

ITEM 11-A
September 6, 2018
PRTC Regular Meeting
Res. No. 18-09____

MOTION:

SECOND:

RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE PRTC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO COMMENCE THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY WESTERN AREA LOCAL SERVICE PLAN AND THE PROPOSED HAYMARKET EXPRESS BUS SERVICE

ACTION:

WHEREAS, management has developed a plan to provide improved local transit service in Western Prince William County and the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park; and

WHEREAS, this plan has previously been presented to the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park; and

WHEREAS, implementation of the plan would qualify as a Major Service Change under PRTC's Public Participation Policy; and

WHEREAS, a new 200 space commuter lot is being constructed in Haymarket and is expected to open in early 2019; and

WHEREAS, commuter bus service from the new lot would enhance the existing bus network in the western portion of the County and provide relief to other nearby commuter lots; and

WHEREAS, management is proposing a new route that would serve the Haymarket Commuter Lot; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of a new route qualifies as a Major Service Change under PRTC's Public Participation Policy; and

WHEREAS, at its June 2018 meeting the Commission authorized the commencement of the Public Participation Process for the Transit Development Plan (TDP) and Transportation Demand Management Plan (TDMP); and

WHEREAS, the Prince William County Western Area Local Service Plan and the new Haymarket OmniRide Express bus route are included in the TDP; and

WHEREAS, a single Public Participation Process will ensure greater public participation for all plans; and

WHEREAS, management will return to the Commission to seek endorsement of the results of the Public Participation process and authorization to implement any proposed new service at its November or December Commission meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission hereby authorizes the PRTC Executive Director to commence the Public Participation Process for the proposed Prince William County Western Service Area Plan and Haymarket express bus service.

Votes:

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent from Vote:


Alternate Present Not Voting:


Absent from Meeting:



September 6, 2018

TO: Madam Chair Anderson and PRTC Commissioners

FROM: Perrin Palistrant 
Director of Operations and Operations Planning

THROUGH: Robert A. Schneider, PhD 
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Authorization for the PRTC Executive Director to Commence the Public Participation Process for the Proposed Western Service Area Plan and Haymarket Express Bus Service

Recommendation:

Authorization for the PRTC Executive Director to Commence the Public Participation Process for the Proposed Western Service Area Plan and Haymarket Express Bus Service

Background:

The local bus network in western Prince William County, including the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park, were impacted significantly by service reductions in July 2016. This reduction eliminated one route in Manassas Park and relegated the remaining services to operate at low frequencies, have circuitous and duplicative routings, and necessitated transfers at inconvenient locations. In addition, the connection between the eastern and western County operates redundant service between Old Town Manassas and Manassas Mall and operates at low frequencies, impacting connectivity options to local routes on both sides of the County.

Management proposes restructuring this service, with an implementation in spring 2019. This plan would streamline routing, coordinate transfers in Old Town Manassas, improve connectivity between eastern and western services, eliminate route deviations and introduce a complementary paratransit service **for the western end of Prince William County only**. The objective is to reallocate resources to better connect residential, retail, commercial, and social service aspects, creating a more effective network of services.

In addition, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is constructing new commuter lots in the western portion of the County to support the Transform 66 project and encourage alternate modes of transportation. The first new commuter lot will be built in Haymarket, near the intersections of I-66 and US 15, and is planned to open in early 2019. This 200 space facility adds much needed commuter parking capacity in the I-66 corridor and allows for the expansion of commuter bus services, as well as carpooling and other ridesharing options.

To enhance the express bus network, OmniRide Planning staff evaluated existing and new services proposed in the Transform 66 Bus Network Plan, as well as reviewing requests provided by customers. Management is proposing a new express bus route from Haymarket to the Rosslyn-Ballston employment area. Currently, passengers in the western portion of the County have no direct transit options and must either transfer from bus to Metrorail or transfer between buses at the Pentagon to reach this corridor. This new route would provide four morning and four evening trips, and serve five bus stops in Arlington.

The annual cost to provide this service is approximately \$340,000. Funding sources under consideration include the Transform 66 Transportation Management Plan (TMP), the I-66 Commuter Choice program, and new fuel tax floor revenues.

As parking capacity is increased through the construction of additional commuter parking spaces and new funding sources are made available, further expansion of existing services or the introduction of new destinations will be considered.

The Haymarket Commuter Lot is expected to open in early calendar year 2019. In order to begin service coincident with the opening of the lot, management proposes to hold a public hearing on Wednesday, October 17th. The proposed Western Service Area Plan, the proposed Haymarket Express bus service, and Transit Development/Transit Demand Management Plans will be presented. Management will return to the Commission seeking endorsement of the results of the Public Participation Process and authorization to implement any new services at the November or December Commission meeting.

Fiscal impact:

Funding for the service would be through various sources.