Commuter Bus Management Plan Update

DDOT/Transit Agencies Meeting
May 17th, 2010
Agenda

• Overview of commuter bus service
• Overview of regulations/plan
• Current status
• Next Steps
Commuter Bus Service

- Commuter bus service provides transportation for regional residents for DC based employers.
- Region-wide service in 15 counties and cities
- Majority of the service provides connections to locations in the city with high federal employment
- Three major agencies provide the bulk of the service
  - MTA - Maryland Transit Administration
  - PRTC/Omniride - Potomac Rappahannock Transportation Commission
  - LC - Loudoun County Transit
  - Other smaller carriers
Commuter Bus Service (cont’d)

- Heaviest volume occurs during AM and PM peak (7:00am-9:30am, 3:30pm-6:30pm)
- Approximately 150 pick up locations
- Approximately 175 locations are shared with, or on the same block as a Metro bus stop
- Approximately 200 plus buses travelling daily in the District Monday-Friday
- Time sensitive schedules similar to Metro bus service
Number of Stops by Commuter Bus Service Provider

MTA  PRTC  LC
0.00  10.00  20.00  30.00  40.00  50.00  60.00  70.00  80.00

Percent of Commuter Bus stops shared with Metro Bus stops by Agency

MTA: 74.68%
PRTC: 78.57%
LC: 31.03%
Challenges

- Identification of the universe of commuter bus providers
- No regulations or policy for commuter bus operations in the District
- Coordination with transit agencies
- Conflicts with Metro bus service
- Conflicts with curbside usage
- Parking needs for layover purposes between AM and PM schedules
- PM schedule creates the largest conflict
District Commuter Bus Plan

- Regulations
  - Short term implementation
  - Establishes consistency on operations and signage
  - Formalizes approval process for stops
  - Clearly defines “commuter bus service provider”

- Operational plan
  - Immediate implementation
  - Resolves current issues
  - Standardizes operations on public space
District Commuter Bus Plan (cont’d)

Regulations

- Specific regulations have been crafted pertaining to commuter bus service and the use of public space
  - A permit will be required for the placement of signs in public space
  - The permit holder will be required to indicate specific routes in the District and locations of signs
  - Permit will describe specifications for signs
District Commuter Bus Plan (cont’d)

Operational Plan

- Limit the number of curbside stops
- Piggyback on WMATA’s new bus flag design
- Identify shared Metro bus stops
- Coordinate with agencies to resolve conflict locations
- Sign installation
- Identify centralized parking locations
Commuter Bus Blocks
Next Steps

• Agencies submitting all pickup locations by March 25th
• Identify locations for signage placement on public space vs. Metro stops
• Meeting with providers to occur on April 15th
• Complete review process by April 30th
• Begin sign installation on May 17th
• Expected draft rulemaking promulgation in summer 2010
Contact

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