



Notice of Public Hearing
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

**Docket B18-06: Peak Rail Fares for Peak Service During
Regional Events**

Purpose

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority on the docket mentioned above as follows:

Hearing No. 621
Tuesday, October 23, 2018
Metro Headquarters Building
600 5th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Open House at 5:30 pm – Public Hearing at 6:00 pm

Please note that this date is subject to the facility's cancellation policy.
In the event of a cancellation, Metro will post information about the new hearing on
wmata.com

The locations for all Metro 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 hearing, or who requires these materials in an alternate format, should contact Danise Peña at (202) 962-2511 or TTY: 202-962-2033 as soon as possible in order for Metro to make necessary arrangements. For language assistance, such as an interpreter or information in another language, please call (202) 962-2582 as soon as possible prior to the public hearing date.

For more information please visit wmata.com/hearings

In accordance with Section 62 of the WMATA Compact, Metro will conduct a public hearing at the location listed in this notice. Information on the hearing will be provided in Metrorail stations, at area libraries, and online at wmata.com/hearings.

HOW TO REGISTER TO SPEAK – All organizations or individuals desiring to be heard with respect to this docket will be afforded the opportunity to present their views, make supporting statements and to offer alternative proposals. Public officials will be allowed five minutes each to make their presentations. All others will be allowed three minutes each. Relinquishing of time by one speaker to another will not be permitted.

There will be no advance registration to speak. Those wishing to provide oral testimony will sign up to speak at the hearing, will be called to testify in the order they sign up, and can sign up to speak at any time prior to the close of the hearing. Elected public officials will be allowed to provide their testimony as soon as feasible after their registration. If you will not be able to stay to provide your testimony orally when your name is called, staff will help you to submit your comments into the public record including the use of a digital recorder to record your oral comments.

Please note that all comments received are releasable to the public upon request, and may be posted on WMATA's website, without change, including any personal information provided.

HOW TO SUBMIT TESTIMONY NOT AT THE PUBLIC HEARING – Testimony about this proposal may be submitted online via a survey at wmata.com/hearings. The survey will open by 9 a.m. on Saturday, October 6, 2018 and will close on Monday, October 29, 2018 at 9 a.m. The survey will also provide the opportunity to submit freeform comments. This is in addition to your ability to speak at a public hearing. For those without access to computers or internet, testimony may also be mailed to the Office of the Board Secretary, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, 600 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001. All comments must be received by the Office of the Secretary by 9 a.m. on Monday, October 29, 2018 to be included in the public record.

The comments received by the Office of the Board Secretary, along with the survey results and public hearing comments, will be presented to the Board and will be part of the official public hearing record. Please note all statements are releasable to the public upon request, and may be posted on WMATA's website, without change, including any personal information provided.

For those who do not have access to computers or internet, note that copies of the docket in its entirety can be requested from Metro's Office of the Board Secretary by calling 202-962-2511, and are available for inspection during normal business hours at Metro's Headquarters at 600 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001. Please call 202-962-2511 in advance to schedule an appointment.

BACKGROUND & PROPOSAL – Metro plays a vital role in transporting riders during regional events. There are additional costs associated with supporting these events that must be recovered to Keep Metro Safe, Reliable, and Affordable (KMSRA). The use of peak-period fares would enable Metro to recover a portion of the extraordinary costs associated with providing staff and support services for these regional events.

Metrorail ridership demand during regional events is strong, requiring peak service levels. To accommodate the need, Metro provides rush-hour service levels on Metrorail throughout the day for these events. Additional support is also required for operations, customer service and Transit Police.

Metro needs to recover service delivery costs for regional events to stay within the KMSRA budget. Metro is proposing the use of the peak-period fare structure during regional events when it provides peak levels of rail service. Peak fares are currently in effect weekdays (except holidays) from opening to 9:30 am and 3-7 pm. During periods of peak fares, the cost of a rail trip is \$2.25 rather than \$2.00 for short trips, while the maximum fare is \$6.00 rather than \$3.85.

Recent examples of regional events that required peak service levels include:

- Independence Day
- Presidential Inauguration
- Papal Visit – September 2015
- Women’s March – January 2017
- March for Our Lives – March 2018

Service

Peak service would be provided at peak headways, which currently contemplates trains leaving terminals every 8 minutes and more frequent service on interlined segments in the region’s core. Service would scale up and scale down around the expected timing of the event, e.g. for 4th of July it would be timed around the fireworks displays.

Metro seeks public input on its proposal to implement peak fares during peak service hours on regional event days (or portions of those days, as appropriate), whether the day occurs on a weekday, weekend or holiday, when it is required to provide additional service in support of these regional events.

Cost

The average fare increase would be less than \$1 each way. The cost of additional services is greater than the additional fare revenues collected, and charging higher fares will reduce jurisdictional subsidies required to cover the provision of these services. Commenters are invited to propose criteria, beyond the provision of peak-service that would trigger the imposition of this regional event peak fare.

Benefits

By providing additional service during regional events, system crowding levels decrease thereby reducing safety concerns. Both visitors and everyday riders benefit from reduced crowding and improved reliability provided by additional service during these events.

Determination of Regional Events

The determination of whether an event is a Regional Event triggering the Regional Event Fare, and whether the event requires all day or less-than-all day support, is proposed to be delegated to the General Manager and Chief Executive Officer such that WMATA may respond timely to requests made by event sponsors and jurisdictional partners to support events that occur without time to seek express approval from our Board of Directors.