

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

Action  
 Information

MEAD Number:

Resolution:  
 Yes  No

**PURPOSE**

Approval of the existing "Free Rides" program for Montgomery County seniors and persons with disabilities to Metrobuses operating in Montgomery County to all days and times.

**DESCRIPTION**

Effective October 1, 2006, with funding provided by Montgomery County, WMATA instituted free rides for seniors and persons with disabilities on weekdays between 9:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. in the County. This free ride program was implemented to complement a similar free ride program offered by Montgomery County Ride On, which provides service in many of the same corridors as Metrobus.

Effective January 1, 2008, the Montgomery County Ride On will provide free rides to seniors and persons with disabilities all day and all week. The County has requested that the similar free ride program on Metrobus also be expanded to match the County's local service. Staff has reviewed the request and determined that this can be accomplished.

**FUNDING IMPACT**

Montgomery County has agreed, as provided in the Authority Compact (Article XVI, Section 79), to make equitable payments of \$220,000 during FY08 to replace the loss in revenue.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Approval of the buydown of fares in accordance with the Authority Compact to provide for the expansion of the existing "Free Rides" program for Montgomery County seniors and persons with disabilities to Metrobuses operating in Montgomery County to all days and times.

PRESENTED AND ADOPTED:  
SUBJECT: APPROVAL TO EXPAND FREE METROBUS SERVICE IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
FOR SENIORS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TO BE EVERY DAY WITHOUT TIME  
RESTRICTIONS

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

WHEREAS, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, with funding from Montgomery County and per Board Resolution 2006-49, currently provides free Metrobus service on weekdays, between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., for seniors and persons with disabilities in Montgomery County; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority has been asked by Montgomery County to expand this free Metrobus service to provide unlimited access to Metrobus transit for seniors and persons with disabilities throughout the day and week; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County will provide replacement of any lost revenues associated with the adoption of this free service consistent with Section 79 of the Compact; and

WHEREAS, this change can be executed in a timely fashion; now, therefore, be it

*RESOLVED*, That the Authority is directed to implement free Metrobus service within Montgomery County at all times for seniors and persons with disabilities as requested by Montgomery County, effective January 1, 2008; and be it further

*RESOLVED*, That this policy will remain in effect as long as Montgomery County continues to replace the lost revenues associated with the policy; 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