

RAC Maryland Jurisdiction Meeting with WMATA Board

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

6:00 pm

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On Tuesday, September 9, at 6:00 pm, the Maryland members of the RAC met with its companion member on the WMATA Board of Directors.

The following individuals participated in the meeting:

Riders Advisory Council

Frank DeBernardo, Prince George's County

Bob Fogel, Montgomery County

Karen Lynch, Prince George's County

James Wright, Prince George's County

Maryann Zimmerman, Montgomery County

WMATA Board of Directors

Michael Goldman, Maryland

Artis Hampshire-Cowan, Maryland

Alvin Nichols, Maryland

WMATA Staff

James Jackson, RAC Staff Coordinator

Summary

The RAC members and WMATA Board members had an open dialogue on issues that impact the riding public, specifically related in most instances to the transit zone in the state of Maryland. For example, the WMATA Board members discussed the most significant transit issues facing Maryland and differences as it relates to transit between Montgomery County and Prince George's County. The WMATA Board members shared their thoughts on WMATA's fare structure and asked the RAC for their input. Other issues that the WMATA Board members weighed on were their vision for the Metro system of the future and the top challenges facing WMATA as a whole.

The RAC members and WMATA Board members also discussed the Silver Line and its impact on the Blue Line riders, the Silver Spring Transit Center, the temporary closure of the Red Line, the new electronic payment system, signage, and the proposed Purple Line. The RAC members also queried the WMATA Board members on WMATA's plan for the purchase of additional rail cars and WMATA's major capital improvement projects.

The WMATA Board members were open and receptive to feedback and asked the RAC members their thoughts on WMATA's funding of buses versus rail. They also discussed the importance of MetroAccess and the service that it provides to the community, which goes beyond costs. In closing, the WMATA Board suggested that it may be useful to participate in a future RAC meeting to get a better understanding of the role of the RAC and the perspectives of the public.