

Summary Minutes MARC Advisory Council Meeting
Thursday November 13, 2008, 4:30 p.m.
Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill
Congressional Room B
400 New Jersey Avenue, N.W.
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 – Absent
Josh Friedman, Camden – Present
Juan Calvo, Penn – Absent
Laurence Gross, Brunswick – Present
Lynda Clarke, Penn – Present
Makeda Scott – Penn – Present
Mark Dysart, Brunswick - Present
Rafael Guroian, Penn & Camden – Present
Scott Minos, Brunswick – Absent
Steve Chan, Penn – Present

Staff:

John Hovatter – MTA Director of MARC Train & Commuter Bus Services
Jim Knighton - MTA Director of External Affairs

Guests:

Guest John Morris – Retired Montgomery County DOT
Guest Michael Ditkoff – Department of Homeland Security

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

Discussions concerning service and budget reductions continued from the October 29th 2008 meeting.

Chris Field distributed his copies of his letter to Governor O'Malley, dated November 7, 2008.

John Hovatter confirmed that under Governor Bob Ehrlich, MARC trains did not provide service on the Martin Luther King Day and President's Day holidays.

Chairman Lynda Clarke suggested that a petition be set up to show support for hike in rates, versus a reduction in services.

It was noted that ticket prices used to be 60% of the cost of providing service. Recently, it has dropped below 50%.

Rafi Guroian distributed copies of his proposed letter to Governor O'Malley and MDOT Secretary John Porcari, dated November 13, 2008. Carol Oberdorfer suggested that we start with Rafi's proposal as a starting point. Discussions on the contents of the letter were held.

John Hovater noted that MARC may cancel service on specified days without a public hearing, but that if MARC proposes to cancel specific trains every day, it is first required to hold public hearings.

A motion was made to accept the concept, if not the exact wording, of Rafi's letter. The motion passed unanimously. Rafi Guroian will work with Chairman Lynda Clarke to finalize the wording before sending it out.

It was noted that the last fare increases were in 2003 and 1996.

Rafi noted that MARC charges the lowest rate per mile for a commuter railroad in North America.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM Thursday November 13, 2008.