

(b) *Any signatory, any political subdivision thereof, any agency of the Federal Government and any person, firm or association served by or using the transit facilities of the Authority and any private carrier may file a request with the Board for a hearing with respect to any rates or charges made by the Board or any service rendered with the facilities owned OR CONTROLLED by the Authority. Such request shall be in writing, shall state the matter on which a hearing is requested and shall set forth clearly the matters and things on which the request relies. As promptly as possible after such a request is filed, the Board, or such officer or employee as it may designate, shall confer with the protestant with respect to the matters complained of. After such conference, the Board, if it deems the matter meritorious and of general significance, may call a hearing with respect to such request.*

(c) *The Board shall give at least thirty days' notice for all hearings. The notice shall be given by publication in a newspaper of daily circulation throughout the Zone and such notice shall be published once a week for two successive weeks. The notice shall start with the day of first publication. In addition, the Board shall post notices of the hearing in its offices, all stations and terminals and in all of its vehicles and rolling stock in revenue service.*

(d) *Prior to calling a hearing on any matter specified in this section, the Board shall prepare and file at its main office and keep open for public inspection its report relating to the proposed action to be considered at such hearing. Upon receipt by the Board of any report submitted by WMATC, in connection with a matter set for hearing, pursuant to the provisions of Section 317-63 of this Article XIII, the Board shall file such report at its main office and make it available for public inspection. For hearings called by the Board pursuant to paragraph (b), above, the Board also shall cause to be lodged and kept open for public inspection the written request upon which the hearing is granted and all documents filed in support thereof.*

*317-63. Reference of Matters to WMATC—*

*To facilitate the attainment of the public policy objectives for operation of the publicly and privately owned OR CONTROLLED transit facilities as stated in Article XII, Section 317-55, prior to the hearings provided for by Section 317-62 hereof—*

(a) *The Board shall refer to WMATC for its consideration and recommendations, any matter which the Board considers may affect the operation of the publicly and privately owned OR CONTROLLED transit facilities as a coordinated regional transit system and any matter for which the Board has called a hearing, pursuant to Section 317-62 of this Article XIII, except that temporary or emergency changes in matters affecting service shall not be referred; and*

(b) *WMATC, upon such reference of any matter to it, shall give the referred matter preference over any other matters pending before it and shall, as expeditiously as practicable, prepare and transmit its report thereon to the Board. The Board may request WMATC to reconsider any part of its report or to make any supplemental reports it deems necessary. All of such reports shall be advisory only.*