

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

**Present:**

John Carten  
Erika Chiang  
Carlota Cobo  
Herschel Kanter  
Laura MacNeil  
Linda Massaro  
Alexa Mavroidis  
William Staderman  
Richard Hartman (staff)  
Lynn Rivers (staff)  
Steve Yaffe (staff)  
Bee Buergler (staff)  
Cristin Tolen (staff)  
Jim Curren (staff)  
Sonali Soneji (VRE)  
Andre Stafford (Metro)  
Pamela Van Hine (Pedestrian Advisory Committee)

John Carten opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

There were no speakers during the public comment period. The April 11, 2017, meeting notes were approved.

**1. Proposed Fare Increase.**

Steve Yaffe described the proposed fare increase on ART and STAR, to be considered at the County Board's May meeting. The basic ART fare would rise from \$1.75 to \$2.00 to match the planned increase in Metrobus fares. The STAR Zone 1 fare would rise from \$3.50 to \$4.00. Also, tokens would be eliminated and the half-price fare currently available to high-school students would be made available to elementary school students. The fare increase would take effect June 25.

Mr. Yaffe said that the Transportation Commission had endorsed the fare increase. John Carten asked for a motion for the TAC to endorse the increase. Herschel Kanter made the motion, which was seconded by Linda Massaro. The motion was approved unanimously.

**2. Crystal City VRE Station Improvements.**

Sonali Soneji of the Virginia Railway Express provided a handout describing the study for expansion of the Crystal City VRE Station. The station is currently VRE's third busiest after

L'Enfant Plaza and Union Station. A fourth track is being added in the area. The project's objectives are to provide an island platform that can be served by two tracks and to lengthen the platform to serve eight- or ten-car trains. Future opportunities for projects by others include a new Metro entrance closer to VRE and improving the pedestrian linkage to Reagan National Airport.

Three options for the station location have been identified and are being evaluated by VRE's consultants. VRE is continuing public outreach on the project.

Bill Staderman pointed out the need for VRE to involve the disability community in its planning and to consider accessibility issues for both the station and the rail cars.

### **3. Metrobus Service Changes.**

Andre Stafford, a bus service planner for Metro, described Metrobus service changes that are planned to go into effect June 25. He provided a handout listing the changes that would affect Arlington. Many of the revisions in bus service are intended to compensate for a planned reduction in hours of service on Metrorail. As part of Metro's FY 2017 budget, Metrorail will also see longer peak-period headways on all lines except for the Blue Line.

### **4. Columbia Pike Transit Stations.**

Jim Curren, a transit capital projects manager, reported on the project to install the 23 transit stations along Columbia Pike. The County will use a "kit-of-parts" approach, with the individual structures assembled at the factory and then installed by a contractor. The installation will follow the completion of sections of the Columbia Pike Multimodal project, which is upgrading the roadway and sidewalks. Four stations can be installed next spring—two at Glebe Road, one at Buchanan Street and one at Oakland Street. Committee members asked that staff bring renderings of the station design to a future meeting.

### **5. Virginia Transit Association Annual Conference.**

Steve Yaffe announced that the annual conference of the Virginia Transit Association would be hosted by Arlington on May 23 and 24. The conference will be at the Crystal City Hilton. The public is welcome to attend, but there is a charge.

### **6. Bus Tour of Transit Projects.**

Staff have been working with the chairs of the Transit Advisory Committee and the Pedestrian Advisory Committee to plan a bus tour of transit projects with both groups. The tour was being planned for the regular meeting date of the Transit Advisory Committee, June 13. However, the chair of the PAC, Pam Van Hine, said that since that was the date of the Virginia primary election, some of the PAC members would not be able to participate that day. The TAC agreed to set the date of the tour for the next evening, Wednesday, June 14. The tour will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the ART 62 stop near the flagpole at Courthouse Plaza. Staff will be working to develop the itinerary for the tour.

## **7. Report from Accessibility Subcommittee.**

Alexa Mavroidis reported that the Subcommittee had discussed whether they would prefer buttons, pull cords or tape to call for stops on new buses. They also discussed whether to continue the use of a TTY at the Shirlington Commuter Store. TTY is an old technology and most people now use text or email.

The Subcommittee would like to see another STAR survey done, though there is no money in the budget to do it this year. The last survey was done in 2011.

## **8. Next Meeting.**

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

The next meeting is a bus tour scheduled for Wednesday, June 14, 2017.