

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Board Action/Information Summary

☐ Action ☒ Information

MEAD Number:
203451

Resolution:
☐ Yes ☒ No

TITLE:

Zero-Emission Bus Goals

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

Metro's Zero-Emission Bus Transition Plan provides a pathway to achieve Metro's zero-emission goals for Metrobus. As discussed at the March 23, 2023 Safety and Operations Committee meeting, Metro is accelerating its transition, enabling the Authority to meet its goals sooner than anticipated. Adopting these accelerated timelines as revised goals supports Metro's efforts.

PURPOSE:

To request Board adoption of revised zero-emission bus goals, accelerating the transition to a 100% zero-emission bus fleet from 2045 to 2042, and accelerating 100% zero-emission bus purchases from 2030 to 2027.

DESCRIPTION:

For conflict-of-interest purposes, please note the following vendors associated with the Zero-Emission Bus Program: **WSP, Foursquare Integrated Transportation Planning, KLT Group, Capitol GCS, Equitable Cities, AECOM, Omni Strategies, Center for Transportation and the Environment, New Flyer, Nova, Rosendin, Clark, Gannett Fleming, STV, Wendel, Coffman, Hensel Phelps, Mona Electric, Stantec, S-E-A.**

Key Highlights:

- Metro is already advancing the zero emission bus transition, including designing and constructing facilities to support zero-emission buses, procuring zero-emission buses, and coordinating with utilities and regional transit partners.
- Metro's Zero-Emission Bus Transition Plan provides a baseline framework and strategy to convert Metro's fleet and facilities to 100% zero-emission buses by 2042.

Background and History:

In June 2021, the Board-adopted zero-emission bus goals that include the purchase of only lower-emission and electric buses in the next procurement and a transition to 100% zero-emission bus purchases by 2030, leading to a 100% zero-emission bus fleet by 2045. In December 2021, Metro updated the Metrobus Fleet Management Plan to account for the transition to zero-emission buses.

In December 2021, Metro initiated the development of the Zero-Emission Bus Transition Plan to provide a baseline strategy and framework to convert the entire bus fleet to zero-emissions in support of the Board-adopted goals. In March 2023, Metro presented to the Board some of its key findings presented in the Zero-Emission Bus Transition Plan. Among these include an initial proposed timeline and phasing to make bus divisions ready to support zero-emission buses. As the rapidly evolving zero-emission technologies and markets continue to develop and as Metro's service needs evolve, Metro anticipates updating the Transition Plan in the future.

Discussion:

Metro is already advancing zero-emission bus activities. Metro ordered its first twelve battery-electric buses for deployment from Shepherd Parkway Bus Division and is undergoing work to make several facilities – Northern, Bladensburg, Western, and Cinder Bed Road – ready to support zero-emission buses. Coordination across Metro and with external partners is underway to support a successful transition.

The Zero-Emission Bus Transition Plan provides a roadmap for the processes, investments, and activities to transition Metro's fleet, facilities, and workforce to support the transition to a fully zero-emission Metrobus fleet. The Transition Plan supports reliable and safe service, integrates equity, and controls the costs of conversion. In the Plan, Metro presents a proposed pathway for converting the fleet and facilities to support a fully zero-emission bus fleet by 2042 – three years ahead of the Board-adopted goal.

Based on this proposed pathway, staff requests revising the current zero-emission bus goals as shown in bold to reflect an acceleration in the transition by three years:

- Purchase only lower-emission and electric buses in the next bus procurement
- Transition to 100% zero-emission bus purchases by **2027**
- Transition to a 100% zero-emission bus fleet by **2042**

The accelerated goals can deliver emissions benefits to the region sooner. Metrobus is inherently sustainable – every trip taken on Metrobus reduces emissions. Zero-emission buses further reduce emissions, providing climate benefits and improving local air quality.

Revising Metro's zero-emission bus goals provides the organization with a goal to work towards as it coordinates the many workforce, vehicle, and facilities activities, and engages with external partners.

FUNDING IMPACT:

There is no immediate funding impact from this action. Initial funding for the zero-emission bus transition is included in the FY2024-2029 Capital Improvement Program. Additional funding requirements will be included in future Capital Improvement Programs as they are presented to the Board.

TIMELINE:

Previous Actions	June 2021 – Sustainability Vision and Principles and Metrobus Fleet Plan December 2021 – Approval of Metrorail and Metrobus Fleet Plans and Metrorail Service Standards April 2022 – Sustainability and Zero-Emission Bus Update March 2023 – Zero-Emission Bus Transition Update March 2023 – Zero-Emission Bus Transition Plan
Anticipated actions after presentation	Fall 2023 – Update Metrobus Fleet Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the accelerated zero-emission bus goals.

Presented and Adopted: April 27, 2023

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF UPDATED ZERO-EMISSION BUS GOALS

2023-15

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

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Compact Section 9(b), and Bylaws, Article II.1, the Board of Directors is primarily responsible for policy, financial direction, oversight, and WMATA's relationships with its customers, jurisdictional partners, and signatories; and

WHEREAS, In furtherance of WMATA's long-standing commitment to enhancing the sustainability of the Washington Metropolitan Area, on June 23, 2021, the Board adopted certain zero-emission bus goals (Res. 2021-23); and

WHEREAS, The Board wishes to accelerate WMATA's zero-emission bus goals consistent with advancing the environmental sustainability objectives established in Metro's strategic plan, *Your Metro, the Way Forward*;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, That the zero-emission bus goals adopted in the second resolved clause of Resolution 2021-23 are rescinded in their entirety; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors adopts the following zero-emission bus goals: (1) purchase only lower-emission and electric buses in the next bus procurement; (2) transition to 100% zero-emission bus purchases by 2027; and (3) transition to a 100% zero-emission bus fleet by 2042; and be it finally

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

Reviewed as to form and legal sufficiency,



Patricia Y. Lee
Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer and
General Counsel

WMATA File Structure No.:
6.6.7. Bus Fleet Planning & Acquisition

Motioned by Mr. Smedberg, seconded by Dr. Loh

Ayes: 8- Mr. Smedberg, Ms. Babers, Mr. Drummer, Ms. Kline, Mr. Letourneau, Dr. Loh, Mr. McAndrew and Ms. Martin-Proctor