

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3B

GLOVER PARK AND CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS



Resolution Regarding WMATA's Proposed FY25 Cuts in Bus and Metro Service

It is ANC3B's understanding that the docket WMATA has posted for the implementation of its FY25 budget is a worst-case scenario should the District, Maryland and Virginia fail to sufficiently increase their contributions to WMATA's operating budget. We have been assured that the District is prepared to allocate up to an extra \$200 million, and believe that if Maryland and Virginia deliver on their proposed increases, WMATA should be able to at least sustain service at current levels, and even perhaps improve it throughout the region.

To ensure that WMATA's budget works for the people it serves, the ANC supports the fiscal recommendations in the February 1, 2024, letter to WMATA from DC Mayor Bowser and Council Chairman Mendelson, especially the DC government's effort to revisit the WMATA funding formula. For example, there is a fundamental misunderstanding of equity, and the role of transit in our region's future in the WMATA Board's plan to raise transit fares higher than parking rates.

That said, as the representative voice for the District neighborhoods of Glover Park, Cathedral Heights and Wesley Heights, ANC3B is advocating in the strongest possible way for WMATA to better serve areas like ours that have limited or no access to Metro. To be specific, in resolving this funding crisis and moving forward to restore service where cuts were threatened, we urge WMATA to maintain and/or improve the following bus lines:

D2 running through Glover Park to the Dupont Circle metro. The ANC does not support the changes to this line proposed in the 2023 Better Bus initiative. This bus line as it currently runs is the one public transportation option available to the majority of residents of Glover Park, providing the only access to a Metro stop convenient to downtown, and it is essential for transportation of students from all over the city to Hardy Middle School in Burleith.

30-series buses on the priority corridor of Wisconsin Avenue. These buses serve the commercial corridors that line Wisconsin from Georgetown to Friendship Heights, providing downtown connectivity and service for workers as well as residents. ANC3B is supportive of the 24-hour service previously proposed for this bus line but going forward we urge WMATA to increase the frequency of service on this well-used and often crowded bus route.

N-series buses that run along Massachusetts and Cathedral Avenues providing access to Friendship Heights and Dupont Circle metros. These buses reach into high-density residential areas, providing essential access to convenient metro stops and commercial areas that people would only be able to reach otherwise by car.

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Cross-city buses such as the 96, which is the only option for this area to reach Woodley Park, Adams Morgan, and the U Street corridor, all popular destinations with limited parking.

The ANC refers WMATA to its May 22, 2023, letter which contains detailed comments on the changes to these routes proposed in the Better Bus Visionary Plan. In this letter, the ANC also opposes the circuitous route proposed for a new 201 line aimed at providing access to the new MacArthur High School in Palisades. Additionally, the ANC refers WMATA to the resolution on this matter passed by ANC3A, dated February 21, 2024, in which the many concerns ANC3B shares with ANC3A and other adjoining neighborhoods, are explored in greater detail.

At every turn in both its recent annual budget processes and in proposing the Better Bus Visionary Plan, WMATA has sought to cut bus lines that connect ANC3B's neighborhoods to Metro stations and downtown. This ANC and large numbers of affected residents have urged WMATA during comment periods and at other times to continue the bus service so many of us depend on, specifically the D2. Ward 3 Councilmember Matt Frumin has joined us in providing clear and strong comments on the real life impacts of potential losses in bus service: residents unable to get to work, seniors unable to get to supermarkets or doctor appointments, public school students unable to get to school. The need for reliable, accessible bus service is even more critical as the District enacts policies to discourage individual vehicle usage.

Therefore, ANC3B resolves to advise WMATA of our opposition to the radical cuts proposed as a consequence of WMATA's current fiscal crisis, and urges WMATA and the DMV to work in partnership to guarantee that our region's transportation services meet the needs of the Washington metropolitan area in a fair and equitable manner. Any plan to increase revenue should be distributed in a way that places the burden on those most able to afford it. Specifically, the ANC believes that the cost of parking at Metro facilities should rise as fast as fares, if not faster.

The ANC further stresses the need for WMATA to maintain bus service in the Glover Park, Cathedral Heights and Wesley Heights neighborhoods, specifically the D2, 30-series, N-lines, and the 96 bus, on the routes they currently run at a minimum, and even better, with increased frequency and reliability.

Commissioner Carroll or his designee is authorized to act on behalf of ANC3B on this matter. This resolution was adopted by a vote of 5-0 (1 absent) at a duly-noticed, public meeting of ANC3B on Monday, March 4, 2024, at which a quorum was present. (A quorum is 4 of the 6 member of the Commission.)



Jackie Blumenthal, Chair



Melissa Lane, Secretary

CC: Mayor Muriel Bowser
Councilchairman Phil Mendelson
Ward 3 Councilmember Matt Frumin