

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Board Action/Information Summary

Action Information

MEAD Number:
201971

Resolution:
 Yes No

TITLE:

Public Hearing Metrobus W9 Elimination

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

No presentation - consent agenda

PURPOSE:

Staff is seeking Board approval to hold a public hearing to eliminate Metrobus route W9.

DESCRIPTION:

Metrobus route W9 provides peak-period service between L'Enfant Plaza Station and US Coast Guard Headquarters at the St. Elizabeth's Campus. The US Coast Guard is eliminating its subsidy for the service effective July 1, 2018. In accordance with Federal Transit Administration and Compact requirements, a public hearing and Title VI analysis must be conducted.

Key Highlights:

- US Coast Guard provides 100% of the approximately \$500,000 annual subsidy to operate this service, and a capital contribution of approximately \$125,000 per year to subsidize one additional bus that was added to the network to provide the service.
- Eliminating this service in coordination with the June 24, 2018 Metrobus Service adjustments will result in no reductions to other Metrobus service as a result of this change.
- Ridership on the W9 route is approximately 250 passengers per day, with almost all riders travelling to/from the US Coast Guard Headquarters.
- The demographics of the riders on this route fall well below systemwide averages in all categories, resulting in no additional mitigation requirements under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

Background and History:

In 2013, the US Coast Guard entered into a contract with WMATA to subsidize bus service enhancements on Metrobus routes A4 and W9 to serve the new Coast Guard Headquarters on the St. Elizabeth's campus. The A4 route

connects passengers to the Anacostia Station from 6 am to 7 pm on weekdays and the W9 connects passengers to the L'Enfant Plaza Station during weekday peak-periods only. The A4 service was an extension of an existing route and the W9 was created by converting non-revenue trips to counter-flow revenue trips from other peak direction only services.

Staff has been meeting with Coast Guard staff to negotiate the renewal of the initial five year contract. Through that process, Coast Guard staff indicated that they will eliminate the W9 route service from the contract extension and renew the service on route A4 only.

Discussion:

Staff does not recommend continuing W9 service due to relatively low ridership as well as the service not being a critical link to regional connectivity. In April, a compact required hearing will be conducted, as will necessary public participation plan activities.

FUNDING IMPACT:

Service will be reduced equal to the amount of subsidy provided.	
Project Manager:	James Hamre
Project Department/Office:	Budget, Performance and Planning / Intermodal Planning

TIMELINE:

Previous Actions	July 2013 - Board approval to enter into a contract with US Coast Guard to provide subsidy for enhanced Metrobus service
Anticipated actions after presentation	April 2018 – Public Hearing to eliminate Metrobus Route W9 (and additional Public Participation Activities in compliance with WMATA's Public Participation Plan.) May 2018 - Board approval of Public Hearing, Public Participation Outreach and Title VI Analysis on elimination of Metrobus Route W9. June 2018 - Elimination of Metrobus Route W9 concurrent with June 2018 Metrobus Service Adjustments.

RECOMMENDATION:

Board approval to hold a public hearing to eliminate Metrobus route W9.

SUBJECT: APPROVAL TO CONDUCT WMATA COMPACT PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR THE
TERMINATION OF W-9 METROBUS SERVICE

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

WHEREAS, Compact Section 62 requires the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Board of Directors to conduct a public hearing prior to the implementation of a major service reduction; and

WHEREAS, Metrobus W-9 route provides service from L'Enfant Plaza to the United States Coast Guard Service (USCGS) headquarters and USCGS will eliminate full funding of the W-9 service effective July 1, 2018; and

WHEREAS, The Authority wishes to implement a major service reduction by terminating Metrobus W-9 service due to the elimination of funding by the USCGS, NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, That, in accordance with Compact Section 62, the Board of Directors authorizes staff to hold a public hearing and report back to the Board on the results of the public hearing; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That, in order to meet personnel scheduling changes of bus routes, this Resolution shall be effective immediately.

Reviewed as to form and legal sufficiency,



Patricia Y. Lee
General Counsel

WMATA File Structure No.:
18.8 Public Hearings and Meetings