

MOTION:

SECOND:

RE: AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO IMPLEMENT SHUTTLE SERVICE TO EASTERN PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS STATIONS DURING THE METRORAIL SUMMER 2019 PLATFORM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND TO SUBMIT A MID-CYCLE GRANT APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF SHUTTLE SERVICE EXPENSES

ACTION:

WHEREAS, several Metrorail Blue and Yellow line stations south of National Airport will be closed while undergoing a platform improvement project from May 25, 2019 to September 2, 2019; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to support the region during the closure of these Metrorail Blue and Yellow line stations, OMNIRIDE is poised to assist by offering free-fare shuttle service between the Dale City and Lake Ridge commuter lots to the Rippon and Woodbridge Virginia Railway Express (VRE) stations; and

WHEREAS, OMNIRIDE staff has developed a mitigation plan that includes shuttle services and other Transportation Demand Management (TDM) and marketing activities to promote commuter options that exist; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation is compiling various proposals from the Northern Virginia jurisdictions and agencies into a cohesive regional strategy which will be presented to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) in March for consideration of funding; and

WHEREAS, following CTB approval, individual agencies will be able to apply for a mid-cycle grant to access the available funding; and

WHEREAS, the estimate to operate the shuttle service is \$152,000, which will be covered with favorable budget variances in FY19 and FY20; and

ITEM 12-A
March 7, 2019
PRTC Regular Meeting
Res. No. 19-03-___
Page Two

WHEREAS, PRTC will submit a mid-cycle grant to DRPT for partial reimbursement of shuttle service expenses to include TDM and marketing activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission does hereby authorize the Executive Director to implement free-fare shuttle service to support the region during the Metrorail Summer 2019 platform improvement project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission does hereby authorize the Executive Director to submit a mid-cycle grant application to DRPT for partial reimbursement of shuttle service expenses, to include TMD and marketing activities.

Votes:

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent from Vote:


Alternate Present Not Voting:


Absent from Meeting:



March 7, 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: Authorize the Executive Director to Implement Shuttle Service to Eastern Prince William County Virginia Railway Express Stations During the Metrorail Summer 2019 Platform Improvement Project and to Submit a Mid-Cycle Grant Application to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation for Partial Reimbursement of Shuttle Service Expenses

Recommendation:

Authorize the Executive Director to implement shuttle service to eastern Prince William County Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Stations during the Metrorail Summer 2019 Platform Improvement Project and to submit a mid-cycle grant application to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) for partial reimbursement of shuttle service expenses.

Background:

In an effort to support the region during the WMATA Summer 2019 Platform Improvement Project taking place between May 25 and September 2, 2019, OMNIRIDE staff evaluated available resources and developed strategies for opportunities to promote existing services, establish shuttles to nearby VRE stations and enhanced TDM activities. These efforts are designed to not only benefit existing passengers, but offer options to potential new passengers to reduce impacts to the road network inside the Beltway that may result from the Metrorail station closures.

OMNIRIDE is poised to assist by offering free-fare shuttles between the Dale City commuter lot and Rippon VRE and from commuter lots in Lake Ridge to the Woodbridge VRE station. When consulted, VRE staff recommended shuttle service to four (4) morning trains that currently have capacity to serve additional passengers (Fredericksburg Line 302, 304, 308 and 314), and all evening Fredericksburg Line trains would be served for outbound travel back to the commuter

lots. The Dale City and Lake Ridge commuter lots have available parking capacity to accommodate passengers that wish to park and use the fare-free shuttle to the VRE stations, as well as existing express bus routes that serve these lots.

In addition to this service, OMNIRIDE has developed various Transit Demand Management (TDM) and Marketing and Communication plans to promote other commuter options that exist, such as:

- Promotion of existing OMNIRIDE express bus options along the I-95 corridor
- Promotion of under-utilized commuter lots with available transit service (i.e. Dale City commuter lot, Lindendale commuter lot, Route 123/95 commuter lot)
- Coordinating efforts with Potomac Mills Mall to possibly expand the existing commuter lot to facilitate additional slugging/transit utilization opportunities
- Promote vanpooling (with available seats on existing vanpools) via the Vanpool Alliance website and Facebook page
- Promote vanpooling to vanpool owner/operators as a new business opportunity via the Vanpool Alliance website and Facebook page
- Provide links to information on the overall project and transit/TDM alternatives on the OmniRide website and Facebook page
- Promote additional Vanpool Alliance incentives for new vans formed in affected areas – via the Vanpool Alliance website and Facebook page

OMNIRIDE staff presented this mitigation plan to DRPT in mid-February. DRPT will take proposals from various Northern Virginia jurisdictions and agencies to ensure the strategies mesh, with no overlap or conflicts, and will compile the proposals into a cohesive regional strategy. The intent is to present the regional strategy to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) in March, with potential funding actions in April. Following CTB approval, individual agencies would have the option to apply for a mid-cycle grant to access available funding, proposed at 80 percent of the expenses borne by the agency, to support this effort.

The cost to operate and market the fare-free shuttles, plus marketing of existing services, is estimated at \$152,000 for the duration of the construction project. If authorized, PRTC will submit an application for partial reimbursement of eligible expenses, with favorable budget variances in FY19 and FY20 covering any expenses not reimbursed by the grant.

Fiscal Impact

Fiscal impact statement attached.

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Fiscal Impact:

The fare-free shuttle service is estimated to cost \$152,000 and will be funded through a combination of local and state funding sources. Pending approval by the Commonwealth Transportation Board, reimbursement of up to 80 percent of the expenses will be made available. The remainder will be paid for by local funding.

Federal:	\$0	
State:	\$ 121,600 (DRPT grant application for reimbursement proposed at 80 percent)	
Local:	\$30,400	
	Fredericksburg:	\$0
	Manassas:	\$0
	Manassas Park:	\$0
	Prince William:	\$30,400
	Spotsylvania:	\$0
	Stafford:	\$0
Total:		<hr/> \$152,000