


[Home](#)
[CEO Hotline](#)
[Viewpoint](#)
[Classified Ads](#)
[Archives](#)
[Metro.net](#) (web)

## Resources

[Safety](#)
[Pressroom](#) (web)

[CEO Hotline](#)
[Metro Projects](#)
[Facts at a Glance](#)  
(web)

[Archives](#)
[Events Calendar](#)
[Research Center/  
Library](#)
[Metro Cafe](#) (pdf)

[Metro Classifieds](#)
[Retirement  
Round-up](#)

## Metro Info

[Strategic Plan](#) (pdf)

[Org Chart](#) (pdf)

[Policies](#)
[Training](#)
[Help Desk](#)
[Intranet Policy](#)

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## Governance Council Meetings May Be Cut to 6 per Year

(May 20, 2004) Metro's five Service Sector Governance Councils would be funded for six meetings a year and a total of \$7,500 for travel under a compromise motion approved, Wednesday, by the MTA Board's Executive Management and Audit Committee.

The committee action, if approved by the full Board later this month, would not prohibit the councils from meeting more than six times a year, but would be required to stay within an annual budget. Members would be paid stipends for only six meetings.

The councils currently meet monthly and also conduct public hearings about proposed service changes.

The \$7,500 annual travel budget would be spread over all five Governance Councils, but any council member's travel would require the approval of the Board chair. The funds are intended for members' travel to transportation industry conferences.

The committee's motion also would allow the removal or replacement of Governance Council members by a majority vote of the Board and would permit amendments to Governance Council by-laws by Board majority.

The motion adds language to clarify that council members have no individual authority over MTA operations and must act only through their Governance Council.

The changes in Governance Council by-laws were approved by the Executive Management and Audit Committee, in part, to bring costs in line with other spending reductions in Metro's FY 2005 budget.

Despite cost streamlining, a Metro staff report to the Board says the councils would "retain their mission of being responsive to community-based transportation services..." and as a sounding board for local concerns.