Customer Services, Operations, and Safety Committee

Board Information Item IV-D

July 8, 2010

Transparent Metro Data Sets

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Board Action/Information Summary

○ Action ◉ Information	MEAD Number:	Resolution: ○ Yes ◉ No

TITLE:

Transparent Metro Data Sets for Developers

PURPOSE:

This program will provide the general public and regional partners with access to Metro real-time transit arrival, location, and incident information for the purpose of increasing the general transparency of this operational information and for developing third-party applications for the web and mobile devices.

DESCRIPTION:

The publication of real time transit data for development use by external entities has become readily accepted and expected. Best-practice transit authorities promulgate transit customer information to the widest possible audiences. We anticipate Metro transit arrival, location, and incident information data will be used by both private and public entities to create applications as diverse as multi-modal web trip planners, trip planning applications on smart phones, and on-business-site digital signage about next bus and train arrival information.

This project will be managed by Bill Burcham in the Department of Information Technology, Project Management Office.

The availability of transparent data sets will underscore Metro`s goal and commitment to customer service by offering the public an entirely new means of interacting with the Authority and will allow Metro to take its place among leading transit agencies that currently expose similar data to the public.

FUNDING IMPACT:

Budget: **Operating Budget, Fiscal 2011**

Office: **Information Technology**

Account: **Contract Maintenance**

This Action: **$30,000**

Remarks: Budgets for FY2011 through FY2014 are subject to approval by the Board, the receipt of funds, and the allocation of funds to this category of projects.

	FY2011
Budget:	**$13,237,764**
This Action:	**$30,000**
Prior Approval:	**$4,366,000**
Remaining Budget:	**$8,841,764**

The software and system development needed to provide data for the public real-time transit data program was completed by making other investments (such as NextBus) so the funding impact is minimal. The only direct ongoing cost for providing this data is a $30,000 annual operating expense for a data management solution to keep the data secure and uninterrupted.

RECOMMENDATION:

Launch the transparent metro data sets program and website in staged phases beginning in summer of 2010.

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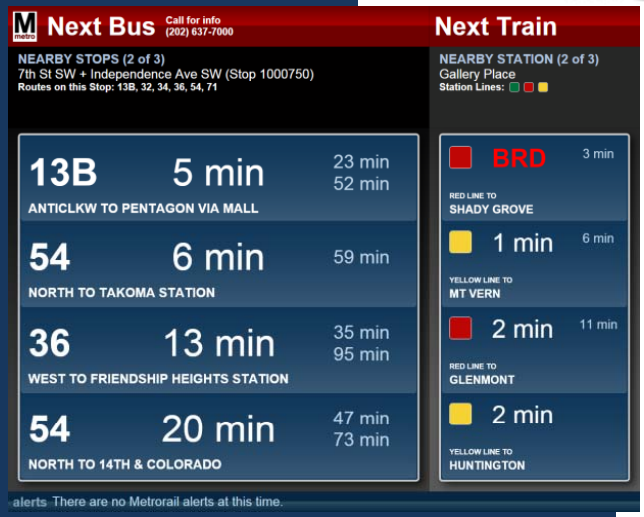
Data Transparency Vision

- Making Metro transit data publicly available for the purposes of general transparency and easily developing third-party applications
- This data has been requested by many third parties:
  - Riders
  - Regionally-focused websites and bloggers
  - Mobile software developers
  - Merchants/Retailers
  - Tourism and hospitality groups
- All third party developers will have immediate access to Metro's data with a single click agreeing to Metro's terms and conditions for data use



Rail Transit Data Provided By Other Transit Systems

Publicly-Provided, Web-Based Rail Data							
	Metro Line Summary	Metro Station Info	Metro Line Detail	Rail Elevator/Escalator Incidents	Rail Path	Rail Station Prediction	Rail System Incidents
Metro Rollout Aug 11, 2010	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**
SF BART	**X**	**X**	**X**	**Future**	**X**	**X**	**X**
Los Angeles Metro	**X**	**X**	**X**		**X**		
NYC MTA (RAIL)				**X**			
Chicago CTA			**X**	**X**		**Pilot**	**X**
Portland TriMet	**X**	**X**	**X**			**X**	

Bus Transit Data Provided By Other Transit Systems

Publicly-Provided, Web-Based Bus Data					
	Bus Positions	Bus Route Shapes	Bus Routes	Bus Schedules	Bus Stops
Metro Rollout Late 2010	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**
Los Angeles Metro			**X**	**X**	**X**
Boston MBTA	**X**		**X**	**X**	**X**
NYC MTA (BUS/LIBUS)	**Future**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**
Chicago CTA	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**
Portland TriMet			**X**	**X**	**X**

Internal Reviews / Next Steps

- Briefed stakeholder groups
  - Jurisdictional Coordinating Committee (JCC) – *June 25*
  - Riders Advisory Council (RAC) – *July 7*
  - Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) – *July 12*

- Assemble application developers for kickoff – *August 9*
- Roll out Rail services - *August 11*