



Notice of Public Hearing
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Proposed Adjustments to Metrorail, Metrobus and
MetroAccess Passenger Fares, Routes and Hours of Service;
and Changes to MetroAccess Policies
Docket B10-2

Purpose

Notice is hereby given that six public hearings will be held by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority on proposed changes as follows:

Hearing No. 548

Monday, March 22
Oakton High School Lecture Hall
2900 Sutton Road
Vienna, VA

Hearing No. 550

Monday, March 29
Mt. Calvary Baptist Church
5120 Whitfield Chapel Road
Lanham, MD
TheBus will provide shuttle service for this hearing from New Carrollton Metrorail station

Hearing No. 552

Thursday, April 1
All Souls Unitarian Church
Pierce Hall
1500 Harvard St. NW
Washington, DC

Hearing No. 549

Wednesday, March 24
St. Francis Xavier Church - Bailey Room
2800 Pennsylvania Avenue SE
Washington, DC

Hearing No. 551

Wednesday, March 31
Arlington County Board Room, 3rd Floor
2100 Clarendon Blvd.
Arlington, VA

Hearing No. 553

Thursday, April 1
Montgomery County Exec. Office Building
Cafeteria
101 Monroe St. (entrance on Jefferson St.)
Rockville, MD

All hearings are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. An Open House will be conducted prior to each hearing at 6:30 p.m.

The locations of all public hearings are wheelchair accessible. Any individual who requires special assistance such as a sign language interpreter or additional accommodation to participate in the public hearings, or who requires these materials in an alternate format, should contact Ms. Danise Peña at 202-962-2511 or TTY: 202-638-3780 as soon as possible in order for Metro to make necessary arrangements.



Proposal

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro) is faced with a \$189.2 million budget shortfall for Fiscal Year 2011 beginning on July 1, 2010. The cost of Metrobus, Metrorail and MetroAccess services are funded in part by passenger revenues and, in part, by subsidies provided by the District of Columbia, the State of Maryland, and local jurisdictions in Virginia.

In an effort to address the FY2011 budget shortfall, Metro will be required to generate additional passenger revenues, as well as reduced costs through changes to bus routes, reduced hours for both bus and rail service, changes to bus and rail services and changes to MetroAccess policies.

The public hearings will seek comment from the public on proposed adjustments to passenger fares, to proposed changes in the hours of service, to bus routes which will be identified in the Docket to be posted at www.wmata.com, service changes on Metrobus and Metrorail, and policy changes to MetroAccess which will increase fares and reduce the service area. Details of these proposed changes will also be available at www.wmata.com. The proposed fare increase and proposed changes to service hours and routes are expected to take effect commencing on or about June 27, 2010.

Specifically, Metro is proposing a series of possible solutions to the budget shortfall including the major items listed below:

1. Regular fare base boarding charge for Metrobus and Metrorail to increase by up to \$0.35.
2. Regular Metrorail fares to increase by up to \$0.055 for miles 3-6 and by up to \$0.049 for greater than 6 miles with the maximum fare increasing by up to \$0.95.
3. The institution of a Peak-of-the-Peak fare surcharge on Metrobus and Metrorail of up to \$0.50.
4. Reduced fare (non-peak) base for Metrorail to increase by up to \$0.30 and up to \$0.35 for Metrobus.
5. Reduced Metrorail fares to increase by up to \$0.40 for the first tier and by up to \$0.50 for the second tier.
6. Rail and bus pass prices will increase consistent with boarding and other charges subject to any applicable federal regulations or contractual agreements.

- 7a. Reduce the rail-to-bus, bus-to-rail and bus-to-bus transfer periods from 3 hours to 2 hours.
- 7b. Adjust the value of the rail-to-bus, bus-to-rail and bus-to-bus transfer from \$0.00 to \$0.75.
- 7c. Consider offering free bus-to-rail and rail-to-bus transfers on weekends.
- 8. Institute a Metrorail flat fare of up to \$4.00 or charge Regular fares on weekend late-night service from 12:01 AM to closing.
- 9. Increase express bus boarding charge by up to \$0.90 for non-discounted fares and by up to \$1.40 for Elderly & Disabled patron fares.
- 10. Increase the Dulles and BWI airport shuttle fares by up to \$2.90.
- 11a. Increase the differential for the use of cash over the cost using SmarTrip® by up to \$0.50.
- 11b. Eliminate the current SmarTrip® savings of \$0.10 on Metrobus.
- 12. Reduce the age where children ride free on Metrobus and Metrorail to 3 years.
- 13. Increase the MetroAccess fare to up to twice the comparable fixed-route fare.
- 14. Increase the MetroAccess supplemental fares by up to \$4.00 for Zone 1, \$8.00 for Zone 2, up to \$12.00 for Zone 3 and up to \$16.00 for Zone 4.
- 15. Increase all parking rates by up to \$1.15 per day and the reserved parking fee by up to \$13.75 per month and reduce the hours where parking is free.
- 16. Reduce Reserved Parking program hours from 10 a.m. to 9 a.m.
- 17. Increase the annual bicycle locker rental fee by up to \$130.00.
- 18. Institute a surcharge of up to \$0.05 for both entry and exit at up to two stations in each of DC, VA, and MD for the purpose of funding specific capital improvements at the stations at which the surcharge is applied.
- 19. Eliminate all bus and rail passes.
- 20. Charge parking fees at all times.

21. Widen rail service headways.
22. Close certain mezzanines and station entrances during normal Metrorail hours.
23. Close the Morgan Blvd., Cheverly and Deanwood Metrorail stations on weekends.
24. Open the Metrorail system up to 30 minutes later on weekdays and 1 hour later on weekends.
25. Close the Metrorail system on Friday and Saturday evenings as early as midnight.
26. Reduce Yellow Line service on weekdays late night and on weekends to a rail shuttle between Huntington and King Street.
27. Change bus service including:
 - the elimination of up to 35 lines and line segments;
 - the elimination of specific trips, line segments or headway changes on another 65 lines.
28. Reduce Metrobus and Metrorail service on Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, Columbus Day, and Veterans Day.
29. Reduce the MetroAccess service area to reflect actual fixed-route bus and rail service areas reflecting the actual time, day and location of the requested trip.
30. Restrict the use of the Free Ride Program to only those MetroAccess certified persons with conditional eligibility.
31. Institute a Special Fare of no more than 5 times the normal rate of fares and passes and to charge up to \$25 for parking for special events such as a Presidential Inauguration, historic or political event, major sporting or entertainment event.

The projected start date for any adopted fare or service changes is on or about June 27, 2010. Full details on the entire proposal to the budget shortfall, including items not listed above, may be found at www.wmata.com.

In accordance with Section 62 of the WMATA Compact, Metro will conduct six public hearings at the locations listed at the beginning of this notice. Information on the hearings will be provided in area libraries, on Metro buses and Metrorail trains and online at www.wmata.com.

HOW TO REGISTER TO SPEAK AT THE PUBLIC HEARING

All organizations or individuals desiring to be heard with respect to the proposal will be afforded the opportunity to present their views and make supporting statements and to offer alternative proposals. To establish a witness list, individuals and representatives of organizations who wish to be heard at these public hearings are requested to furnish in writing their name, address, telephone number, organization affiliation, if any, and the hearing at which they wish to testify to Office of the Secretary, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, 600 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001. Alternatively, requests to speak may be e-mailed to public-hearing-testimony@wmata.com or faxed to 202-962-1133. Please submit only one speaker's name per letter and reference the Hearing Number for the hearing at which you wish to speak. Lists of individual speakers will not be accepted. Others present at the hearing may be heard after those persons who have registered have spoken. Public officials will be heard first and will be allowed five minutes each to make their presentations. All other speakers will be allowed two minutes each. Relinquishing of time by one speaker to another will not be permitted.

HOW TO SUBMIT WRITTEN STATEMENTS

Written statements and exhibits should be sent to the Office of the Secretary, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, 600 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001 and must be received by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 6, 2010. Alternatively, you may send an e-mail to public-hearing-testimony@wmata.com. Please reference the Hearing and/or Docket Number shown on the front of this document in your submission.

Additionally, if you wish to participate in an opinion poll on possible options to resolve the funding shortfall, please go to www.wmata.com/survey.cfm. You will be asked for your name and an address and then allowed to enter your suggested solution. Your name and address will not be released to anyone. This option is in addition to your ability to speak at the public hearing or to submit a written statement. The site will open by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 19, 2010 and will close at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 6, 2010.