



Accessibility Advisory Committee

600 Fifth Street NW
Washington, DC 20001
202-962-6060

January 3, 2017

Dear Chair Evans and Members of the Board,

It is my pleasure to present you with the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) report for the month of December 2016. The primary issue we reviewed was Metro's proposed FY2018 Budget.

Issue of the Month

Metro FY2018 Budget

Dennis Anosike, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), provided a financial briefing on Metro's fiscal year 2018 (FY18) budget. Metro's proposed FY18 budget is designed to address three major areas: 1) reliability, 2) safety, and 3) fiscal responsibility. To meet these commitments, Metro is considering a plan that reduces service levels and hours; increases fares across the three modes of the service; increases parking fees; reduces staff by 1,000 positions; and requires additional funding from the jurisdictions. Together, these actions are expected to aid in balancing the budget.

Although there has been a decline in ridership on the fixed route system, the ridership on the paratransit system has been stable even though on time performance has dropped to 80% during its latest downward trend. The AAC recognizes that these are tough times that will require a shared sacrifice for all stakeholders, but many customers including those with disabilities will not be happy with increases in fares for Metro services. The AAC is particularly concerned with the impact increased fares will have on MetroAccess customers, since MetroAccess fares are currently calculated at 2X fastest fixed route; previously the AAC recommended to Metro several possible approaches that would fairly calculate fares for MetroAccess customers. These include using 2X the bus fare, reducing the multiplier from 2X, or reducing the maximum fare. The MetroAccess customer community wants to contribute to solving the systems financial issues in a fair manner by joining Bus/Rail riders in an equitable fare increase.

The AAC is pleased that the FY18 budget has been developed to continually provide appropriate resources for lighting improvements, acquisition of additional MetroAccess vehicles, accessible low-floor buses, and new 7000-series rail cars. Also, Metro will maintain the cap of \$6.50 on MetroAccess fares and retain the Free Ride Benefit. The AAC believes that this benefit provides MetroAccess customers a strong incentive to use Metro's fixed route system instead of the higher cost paratransit service.

The AAC is recommending that more financial support be directed to training in the proposed FY18 budget. Given ongoing safety issues and SafeTrack adjustments, sensitivity training for working with customers with disabilities and senior citizens is extremely important. The AAC believes that increasing financial resources devoted to

training will help improve the travel experiences of all customers, including those with disabilities.

2017 AAC Calendar

The AAC extends an invitation to all Board members to attend any of the AAC's monthly meetings. All meetings take place at Metro's headquarters in the Lobby Level Meeting Room. The meeting schedule for 2017 is below.

2017

January 3, 2017- 5:30-7:30 PM*

March 6, 2017 - 5:30-7:30 PM

May 1, 2017 - 5:30-7:30 PM

July 3, 2017 - 5:30-7:30 PM

September 5, 2017 - 5:30-7:30 PM*

November 6, 2017 - 5:30-7:30 PM

February 6, 2017 - 5:30-7:30 PM

April 3, 2017 - 5:30-7:30 PM

June 5, 2017 - 5:30-7:30 PM

August – No Meeting

October 2, 2017 - 5:30-7:30 PM

December 4, 2017 - 5:30-7:30 PM

Sincerely,



Patrick Sheehan
Chair