

Transportation Issues Identified by Mayor's Youth Leadership Institute (MYLI) Participants

Presented at Ward 7 Transportation Summit-Saturday, February 25, 2012

During the month of January Youth Leaders in the Mayor's Youth Leadership Institute had to draft bills on issues they were concerned about in order to learn how laws are made and how a citizen can make suggestions to lawmakers. From the bills that were drafted we took the issues dealing with transportation issues to present today. We are still in the process of completing our bills. We wanted to have something to present today that reflected some of the viewpoints of youth. The transportation areas that brought up were safety, cost, service, employment /careers, advice/complaints, advertisement/community service.

Issue	Problem	Proposed Recommendations
Safety		
Safety at Metro stations before and after school.	Minnesota, Deanwood and Anacostia Metro Stations have several acts of violence, and robberies during travel times before and after school. Why aren't their more officers out at these stations during these times?	Is there a number we can call if we don't see an officer at these stations between 7:30 am and 8:30 am and between 2:30 pm and 5:00 pm? There should be officers at these stations during these times.
Deployment of officers before and after work and on summer job program pay days	The paydays for the summer jobs program is well known and people wait outside of subways to look for victims to rob.	Can Metro officers be put on alert on days when summer employees are paid and be more visible at the subway stations?
Negative conduct of youth on Metro	There should be some discussion about what to do about youth who have conduct issues on Metro	Establishing a student/teen transportation focus group or advisory board
Cost		
What will determine when and how much Student fares would rise if Metro gets a fare increase?	Many students and families can't afford to pay an increase for student fares is there a policy that determines when and how much student fares can rise?	Make sure that student understand the fare increase policy.
Reduced fares for youth working summer jobs during the summer	This year the summer youth employment program lowered the pay rate for 14 and 15 year olds to \$5.25 cents per hour and the youth don't get paid until the third week of the program. At this rate the pay will be \$210 every two weeks. The cost to catch two busses to work will be \$60 dollars per pay. Leaving with youth with \$150 dollars for lunch, buying clothes and saving money.	Reduced Metro fares for the first two weeks of the SYEP Program.

The Metro Budget	Does metro publish their budget so that we can see why they need a fare increase and what they spend money on?	Come up with a way to publish the Metro budget so that people can see what their money is being spent on.
Service		
Busses being on time	There are many instances in the morning where adults are trying to get to work and students are trying to get to school on time and the busses are overcrowded and you end up being late for school because the bus just passes the stop.	How does Metro determine how many busses to run on bus routes?
DC Department of Transportation	During the ANC 7D meeting we found out about the new street cars that will be running on Benning Road and we were concerned about the safety of the students and where would the street cars run. If we were not at the ANC meeting we feel the youth of our city would not have given a presentation on this new system.	Have the DC Department of Transportation establish a policy that they will seek the advice of students and youth when they have projects that affect youth. They can attend the mayor's Youth Town Hall Meetings or talk to the DC Youth Advisory Council or the Mayor's Youth Leadership Institute
Drivers Education back in the schools	Recently there have been a lot of tragic accidents involving teens. Many teens don't learn how to drive from professionals and the lack of driving skills and driver's education is causing some of these accidents.	We would like to have the city do a study on the cost of having drivers education classes put back in the schools and find out why it was eliminated.
Employment /Careers		
Exposure to careers in the transportation industry	Many students don't know about careers at Metro until they are looking for work after they graduate. Why can't they know before they complete school so they can get prepared for the available jobs?	Metro needs to establish a program that exposes students to potential careers at Metro.
Advice/Complaints		
Metro service complaints	Many young people don't know how to go about filing a complaint about Metro service	Is there an online complaint form?
Establishing a student/teen transportation focus group or advisory board	How does Metro know the needs of its teen and student customers?	Metro should establish a Teen/Student advisory board that can give advice on policies and service issues that affect youth.
Advertisement/Community Service		
Using the busses and subway system to advertise positive youth and positive youth activities	There are many youth doing positive things in the community that don't get promoted or advertised. If youth saw or knew of some of the positive things that youth are doing it can help deal with the negative stereotype of youth.	Thousands of people ride the Metro so using the busses and subway system to advertise positive youth and positive youth activities may encourage youth to do something positive to see themselves on Metro and show the community that we do have positive youth.