

Arlington Transit Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
January 16, 2018
7:00 p.m.
2100 Clarendon Boulevard
“Cherry” and “Dogwood” Conference Room

TAC Members Present:

John Carten
James Davenport
Laura MacNeil
Erika Chiang

Other Attendees Present:

Pierre Holloman (staff)
Steve Yaffe (staff)
William Jones (staff)
Tim Roseboom (staff)
Nick Perfili (WMATA)
Andre Stafford (WMATA)
Andrew McCallister (Public)
Debra MacKenzie (Public)

Call to Order

- John Carten opened the meeting at 7:05 pm.

Approval of Meeting Notes from November 14, 2017

- November 14, 2017 meeting notes were approved unanimously after the Transportation Research Board Trends staff presentation.

Public Comment

- No public comments submitted, no speakers from the public.

Draft Columbia Pike Service Evaluation/Implementation Plan – WMATA Staff

- Nick Perfili provided a powerpoint presentation on the Draft Columbia Pike Service Evaluation/Implementation Plan (draft evaluation/implementation plan). Mr. Perfili provided an overview of services which are proposed for each of the three phases included in the draft evaluation/implementation plan. Unlike typical corridor studies, the draft evaluation/implementation plan combines elements of Transit Development Plans (TDPs) produced by Arlington as well as by Fairfax County and seeks to integrate the recommendations of both TDPs as well as WMATA's goals and operational standards. The goals for developing the evaluation/implementation plan for Columbia Pike (the Pike) include: identifying the most efficient methods for upgrading bus services along the corridor and providing premium and frequent service along the Pike.

- Columbia Pike is the busiest transit corridor in Northern Virginia with approximately 17,000 boardings each weekday. Highest activity (45%) of all boardings along the Pike occur in Arlington. Thirty-two percent of individuals utilizing transit service along the Pike transfer to Metrorail at Pentagon and at Pentagon City. Prior to developing the draft evaluation/implementation plan, a survey was conducted among 3500 individuals with a majority supporting changes along the Pike which were outlined in Arlington's and Fairfax County's TDP.
- Phase I of the draft evaluation/implementation plan is planned for the June 2018 Metrobus service changes. Under Phase I, the 16J, K, and P would be consolidated into the 16 A, B, G, H. The combined frequency of the 16G (Arlington Mill – Pentagon City) and 16H (Skyline City – Pentagon City) between Jefferson Street and Pentagon City would be 6-minute peak frequency and 12-minute off-peak frequency. Phase II would extend service from Pentagon City to Crystal City on the 16G and 16H. Prior to implementing Phase II, Transit Bureau and WMATA staff will work together to evaluate service, ridership, and resource availability. Phase III fully implements the service plan and combines the 16G and 16H into a high frequency service slated to be called the 16M. Prior to implementing Phase III, Transit Bureau and WMATA staff will reevaluate service into the Arlington Mill neighborhood.
- Construction of 23 new transit stations on Arlington's portion of the Pike is expected to proceed in phases through 2021. Construction of the transit stations will coincide with a process of consolidation and elimination of a few existing bus stops along the Pike. The 23 new stations will be the baseline for local service and the new limited-stop service in Arlington. Stops in Arlington planned to be eliminated include S Frederick St., S Quincy St., S Monroe St., and S Highland St.
- Going forward, WMATA staff will continue to coordinate with Transit Bureau staff as well as Fairfax County staff regarding finalizing the draft evaluation/implementation plan as well as moving forward with Phase I. WMATA staff will also develop a branding/marketing strategy and a customer information strategy prior to implementing Phase I.

Transportation Research Board Trends – Steve Yaffe

- Steve Yaffe provided an overview of the recent Transportation Research Board (TRB) annual conference held in DC which over 14,000 individuals attended. Transportation camp was held the Saturday prior to the conference which included five sessions on hot topic transportation items. Regarding trends from TRB, Mr. Yaffe noted several items including autonomous vehicles, workshops dealing with older drivers, open source data, revolution within public transit (shared rides through the Ubers and Lyfts of the world, electric buses, and autonomous buses/vehicles). Other items noted included Bluetooth low energy which is being used in Israel for fare collection, headway based management services, and a focus on performance; in Des Moines, Iowa a fantasy football like draft is held by which teams pick public transit operators to improve morale and increase performance.

Report from Accessibility Subcommittee

- No report, next subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 18, 2018.

Additional Items from Committee Members and Staff

- Tim Roseboom noted the January 31, 2018 public hearing for the WMATA FY2019 budget which will be held at the Metro Headquarters Building with an open house starting at 5:30 pm and the public hearing beginning at 6:00 pm. There have not been any changes to the WMATA FY2019 budget since the November TAC meeting. A flyer noting the public hearing was shared with the TAC. Mr. Roseboom also noted that comments could also be submitted online.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2018.