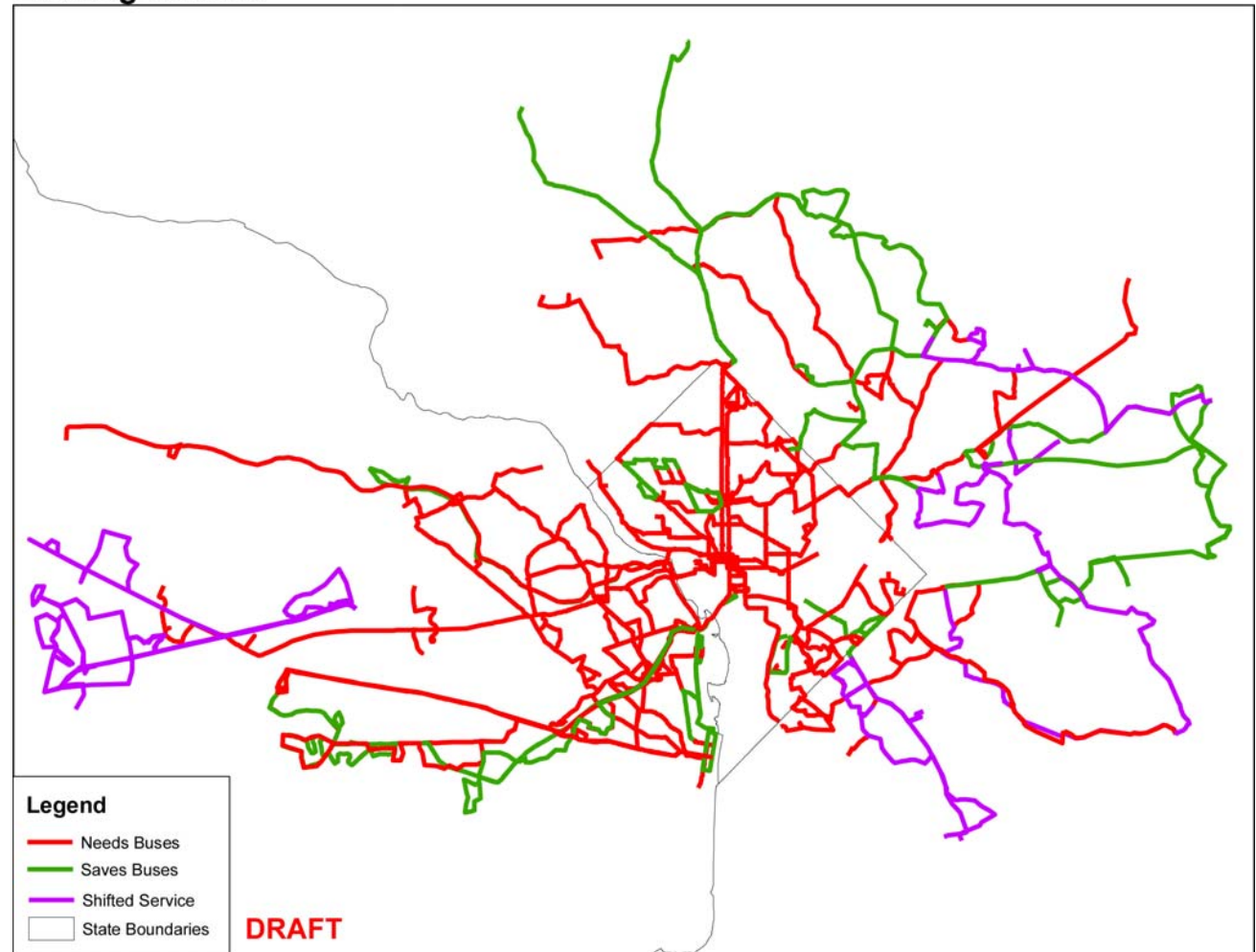


Existing Service Needs

Potential bus savings and costs

- Adds Buses
 - Increase frequency and reduce crowding
 - Address run time and reliability
 - Route extensions for improved connections
- Saves Buses
 - Eliminate unproductive services
 - Eliminate duplication/inefficiency through restructuring
 - Shift service to local jurisdiction

Existing Service

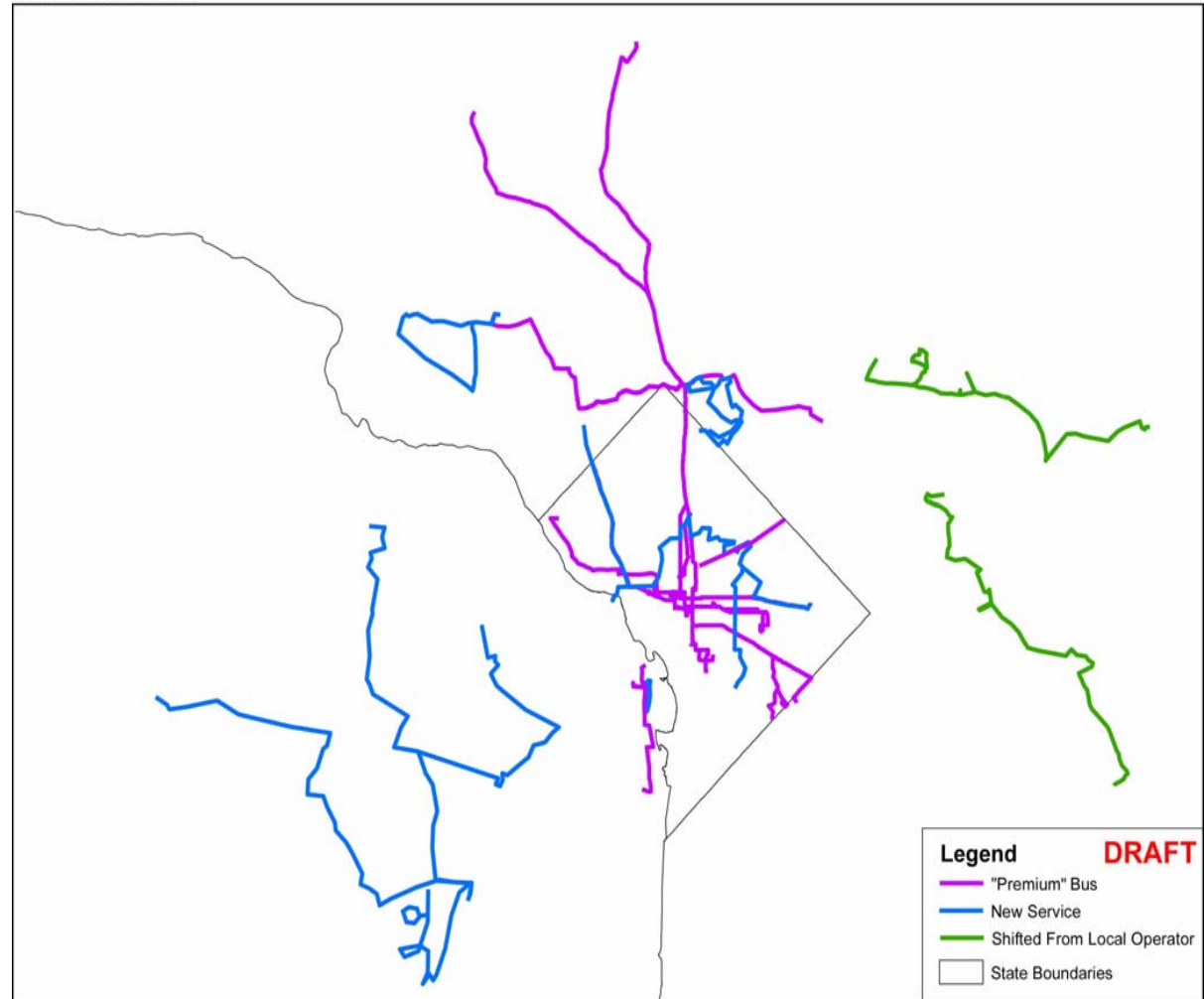




New Service Needs

- "Premium" Bus Services
- Other Regional Bus Study recommendations
- Additional jurisdiction-identified needs (since Regional Bus Study)

New Service





Metrobus Fleet Requirements

Jurisdiction	Current Bus Assignments	Added Buses (2007 – 2011)	Total Buses (2011)	Added Annual Operating Cost (000)	Added Annual Riders (000)	Buses Shifted to Local Operators
District	663	95	758	\$33,365	5,490	0
Virginia	385	53	438	\$16,920	7,294	23
Maryland	454	37	491	\$13,654	3,340	11
Total	1502	185	1687	\$63,939	16,124	34



Garage Capacity Issues

VA

	Spaces Available	Spaces Used
Current Capacity	14	
West Ox Road	100	
Service Shifted to VA	23	
Currently Available	137	
Network Evaluation Needs		52
Replace Arlington		86
Anticipated Need		138
<i>Projected Bus Storage Spaces 2011</i>		<i>Need 1</i>

- Assumes the retention/replacement of Royal Street
- Desired closure of Royal would depend on replacement

DC

	Spaces Available	Spaces Used
Current Available Capacity	28	
Network Evaluation Needs		95
<i>Projected Bus Storage Spaces 2011</i>		<i>Need 67</i>

- Closure of Southeastern would increase the storage need to 176 buses

There are no bus garage capacity issues in Maryland



Next Steps

- Prepare comprehensive strategy for garage expansion
- Prepare fleet management plan update
- Develop plan for phased implementation of new services

