

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action <input type="checkbox"/> Information	MEAD Number:	Resolution: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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PURPOSE

To request Board approval of the Prince George's County "Kids Ride Free" fare buy-down program on Metrobus routes serving Prince George's County. This fare buy-down program would begin August 20, 2007, and remain in effect through the end of FY08 or as long as Prince George's County continues to replace the revenues lost through its implementation.

DESCRIPTION

Beginning August 20, 2007, the Prince George's Department of Public Works and Transportation will implement a "Kids Ride Free" policy on *The Bus* routes. This policy will allow school-age children to ride free on weekdays between the hours of 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Prince George's County is requesting that this policy be extended to all Metrobus routes operating in the county. This program would be similar to that implemented on Metrobus service in Montgomery County in January 2003. Its purpose would be to encourage the transit riding habit, reduce the need for parents to transport their children to and from after-school events, and provide some measure of traffic congestion relief.

FUNDING IMPACT

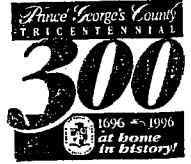
The estimated revenue loss of \$300,000 would be completely offset by payments from Prince George's County. Therefore, there would be no impact on WMATA's FY08 budget or to jurisdictional subsidy requirements other than in Prince George's County.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the implementation of the Prince George's County "Kids Ride Free" fare buy-down program on Metrobus routes serving Prince George's County beginning August 20, 2007, and remaining in effect through the end of FY08 or as long as Prince George's County continues to replace the revenues lost thereby.



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT



Jack B. Johnson
County Executive

Department of Public Works and Transportation
Office of the Director

July 9, 2007

Mr. John B. Catoe
General Manager
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
600 5th Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

RE: COUNTY TRANSIT - **TheBus** - Fares/Fare Policy
CR: METROBUS - Revenue and Costs

Dear Mr. Catoe:

The Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) is pleased to inform you that the Prince George's County Council and County Executive have approved funding in the FY 2008 Budget to enact a "Kids Ride Free" program on **TheBus** and Metrobus routes operating within the County. As such, we seek to implement this new policy on August 20, 2007, the first day of school for Prince George's County Public Schools. DPW&T is implementing a Kids Ride Free policy on **TheBus** routes and doing the same on Metrobus will ensure seamless travel for students Countywide. A copy of a proposed resolution for the new fare policy on **TheBus** is attached. We believe this change will be warmly accepted by citizens of the County as we strive to provide better mobility for all.

The County will provide WMATA a lump-sum payment of \$100,000 to initiate and fund the program through December 31, 2007. We expect to provide an additional \$200,000 early in calendar year 2008 to carry this program through the end of FY 2008. The payments provided will ensure that WMATA is at no risk of losing revenue this fiscal year.

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DPW&T would like to thank you and your staff for your assistance in formulating this policy. We look forward to fulfilling this important transportation need for our young citizens.

Sincerely,



Haitham A. Hijazi
Director

HAH/AWO/lac
Attachment

cc: The Honorable Camille Exum, Chair, Prince George's
County Council
The Honorable Thomas E. Dernoga, Prince George's
County Council, District 1
Marcell Solomon, WMATA Board Member
Betty Hewlett, WMATA Board Member
David Byrd, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Marcus Jackson, Council Liaison
Tom Webster, Maryland Transit Administration,
Manager, WMATA Liaison Office
Charlie Scott, WMATA Government Affairs
J. Rick Gordon, Associate Director, Office of
Transportation
James E. Raszewski, Chief, Division of Transit

PRESENTED AND ADOPTED:

SUBJECT: PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BUS FARE BUY DOWN FOR "KIDS RIDE FREE"

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

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) has been asked by Prince George's County to provide free service to school age children on Metrobus equivalent to the free service beginning on *TheBus* system as of August 20, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Prince George's County will provide \$100,000 in advance funding and will provide for the replacement of any lost revenues associated with the adoption of this free service consistent with Section 79 of the Compact; and

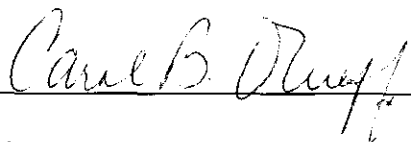
WHEREAS, The proposed change can be executed in a timely fashion; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That staff is directed to implement free Metrobus service on weekdays, between the hours of 2:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. for school age children as requested by Prince George's County, effective August 20, 2007; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the "Kids Ride Free" policy will remain in effect as long as Prince George's County continues to replace the lost revenues associated with the "Kids Ride Free" program; 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