

Study on Improving Regional Demand Responsive Transit Services

AFA Update
March 31, 2005

Background

- Paratransit Services
 - Curb-to-curb service with vans or taxi cabs provided by WMATA (MetroAccess) and other local providers (Star, DOT, City Wheels)
 - ADA requires “complementary” service for people unable to use the fixed route system (bus and rail)
- TPB/AFA Recommendation from January 2003 to the WMATA Board
 - Conduct a comprehensive study of the curb-to-curb service for the best and most cost-effective ways to serve the greatest number of people

WMATA Regional Paratransit Task Force Recommendation

- Specialized Transportation Study found that MetroAccess is part of larger network of paratransit services
- MetroAccess: \$34 million in FY 2003
- Additional Services: \$52 million
 - Virginia and Maryland services differ
- Opportunities to Coordinate Funding and/or Services?
 - i.e. Wheelchair accessible taxi cabs in D.C.

Study will Examine

- Demand for and Benefits of Paratransit Services
- Customer Needs and Concerns
- Innovative and cost-effective ways to provide services (contract practices)
- Potential service and funding coordination

Study Steering Committee

- Purpose: To guide the study and help develop “obtainable” short and long-range recommendations to improve paratransit services in the Washington region.
- Chair: Kathy Porter
- Steering Committee Members
 - AFA members
 - WMATA
 - Human Service Agencies
 - Private Providers (Taxi)
 - Easter Seals Project ACTION

Study Time Frame

- April to December 2005
- Approximately four steering committee meetings
- Kick off Meeting in April
 - April 21 or 28

Conclusion

- Steering Committee Volunteers?
 - Bud Keith
 - John Hudson
- Questions or Comments?