



Customer Service and Operations Committee

Board Information Item III-C

December 1, 2011

Metro Snow Plan

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit 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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TITLE:

Metro Snow Plan

PURPOSE:

Update Committee on the Metro Snow Plan.

DESCRIPTION:

Metro faces many challenges and lessons learned with removal of snow. Challenges include: clearing snow and ice from the 3rd rail in yards and on mainline tracks and passable roads for buses and MetroAccess. Through lessons learned Metro has revised severe winter weather plan, purchased snow removal supplies and prioritized rail and road clearance for operations.

The plan has four primary event phases:

1. Alert: 12 to 24 hours
2. Readiness: 8 hours prior
3. Operations: start of storm
4. Recovery: after snow
 - a. return service to normal
 - b. after service is normal – repair, replace, restore and after action

FUNDING IMPACT:

Varies depending on magnitude of severe weather

RECOMMENDATION:

None



Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Severe Winter Weather Plan and Service Level Expectations

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Challenges and Lessons Learned

Challenges

- Clearing snow and ice from the 3rd rail in yards and on mainline tracks
- Passable roads for buses and MetroAccess



Lessons Learned

- Revised Severe Winter Weather Plan
- Purchased snow removal supplies
- Prioritized rail and road clearance for operations





Severe Winter Weather Plan

Event Phases

- Alert: 12 – 24 hours
- Readiness: 8 hours prior
- Operations: start of storm
- Recovery:
 - After snow – return service to normal
 - After service is normal – repair, replace, restore, and after action





Preparedness

- Closely monitor weather
- Notify staff of readiness level which guides preparation activities
- Stage equipment and employees prior to storm
- Activate the Emergency Operations Center
- Participate in regional calls
- Modify and communicate service levels as weather conditions change and impact transit service





WMATA Service Level 1

Weather condition: 0" to 1" of snow or light collection of snow on surfaces

Bus Service	Rail Service
Normal schedule operating as roads and traffic permits	Normally scheduled service



WMATA Service Level 2

Weather condition: 1" to 2" of snow

Bus Service	Rail Service
Normal schedule operating as roads and traffic permits, expect some deviation and reroutes	Normally scheduled service with some minor delays



WMATA Service Level 3

Weather condition: 2" to 4" of snow

Bus Service	Rail Service
<p>Transition from scheduled service to core service levels. Service maintained on heavily traveled routes maintained at approximately 15 minute headways, detours expected as in level 2. Retreat service from outlying suburbs and hilly areas begins as buses become challenged.</p>	<p>Maintain fleet size as scheduled. Increase headways, meaning longer waits between trains. Expect minor delays</p>



WMATA Service Level 4

Weather condition: 4" to 8" of snow

Bus Service	Rail Service
Retreat. Transition to lifeline service levels. Approximately 30 minute headways offered as conditions permit.	Snow plows and ice scraper consists operating between trains. Expect up to 15 minute delays.



WMATA Service Level 5 (contingency)

Weather condition: > 8" of snow

Bus Service	Rail Service
Skeleton service, buses available only on busiest routes and only as conditions permit	Limited above ground service



WMATA Service Level 6 (contingency)

Weather condition: > 10" of snow

Bus Service	Rail Service
SAME AS LEVEL 5 - Skeleton service, buses available only on busiest routes and only as conditions permit	Operate underground. If Yellow Line bridge remains open, this routing will be implemented



Recovery

As tracks and roads are cleared, Metro will re-establish service based on improved surface conditions

