



Notice of Public Hearing
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Proposed Adjustments to Metrorail, Metrobus and
MetroAccess Passenger Fares, Routes and Hours of Service;
and Changes to MetroAccess Policies
Docket B10-2

Purpose

Notice is hereby given that six public hearings will be held by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority on proposed changes as follows:

Hearing No. 548

Monday, March 22
Oakton High School Lecture Hall
2900 Sutton Road
Vienna, VA

Hearing No. 549

Wednesday, March 24
St. Francis Xavier Church - Bailey Room
2800 Pennsylvania Avenue SE
Washington, DC

Hearing No. 550

Monday, March 29
Mt. Calvary Baptist Church
5120 Whitfield Chapel Road
Lanham, MD
TheBus will provide shuttle service
from New Carrollton Metrorail station

Hearing No. 551

Wednesday, March 31
Arlington County Board Room, 3rd Floor
2100 Clarendon Blvd.
Arlington, VA

Hearing No. 552

Thursday, April 1
All Souls Unitarian Church
Pierce Hall
1500 Harvard St. NW
Washington, DC

Hearing No. 553

Thursday, April 1
Montgomery County Exec. Office Building
Cafeteria
101 Monroe St. (entrance on Jefferson St.)
Rockville, MD

All hearings are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. An Open House will be conducted prior to each hearing at 6:30 p.m.

The locations of all public hearings are wheelchair accessible. Any individual who requires special assistance such as a sign language interpreter or additional accommodation to participate in the public hearings, or who requires these materials in an alternate format, should contact Ms. Danise Peña at 202-962-2511 or TTY: 202-638-3780 as soon as possible in order for Metro to make necessary arrangements.



HOW TO REGISTER TO SPEAK AT THE PUBLIC HEARING

All organizations or individuals desiring to be heard with respect to the proposed service adjustments, fare increases, or General Manager's proposed FY2011 budget will be afforded the opportunity to present their views and make supporting statements and to offer alternative proposals. To establish a witness list, individuals and representatives of organizations who wish to be heard at these public hearings are requested to furnish, in writing, their name, address, telephone number and organizational affiliation, if any, to the Office of the Secretary, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, 600 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001, by 2 p.m. on the day of the hearing at which they wish to speak.

Requests to speak may also be e-mailed to public-hearing-testimony@wmata.com or faxed to 202-962-1133. Please submit only one speaker's name per letter and reference the Hearing Number for the hearing at which you wish to speak. Lists of individual speakers will not be accepted. Others present at the hearing may be heard after those persons who have registered have spoken. Public officials will be heard first and will be allowed five minutes each to make their presentations. All other speakers will be allowed two minutes each. Relinquishing of time by one speaker to another will not be permitted.

HOW TO SUBMIT WRITTEN STATEMENTS

Written statements and exhibits must be received by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 6, 2010. Materials may be sent to the Office of the Secretary, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, 600 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001. Alternatively, you may send an e-mail to public-hearing-testimony@wmata.com or a fax to 202-962-1133. Please reference the Hearing and/or Docket Number shown on the front of this document in your submission.

Additionally, if you wish to participate in an opinion poll on possible options to resolve the funding shortfall, please go to www.wmata.com/survey.cfm. You will be asked for your name and an address and then allowed to enter your suggested solution. Your name and address will not be released to anyone. This option is in addition to your ability to speak at the public hearing or to submit a written statement. The site will open by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 19, 2010 and will close at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 6, 2010.

PROPOSAL

Each year the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro) develops three budgets: an operating budget, a capital budget and a reimbursable projects budget.

The focus of the operating budget is on the people, supplies and services needed to operate and support Metrobus, Metrorail and MetroAccess. These are the day-to-day expenses. Funding for the operating budget comes primarily from passenger fares and contributions (subsidies) from Metro's state and local government partners.

The capital budget focuses on the assets and infrastructure needed to support bus, rail and paratransit services. Examples of assets are buses, trains, MetroAccess vehicles, stations, track, facilities, etc. Funding for the capital budget comes from federal grants, state and local government partners, and borrowing through bonds.

The reimbursable projects are unique services or programs usually funded by the state or local government that asked for those services.

Currently, Metro is faced with a significant operating budget shortfall for Fiscal Year 2011 (FY2011) that begins July 1, 2010.

Budget Information

A gap of approximately \$189.2 million exists between anticipated revenues and expenditures:

Decrease in Revenues - \$74.7 million

- \$23.8 million in revenue due to lower ridership and parking revenues;
- \$27 million from a multi-year advertising contract that expires on June 30;
- \$13.3 million in reserve funds that were used in FY2010 and will not be available in FY2011; and
- \$10.6 million in other revenues, including the end of a joint development project and offsetting proceeds from the sale of the Southeastern Bus Garage.

Increase in Expenditures - \$114.5 million

- \$35 million in contractual labor costs;
- \$33.9 million in fringe benefits, which includes health care and pension contributions;
- \$27 million in increased MetroAccess costs due to higher ridership; and
- \$18.6 million in other expenditures, including \$12.7 million for third party and worker compensation claims.

To close the projected gap, reductions to Metrobus and Metrorail service, increases to bus, rail and MetroAccess fares, changes to the service area and eligibility criteria for MetroAccess, increases to bicycle locker rental fees and increases to parking rates and changes in how such rates are calculated are being considered. The purpose of the public hearings is to receive input on these proposals.

To address this expected shortfall, Metro's General Manager has presented the Board with a proposed budget that includes the following gap-closing measures:

- Fare Increases - \$89.2 million
- Service Reductions - \$33.7 million

- ADA Managed Growth - \$10.0 million
- Departmental Reductions - \$16.3 million
- Other - \$40.0 million

Please note that the proposed rail and bus service reductions included in the docket exceed the amount necessary to balance the budget in the scenario presented above.

The public hearings will seek comment on the General Manager's proposed FY2011 budget and on proposed fare increases and adjustments to Metrobus, Metrorail and MetroAccess service as outlined below. More detailed information on the General Manager's FY2011 budget proposal can be found at www.wmata.com.