

November 3, 2006

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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MEMORANDUM

Date: October 27, 2006

To: TPB Technical Committee

From: Ronald F. Kirby
Director of Transportation Planning

Re: Proposal to Form a Regional Bus Subcommittee
of the TPB Technical Committee

At the July 19, 2006 TPB meeting, TPB Second Vice Chair Michelle Pourciau asked that TPB staff look into the possibility of creating a committee that would focus specifically on buses, modeled after the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee of the TPB Technical Committee. In a follow-up to this request, on October 16 I met with Michelle Pourciau, Nat Bottigheimer and Jim Hamre of WMATA, and other DDOT staff to discuss a specific proposal for a regional bus committee drafted by Jim Hamre of WMATA. A copy of this proposal (including some TPB staff edits) is attached.

At the October 16 meeting, we agreed that TPB staff would develop a proposal for forming this bus committee for review by the TPB Technical Committee at its November 3 meeting. Assuming there is general agreement on the formation of this committee, the new initiative would be presented and discussed at the 2006 Bus Conference scheduled for November 30 in Bethesda (announcement attached).

The TPB Technical Committee will be briefed at its November 3 meeting on this proposed new Regional Bus Subcommittee, as described in the attached materials. A revised proposal reflecting comments received will be prepared for review and approval by the TPB Technical Committee at its December 1 meeting, and for approval by the TPB at its December 20 meeting.

Attachments

Regional Bus Committee

--Proposal--

Draft Prepared by Jim Hamre, October 16, 2006

Edited by TPB Staff, October 27, 2006

Background

The Regional Bus Study concluded that high quality bus service in the region will rely on successfully linking vehicles, services, stops and stations, running ways, operating facilities, maintenance shops, storage yards, and passenger and operating support systems to produce an enhanced bus customer experience. This experience is of a more reliable, comfortable and convenient bus service that is easy to use, provides rider information where and when needed, and facilitates intra- and inter-agency service transfers. Increased customer satisfaction will broaden the appeal of transit in the transportation market place and generate increased ridership. This increased ridership will make it possible for the Washington region to continue its dramatic growth and economic prosperity while improving the quality of life for residents, reducing the impact on the environment, and providing for safe, secure, healthy and attractive communities.

Considerable cooperation among the agencies responsible for bus service and transportation in the region will be required to implement the Regional Bus Study Final Operating Plan recommendation, owing to the complex nature of transit service provision and transportation facility ownership in this multi-state region. The Regional Bus Study recommended that a Regional Transit Service Planning Group be empowered to facilitate this cooperation. Since its inception in 2001, an ad hoc Regional Transit Operators Group has met regularly to address issues of common interest in matters relating to inter-agency communications, homeland security, incident management and response, and special events.

Proposal

It is proposed that these two functions be combined into a single Regional Bus Committee under the committee structure of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG). This would create a permanent planning process with the dedicated resources necessary to ensure continuing attention to these coordination processes, and monitor timely implementation of the recommended changes and improvements. The Regional Bus Study envisioned continuing regional coordination tasks to include:

- Further discussions with the public and other stakeholders to obtain feedback on service strategies and implementation timing.
- Development of an action plan with the local jurisdictions and the affected agencies to:
 - ▶ Develop a priority list of near term service implementation strategies
 - ▶ Identify service improvements to be implemented as part of the coming

- ▶ annual operating budget
- ▶ Identify capital requirements- vehicles, garages, ITS, customer facilities and amenities - necessary to support recommended service improvements
- ▶ Coordinate procurement actions by affected agencies to implement recommended service and facility enhancements.

Additional responsibilities of this regional committee could include:

- Coordination with other MWCOG committees regarding bus transit participation in RESF #1 planning and training activities.
- Coordination with MOITS regarding integrated planning for bus services and street operations.
- Coordination and input definition for the TPB regional travel forecasting model.
- Coordination and evaluation of CLRP and TIP proposals and amendments with regard to bus transit service plan implementation.
- Coordination with Commuter Connections regarding ridesharing facilities and joint promotional messages.
- Subject matter technical advice and coordination regarding regional transportation and land use coordination and other matters related to bus transit considered by MWCOG and TPB, including the development of transit scenarios for the TPB Regional Mobility and Accessibility Scenario Study.
- Coordination with the TPB Private Operators Group to strengthen the alliance between public and private interests.
- Coordination with the TPB Access for All committee to enhance regional mobility for all populations.

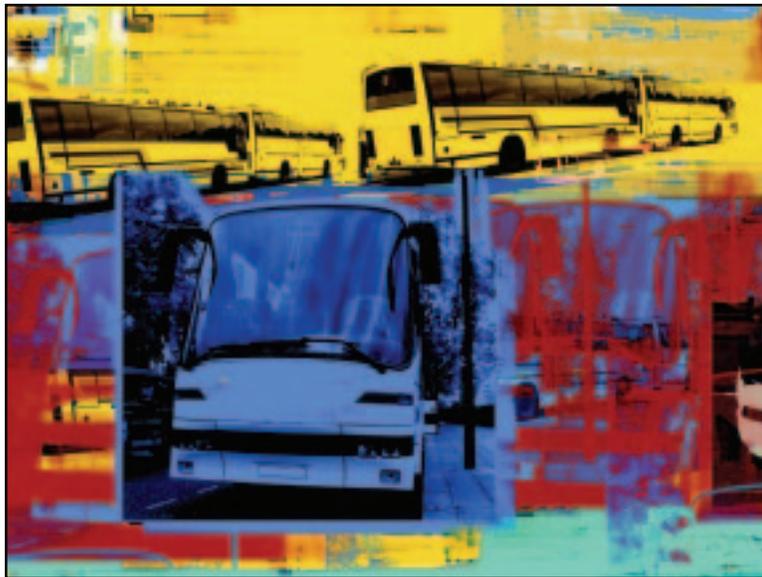
Participation

Participation would be encouraged by all members of TPB to support the described planning processes and activities for public transportation activities in the National Capital Region. Coordination will engage the following transit services in the Regional Transit Network:

Metrobus	Fairfax Connector
Montgomery County Ride On	Loudoun Commuter Transit
Prince George's The Bus	PRTC Omni Ride
DC Circulator	MTA Commuter Bus
Alexandria Dash	Metrorail
Arlington Transit (ART)	Virginia Railway Express
Falls Church George	Maryland Commuter Rail
City of Fairfax CUE	DC Streetcar

Governance

Governance of this committee would follow standard TPB protocols. The committee would be established and approved by the TPB as a Subcommittee of the TPB Technical Committee, with a regular meeting schedule and member jurisdictions appointing members to serve on the committee. A chair would be selected by the committee members, and a member of the TPB staff would be designated as the lead staff person for the committee. A new work activity and budget would be developed for inclusion by the TPB in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).



The Washington Metropolitan
Area Transit Authority
invites you to discuss how to
make our region's bus service
the best it can be.

The 2006 Bus Conference — Charting A Common Route

November 30, 2006 ■ 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Marriott Bethesda North Hotel & Conference Center

5701 Marinelli Road ■ North Bethesda, Maryland

Across from White Flint Metrorail station on the Red Line

We can do more together.

This one-day conference will bring local and state leaders together with transportation experts for productive discussions aimed at implementing the strategies from the Regional Bus Study and Regional Mobility Initiative.

The objectives.

- Exchange information on regional, national and international best practices.
- Discuss opportunities and challenges to adopting similar practices in the Washington metropolitan area.
- Share ideas for improving how we communicate with our customers.
- Develop regional agreements on:
 - Traffic management to improve bus running time.
 - Bus stop accessibility, information maintenance, design standards and vehicle accessibility to improve customer experience.
 - Fare policies to better match fares with service and markets.
 - Regional bus and local bus service integration to enhance bus service quality.

Now is the time.

We want your ideas, expertise and enthusiasm. Be ready to help us lay the foundation for improving the overall experience of bus riders by giving them a seamless beginning-to-end bus trip that's easy, affordable and comfortable.

Register online at metrorsvp@wmata.com by October 13, 2006.

Questions? E-mail Maria Wallace at mawallace@wmata.com.

SAVE THE DATE
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