



AAC

Accessibility Advisory Committee

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Dear Chair Hudgins and Members of the Board,

It is my pleasure to present you with the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) report for the month of October 2012. The primary issues reviewed by the AAC, its subcommittees, and workgroups during the month were the review of SmarTrip Dispensers and 7000 Series Railcar, Station Lighting, and the MetroAccess Fare Calculator. The AAC also discussed the possibility of meeting quarterly with Metro's Board of Directors.

Issues of the Month

Field Trip – Review of SmarTrip Dispensers and 7000 Series Railcar

Several members of the AAC participated in a field trip to New Carrollton, MD to review Metro's new SmarTrip Dispensers and the 7000 Series Railcar. The participants had the opportunity to live-test one of the new SmarTrip dispensers at the New Carrollton Metrorail station. The AAC appreciates the corrective action taken and confirmed that the upgrade to the dispensers has been completed. The dispensers are now being deployed.

Additionally, the AAC had a walk-through of the 7000 Series Railcar. The AAC appreciates that 19 of its 20 recommendations were incorporated into the 7000 Series design. Members shared positive comments about all of the features to Metro staff.

BRS Station Lighting Work Group

The Bus/Rail Subcommittee (BRS) Station Lighting Work Group continued its work regarding lighting in the Metrorail system. As you know, the Work Group has surveyed 40 stations, and recognizes that to improve lighting in the system requires a consistent level of funding. The Work Group believes that a commitment to funding improved lighting should be a priority of Metro's Board. The Work Group has developed a set of initial lighting priorities, and is working with Metro staff to develop a cost estimate for implementation of those priorities. The Work Group will make recommendations to the AAC at the November meeting as well as share its findings with the Board.

MetroAccess Fare Calculator

The MetroAccess Subcommittee received an update on the MetroAccess Fare Calculator. Metro staff is proceeding with a plan to have the benefits of the Fare Calculator available to MetroAccess customers who book trips through MetroAccess reservation agents as well as customers with computer access. The AAC supports this approach because it enables all MetroAccess customers to shop for the most affordable fare and looks forward to further discussion on the development of the Fare Calculator.

AAC Quarterly Meetings with Metro's Board of Directors

The AAC has mutual interests with the Riders' Advisory Council (RAC), and we appreciate the exchange of information between our two entities. The AAC also appreciates the opportunity to come before Metro's Board each month during the Board meetings. However, much like the privilege the RAC enjoys in having regularly scheduled meetings with the Board, the AAC would like to have an opportunity to further enhance our dialog with the Board through an approved upon schedule of quarterly meetings. The AAC will submit a formal request for quarterly meetings with the Board.

Other Issues

1. Metrobus System Map

The BRS received an overview of the redesigned Metrobus System Map. The AAC applauds Metro's efforts to redesign the map to reflect changes in the area and be more user friendly. Although the use of computers and mobile applications for directions has increased, there are still a number of customers who use the System map, and various other Metro maps, to plan all of their trips. The new map is scheduled to be available to the public in December 2012.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Sheehan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patrick Sheehan, Chairman