



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale

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June 6, 2024

Mr. Paul Smedberg
Chair, Board of Directors
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
300 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20024
boardofdirectors@wmata.com

Sharon Kershbaum
Director
District Department of Transportation
1100 4th Street SW, Third Floor
Washington, DC 20004
Sharon.Kershbaum@dc.gov

RE: Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Better Bus Network

Dear Chair Smedberg and Director Kershbaum,

On June 3, 2024 ANC 2E held its regularly scheduled public meeting, which was properly noticed and attended by eight commissioners, constituting a quorum. At this meeting the Commission adopted the following resolution by a vote of (8-0-0) with regard to the above referenced matter:

WMATA has released its proposed designs for a future Metrobus network, called the Better Bus Network. The proposals would represent a dramatic change from the current network and would directly impact bus service to and through Georgetown. While ANC 2E appreciates that WMATA has responded to requests (including from ANC 2E) to maintain Metrobus service to Georgetown University, currently provided by the G2, it is nonetheless concerned that the total bus service for Georgetown would be reduced and degraded with the Better Bus Network. Comparing the proposed service levels of the various routes for Georgetown versus the current routes reveals that there simply would be fewer buses available to residents, visitors and workers at key points through the day and week. For example:

COMMISSIONERS:

Kishan Putta, District 1 Topher Mathews, District 2 Paul Maysak, District 3
Joe Massaua, District 4 Mimsy Lindner, District 5 Gwendolyn Lohse, District 6
Daniel Chao, District 7 John DiPierri, District 8

- The D96, which is intended to replace the D2, is proposed to come only every 20 minutes during morning rush, whereas the existing D2 arrives every 10 minutes.
- Additionally, the D96 is slated to run only every 25 minutes in evening rush, compared with 12-15 minutes, which is how often the D2 arrives.
- The D94, which is intended to replace the D6, would arrive every 20-24 minutes during rush hour, whereas the D6 arrives every 15 minutes.
- The total bus service along Q St. to Dupont, including the proposed D92, D94 and D96 routes, would be 8-9 buses per hour during rush hour, compared with the 10 buses that currently run.
- Bus service would be completely removed from O, P and Dumbarton Streets due to shifting the G2 replacement (the D92) to Q St. This will require current G2 riders to traverse a steep incline from where the current stops are located up to Q St. This will be especially burdensome on riders who are physically challenged or are traveling with bags in-tow.

This proposed reduction in bus service in Georgetown is very concerning given Georgetown has no Metrorail stop, over 12 million visitors annually, a disproportionately large percentage of the city's employees, a large university, and a dense residential population reliant on public transit. These proposed cuts are even more concerning given the likely end to the Circulator bus routes by DDOT, which will require more people traveling to and from Georgetown to rely on WMATA's bus service. While the proposed D82 route is a sufficient replacement for the 31 and 33 routes, it is not a sufficient replacement for the 31, 33 *and* the Georgetown-Union Station Circulator.

ANC 2E requests that WMATA and the District government work together to incorporate as much of the soon-to-be-former Georgetown-Union Station Circulator in either a new Metrobus route or additional service on the proposed Better Bus Network routes. Moreover, ANC 2E requests that WMATA ensure that the total bus service provided by the new routes is at least equal to the current levels and does not include the total removal of bus service along O, P, and Dumbarton Streets currently serviced by the G2.

Commissioners Topher Mathews (2E02@anc.dc.gov) and Gwendolyn Lohse (2E06@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Gwendolyn Lohse
Chair, ANC 2E