

Summary Minutes MARC Advisory Council Meeting
Thursday November 15, 2007, 4:30 p.m.
Hall of the States, Room 331
444 North Capitol Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-1512

Attendees:

MARC Advisory Council:

Carol Oberdorfer, Brunswick – Present
Chikwe Njoku, Penn & Camden – Present
Christopher Field, Penn - Present
David Frederick, Brunswick - Present
Deborah Foster, Brunswick – Present
E. Donald Hughes, Camden – Absent
Evelyn Anderson, Brunswick – Present – New Member
Hameed Ahmed, Camden – Absent
Juan Calvo, Penn – Absent
Laurence Gross, Brunswick – Present
Luke Ritter, Penn – Present
Lynda Clarke, Penn – Present
Rafael Guroian, Penn & Camden – Present
Ronald Jackson, Penn - Absent – resigned 2007-11-15
Steve Chan, Penn – Present

Staff:

Jim Knighton, MTA Director of External Affairs
Glenn Saffran, Acting Director of MARC Train & Commuter Bus Service

Guests:

None

The meeting was called to order at 4:41 PM by Chairman Lynda Clarke.

Evelyn Anderson, who rides the Brunswick line from West Virginia, was introduced as our newest member to the MARC Advisory Council.

Carol Oberdorfer noted that the ticket sale machines at Union Station are programmed to only sell tickets with Union Station as a destination. She requested that the programming for these machines be made more flexible, to allow any legitimate source and destination.

David Frederick requested that when emails are sent regarding train service outages, that the email suggest alternative travel arrangements. Perhaps hot links could be included in the email to transportation alternatives? Dave cited the recent outage on Brunswick MARC train #875, which departs Union Station at 4:25 PM and arrives in Brunswick, Maryland at 5:55 PM.

Glenn Saffran, Director of the MARC Train & Commuter Bus Service, talked about the new email notification system, stating that there are three levels of priority that the MTA can assign to outbound emails. Glenn reported that there has been no more than a four minute delay between the sending of an email and the receipt of the email. Reports from the public indicate that the new system is working very well.

There were discussions regarding the MARC Council Web Page format and content.

Regarding the “On Your MARC” newsletter, it was noted that there needs to be articles from the MARC Advisory Council, describing who we are, and perhaps a question/answer section. It was commented that it would be helpful if an email could be sent out a few weeks to a month prior to the press deadline for each issue of the “On Your MARC” newsletter, so that the council could submit articles to be published.

A photograph was taken of the Council members in attendance.

A motion was made to send a letter to Baltimore City, requesting that a traffic light be installed near Penn Station and I-83, to help improve pedestrian safety. This motion passed unanimously. Chikwe Njoku will be following up on this matter.

A discussion was held regarding long term transportation projects, ranging from 2015 to 2035.

Christopher Field brought up the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board’s (BRTB) long term transportation plan, called “Transportation Outlook 2035”. The BRTB long term plan emphasizes roads/road construction, and is light on mass transit. The MOREtransit’s response expresses to the BRTB a desire for a more balanced transportation plan. Additional information on the MOREtransit can be found at www.bmoremobile.org A copy of their response can be found at:

[https://home.comcast.net/~artc12/TO2035 Joint Statement Total Signatures - final.pdf](https://home.comcast.net/~artc12/TO2035%20Joint%20Statement%20Total%20Signatures%20-%20final.pdf)

A motion was made to endorse the MOREtransit response, requesting more resources for mass transit. This motion passed unanimously. Christopher Field was to communicate the MARC Advisory Council’s endorsement of the MOREtransit response to the appropriate parties.

Discussions were held regarding the reorganization of the different subcommittees, and the assignment of members to each committee. It was decided to table any reorganization/consolidation of subcommittees until the January 2008 meeting.

It was suggested that though be given to how the Council’s web site should look, and what kinds of information should be displayed. Some of the suggestions were to include the minutes of the Council meeting, a list of the Council members with appropriate contact information, and PDF copies of all the issues of “On Your MARC”. It was mentioned that the website needs to be reorganized, so that it is easier to find information. Please email any suggestions to Rich Solli, rsolli@mtamaryland.com - MTA Director of Marketing.

The next Council meeting, which will be held on Thursday December 20, 2007 at 4:30 PM., will have a presentation by MTA Administrator Paul Wiedefeld, who will discuss MARC’s Growth & Investment Plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:41 PM. Thursday November 15, 2007.