



**Finance, Administration and Oversight Committee**

**Action Item III-B**

**July 10, 2008**

**Approval to Conduct Public Hearings to  
Increase Metrobus Charter Fee Schedule**

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

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Action <input type="radio"/> Information	MEAD Number: 100072	Resolution: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
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**TITLE:**

Charter Fee Schedule

**PURPOSE:**

To request Board authorization to conduct a Compact Public Hearing on a new rate for charter bus service.

**DESCRIPTION:**

WMATA currently is providing charter service as a service to the Compact jurisdictions. The Washington Metropolitan Authority Tariff establishes a service rate of eighty-three dollars (\$83.00) per hour with a 3-hour minimum of three hundred seventy-five dollars and fifty cents (\$373.50) and an extra fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per hour during rush hour.

New Federal Transit Administration (FTA) regulations governing charter bus service have severely restricted WMATA from providing charter service.

However, since the regulation has been in effect, circumstances have dictated that WMATA provide charter service in certain limited cases, after securing an FTA waiver.

Further, it is reasonable to expect that WMATA may at some future point be required to provide charter service.

Staff proposes to increase the charge for providing charter service from the current rate to one hundred fifty-nine dollars (\$159.00) per hour with a four and one-half (4 1/2) hour minimum to fully capture the cost of providing charter service.

**FUNDING IMPACT:**Current Charter Rates

Hourly \$83.00

38 - 42 Passengers

3 hour minimum - \$373.50  
(Current rush hour charge, Additional \$15.00)

New Proposed Charter Rates

\$159.00

38 - 42 Passengers

4 1/2 hour minimum - \$715.50

(Includes all WMATA costs: direct, indirect, maintenance, fuel and depreciation and 1 1/2 hour travel time)

WMATA reserves the right to discount charter rates for our jurisdictional partners.

Private carriers in the Washington area :

Hourly rate ranges from \$100 to \$138.86

3 hour to 8 hour minimum

40 - 54 passengers

If WMATA were to charge an average of the private carriers it would be \$117 per hour

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Committee concur and Board authorize staff to conduct a Compact Public Hearing on a new rate for charter bus service.



# Approval to Conduct Public Hearings to Increase Metrobus Charter Fee Schedule

*Presented to the Board of Directors:*

**Finance, Administration and Oversight  
Committee**

July 10, 2008





# PURPOSE

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- To request Board authorization to conduct a Compact Public Hearing on a new rate for charter bus service.





# BACKGROUND

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- WMATA established providing charter service in February 1973 as a service to the Compact jurisdictions.
- New Federal Transit Administration (FTA) regulations governing charter bus service have severely restricted WMATA from providing charter service.
- However, since the regulation has been in effect, circumstances have dictated that WMATA provide charter service in certain limited cases, after securing an FTA waiver.
- Further, it is reasonable to expect that WMATA may at some future point be required to provide charter service.



# FINANCIAL IMPACT

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- Current Charter Rates  
Hourly \$83.00  
38 - 42 Passengers  
3 hour minimum - \$373.50  
(Current rush hour charge – Additional \$15.00)
- New Proposed Charter Rates  
\$159.00  
38 - 42 Passengers  
4 ½ hour minimum - \$715.50 (includes 1 ½ hour travel time)  
(Includes all WMATA costs: direct, indirect, maintenance, fuel and depreciation)
- WMATA reserves the right to discount charter rates for our jurisdictional partners.
- Private carriers in the Washington area  
Hourly rate ranges from \$100 to \$138.86  
3 hour to 8 hour minimum  
40 - 54 passengers
- If WMATA were to charge an average of the private carriers it would be \$117 per hour.



# RECOMMENDATION

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- Committee concur and Board authorize staff to conduct a Compact Public Hearing on a new rate for charter bus service.



**PRESENTED AND ADOPTED:**

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT A COMPACT PUBLIC HEARING ON A NEW RATE FOR CHARTER BUS SERVICE**

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

WHEREAS, The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Tariff establishes a charter service rate of eighty-three dollars (\$83.00) per hour with a 3-hour minimum of three hundred seventy-three dollars and fifty cents (\$373.50) and an extra fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per hour during rush hour; and

WHEREAS, New Federal Transit Administration regulations governing charter bus service have severely restricted Metro from providing charter service; and

WHEREAS, It is reasonable to expect that Metro may still be required to provide some charter service; and

WHEREAS, Staff proposes to increase the charge for providing charter service from the current rate to one hundred fifty-nine dollars (\$159.00) per hour with a four and one-half (4½) hour minimum to fully capture the cost of providing charter service; now, therefore be it

*RESOLVED*, That the Board of Directors authorizes the staff to hold a public hearing on the proposed charter service changes described in this Resolution as required by Compact Section 62, with the General Manager, in coordination with the Board members, establishing the dates, times, and locations of the public hearing; and be it further

*RESOLVED*, That the Board of Directors expressly reserves judgment on whether the proposed charge for charter service is appropriate or justified, and be it further

*RESOLVED*, That the Board of Directors authorizes the General Manager to report on the findings of the public hearings and the Board of Directors shall consider these findings and public comments in their deliberations on the proposed increase in the charter service fee; and be it finally

*RESOLVED*, That this Resolution shall be effective immediately.

Reviewed as to form and legal sufficiency,

  
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Carol B. O'Keeffe  
General Counsel