

## MTA/WeGo Public Transit

### Q&A From WebEx Meeting on 5/20/2020

1. The Mayor indicated that some sort of MTA capital expenditures could be covered under CARES Act funding not already disbursed for your operations. Could you elaborate on that?

**Response:** In discussions with the Mayor's Office and Metro Finance Department during budget preparation and CARES Act analysis, MTA identified approximately \$8.7 million in unspent (but obligated) funds for capital projects that had been approved in prior year Metro Capital Spending Plans. In order to be eligible for CARES Act reimbursement, these projects had to meet the definitions of project eligibility in the transit provisions of the CARES Act with respect to their role in responding to and preparing for pandemics like COVID-19. They included completion of our ongoing Next Generation (touchless) Fare Collection System, project development costs for the planned North Nashville Neighborhood Transit Center and the replacement of 19 small buses for the Access paratransit system. This \$8.7 million in budgetary relief for Metro is included in the MTA's programming of \$55 million in available CARES Act funding.

2. Professional & Purchased Services increased by roughly 34%, what causes this increase?

**Response:** Largely, the increase in professional and purchased services reflects increased spending service, maintenance and license agreements surrounding the Authority's customer facing technology. Chief among these is the new automated fare collection system coming on line now. This system will facilitate mobile payment, smart card payment and account-based fare management by individuals and partner entities such as corporate sponsors, colleges and universities, and Metro Nashville Public Schools. In addition to third party hardware and software support, this line item supports activities and staffing at Metro ITS who will host the servers and cybersecurity features associated with the system. Apart from fare collection, upgrades to improve the reliability of features such as onboard annunciation, real-time customer information and expanded digital signage at individual bus stops is supported. The additional expense is partly offset with the Authority's eligibility for increased "Preventive Maintenance" funds through the Federal Transit Administration. Lesser contributors to this line item increase are contracts such as outsources security (including funding agreements with Metro Nashville Police) and contract maintenance on Authority assets such as escalators.