

*by electronic mail*

April 3, 2023

Subject: ANCs Oppose Proposed Reductions in Transit Service

Mayor Muriel Bowser, DDOT Director Everett Lott, Members of the DC Council, WMATA Board of Directors, and staff,

We are writing as local Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners in the District of Columbia to call on your office to oppose recent efforts to reduce these high-ridership public transit services, and instead allocate dedicated funding to our transportation systems to continue and expand service.

We write this letter in response to two concerning announcements in the past week that would result in reduced transit service for the communities that we represent. The first of which occurred during the [March 23, 2023 budget work session](#) of the WMATA Board of Directors, in which the Board announced their intention to eliminate Yellow Line Metrorail service north of Mt. Vernon Square. While WMATA's intention is to balance service system-wide, this move brings a concern that there will be less service for the Shaw-Howard U, U St/Cardozo, Columbia Heights, Georgia Ave-Petworth, and Fort Totten stations compared to 2019 levels. While we acknowledge that you do not have direct control over WMATA's operations, we encourage you to come out against this move in the case of a service reduction.

The second development was the announcement that [your FY24 budget would cut three of the six DC Circulator bus routes](#) – Woodley Park-Adams Morgan to McPherson Square Metro (WP-AM), Eastern Market to L'Enfant Plaza (EM-LP), and Dupont Circle to Rosslyn via Georgetown (RS-DP). These routes serve as a critical starting point connecting neighborhoods that still do not have adequate Metrobus substitutes. We understand that electrifying these routes is expensive, but the solution should not be to eliminate service. High-quality diesel-powered bus service is much more climate friendly and equitable than poor electrified service. We request that you reverse this decision and, instead, initiate a study on its feasibility to continue and/or enhance the routes. Therefore, we request the support of the Council of the District of Columbia in fully funding the DC Circulator in the meantime.

With each of these announcements, we have heard resounding opposition from our neighbors who depend on these lines for their everyday needs. Reductions in service

would disproportionately impact low-income residents, seniors, and people with disabilities who rely on the affordable and accessible service provided by WMATA and the DC Circulator. The availability of affordable and efficient public transportation is a fundamental right of all residents, including working-class communities, and should be prioritized over budgetary considerations that disproportionately burden those with the least resources.

Sincerely,

Stephen Coleman Kenny, Commissioner, 1A05

Max Ewart, Commissioner, 1A01

Dieter Lehmann Morales, Commissioner, 1A02

Jeremy Sherman, Commissioner, 1A04

Mukta Ghorpadey, Commissioner, 1A07

Billy Easley, Commissioner, 1A10

Peter Wood, Commissioner, 1C03

Margaret Stevens, Commissioner, 1C05

Lynda Laughlin, Commissioner, 1C06

Jordan Nassar, Commissioner, 2A08

Vincent E. Slatt, Commissioner, 2B03

Matt Johnson, Commissioner, 2B06

Thomas S. Lee, Commissioner, 2C03

Topher Mathews, Commissioner, 2E02

Joe Massaua, Commissioner, 2E04

Adam J. Prinzo, Commissioner, 3C02

Sauleh Siddiqui, Commissioner, 3C05