



## AGENDA March 1, 2017

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|--------------|---|--------------------|
| <b>I.</b>    | Call to Order – Roll Call and Approval of Agenda  | (6:30 – 6:35 p.m.) |
| <b>II.</b>   | <i>Budget Discussion</i><br>Mr. Christian Dorsey, Board of Director (VA), Mr. Michael Goldman,<br>Board of Director (MD) and WMATA Staff, Budget and Finance                    | (6:35 – 7:15 p.m.) |
| <b>III.</b>  | Public Comment Period   | (7:15 – 7:25 p.m.) |
| <b>IV.</b>   | Approval of Past Meeting Minutes<br>February 1, 2016  | (7:25 – 7:30 p.m.) |
| <b>V.</b>    | Chair’s Report  | (7:30 – 7:40 p.m.) |
| <b>VI.</b>   | RAC Committee Updates –<br>Work Plan Items  | (7:40 – 8:25 p.m.) |
|              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leadership</li><li>• Budget and Finance</li><li>• Customer Service</li><li>• Programs, Projects and Planning</li><li>• Safety</li></ul> |                    |
| <b>VII.</b>  | Announcements   | (8:25 – 8:30 p.m.) |
| <b>VIII.</b> | Adjournment   | (8:30 p.m.)        |

### Upcoming Meetings

- RAC Leadership (Executive Session) (12:00 p.m.) – March 6, 2017
- Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) (5:30 p.m.) – March 6, 2017
- RAC Customer Service Committee (6:00 p.m.) – March 9, 2017
- RAC Budget and Finance Committee (6:30 p.m.) – March 9, 2017
- RAC Program, Projects, and Planning Committee (PPP) (6:30 p.m.) – March 15, 2017
- RAC Safety Committee (6:30 p.m.) – March 15, 2017
- Riders’ Advisory Council Meeting (RAC) (6:30 p.m.) – April 5, 2017

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RE: FY 2018 Budget Proposal

February 5, 2017

Dear Chairman Evans:

The Riders' Advisory Council (RAC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the FY 2018 budget proposal submitted by General Manager Paul Wiedefeld last fall. The RAC's Budget and Finance Committee, followed by the full RAC, has deliberated on the proposed budget and submits these comments for your consideration.

First, we wish to commend WMATA on its proposal to increase the frequency of Blue Line rush hour service from every 12 minutes to every 8 minutes. Poor Blue Line service during weekdays has been a significant and persistent source of frustration for many riders who have complained to the RAC. We strongly urge the Board to keep this particular proposal in the final budget. In addition, the RAC supports the proposal to turn some local bus routes (such as the S2 and S4 routes) into limited-stops during periods of low ridership. We believe this will make these bus trips quicker and more convenient for most riders.

On the other hand, there are aspects of the budget that concern us. Broadly speaking, we are troubled by WMATA's proposal to eliminate numerous bus routes entirely. As highlighted during the public hearing on January 30, 2017, thousands of riders in aggregate rely on these bus routes to commute to and from work on a daily basis or to access vital health care. Many residents shared that, without these bus routes, they would simply have no alternative or affordable option of getting to their jobs, jeopardizing their financial livelihoods. We strongly urge WMATA's Board to spare as many bus routes as possible from elimination, even if this requires a modest fare increase from \$1.75 to \$2.00.

The RAC respectfully requests that WMATA prioritize ridership numbers above cost recovery or subsidy-per-rider when calculating which, if any, bus routes to cut. Ultimately, these decisions will affect riders' livelihoods in a highly significant way. Thus, we feel it is important to weigh the impact of the various budget proposals in human terms rather than just in financial terms.

Given the many concessions that riders will have to make—with regards to both fares and service—the RAC would also like to propose an addition to the FY 2018 budget plan. We request that the discounted bus-bus, rail-bus, and bus-rail transfer windows (currently 2 hours) be restored to their former length of 3 hours. Not only will this help build goodwill with riders at a minimal cost to WMATA, but this will also help riders catch transfers more easily once trains and buses begin running less frequently.

While the RAC understands that tough decisions and sacrifices must be made as a result of WMATA's current budgetary constraints, riders have repeatedly borne the consequences of lax maintenance

and oversight. The service cuts proposed under the FY 2018 budget are in addition to sacrifices (such as late night service elimination) that the Board has already enacted. As such, we urge any service cuts or fare increases in the approved version of the budget to be accompanied by the requirement to establish a public plan to improve customer service, transparency, and accountability at all levels of WMATA in order to ameliorate and prevent the conditions now forcing us to make such tough choices.

Furthermore, we strongly encourage the Board and management to continue pushing jurisdictions to increase their contributions to WMATA as a way of mitigating possible service reductions. We applaud the advocacy efforts undertaken so far by the Board and management in this regard. The RAC would be glad to help support this endeavor in the year ahead.

Finally, the RAC has certain questions that we believe remain unanswered in the budget proposal. We respectfully submit the questions below to the Board and WMATA's staff and request a response in writing by Friday, March 3rd:

1. How much additional revenue per year does WMATA expect from the proposed fare increases? Could WMATA staff share their fiscal projections with the RAC?
2. Will senior fares also increase under the proposed budget and, if so, by how much?
3. What was the process for selecting the bus routes that were proposed for elimination? Why were certain bus routes that passed all five threshold criteria still considered for elimination?
4. If certain bus routes are ultimately eliminated, what is WMATA's plan for responding to all riders who said they would be affected by those cuts during the public comment period?
5. What is WMATA's long-term strategy for increasing ridership on the system and boosting the number of riders who purchase SelectPass?
6. In light of the announcement that about 1,000 positions at WMATA will be cut, could the General Manager elaborate more on where those positions will fall and how those cuts might impact customer service?
7. Recently, WMATA announced that it has identified two new sources of money that could be used to help limit fare hikes and/or service cuts. How will the Board factor those new funding sources into the FY 2018 budget?

Thank you very much for considering our feedback. We truly appreciate the opportunity to contribute our comments. We look forward to hearing from you soon and continuing our work together during the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Sietse Goffard, RAC Budget and Finance Committee Chair  
Katherine Kortum, RAC Chair  
Members of the WMATA Riders' Advisory Council (RAC)

cc: General Manager Paul Wiedefeld  
WMATA Board of Directors

**WMATA Riders' Advisory  
Council**

Wednesday February 1, 2017  
6:30 P.M. Regular Meeting

MINUTES

Place: Lower Level Meeting Room, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority  
Headquarters (Jackson Graham Building), 600 Fifth Street NW, Washington, DC

Present: *Members*

Colin Reusch, At-Large  
Debra MacKenzie, VA, Arlington County  
Sietse Goffard, District of Columbia  
J. Clarence Flanders, At-Large  
Bob Fogel, Maryland Vice Chair, Montgomery County  
Valerie Cook, District of Columbia  
Wil White, MD, Prince George's County  
Katherine Kortum, District of Columbia  
Joseph Suh, District of Columbia  
Lorraine Silva, VA, Arlington County  
Yvette Washington, MD, Prince George's County  
Dexter Williams, District of Columbia  
Sareana Kimia, MD, Montgomery County  
Jamie Woodside, District of Columbia  
Sawyer Baker, VA, Arlington County  
Richard Ezike, VA, Fairfax County  
Nick Bertoni, VA, Fairfax County  
Paul Meissner, VA, City of Alexandria

*Other Attendees*

Joi Moorer, WMATA Staff Coordinator

Absent: *Members*

James Zepp, MD, Montgomery County  
Denise Clarke, MD, Prince George's County  
Pat Sheehan, At-Large/Accessibility Advisory Committee, Chair

Presider: Bob Fogel, RAC Interim Chair, MD, Montgomery County

## **I. Call to Order/Opening Remarks**

Mr. Fogel called the February 2017 meeting of the Metro Riders' Advisory Council (RAC) to order at 6:30pm. Joi Moorer performed roll call.

## **II. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved without objection.

## **III. Introduction of New and Returning Members**

Mr. Fogel had all members introduce themselves to the group and briefly speak about their background. The newest members to the Council were:

- Nick Bertoni
- Paul Meissner
- Richard Ezike
- Sawyer Baker

## **IV. Conversation with Board Members Mr. Corcoran (VA) and Mr. Lauby (Fed.)**

Regretfully, both Board Members were unable to attend.

## **V. Public Comment**

There were no public comments

## **VI. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes**

The February 2017 minutes were approved without objection.

## **VII. Chair's Report**

Mr. Fogel briefly spoke about his experience delivering the Monthly Report, and referenced the report in the back of the packet for reading.

## **VIII. Nomination of Officers**

Council Members had a pre-vote discussion about the RAC's public engagement and Board interaction – consensus was that there was opportunity for RAC to strengthen its public visibility.

Mr. Fogel provided members with a recap of previous month's election results and encouraged members to reach out to their respective Vice-Chairs and/or the Staff Coordinator with concerns/issues. Subsequently, the Council voted for both the Chair and Vice-Chair positions.

### **Chair Nominations**

Mr. Reusch nominated Ms. Kortum; seconded by Mr. Goffard; the vote passed unanimously

### **VA Vice-Chair Nominations**

Ms. Mackenzie nominated Ms. Silva; seconded by Ms. Sawyer; the vote passed unanimously

### **Budget and Finance Committee Chair Nominations**

Mr. Suh nominated Mr. Goffard seconded by Mr. Flanders; the vote passed unanimously

### **Customer Service Committee Chair Nominations**

Mr. Flanders nominated Mr. Reusch; seconded by Mr. Suh; the vote passed unanimously

### **Programs, Projects and Planning Committee Chair Nominations**

Mr. Williams nominated Mr. Suh; seconded by Ms. Woodside; the vote passed unanimously

### **Safety Committee Chair Nominations**

Nominations occurred post-meeting. Sawyer Baker was later elected unanimously to serve as Committee Chair of Safety

## **IX. Budget Recommendation Letter Discussion –**

Mr. Goffard apprised the Council of the developments regarding the recommendation letter document being drafted by Budget and Finance committee. Afterward, the Council reviewed a FY 18 Budget Proposal PowerPoint presentation delivered to the Board, and considered the information in their deliberations about what to include in their recommendation letter. Members' feedback was recorded by Mr. Goffard, who agreed to send an updated draft of the document to the Council.

Council Members voted to add friendly amendments to the recommendation letter drafted by the Budget committee, and to be circulated via email for all members to approve before the deadline. Ms. Cook made the motion which was seconded by Mr. Flanders and approved unanimously.

The Council asked the Staff Coordinator to submit the letter to the Secretary's office according to the appropriate protocols.

## **X. Announcement**

Mr. Flanders encouraged members to complete the surveys attached to the back of Metro's Proposal brochure, and he agreed to send members a report.

All members confirmed receiving Metro NewsClips via email.

## **XI. Adjournment**

Mr. Fogel adjourned the regular session meeting without objection at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joi Moorer



600 Fifth Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 962-2891

February 15, 2017

**Chairman Evans & WMATA Board Members:**

Since the last RAC report of January 18, 2017, the following has occurred:

The full RAC met on Wednesday, February 1.

- Four new members had been appointed, all from Virginia: Sawyer Baker, Richard Ezike, Nick Bertoni, and Paul Meissner. These members introduced themselves to the committee.
- The planned discussion with Board Members Corcoran and Lauby was canceled, as neither was able to attend the meeting.
- Katherine Kortum of DC was elected RAC Chair.
- Lorraine Silva of Arlington was elected RAC's Virginia Vice-Chair.
- Committees elected their 2017 chairs:
  - Customer Service: Colin Reusch
  - Programs, Projects, and Planning (PPP): Joseph Suh
  - Budget/Finance: Sietse Goffard
  - Safety: Sawyer Baker
- The RAC discussed the content of a letter, authored by the Budget/Finance proposal that contained RAC feedback on the FY18 budget proposal. After suggesting minor changes, the RAC voted to approve the letter. This letter was delivered to the WMATA Board on Monday, February 6, 2017.

The Leadership Committee met by conference call on Monday, February 4.

The Customer Service met on Thursday, February 9.

The PPP and Safety Committees are scheduled to meet on Wednesday, February 15.

The Budget Committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday, February 16.

For our March meeting, we plan hear WMATA staff responses to our budget letter. Each committee will also be outlining its work plan for the remainder of the year.

Sincerely,

*Katherine Kortum*

Chair, Riders' Advisory Council

cc: Lynn Bowersox  
RAC Members