

Arlington Transit Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
February 7, 2017
(Approved April 11, 2017)

Present:

John Carten
Harvey Berlin
Deidre Grant
Herschel Kanter
Alexa Mavroidis
Richard Hartman (staff)
Lynn Rivers (staff)
Steve Yaffe (staff)
Bee Buergler (staff)
Cristin Toler (staff)
Andre Stafford (Metro)
Erika Chiang (prospective new member)
David Theisz (guest)

John Carten opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Introductions of those present included Erika Chiang, a prospective new member of the Transit Advisory Committee.

There were no speakers during the public comment period. The chair postponed the approval of the December 13 meeting notes until more members were present.

1. Metro Update.

Cristin Tolen, the new Metro service coordinator for Arlington County, was introduced to the Committee. She discussed Metro's capital budget, presented to the Metro Board in December. The public comment period on Metro's 2018 budget ended on Monday. At the public hearing, speakers favored fare increases over service cuts. An additional 300 layoffs are planned at the start of FY 2018. She said she would come back to the TAC in March with the public hearing report and proposed budget. Under the proposed budget, Arlington's contribution for operating costs would rise from \$56.6 million to \$68.4 million and for capital costs from \$15.8 million to \$58 million.

Ms. Tolen also described the next SafeTrack surge. Starting Saturday through the end of February, the Blue Line will not operate and there will be no rail service between Pentagon and Rosslyn. Yellow Line Rush Plus service will operate all day. Arlington expects more riders on ART 42 and 43.

Alexa Mavroidis noted that the public only hears bad news about Metro and does not hear about positive results of the SafeTrack work. Deidre Grant asked if there was any change in vehicle

accidents from more buses and cars on the road during SafeTrack surges. Ms. Tolen said that no big increases in vehicle traffic have been noted.

2. Transit Capital Projects Update.

Bee Buerghler gave an update on four transit capital projects. The Pentagon City Pedestrian Tunnel is expected to open in early March. The tunnel, from the TSA building on the northeast corner of 12th Street and South Hayes Street to the station mezzanine, was built in 1984 but was never opened. After years of planning and repairs it will be opening soon. At the present time it will be open weekdays only.

The Crystal City Multimodal Center at the Crystal City Metrorail Station is almost finished. It includes four new bus bays along 18th Street under the Route 1 bridge. The intersection of 18th and South Bell streets was reconstructed and Bell Street will be open to two-way traffic.

The concept plan has been completed for the extension of the CCPY Transitway to the Pentagon City Metrorail Station. Preliminary engineering is expected to start in late Summer. The design phase will take 18 months.

The rebuilding of the NABI buses is the top priority transit capital project. The project includes a complete engine rebuild by Cummins. Eight buses have been completed and 43 more are to be done. Another contractor will be engaged to rebuild the transmissions. The rebuild occurs near the middle of the buses' 12-year expected life and extends the life span to 16 years.

3. Rosslyn Bus Bays.

Lynn Rivers reported that the bus bays on North Moore Street would be reconfigured to accommodate the relocation of Nestle's U.S headquarters to Rosslyn. Some bus bays will be removed to clear the entrance to 1812 North Moore Street. A bay will be added on the south end of Moore Street and the mid-block crosswalk will be narrowed to add another bay. Two shelters on the north end of Moore Street will be combined. Nestle will begin moving in June and will have close to 1,000 employees in Arlington.

Alexa Mavroidis emphasized the need to adequately inform the public about the relocated bus stop locations.

4. Meeting Notes.

The meeting notes from the December 13, 2016, meeting were approved.

5. Update on ART Facilities.

Steve Yaffe provided an update on the ART facilities. The buses have been parked on a lot along Four Mile Drive. They will need to move off that lot in February, but the new lot will not be ready until spring. Twenty-two of the buses will be moved to the Water Pollution Control plant and the rest to Shirlington.

6. ART Performance Report.

Steve Yaffe discussed the FY2017 second quarter performance report for ART bus routes. ART 41 ridership declined as riders shifted to ART 45. Ridership on ART 43 doubled as off-peak and weekend service was added. ART 55, the new Lee Highway route, is growing. A sixth bus will be added in June to improve on-time service. Overall ART ridership is up 14 percent over FY 2016, revenue hours are up 30 percent, and productivity is down.

Mr. Yaffe said he reviewed on-time performance, and noted that attention is needed to ART 55 and ART 77. ART 42 was recently fixed. The system goal is to run 95 percent on time (between zero minutes early and six minutes late).

Deidre Grant said that a major reason for buses not being on time is people loading money on SmarTrip cards. John Carten said that staff needs to make the County Board aware that the Transit Bureau is paying attention to performance and making adjustments to improve financial performance.

7. Report from Accessibility Subcommittee.

Alexa Mavroidis reported that the Subcommittee did not meet and there were no issues to bring up. Steve Yaffe said that the RFP to operate the STAR call center is being reviewed by the County Attorney.

8. Next Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 14, 2017.