

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

# Board Action/Information Summary

☒ Action ☐ Information

MEAD Number:  
202122

Resolution:  
☒ Yes ☐ No

## TITLE:

Amend the FY2020 Budget

## PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

Amendment of the FY2020 Operating Budget to create a \$1 million contingency fund to support additional operations for Metrorail to accommodate major events of regional significance.

## PURPOSE:

Board approval is requested to amend the FY 2020 Operating Budget to create a \$1 million contingency fund to support additional operating hours on Metrorail for major events of regional significance, as well as delegate authority to the GM/CEO to declare "major events of regional significance" to extend hours as necessary in the interest of public safety.

## DESCRIPTION:

### Key Highlights:

- Establishes \$1 million contingency fund to support events of regional significance
- Fund would be outside the 3 percent cap on annual operating subsidy growth
- GM/CEO may declare "major events of regional significance" to extend hours as necessary in the interest of public safety

### Background and History:

The DC region is home to several professional sports franchises, including: Washington Redskins (National Football League), Washington Nationals (Major League Baseball), Washington Wizards (National Basketball Association), Washington Mystics (Women's National Basketball Association), Washington Capitals (National Hockey League), and DC United (Major League Soccer).

These teams from time to time host post-season games that generate enhanced interest from the public, and consequently generate increased traffic on Metrorail, often during late-night hours after normal daily service has concluded. Demand for additional transit services during these times is not part of WMATA's FY2020 Operating Budget and falls outside of the mandated 3 percent cap on annual operating subsidy growth.

### Discussion:

In October 2019, to address the immediate need that arose as a result of two professional sports teams advancing to championship playoff games, the General Manager, in consultation with the Board Chairman, put in place a service plan that would also be used for future similar events. WMATA will provide extended service and remain open 20 minutes after any post-season game or major event that is in progress 20 minutes prior to Metrorail's scheduled closing time. During the

extended service period, customers may enter only at the designated station(s) closest to the event; with all other stations remaining open for “exit only.”

GM/CEO may declare “major events of regional significance” to extend hours as necessary in the interest of public safety. At the GM/CEO’s discretion, WMATA may set reasonable “cut off time” for any extended service to comply with applicable safety rules (e.g. hours of service restrictions) or operational considerations.

WMATA estimates that a \$1 million contingency fund is needed to support this enhanced service in FY2020. Consistent with recent Dedicated Funding legislation, funding for this initiative will be above the mandated 3 percent cap on annual operating subsidy growth, as it involves additional service. Furthermore, given broader demands for transit services (large scale first amendment events, inaugurations, papal visits, etc.) that support public safety, security, and the reputation of the national capital region beyond sporting events, management will request a permanent contingency of about \$3 to \$5 million in the GM/CEO’s FY2021 Budget proposal.

#### **FUNDING IMPACT:**

Additional \$1,000,000 funding above the 3 percent cap on annual operating subsidy growth to pay for extended Metrorail service hours.

#### **TIMELINE:**

<b>Previous Actions</b>	March 28, 2019 - Board of Directors adopted WMATA's FY2020 Budget
	October 1, 2019 - Metrorail offered extended service hours to accommodate the Wildcard Playoff Game between the Washington Nationals and Milwaukee Brewers
<b>Anticipated Actions After Presentation</b>	October 10, 2019 - Amendment to the FY2020 Operating Budget to establish a contingency fund for regional events

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the creation of a contingency fund for major events of regional significance and delegate authority to the GM/CEO to declare "major events of regional significance" to extend hours as necessary in the interest of public safety.

SUBJECT: AMEND FISCAL YEAR 2020 OPERATING BUDGET TO CREATE A CONTINGENCY FUND FOR ADDITIONAL METRORAIL SERVICE FOR MAJOR EVENTS OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

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

WHEREAS, Resolution 2011-30 requires Board approval to adjust the total operating budget; and

WHEREAS, WMATA wishes to establish a \$1 million contingency fund to cover the unexpected costs of additional Metrorail service for major events of regional significance;


NOW, THEREFORE, be it

*RESOLVED*, That the fiscal year 2020 operating budget is increased by \$1 million to create a contingency fund to be funded by the jurisdictions in accordance with the operating subsidy allocation formula; and be it further

*RESOLVED*, That the General Manager and Chief Executive Officer is authorized to determine which major events of regional significance will receive additional Metrorail service; and be it finally

*RESOLVED*, That to address certain events of regional significance occurring within the next week, this Resolution shall be effective immediately.

Reviewed as to form and legal sufficiency,

  
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Patricia Y. Lee  
General Counsel