



Notice of Public Hearing

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Docket B16-03: Restriction of Metrorail Operating Hours

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. 611
Thursday, October 20, 2016
Metro Headquarters
600 5th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Open House from 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Public Hearing from 12:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

In the event of a cancellation, Metro will post information about the new hearing on wmata.com.

The locations for 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 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 at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing date.

For more information please visit www.wmata.com/hours.



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 area libraries, in Metrorail stations, on Metrobus and MetroAccess vehicles, and online at www.wmata.com/hours.

HOW TO REGISTER TO SPEAK – All organizations or individuals desiring to be heard with respect to the docket will be afforded the opportunity to present their views and 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, and will be called to testify in the order they sign up. Elected public officials will be allowed the opportunity to provide their testimony as soon as feasible after their registration. Because of the extended duration of this hearing and the uncertainty of when attendees will arrive, there can be no assurances that all those wishing to testify at the hearing will be heard before the closing time of the hearing. However, should you be concerned that you will not be able to provide your testimony orally before the cutoff at 10:00 p.m., there will be staff on hand to help you with multiple ways 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 WRITTEN STATEMENTS – Written statements and exhibits must be received by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, October 25, 2016, by the Office of the Secretary and may be emailed to writtentestimony@wmata.com. They may also be mailed to the Office of the Secretary, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, 600 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001. Please reference "OPERATING HOURS" in the subject line of your submission. 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.

SURVEY – Additionally, if you wish to participate in a survey on Metro's operating hours proposals, please go to wmata.com/hours. The survey will open by 9 a.m. on Saturday, October 1, 2016 and will close on Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at 5 p.m. You will be asked to respond to questions about Metro's proposed changes to the Metrorail operating hours, as well as some demographic questions. This option is in addition to your ability to speak at a public hearing or to submit a written statement. The survey results, including those taken on paper given to WMATA staff at events, will be presented to the Board and will be part of the official public hearing record along with written statements and public hearing comments..

PROPOSAL – As part of the SafeTrack maintenance program, the Metrorail service hours were adjusted to close the system at midnight, seven days a week. This span of service change went into effect on a temporary basis beginning June 3, 2016.

To sustain the progress of SafeTrack and address Federal Transit Administration (FTA) recommendations, which include providing more maintenance track time, WMATA is working on a long-term maintenance strategy – and central to that will be providing adequate track time to maintain the rehabilitated tracks and signals; mitigate water intrusion; maintain lighting, fans, and other life-safety systems; test and inspect; and conduct training and emergency preparedness activities – all of which require time for tracks to be out of service. WMATA staff has developed four scenarios to provide an additional 8 hours of track access

each week to conduct safety-critical work, while also looking to minimize the number of riders impacted. The four scenarios are:

	Scenario A	Scenario B	Scenario C	Scenario D
Mon-Thu	5am-midnight	5am-11:30pm	5am-11:30pm	5am-midnight
Fri	5am-midnight	5am-midnight	5am-1am	5am-3am
Sat	7am-midnight	7am-midnight	7am-1am	9am-3am
Sun	7am-10pm	7am-11:30pm	8am-11pm	noon-11pm

Scenario A provides service 5am to midnight Mon-Fri, 7am to midnight on Sat, and 7am to 10pm on Sun. Scenario B provides service 5am to 11:30pm Mon-Thu, 5am to midnight on Fri, 7am to midnight on Sat, and 7am to 11:30pm on Sun. Scenario C provides service 5am to 11:30pm Mon-Thu, 5am to 1am on Fri, 7am to 1am on Sat, and 8am to 11pm on Sun. Scenario D provides service 5am to midnight Mon-Thu, 5am to 3am on Fri, 9am to 3am on Sat, and noon to 11pm on Sun.

Changes to the Metrorail span of service require public outreach, FTA Title VI impact analysis and consideration of alternatives, as well as a public hearing, followed by Board approval.

The following bus service proposals are also being proposed in conjunction with the four scenarios described above. They include a Comprehensive Network Access supplemental service option to serve high-ridership rail stations and corridors throughout the region, and a full rail replacement shuttle network which virtually replicates rail service.

Comprehensive Network Access Bus Service

- Enhances the Metrobus network with additional frequency and capacity along corridors with high rail ridership during affected hours of rail service
- Provides regional access to maintain connections to business and activity centers
- Re-establishes connections throughout a regional bus service network
- Further enhances convenience, capacity, and service along high ridership rail and bus corridors (in addition to other rail corridors and stations):
 - Red Line corridor – between Fort Totten, Gallery Place-Chinatown, and White Flint
 - Green/Yellow Line corridor – between Fort Totten and Anacostia/Reagan National Airport
 - Orange/Silver Line corridor – between Metro Center and Ballston
- Adds trips on high ridership corridors where rail customers have shifted to Metrobus since Friday and Saturday Midnight closures commenced in June 2016

Full Rail System Replacement Bus Service

- Replacement of the rail system with Metrobus shuttle service
- Service would be provided to stations with little to no passenger demand during affected hours of service
- Requires significant personnel, fleet, maintenance, and operational support resources

The Comprehensive Network Access supplemental bus service network focuses added resources on serving the greatest number of rail customers. Exact Comprehensive Network Access span of service and frequency will be determined based on changes to Metrorail hours of service included in rail proposals 1, 2, 3, and 4 (or a combination thereof).