

Agenda:

I. Call to Order

II. Public Comment Period

III. Approval of Agenda

IV. Discussion of Fare Options for Inconvenienced Riders

V. Workplan Adaption of Fare Options for Inconvenienced Riders

VI. Additional Items as Needed

VII. Adjournment

Topics Discussed:

1) Upcoming joint RAC/AAC/Board meeting Budget and Finance Committee briefing:

Consensus was reached on the following topics of feedback for this meeting - all are upcoming parts of the proposed FY17 budget:

- No fare increases - we are thankful that there is no fare increase in the FY17 budget and appreciate the work by the Board to champion this as well as the effort by staff to make the budget work around this. This opinion is expressed both by the RAC and the AAC.
- 15 minute enter/exit grace period - we feel this will be a popular change that will be received well by riders and have a positive outlook here. We will, of course, continue to accept rider feedback and address any concerns brought to our attention. We thank the Board for this item on behalf of the ridership.
- "Name your own price" - we are both encouraged by this attempt to offer a different fare option and at the same time concerned riders will be confused by what exactly this is. We want to express encouragement for these types of changes while also expressing concern that this gets communicated in the simplest way possible so the ridership understands this change.
- Bus SmarTrip reload - we understand the concerns around SmarTrip reload slowing the loading and unloading of bus riders which in turn affects on-time performance for MetroBus. We are concerned the proposed solution to this problem is to completely remove the reload process from buses. This concern is based on feedback from riders. We would ask that the proposed solution not be considered the only solution for this problem and that more rider feedback be sourced prior to moving forward with any solution here.

Riders' Advisory Council
Budget and Finance Committee Meeting Notes

- Bus/Bus MetroAccess Consideration - we are in agreement and fully support an AAC initiative to adjust MetroAccess rate calculations to include a bus to bus trip as the "fastest possible fixed route comparison" as there may be times a bus trip will be faster than a rail trip due to rebuilding efforts or other malfunctions on rail.

2) Upcoming FY18 Fare Considerations

We are beginning to consider recommendations for the FY18 budget and what we're calling "fair fares" for riders. Among the current ideas:

- No peak fares 7 PM to 7 AM. This would provide fairer fares to those commuting between 5 AM and 7 AM that aren't receiving peak service for their peak fares. This would also remove the peak fare charge on Friday and Saturday nights between Midnight and closing (3 AM) to encourage more late-night ridership.

- Weekend Free Rides. This would involve offering free rides to riders who ride on Saturdays or Sundays AND enter or exit at a rail station that's affected by rebuilding efforts. This would encourage weekend ridership.

- Bus/Rail Transfers. Currently WMATA does not offer a free transfer between bus/bus or bus/rail. This is something that's commonly done elsewhere. Riders have requested we consider this as an option.

Again, here is a link to the proposed FY17 budget:

http://www.wmata.com/about_metro/docs/FY2017%20Proposed%20Budget.pdf

The Budget and Finance Committee Chair wishes to convey a strong desire to have more participation at these meetings by the members of the RAC and once again welcomes all who can attend either as a member of the committee or as a visitor.

Notes by Chris Barnes