

**TPB Access for All Advisory Committee  
Comments on the Draft 2003 Financially Constrained Long-Range  
Transportation Plan (CLRP)  
October 15, 2003**

**More Transit is Needed in the Inner Parts of the Region**

Committee members observed that transit improvements in the 2003 CLRP appear to be serving more suburban areas, rather than low-income communities that may be more transit dependant near the inner part of the region.

Concerns were raised about the lack of planned transit improvements or studies in Southern Prince George's County. The light rail transit study between Silver Spring and New Carrollton should extend further south into Prince George's County and include new rail service across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge.

**Current Transit Services Need to be Maintained and Improved *in the Short-Term***

Although the expansion of the Metrorail system is very important, low-income communities and persons with disabilities rely upon the services provided by MetroAccess, Metrobus, and local, community-based bus services.

The AFA committee is concerned about proposed discontinuation in six Metrobus lines due to funding shortfalls. The AFA stressed that the impacts on low-income communities from reductions in Metrobus service need to be considered. The possible reduction in service between the Branch Avenue Metro station and King Street in Alexandria, lines N11 and N13, was of particular concern.

Many low-income workers hold more than one job, and have jobs that do not follow traditional work hours such as 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The region needs more transit service in the reverse commute direction and expanded levels of transit service to allow these workers access to employment opportunities.

Transit information for people who have limited English proficiency (LEP) needs to be improved and widely available for a significant part of the population dependent on transit. The AFA subcommittee looks forward to hearing from the transit agencies regarding progress on implementing the recommendations from the LEP report presented to the Board in July.

*Transit Services for People with Disabilities*

Concerns were raised over recent news articles regarding WMATA's short-term budget problems that were credited to increasing costs in paratransit services. Paratransit services for low-income and persons with disabilities should be funded at higher levels and expanded.

The AFA committee will be formally recommending that WMATA study the current door-to-door paratransit system. A six-month study should review how improvements could help more people use paratransit services, and in light of current budget issues, investigate if there are more cost-effective ways to provide and operate paratransit services.

**Promote More Development Around Transit Stations, But Take Care Of The Community That's Already There**

The AFA committee would like to see more development around transit stations, especially on the eastern side of the region. However, states and localities should make provisions to mitigate potentially negative impacts from such development, in the short- and long-term, such as the increased housing costs and displacement.