

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

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## MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 9, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO #97 : PARATRANSIT IMPACTS OF PROPOSED DASH AND WMATA SERVICE IMPACTS

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This memorandum is in response to Mayor Euille's following inquiry:

**"Assuming that all transit service cuts within the City of Alexandria proposed by DASH and WMATA are approved, what will the impact be on the City's MetroAccess subsidy to WMATA? The purpose of this Memo is to identify costs to the City that may offset savings the City would otherwise gain from reducing service."**

The proposed DASH and WMATA service reductions have little to no fiscal impact on the City's MetroAccess subsidy. Paratransit programs like WMATA's MetroAccess and the City's DOT are generally available only to persons who cannot physically ride fixed route transit. Because they serve difference rider groups, fixed route reductions are not expected to increase paratransit ridership except in a few cases where paratransit-eligible riders who have been riding regular transit through the aide of companions switch to paratransit as a result of reductions in fixed route transit. Those cases would be few enough as to have little to no fiscal impact on the City's MetroAccess subsidy.