

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 18, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO #70 : DASH ADD/DELETE BUDGET ITEMS

This memorandum provides City Council with a list of budget line items that were included in ATC's FY 2012 Budget approved by the ATC Board of Directors in January 2011. However, these line items are not currently in the City Manager's Proposed FY 2012 Operating Budget.

The total budget amount requested is \$328,000 and includes:

1. \$81,000 – AT10 midday weekday service improvement from 60 minutes to 30 minutes.

Background: Service on the AT10 (King St. Metro – Potomac Yard) route has proved to be more productive than originally anticipated. Passengers per mile and passengers per hour frequently place the AT10 as the third most productive route in the entire DASH system. The AT10 service enhancement was approved in the fiscal year 2009 budget, however the need for mid-year budget rescissions in FY 2009 resulted in the postponement of this improvement.

Program Results: Frequency could be increased on the midday AT10 to every 30 minutes which is expected to attract new riders to transit. In every case where DASH frequencies have been increased, passengers per mile and passengers per hour have increased once the service is established. This indicates that improving service levels and convenience on highly productive routes will generate additional transit riders.

2. \$65,000 – Addition of one full-time Facilities Maintenance Specialist.

Background: ATC moved its operation into the new DASH facility in October 2009. Although the City is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the building systems, ATC staff is responsible for all of the bus maintenance and shop equipment, thirty seven overhead doors, electronic systems, and vehicle servicing. During the first year of occupancy, all systems and equipment were under warranty and ATC was responsible for only coordinating the repairs and preventive maintenance with the contractor. The warranties are now expired and ATC is now responsible for all preventive maintenance and repair.

Program Results: This position will monitor, manage, and oversee the operation and maintenance of a wide range of facility systems and equipment. The Facilities Maintenance

Specialist will be responsible for either performing the repairs and preventive maintenance themselves or coordinating the repairs with contractors to ensure proper operation and reliability of all facility systems and equipment.

3. \$182,000 – Increase in the budgeted fuel cost from \$2.00 a gallon to \$2.40 a gallon.

Background: In FY 2011, ATC budgeted \$2.00 a gallon for fuel, which was the amount that was budgeted by the City. As a result of increasing fuel costs, the ATC Board of Directors approved a \$182,000 increase in this line item from \$811,000 to \$993,000, based on the cost of fuel at the time, which was \$2.40. This increase does not take into account the significant increase in the cost of fuel today, which is currently hovering around \$3.25 a gallon. ATC is estimated to operate approximately 1.6 million miles of service in FY 2012.

Total Budget Subsidy Increase: The total budget subsidy increase for the three items listed above is \$328,000.