

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Board Action/Information Summary

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Action <input type="radio"/> Information	MEAD Number: 100536	Resolution: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
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TITLE:

Route Q2 Veirs Mill Road Line Restructuring

PURPOSE:

To request Board approval of the staff report and recommendations on the proposed restructuring of regional Metrobus Route Q2 Veirs Mill Road Line.

DESCRIPTION:

Metro, in partnership with Montgomery County and the Maryland Department of Transportation, has been studying ways of improving transit service in the Veirs Mill Road Corridor. Current Q2 line service runs from the Silver Spring Metrorail station to the Shady Grove Metrorail station.

The Q2 line is one of the highest ridership Metrobus lines in the Washington metropolitan area with 10,200 daily riders. The line connects some of Montgomery County's highest density residential and commercial neighborhoods including the central business districts of Silver Spring, Wheaton, and Rockville; and the Metrorail stations at Silver Spring, Forest Glen, Wheaton, Rockville, and Shady Grove. However, because of its popularity and heavy traffic along its route, the line suffers from frequent overcrowding and poor schedule adherence.

Following extensive public involvement, the study has developed many short-term and long-term recommendations for improvements to service, operations, stops and facilities, customer information, safety and security, traffic operations and management, vehicles and vehicle assignments, and fare collection. The recommended changes to routes and service, which were the main subject of public hearings, are described below:

- Split current Q2 route into two routes: Route Q4 will provide service between Rockville and Silver Spring; and Route Q6 will provide service between Shady Grove and Wheaton.
- Routes Q4 and Q6 will provide overlapping service along Veirs Mill Road, between Wheaton and Rockville Metrorail Stations and will operate as the all-day, base service.

- Service levels will focus on improved frequencies along the higher-demand Veirs Mill Road segment (Rockville to Wheaton) with 7.5-minute peak service and 15-minute off-peak service. Service will provide wider headways along the lower-demand Rockville Pike segment (Shady Grove to Rockville) and the well-served Georgia Avenue segment (Wheaton to Silver Spring) with 15-minute peak service and 30-minute off-peak service.

Metro staff will also:

- Explore a fare transfer mechanism for transfer between Metrorail at Wheaton and the new Q6 route which will mitigate the increased rail fare for travelers who would otherwise use the bus between Wheaton and Silver Spring.
- Work with Montgomery County to initiate a traffic engineering study to address: (1) modified approaches at Shady Grove, Rockville, and Wheaton Metrorail Stations; (2) construction of queue jumpers at six major intersections along the corridor; (3) implementation of a traffic signal priority system along the corridor; and (4) introduction of a bus-only lane along Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring.

FUNDING IMPACT:

Budget: **Operating Budget, Fiscal 2010**

Office: **Bus Planning (BPLN)**

This Action: **(\$125,000)**

Remarks: **This item is recommended as part of the Regional Metrobus Priority Corridor Network Program.**

Item	FY 2010 (6 mo)	FY 2011 (12 mo)	FY 2012 (12 mo)
	Jan 10 - Jun 10	Jul 10 - Jun 11	Jul 11 - Jun 12
Cost (Savings) to Convert Q2 to Q4 and Q6	(\$135,000)	(\$261,900)	(\$254,043)
Revenue from Ridership Increase	(\$30,000)	(\$60,000)	(\$61,800)
Net Cost (Savings)	(\$165,000)	(\$321,900)	(\$315,843)
Cost for one (1) Service Operations Manager	\$40,000	\$80,000	\$82,400
Total Net Cost (Savings)	(\$125,000)	(\$241,900)	(\$233,443)

DC (\$53,700)

Montgomery County (\$18,700)

Prince George`s County (\$20,700)

MD (\$39,400)

City of Alexandria (\$6,400)

Arlington County (\$9,800)

City of Fairfax (\$200)

Fairfax County	(\$15,100)
City of Falls Church	(\$500)
VA	(\$32,000)
TOTAL	(\$125,000)

Cost of one (1) Service Operations Manager (SOM) is incorporated into totals above.

If approved by the Board, the changes to the Q2 Line would be implemented in December 2009.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the staff report and recommendation to implement the proposed restructuring of regional Metrobus Route Q2 - Veirs Mill Road Line described in Docket No. B09-5, effective December 27, 2009.

Amend the FY2010 Budget to add one Service Operations Manager (SOM) at a six-month cost of \$40,000.

Amend the FY2010 operating budget to reduce expenditures and the jurisdictional contribution by \$125,000.

SUBJECT: REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF THE STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE PROPOSED RESTRUCTURING OF REGIONAL METROBUS ROUTE Q2 IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

2009-71

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

WHEREAS, The Q2 Line is one of the highest ridership Metrobus lines in the Metro system with approximately 10,200 weekday riders. The line connects some of Montgomery County's highest density residential and commercial neighborhoods including Silver Spring, Wheaton, and Rockville; and

WHEREAS, The Q2 Line has long suffered from continuing performance-related issues including on-time adherence, traffic congestion and passenger crowding; and

WHEREAS, In Winter/Spring 2009, Metro, in partnership with Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Montgomery County DOT, studied ways of improving transit service in the Veirs Mill Road Corridor; and

WHEREAS, This study process included substantial public input and participation in developing recommendations to respond to consumer needs, maximization of resources, and enhancement of line effectiveness and performance; and

WHEREAS, Staff worked with Montgomery County DOT and MDOT to prepare recommendations for implementing an integrated, comprehensive and coordinated strategy of operational and service enhancements; and

WHEREAS, The study recommendations were incorporated into the proposed restructuring of the Q2 Line contained in Docket No. B09-5; and

WHEREAS, Two witnesses testified at the public hearings and one person submitted written testimony for the record; and

WHEREAS, Staff has reviewed the public hearing testimony, which included statements in support of the proposals; and

WHEREAS, Staff further recommends that one additional street supervisor be assigned to oversee the recommended routes; now, therefore be it

Motioned by Mr. Benjamin, seconded by Mrs. Hudgins

Ayes: 6 - Mr. Graham, Mr. Benjamin, Mrs. Hudgins, Mr. Albert, Ms. Hewlett and Mr. Zimmerman

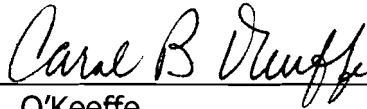
RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors approves the Staff Report and Recommendation to implement the proposed restructuring of regional Metrobus Route Q2 – Veirs Mill Road Line described in Docket No. B09-5, for implementation on December 27, 2009; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Fiscal Year 2010 operating budget be decreased by \$125,000 from \$1,374,299,131 to \$1,374,174,131 and that the authorized headcount be increased by 1.0 from 10,854 to 10,855; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Fiscal Year 2010 net operating subsidy is reduced by \$125,000 from \$546,512,177 to \$546,387,177; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That this Resolution shall be effective immediately.

Reviewed as to form and legal sufficiency,



Carol B. O'Keeffe
General Counsel

Route	Proposed Service Change
Q2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Split current Q2 route into two routes: Route Q4 will provide service between Rockville and Silver Spring; and Route Q6 will provide service between Shady Grove and Wheaton.• Routes Q4 and Q6 will provide overlapping service along Veirs Mill Road, between Wheaton and Rockville Metrorail Stations, and will operate as the all-day, base service.• Remove 50% of current Q2 service from Georgia Avenue, between Silver Spring Station and Wheaton Station.• Remove 20% of current Q2 service from Rockville Pike, between Rockville Station and Shady Grove Station.