

MOTION:

SECOND:

**RE: APPROVAL OF THE PROCESS FOR IMPLEMENTING SERVICE AND FARE
ADJUSTMENTS IN RESPONSE TO MAJOR EVENTS SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACTING
OMNIRIDE SERVICE**

ACTION:

WHEREAS, the recent partial Federal government shutdown had a negative impact on OMNIRIDE ridership, which was accompanied by a commensurate loss in fare revenue; and

WHEREAS, management determined a need to establish a process for implementing service and fare adjustments in response to major events which are having a significant impact on OMNIRIDE services ridership and fare collection; and

WHEREAS, management has established impact thresholds to determine if service and fare adjustments are warranted; and

WHEREAS, any service and fare adjustment plan would take ridership and revenue collection into consideration; and

WHEREAS, a detailed plan which outlines the service and fare adjustments by service type and fare collection impacts shall be provided to PRTC's Chair; and

WHEREAS, concurrence from the PRTC Chair is required to implement the proposed service and fare adjustment plan; and

WHEREAS, management would seek approval from the Chair if further service and fare adjustments are necessary in response to a longer-term event.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission does hereby approve management's recommended process to implement service and fare adjustments in response to major events that significantly impact OMNIRIDE services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that concurrence from the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission Chair is required to implement any service and fare adjustments in response to major events that significantly impact OMNIRIDE services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission does hereby direct the Executive Director to inform the Commission of any potential service or fare adjustment plans, and relevant timelines, before implementing any service and fare adjustments.

Votes:

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent from Vote:


Alternate Present Not Voting:


Absent from Meeting:



April 4, 2019

TO: Madam Chair Anderson and PRTC Commissioners

FROM: Perrin A. Palistrant 
Director of Operations and Operations Planning

THROUGH: Robert A. Schneider, PhD 
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Approval of the Process for Implementing Service and Fare Adjustments in Response to Major Events Significantly Impacting OMNIRIDE Services

Recommendation:

Approval of the Process to implement service and fare adjustments in response to major events significantly impacting OMNIRIDE services.

Background:

On December 21, 2018, approximately 800,000 Federal employees, many of whom live and work in the Washington, DC Metropolitan area, were either furloughed or required to work without pay. As a result, OMNIRIDE express service experienced continual decline in ridership, which was not associated with holidays or inclement weather. From January 1 through January 25, express service ridership declined approximately 15.6 percent, 788 passengers per day, resulting in a loss of fare revenue of \$5,169 per day.

During the recent Government shutdown, ridership declined significantly enough that should a major event occur in the future that negatively affects OMNIRIDE services, management would recommend implementing service and fare adjustments that take ridership and fare revenue collection into consideration. Operating at normal service levels, coupled with fare revenue loss creates a budgetary strain. Events that have a significant positive impact on OMNIRIDE services could result in demand exceeding scheduled capacity creating a strain on existing resources. Should a major event continue for an extended period of time, further service and fare adjustments may be necessary.

Management is recommending the following process:

- Should a significant regional event occur that results in a ridership decline or increase of 15% or greater and lasting longer than two consecutive weeks, temporary adjustments to service levels and fares will be considered.
- Once management determines that these conditions exist, management will develop a proposed service and fare adjustment plan (Plan) that includes the following:
 - Service level changes by service type (Express, Metro Express, Local) with explanation and assurance that the recommended service levels will be sufficient to meet demand.
 - Changes to fare structure, if warranted, with explanation of any anticipated fare revenue loss or gain.
 - Implementation timeline including duration, if known.
 - Timeline for return to normal service and fare levels, if known.
- Concurrence from the PRTC Chair is required to proceed with the implementation of the plan. The Chair may convene an Executive Committee meeting to discuss the impacts of the proposed plan, if necessary.

Following approval from the Chair, all Commission members will be notified of the Plan details, including relevant timelines, prior to implementing the Plan.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact will need to be determined on a case-by-case basis and would be included in the proposed Plan.