

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 206 (Delegates Carr and Waldstreicher)
 Environmental Matters

Maryland Transit Administration Study - New West Silver Spring Commuter Rail Station

This bill requires the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) to study the costs, benefits, and feasibility of a new Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) train station on the Brunswick Line in Montgomery County near the Walter Reed Annex, community of Linden, and Forest Glen Seminary. MTA must submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 31, 2009.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2009.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures increase by \$50,000 in FY 2010 for contractual staff to develop the study. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SF Expenditure	50,000	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$50,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: MTA is authorized to develop and coordinate policies and plans for the preservation, improvement, or provision of railroad facilities and railroad services; conduct project planning and preliminary engineering related to railroad facilities; and monitor railroad passenger and freight services to assure maximum benefits to Maryland communities and business.

MARC train is a commuter rail system that operates three lines of service. MARC train operates on weekdays only, with limited service on select holidays. The Brunswick Line is MARC train's second largest line, with an average daily ridership of approximately 7,000 commuters. It operates between Brunswick, Maryland and Union Station in Washington, DC and includes an extension to Frederick, Maryland and Martinsburg, West Virginia. Brunswick Line trains stop in several cities including Gaithersburg, Rockville, and Silver Spring. The Brunswick Line is operated under contract with the CSX Transportation Inc., a freight rail system, and travels over the CSX Metropolitan, Old Main Line, and Cumberland Subdivision tracks.

The Walter Reed Army Medical Center's Forest Glen Annex, community of Linden, and Forest Glen Seminary are all generally located in Silver Spring, Maryland. The Walter Reed Annex is located in north Silver Spring between Brookville Road and Linden Lane. Forest Glen Seminary is an historic site currently undergoing restoration and redevelopment into a residential community of apartments, condominiums, and single-family homes.

State Expenditures: The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) has completed feasibility studies of potential rail stations in the past; two potential locations in the White Flint area were recently studied at the request of Montgomery County's planning board. MDOT contracts out such studies to planning and engineering consultants at a cost of approximately \$50,000 per study. This estimate assumes TTF expenditures increase by \$50,000 in fiscal 2010 to contract out the rail station study.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 444 is designated as a cross file; however, it is not identical.

Information Source(s): Montgomery County, Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 2009
mcp/ljm

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