



## Accessibility Advisory Committee

300 7<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20024

October 3, 2022

Dear Chair Smedberg, and Members of the Board,

It is my pleasure to present you with the AAC report for the month of September 2022. The primary issues we reviewed were: 1) Board Chairman's Visit to the AAC, 2) Silver Line Phase II Presentation and Site-Visit, and 3) WMATA General Manager/CEO's Visit to the AAC.

### Issues of the Month

#### Board Chairman's Visit to the AAC:

Paul Smedberg, Board Chairman, visited the AAC on September 6<sup>th</sup>. It was an opportunity for the AAC to hear Mr. Smedberg's comments and provide feedback. Mr. Smedberg stated Randy Clarke, our new General Manager and Chief Executive Officer, has been dealing with a lot in the six weeks of his appointment. During the transition, Andy Off, Theresa Impastato, and others helped tremendously, and Mr. Smedberg took a moment to thank them all. Mr. Smedberg stated there is a strategic planning underway and everything will be on the table for the budget season, there would be some tough choices. Mr. Smedberg talked about the Bus Network Redesign project and encouraged the members to provide their feedback. He also talked about the 7000 rail cars returning to fleet, as well as the major Yellow line shutdown for safety reasons and the tremendous coordination for that project. In conclusion, Mr. Smedberg talked about the opening of Silver Line Phase II and how this region and tourists would benefit from this service.

The AAC appreciated the Board Chairman's visit to its meeting, sharing information, and receiving feedback of the Committee.

#### Silver Line Phase II Presentation and Site Visit:

Neil Nott, Director, Major Capital Projects, provided the project overview of Silver Line Phase II that includes six new Metrorail stations: Reston Town Center, Herndon, Innovation Center, Washington Dulles International Airport, Loudoun Gateway, and Ashburn. Mr. Nott shared information and features of each of the six stations as well as the Rail Yard. Five of the stations are like other all-grade stations on Silver Line Phase I, whereas, the Washington Dulles International Airport Station is unique. Mr. Nott described it and stated this station has no pedestrian bridges since the station mezzanine connects directly to below grade terminal access tunnel. The terminal access tunnel connects between terminal and north parking garage and airport employee Shuttle. This station has 54 feet height between mezzanine and aerial platform. The station has four traction elevators, stairs and escalators between platform and mezzanine. The fare gate array incorporates two accessible gates.

The AAC had an opportunity to visit two of the Silver Line Phase II stations. Six AAC members visited the stations and shared their feedback. Several things about the stations

were liked such as, restrooms accessible after the faregates, electric outlets with covers close to benches in the shelters, etc. Overall, they were all impressed by the new stations, particularly, the Washington Dulles International Airport (WDIA) Station, for it's very clean look and the subdued color theme, the four impressive elevators with plans to have two units at one level at any given time, elevators' automatic movement to the next level, and the art work.

General Manager/Chief Executive Officer's Visit to the AAC:

Randy Clarke, General Manager and Chief Executive Officer, joined the meeting with Brian Dwyer, Chief Operating Officer; Christiaan Blake, Managing Director, Access Services; Barbara Moulton, Communications and Marketing; Leroy Jones, Bus Operations; and Mike Hass, Rail Operations. Mr. Clarke thanked the AAC for a warm welcome. He wanted to ensure that WMATA Leadership was well represented from all members that really run the organization daily, running service for our customers. Mr. Clarke was at the meeting to meet and greet the members, receive feedback from the Committee as the members obviously care about the mission of this organization. Mr. Clarke emphasized that he is going to focus on customer interaction and provide the highest level of service from all aspects and provide the best service to all our customers. His focus is on providing the highest level of service on rail, bus, and MetroAccess.

Mr. Clarke stated our focus is critically on safe, frequent, reliable service. This is a great organization that is also safe. Mr. Clarke stated we have a fantastic Metrorail, Metrobus, and MetroAccess system for people to get around and that all customers are equal to us and they all need to have great service. Mr. Clarke talked about several important topics, i.e. re-opening of the five Orange Line stations, Potomac Yard Stations and the Blue/Yellow Line major construction, operating hours of customer service offices, return of the 7000 rail cars, Bus Network Redesign to help improve bus service in this region, increased safety and security, system fares and fare evasion. Mr. Clarke stated the ADA is a very important law and we want to be much more inclusive and holistic in the approach of accessibility. He wants to have a system where every person can use the system in a safe, enjoyable, easy to use way. Mr. Clarke stated Mr. Blake and Carol Peredo Lopez, Director, ADAP, have done a great job. He wants to fully support them and take it to even a higher level.

The AAC was excited and thrilled to hear the views and goals of Mr. Clarke. The AAC looks forward to continuing its advocacy on issues that are important to the disability community and help make the Metro the best accessible system from all aspects.

Sincerely,

Philip Posner  
Chair