

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Board Action/Information Summary

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Action <input type="radio"/> Information	MEAD Number: 100204	Resolution: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
---	------------------------	--

TITLE:

7000 Series Railcar Program - Design & Function

PURPOSE:

The adoption of the 7000 Series design for railcar procurements for FY 2009-2020.

DESCRIPTION:

The timing of needs for renewal, rehabilitation and growth of the Metro railcar fleet within a five-year window has provided the opportunity to standardize a major portion of the fleet to a new design that will result in lower acquisition, operating and maintenance costs.

The reassessment of design was necessary because, after 32 years of fleet operation and maintenance, we know:

- how long an aluminum railcar lasts and are not confident that it will be 40 years;
- that every new railcar must operate under heavier loading for far longer operating periods than any railcar we have ever purchased;
- that facilities and structures are stressed;
- that operating and maintenance costs continue to increase; and
- that there will be increased competition for scarce funds.

The 7000 Series railcar design incorporates proven technology with three decades of lessons learned. The program has insured that for its critical junctures: the start of development; design and specification production; contract award; that all critical technologies are mature, that the design has been adequately reviewed and that program requirements have been well defined. This includes validating designs and cost estimates, evaluating manufacturing processes and refining requirements. The expected result is improved cost control and quality control during acquisition and manufacture and long-term reductions in operating and maintenance costs.

FUNDING IMPACT:

The financial commitment for the initial 64 vehicles will be provided by MWAA in support of the Dulles Rail Project. The remainder of the Metro Railcar Program is subject to Board approval, availability of funds and review in the capital prioritization process.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adoption of the 7000 Series design for railcar procurements for FY 2009-2020.