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### City of Falls Church

Meeting Date: 01-27-20	Title: WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY (WMATA) BUS TRANSFORMATION PROJECT PRESENTATION	Agenda No.: 9 (b)
Proposed Motion: None. For information and discussion.		
Originating Dept. Head: Paul Stoddard, AICP Planning Director 703-248-5040 PS 1-23-20	Lead Staff: Jeffrey Sikes, Transportation Planner 703.248.5296 JPS 01/23/20	Disposition by Council:

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**REQUEST:** Council’s feedback is requested on WMATA’s Bus Transformation Project and the associated Action Plan. Feedback is particularly needed on key elements that are applicable to the City and on coordination items to focus on during annual budget discussions, state of good operations service updates, and ad-hoc opportunities for transit service planning.

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**RECOMMENDATION:** As travel options continue to evolve and expand, bus service remains an important part of the region’s transportation network. Well-planned and operated bus service can deliver effective, cost-efficient, and equitable travel options. As shown in the diagram from the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO), bus service expands roadway capacity by making more efficient use of available roadway space. Bus service will continue to play an important part of the City’s transportation goals (adopted in Mobility for all Modes) of meeting increasing travel demand without increasing automobile volume.

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**BACKGROUND:** In September 2018, WMATA, partner jurisdictions, and local transit agencies launched the Bus Transformation Project, with the goal of creating a bold new vision and collaborative action plan for future of bus service in the region. The need for a new vision was motivated by recent trends of increasing service costs and decreasing bus usage.

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The Bus Transformation Project was organized as an independent assessment of the region’s bus system to gain regional consensus on a vision and collaborative action plan for the future of bus service in the region and the role of Metrobus within the bus system.

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The Bus Transformation Strategy was released in September 2019 and contains four key recommendations:

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1. Provide frequent and convenient bus service that connects communities and promotes housing affordability, regional equity and economic growth.
2. Give buses priority on roadways to efficiently move people quickly and reliably.
3. Create an excellent customer experience and increase ridership.
4. Empower a publicly appointed task force to transform bus and lead the implementation of truly integrated regional system.

37 The Bus Transformation Action Plan was released in December 2019 and contains  
38 detailed actions and timelines for delivering on the Bus Transformation Strategy.

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40 **FISCAL IMPACT:** City staff engages with WMATA annually in budgeting decisions.  
41 Fiscal impacts are considered within the context of the City's operating and capital  
42 budget development.

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44 **TIMING:**

- 45 1. September 2018, project kickoff
- 46 2. September 2019, strategies released
- 47 3. December 2019, action plan released
- 48 4. January 2020, WMATA Board endorses vision and goals

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50 **ATTACHMENTS:**

- 51 1. Bus Transformation Strategies
- 52 2. Bus Transformation Strategies Summary
- 53 3. Bus Transformation Action Plan
- 54 4. Bus Transformation Action Plan Summary
- 55 5. NACTO Transit Design Page 18
- 56 6. Mobility for all Modes Comprehensive Plan Chapter

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