

Arlington Transit Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
April 11, 2017
(Approved May 9, 2017)

Present:

John Carten
Harvey Berlin
Erika Chiang
Carlota Cobo
James Davenport
Deidre Grant
Takis Karantonis
Linda Massaro
Alexa Mavroidis
William Staderman
Richard Hartman (staff)
Lynn Rivers (staff)
Steve Yaffe (staff)
Cristin Tolen (staff)
William Jones (staff)
Andre Stafford (Metro)

John Carten opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

There were no speakers during the public comment period. The February 7, 2017, meeting notes were approved.

1. Metro Update.

Cristin Tolen reported that the Metro Board passed the FY 2018 budget last month. The operating budget is \$979 million. Arlington's share is \$70.9 million. The budget includes fare increases on Metrorail and Metrobus and service adjustments on the rail and bus lines. Peak-period headways on the Orange and Silver lines will be widened from six minutes to eight minutes. Blue Line headways will be reduced from 12 to eight minutes and Rush Plus on the Yellow Line will be eliminated. Bus service will be reduced or eliminated on some lines, but the 5A (to Dulles Airport) will be maintained and the 16 Line (Columbia Pike) service will remain unchanged.

The FY 2018 capital improvement program is \$1.25 billion with Arlington's share \$62 million.

Ms. Tolen reported that SafeTrack surge #14 (April 15 through April 29) would shut down a part of the Green Line in Maryland and would have some impact on Yellow Line service in Virginia.

Takis Karantonis asked whether any consideration was being given to Arlington taking over the Columbia Pike bus service. Lynn Rivers responded that it would cost more for the County since some of the current costs are shared by other regional jurisdictions. Also Arlington does not have the buses to provide the service or the infrastructure to store and maintain them.

Harvey Berlin asked if the trains were being lengthened to eight cars to make up for the longer headways. Ms. Tolen replied that ridership is currently down but that Metro would monitor ridership to see if additional capacity was needed.

2. ART Response to Metro Service Changes.

Steve Yaffe said that Arlington had been looking at changes in ART routes to compensate for some of the Metro staff's proposed cuts in Metrobus service. However, the adopted budget pretty much holds harmless the Metrobus service affecting Arlington, so no major ART changes are anticipated.

3. Proposed ART and STAR Fare Increase.

With the planned Metrobus fare increase, Arlington staff is proposing corresponding increases in ART and STAR fares. Steve Yaffe said the County Board is being asked to increase the basic bus fare from \$1.75 to \$2.00. The student iRide fare would go up to \$1.00 and it would be extended to elementary school students. The proposed Zone 1 fare for STAR is \$4.00, double the base bus fare. The Transit Advisory Committee will consider the proposed fare increase at the May meeting, and staff will send the TAC a summary of the proposed fares before the meeting.

On April 22, the County Board will consider a request to advertise the proposed fare increase. If the request is approved, the public will be invited to comment on the fare increase at the May 9 Transit Advisory Committee meeting, at the May 4 Transportation Commission meeting, and at the May 20 County Board meeting.

4. ART Second Quarter Operations Report.

William Jones provided copies of the FY 2017 Second Quarter Operations Report. It presents a new style of reporting, with more visual charts. The report shows that passengers per revenue hour was down slightly compared to the previous year because of added service on ART 43. There was an increase in ART ridership of 14 percent. STAR ridership was down slightly. STAR trip cancellations decreased but no-shows increased. The subsidy per passenger increased 16 percent on ART and three percent on STAR.

5. Transit Capital Projects Update.

Lynn Rivers and Steve Yaffe presented a brief update on transit capital projects. The Crystal City Multimodal Project (constructing bus bays on 18th Street and making Bell Street two-way) is just about finished and staff is looking at setting a date for a ribbon cutting. Work on the Pentagon City pedestrian tunnel is finished and waiting for the building owner to open it. The

contractor is finishing up with the ART Light Maintenance Facility on South Eads Street. Staff hopes to be putting buses on the lot in May and using the building by June 1. Lighting and security improvements have been made at the Shirlington lot where ART buses are parked.

My Yaffe said that staff is planning to do a bus tour of transit projects in June for both the Transit Advisory Committee and the Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

6. Report from Accessibility Subcommittee.

Alexa Mavroidis reported that the March Subcommittee meeting was the quarterly meeting for public comments. Two members of the public spoke at the meeting. The proposed Super Star Taxi program was discussed, but it has not been included in the County Manager's proposed budget. There were comments on construction in the vicinity of North Carlin Springs Road and North Glebe Road, where material has been blocking access on the sidewalks. Steve Yaffe said that a pedestrian planner for the County may be invited to a future meeting to discuss these concerns.

7. Next Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 9, 2017.