

Meeting Structure/Efficiency

Problem Identification

Our current monthly meeting structure:

- Limits time for presentations and, therefore, constrains the number of topics the RAC can address;
- Slows RAC business, as we only have one opportunity each month to prepare and pass resolutions/letters/actions;
- Does not allow sufficient time to follow-up on past RAC actions with appropriate thoroughness;
- Hampers productive discussion since our meetings have 21 members; this means presenters only have time to hear one short comments from each person, rather than having a more-thorough discussion; and
- Fosters an inability to be informed and/or to act promptly on critical, time-sensitive issues and incidents as appropriate.

Proposed Solution

Change our current monthly meeting structure to:

- Add two new "Subcommittee" meeting times each month, with members attending one or both of the two;
- Each subcommittee would have a different topical "jurisdictions" - e.g. safety, communication, etc. (topics to be decided); the total number of Subcommittees could vary depending on topics.
- Subcommittees would handle the majority of RAC *policy development*. Subcommittees would host staff presentations and discussion, public outreach on their assigned topics, and originate letters/resolutions;
- Subcommittee meetings could be 90- or 120- minutes; and
- Preserve the current "first Wednesday" full body RAC meeting to make RAC decisions, discuss and pass letters/resolutions passed up from Subcommittees, and host major staff presentations.

Benefits of Changing

- Smaller group discussions at Subcommittee level will provide more constructive feedback to Metro staff during and after presentations;
- Staff discussions can go into greater specificity with additional time for feedback;
- Members can move towards "subject matter experts" on their specific Subcommittee jurisdictional issues;
- Large RAC meetings can be preserved for either major issues or taking up the actions originating in Subcommittees;
- Additional meeting time, writ large, will provide the opportunity for the RAC to take up more topics and follow-ups important to riders;
- The RAC can address timely issues more quickly and efficiently, and full-RAC actions can be taken without being drawn out over many months;
- An additional meeting each month will allow members to get to know each other better; and
- Will provide additional time for public participation, as established in the RAC's public participation plan.

From the Bylaws:

ARTICLE IV

TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- A. A member's appointment to the Riders' Council may be terminated upon an affirmative vote of the majority of the WMATA Board of Directors, including a least one affirmative vote by a Board member representing the same signatory jurisdiction as the member being terminated. A member's appointment to the Council shall be terminated upon an affirmative determination that a member:
 - 1. Has attended no regular meetings for three consecutive months or has missed two-thirds of regular meetings within a six-month period.