

WMATA Advocacy: Eaton Neighborhood Bus to MacArthur

WMATA is in the process of overhauling its entire bus system. The proposed changes are based on current ridership. This focus has led to an important omission: A bus that would safely and directly convey students in the Eaton Elementary neighborhood to MacArthur High School.

The two proposed routes that will convey students to MacArthur High School, [C85](#) (Mann and Stoddert) and [D94](#) (Key and Hyde-Addison), poorly serve the Eaton neighborhood. [As you can see from this map](#), students living between Wisconsin and Connecticut Avenues would need to take the [C55](#) or [C61](#) buses to Tenleytown and transfer to the C85 in order to get to MacArthur High School. This is an unnecessarily long trip.

To ensure direct bus service between our neighborhood and MacArthur High School, *the community needs you to speak up before 5 pm on Monday, July 15*. Whether you're a parent or a concerned neighbor, your voice matters. Please share constructive feedback with WMATA that will help them design a route that meets our community's needs.

Gideon Culman, Eaton Local School Advisory Team

Sample Comment You Can Edit and [Submit Here by 5 pm on Monday, July 15, 2024](#):

I'm a parent of [include your family's situation] in the MacArthur feeder system. I'm here to advocate on behalf of students zoned for MacArthur High School.

The proposed C85 and D94 routes do an outstanding job of transporting students zoned for Key, Hyde-Addison, Stoddert, and Mann elementary schools to MacArthur High School. Kudos to WMATA for meeting their needs!

However, students zoned for Eaton Elementary, the largest feeder elementary in the MacArthur system, are not well served. Many families in Cathedral Heights, McLean Gardens as well as between Wisconsin and Connecticut Avenues chose these neighborhoods with a short bus ride or a reasonable walk to Jackson-Reed High School in mind.

Now that they have been rezoned for MacArthur, these families are no longer within walking distance of their high school. Furthermore, students who live east of Wisconsin Avenue would need to take the C55 or C61 buses to Tenleytown and then transfer to the C85 in order to get to MacArthur. A potentially short trip would double or triple in duration.

WMATA has the power to ensure that families zoned for Eaton Elementary can enjoy a short, direct trip. For instance, a bus that conveys students west from the Porter Street or Woodley Avenue corridors directly to MacArthur at the beginning of the school day and in the opposite direction at the end of the school day would more than meet our needs. Eliminating the need to transfer in Tenleytown would be helpful to both the students and the community.