

Summary Minutes MARC Advisory Council Meeting  
Thursday December 18, 2008, 4:30 p.m.  
Union Station  
Acela First Class Lounge  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Attendees:

MARC Advisory Council:

Andrea Richardson, Brunswick – Present  
Carol Oberdorfer, Brunswick – Present  
Chikwe Njoku, Penn & Camden – Absent  
Christopher Field, Penn – Present  
David Frederick, Brunswick - Absent  
Hameed Ahmed, Camden – Present  
Josh Friedman, Camden – Absent  
Juan Calvo, Penn – Absent  
Laurence Gross, Brunswick – Present  
Lynda Clarke, Penn – Present  
Makeda Scott – Penn – Absent  
Mark Dysart, Brunswick - Present  
Rafael Guroian, Penn & Camden – Present  
Scott Minos, Brunswick – Present  
Steve Chan, Penn – Present

Staff:

John Hovatter – MTA Director of MARC Train & Commuter Bus Services  
Simon Taylor – Assistant Deputy Administrator – Transit Operations

Guests:

Guest John Morris – Retired Montgomery County DOT  
Guest Michael Ditkoff – Penn Line

The meeting was called to order at 4:37 PM by Chairman Lynda Clarke

Simon Taylor briefed us on the MTA public hearings. The largest crowd was at the hearing in Columbia. About 1,000 emails were sent in. The hearing record will be kept open until December 26, 2008.

Currently, the proposal for the Penn Line northbound is to take the three existing trains that leave Union Station at 8:40 PM, 10:05 PM, and 11:00 PM to two trains that will leave at 9:00 PM and 10:30 PM. The southbound Penn Line will take the two existing trains that leave Baltimore Penn Station at 9:20 PM and 10:40 PM to one train that will leave at 9:15 PM.

West Virginia will now pay a \$1 million/year subsidy to MTA to help support all five trains that go into West Virginia. All West Virginia patrons will pay an extra \$2/ticket each way, an extra \$20/weekly pass, and an extra \$80/monthly pass.

No more 10-trip tickets will be sold as of Monday January 12, 2009.

The new proposed MARC train schedule will take effect on Monday January 12, 2009.

For Inauguration Day – Tuesday January 20, 2009 – the current plans are to open sales of special Inauguration Day MARC train tickets at 9 AM Saturday December 20, 2008. Sales will be online, and at the Monocacy Station and the Camden Station. There will be a limit of 4 tickets per person, with payment by credit or debit cards. Checks will not be accepted. Each ticket sold will be for a specific train southbound and a specific train northbound. The number of tickets to be sold for each train will be limited to the number of seats on that train, so that all ticket holders will have a seat. Regular MARC daily, 10-trip, weekly, and monthly passes will not be honored on Inauguration Day.

Carol Oberdorfer has suggested that the MARC Riders Advisory Council extend a welcoming hand to the deaf and hearing-impaired community. This suggestion was positively received by fellow council members.

Rafi Guroian has registered the <http://www.marcriders.com> website for the council, as well as the marcriders.com email alias.

A suggestion was made that a committee be created for each line – Penn, Camden, and Brunswick.

The next meeting will be Thursday January 15, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM Thursday December 18, 2009.