



Accessibility Advisory Committee

600 Fifth Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

June 6, 2022

Dear Chair Smedberg, and Members of the Board,

It is my pleasure to present you with the AAC report for the month of May 2022. The primary issues we reviewed were: 1) MetroAccess Face-Mask Policy - Update, 2) Bus Fare-Box - Update, and 3) Metrobus Service Changes.

Issues of the Month

MetroAccess Face-Mask Policy Update:

Christiaan Blake, Managing Director, Access Services, informed that the face mask mandate has been removed from all Metro services. Mr. Blake further stated that MetroAccess continues to encourage customers and drivers to wear face masks for their own protection. Mr. Blake reminded all that MetroAccess would also continue to emphasize ventilation in vehicles.

The AAC understands that WMATA is abiding by the Federal Laws and hopes the encouragement of wearing a face mask is followed by the customers.

Bus Farebox - Update:

Samuel Scheib, Project Manager, Capital Funding, provided an update about Metrobus Farebox, which was recently tested by the AAC members. Mr. Scheib recapped the AAC coordinating events, a two-stage AAC input and comment process. On July 9, 2021, the initial physical design and the location was tested on a non-operable equipment. On May 5, 2022, the Committee tested a powered, partially - functional farebox and reader (validator). This work complemented the guidance and input from WMATA's Office of ADA Policy and Planning. He discussed the completed recommendations and improvements and displayed the completed ADA improvements on the farebox as well as the reader. Mr. Scheib played the audio tones for various sounds of the farebox. Mr. Scheib also shared the next steps and timeline, with installation on Metrobuses expected to be completed by first quarter of 2024.

The AAC appreciated the opportunity of being able to test the Metrobus farebox to provide feedback.

Metrobus Service Changes:

Jim Hamre, Director, and Al Himes, Assistant Director, Bus Service Planning and Scheduling, informed about the upcoming Metrobus service changes. Mr. Hamre informed about the bus service changes effective Sunday, May 29, 2022, in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. The service continues as usual without major changes.

In most lines, there would be adjustments in running times as per the current traffic to increase timetable reliability. Some street names have been changed thus there will be corrections on those. Mr. Hamre stated the Saturday start times and in some instances the end times, will be filled for consistency with weekday times. Mr. Himes stated that most of the Saturday adjustments are taking place on the eastern side of the region due to imbalances in comparison to other parts of the region. He stated there are a few running-time adjustments to help improve reliability. Mr. Hamre stated routes D8 and G8 would resume regular routing and K9 MetroExtra limited-stop service would be restored.

The AAC was pleased to hear about the service changes as it seems to provide improved service for bus riders.

Sincerely,

Philip Posner
Chair