

Metro Transit Police Work Group Update

Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee
February 2, 2022



November 3 TAAC Meeting Recap

- Presented at the November 3, 2021 Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting
- Members expressed interest in being involved in this process and are disappointed TAAC was not one of the advisory committees listed in the business item.
- Raised topics the work group should consider, including
 - Training employees (police officers, CSOs, and bus/rail operators) to work with people living with different types of disabilities and multiple disabilities
 - Facilities – importance of lighting, questions about when facilities are open or locked

Plan for concluding work group's work

- Police Work Group will report back recommendations to the Council by 2/28
 - Two remaining work group meetings: February 11 and February 25
 - One remaining Committee of the Whole update scheduled for February 16
- Work group will recommend vision, goals, and ideas for strategies and data
- Work group will recommend directing Metro Transit and MTPD to develop an action plan to advance the recommended goals and report back to the Council by date to be determined

December 17 public comments summary

- Transit policing is an **environmental justice** and a **racial justice** issue
- Systems across the country are grappling with similar issues, and Metro Transit should draw on **practices from other transit agencies**
- Route **reliability and frequency is key to safety**, and Metro Transit has needed to reduce service due to operator shortage
- Experiences with **poor behavior** and **conditions** on vehicles and platforms; too few officers visibly present
- Concerns about **officer training** (e.g., fewer in-person trainings due to COVID)
- Concerns about **officer retention** and why officers are leaving for other departments
- Concerns about **working conditions for operators, police officers, and CSOs**, including communication between operators and police
- Concerns about **police treatment of riders**, including use of force

December 17 public comments – continued

- Concerns about **resource allocation** (e.g., growth of MTPD budget, where officers are deployed, etc.)
- Consider other **conditions** when improving safety, including equitably-distributed clean, heated, well-lit shelters and reducing transit fares
- Effective and frequent **public engagement** and **communication** are important; need to bring community-lived experience into policy
- Support for **administrative citations** for fare evasion
- Several comments about the expanded CSO program and need for ambassadors, including:
 - Some voiced support for the general direction of **unarmed personnel** who focus on **customer service, connecting people to services, and deescalating situations**
 - CSO expansion might be a step in the right direction but only available to people on a law enforcement career track
 - Concerns about CSOs carrying weapons (also concerns with MTPD officers being armed)
 - Metro Transit needs to provide more information on CSO program goals and performance

Values guiding recommendations

Key words: dignity, fairness, just, anti-racist, quality, efficiency, positive impact, systems level approach, stakeholders, community of accountability, safety/security

Working list of values, principles, criteria (not in any order):

- Value **safety and security** on transit
- **Dignity, fairness, and just for all**
- **Rebuild confidence** in the **quality of transit for all**
- Value the broad **diversity** of the community we serve, including ability, race, ethnicity, gender, and age
- Apply **anti-racist lens** and practice to this work

Values guiding recommendations – continued

- **Accountability and decision making** – requires mutual accountability or community of accountability. Recognize the roles of Council Members, Metro Transit, and MTPD leadership, and external partners. Includes ensuring open, meaningful dialogue between Chief and Council.
- **Stakeholders** are key to success and to building strong recommendations – both internal and external
- **Responsive to feedback** – not enough to accept feedback, need to follow **best public participation practices** and follow up with people to let them know what was done with their feedback and the actions that will be taken as a result
- **Systems-level approach**, not band-aids
- Assess recommendations to **ensure positive impact/aim to reduce negative impacts** on key communities
- Consider **efficient use of resources**
- Recommendations should be **realistic and doable**

Approach towards recommendations

	Provide a quality transit experience for all through an anti-racist, equitable, and inclusive approach to transit safety, security, and policing	Address systemic issues by fostering community relationships and partnerships	Demonstrate responsive leadership and accountability
Issues and gaps			
Goals to address issues/gaps			
Ideas for info/data			

Comments or questions?





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