

**Riders' Advisory Council  
Budget Subcommittee Recommendations  
On Metro's FY09 Operating and Capital Budget**

I. Budget Process Improvements:

The Riders' Advisory Council (RAC) recommends that Metro improve its annual budgeting process to make it smoother, more transparent, and more open for public review by taking the following steps:

- a. Including the RAC in the development of Metro's budget guidelines;
- b. Publicizing a calendar that gives the timeline of the budget process;
- c. Considering fare increases only within the context of each fiscal year's budget adoption process, not separately, as was done with fare increases which became effective January 6, 2008;\*
- d. Continuing rider outreach on the annual budget including public hearings and budget presentations.

*\*There have been indications that Metro may pursue fare increases outside of the regular budget process in either FY10 or FY11.*

II. Energy Efficiency:

The RAC recommends that Metro continue to evaluate and implement its Solar Equipment Project.

*The use of solar power will help light Metro stations, reduce electric bills and make WMATA more environmentally friendly. The New York City MTA has installed solar panels at its Stillwell Avenue Station in Coney Island that will generate 250,000 kwh/yr. Metro's FY09 Budget does not allocate any funds to this project.*

The RAC also recommends that Metro reduce its electric consumption by turning off unneeded lights, such as after-hours at its headquarters.

These recommendations reflect the Board's goal for Metro to become a leader in environmental stewardship.

III. Transportation Planners:

The RAC recommends that Metro assess its need for additional transportation planners to respond to increased ridership and to provide more timely adjustments to routes and schedules.

IV. NextBus:

The RAC recommends that Metro continue to work to restore NextBus service as soon as possible.

V. Ridership and Revenue Forecasting:

The RAC recommends that Metro reconsider its ridership and revenue forecasts for FY09 to better reflect service improvements such as adding new bus routes, adding railcars during off-peak and weekend service, the extension of Yellow Line trains to Fort Totten and the end of Red Line turnbacks at Grosvenor-Strathmore during off-peak and weekend hours.

VI. New Revenue Streams:

The RAC recommends that Metro seek additional revenue from non-fare sources, including:

- Establishment of non-food/drink retail in rail stations;
- Installation of additional automatic teller machines within rail stations;
- Pursuit of dedicated funding from federal and non-federal sources.

VII. Capital Improvements:

The RAC recommends that Metro continue with capital improvements including:

- Upgrading public address systems in rail stations;
- Repairing and rehabilitating escalators and elevators;
- Providing radios for station managers.

This addresses a Board goal of identifying immediate capital needs that have an impact on reliability and safety.