



Finance, Administration and Oversight Committee

Action Item III-B

February 14, 2008

**Establish Service on
Metrobus Route 79**

**Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority
Board Action/Information Summary**

Action
 Information

MEAD Number:

Resolution:
 Yes No

PURPOSE

To request Board of Directors approval to implement off-peak service on Metrobus Route 79, Georgia Avenue MetroExtra Line, in the District of Columbia and change the operating budget accordingly. The anticipated implementation date is March 2008.

DESCRIPTION

Route 79, the Georgia Avenue MetroExtra Line, provides a.m. and p.m. peak period limited-stop service between Silver Spring Metrorail Station and Archives via Georgia Avenue and 7th/9th Streets. Service operates weekdays only from 6 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at a frequency of every 10 minutes.

Ridership averages 3,500 passengers each weekday, or 42 passengers per trip. Buses operate near capacity in the peak direction. Daily ridership along the Georgia Avenue corridor has increased 9 percent since limited-stop service began in March 2007.

Route 79 service achieves a travel time savings of approximately 20 percent compared with local Route 70 service because stops are spaced ½ mile apart, allowing buses to travel with the flow of traffic much of the time.

It is proposed to add off-peak service on weekdays between 9:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. and between 6:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. at a frequency of every 12 minutes. Route 70 local service along Georgia Avenue carries over 7,000 off-peak passengers during these hours, an average of 108 passengers per trip, which is the highest of any Metrobus line.

Many of these off-peak riders would benefit from the faster time on the MetroExtra route. Off-peak Route 79 service would increase capacity in the Georgia Avenue corridor by over 35 percent, thereby reducing crowding on

Route 70 local service. Expansion of MetroExtra service to off-peak hours would support the District's Great Streets program and support economic development in the corridor.

FUNDING IMPACT

The proposed addition of off-peak Route 79 service would have the following impact on the Metrobus operating subsidy, allocated entirely to the District of Columbia. There would be no increase in the number of peak scheduled buses. The anticipated implementation date is March 2008.

Operating Budget Impact		
	Amend FY2008 Approved Budget	Adjust FY2009 Proposed Budget
Revenue	\$80,000	\$320,000
Expense	<u>\$280,000</u>	<u>\$1,090,000</u>
Subsidy	<u><u>\$200,000</u></u>	<u><u>\$770,000</u></u>

RECOMMENDATION

Approve implementation of off-peak service on Metrobus Route 79, Georgia Avenue Metro/Extra Line, in the District of Columbia and change the operating budget accordingly.

PRESENTED AND ADOPTED:

SUBJECT: REQUEST BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVAL TO ESTABLISH WEEKDAY,
OFF-PEAK SERVICE ON ROUTE 79 IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

PROPOSED
RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, Route 79 currently provides A.M. and P.M. peak period, limited-stop service between Silver Spring Station and Archives via Georgia Avenue and 7th/9th Streets at a frequency of every 10 minutes; and

WHEREAS, It is proposed to add Route 79 limited-stop, off-peak service on weekdays between 9:30 A.M. and 3 P.M. and between 6:30 P.M. and 7 P.M. at a frequency of every 12 minutes; and

WHEREAS, Many of these off-peak riders would benefit from faster travel time and increased capacity on the MetroExtra route; and

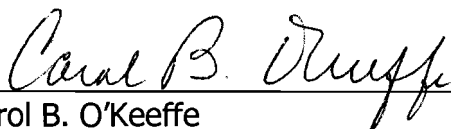
WHEREAS, The District of Columbia has agreed to pay all of the subsidy required to operate this service at the parameters noted above; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors approves the implementation of weekday, off-peak, limited-stop service on Route 79 in the District of Columbia, effective March 2008; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors amends the FY2008 approved operating budget and adjusts the FY2009 proposed operating budget such that Non-Regional Metrobus subsidy allocated to the District of Columbia increases by \$200,000 in FY2008, and \$770,000 in FY2009; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That this Resolution shall be effective immediately.

Reviewed as to form and legal sufficiency,



Carol B. O'Keeffe
General Counsel



Establish Weekday, Off-Peak Metrobus Service on Route 79

Presented to the Board of Directors:

Finance, Administration and Oversight Committee

February 14, 2008



Background

- Route 79 operates between Silver Spring and Archives via Georgia Avenue
- Current service is only in peak periods
- Service is branded as MetroExtra and operates limited-stop
- Route 79 averages 3,500 passengers per day, or 42 per trip
- Ridership along Georgia Avenue has increased 9 percent since March 2007
- Off-peak ridership on Route 70 local service averages 108 passengers per trip



Proposed Service

- Implement off-peak service on weekdays, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Provides increased capacity and reduced travel time
- Supports the District's Great Streets program



Funding Impact

- The proposed addition of off-peak Route 79 service would have the following impact on the Metrobus operating subsidy, allocated entirely to the District of Columbia
- There would be no increase in the number of peak scheduled buses
- The anticipated implementation date is March 2008

Operating Budget Impact		
	Amend FY2008 Approved Budget	Adjust FY2009 Proposed Budget
Revenue	\$80,000	\$320,000
Expense	<u>\$280,000</u>	<u>\$1,090,000</u>
Subsidy	<u><u>\$200,000</u></u>	<u><u>\$770,000</u></u>



Recommendation

Board approval to:

- Approve implementation of off-peak service on MetroExtra Route 79
- Change the operating budget accordingly