

**TPB ACCESS FOR ALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Notes for May 25, 2006**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Veronica Bell, MTA Mobility Baltimore  
Casandra Baker, WMATA Office of Civil Rights  
Deborah Burns, FTA D.C. Metro Office  
Cheryl Cort, Washington Regional Network for Livable Communities  
Rikki Epstein, WMATA Office of ADA Programs  
Harold Foster, Americas Institute  
Ruth Gamble, Prince George's County Office of Transportation  
Calvin Green, Montgomery County Transit  
Bud Keith, Arlington County  
Elaine Lancaster, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland  
Kathy Lehman, The National MS Society  
Leonard Lewis, VDOT  
Regina Lee, TAG, Independence Now, Inc.  
Lillian Nazario, DC WIC  
Kathy Porter, Chair,  
David Sharp, Montgomery County  
Rhonda Stewart, Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities  
Gil Williams, DDOT/Mass Transit

DTP Staff

Andrew Austin  
Michael Eichler  
Wendy Klancher  
Gerald Miller

**Report on Efforts to Improve MetroAccess and the Demand Responsive Study  
Recommendations, Wendy Klancher, DTP**

Wendy Klancher provided an overview of WMATA's efforts to address the five priority recommendations from the AFA Demand Responsive Study. WMATA has established an Ad-Hoc Advisory committee after difficulties with the transition to the new contractor, MV Transportation. The Ad-Hoc committee established a best practices working group made up of paratransit experts and MetroAccess users to look at how MetroAccess can be improved based on best practices. Kathy Porter is a member of the Ad-Hoc committee and Wendy chairs the best practices working group. The best practices working group has a series of recommendations, including: Increase staffing levels at MV and WMATA; Provide door to door service instead of curb to curb; and Change the late cancellation policy so that customers can cancel up to 2 hours before their scheduled trip. Some recommendations have a 6 month time frame; others have a

one-year time frame. The WMATA Board will be asked to adopt the recommendations at the June 15 meeting and interested AFA members are encouraged to speak during the public comment period.

Committee members stated that the recommendations should be implemented immediately because MetroAccess customers are continuing to have difficulties with the service, including late and missed trips.

Veronica Bell from the Baltimore Mobility program, the ADA paratransit system, invited the committee to visit the program because the Mobility program shows why it's necessary to invest in paratransit programs.

### **Status Report on Human Service Transportation Coordination and Transportation Programs for Low-Income Populations and Persons with Disabilities, Gerald Miller, DTP**

Gerald Miller presented a status report on the Human Service Transportation Coordination requirements of SAFETEA-LU. Projects funded from three FTA programs require a coordinated plan (Elderly and Disabled Individuals, Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom). The JARC and New Freedom projects must be selected on a competitive basis. A TPB Ad-Hoc group meeting to discuss how this region should address the new requirements has proposed that the TPB be the designated recipient for JARC and New Freedom. The TPB will be asked to approve this proposal in upcoming months. The coordinated plan would be drafted by a Task Force that would be appointed by the TPB and include public transit providers, private and non-profit providers, human service agency representatives and consumers of specialized transportation services. The Access for All Advisory Committee would provide input into the development of the Coordinated Plan. Two recent AFA reports would be used in identifying gaps in current transportation services and possible priorities: the Demand Responsive Study and the Subcommittee's finding and recommendations for transportation issues for low-income populations.

Committee members stressed the need for coordination efforts because of the lack of funding for transportation, and stated that a WMATA study found that more money is spent on smaller specialized transportation programs than on MetroAccess.

### **Review of New Projects Proposed for the Long-Range Transportation Plan and Discussion of AFA Comments, Andrew Austin, DTP**

Andrew Austin presented a summary of the projects proposed for the new long-range transportation plan. Five projects are proposed and the most significant are in the Anacostia area of the District of Columbia. Projects include major improvements to the South Capitol bridge and the 11<sup>th</sup> Street bridge, and one segment of the Anacostia Streetcar line.

Committee members noted that the new projects are almost all the Eastern side of the region and that the most costly project was are highway projects in D.C. One committee member asked if

the South Capitol bridge project increased capacity (one additional lane is added). The committee discussed the Anacostia Streetcar project and why that location was chosen.

The meeting adjourned around 2:00 p.m.

The committee will meet next on July 27, 2006.