



District of Columbia Government
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
PO Box 15020
Washington, DC 20003



June 15, 2024

Mr. Randy Clarke
General Manager and Chief Executive Officer
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
300 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20024

Via email

Re: ANC 6A Comments on Better Bus Network

Dear WMATA General Manager Clarke:

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting¹ on June 13, 2024 our Commission voted 5-0-0 (with 4 Commissioners required for a quorum) to send a letter sharing concerns on behalf of our community regarding the reduction in MetroBus service in WMATA's Better Bus Proposed 2025 Network Redesign that will disproportionately affect Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A.

While we appreciate the increase in bus frequency and the extended hours of operation on many routes transiting through and adjacent to ANC 6A, the Better Bus Proposed 2025 Network Redesign has left a significant gap around Lincoln Park and the entire Hill East community. The proposed redesign completely eliminates the 96 bus route through our neighborhood. Many of our neighborhood students rely on the existing 96 bus route to get to schools in other areas of the District. Following the elimination of the 97 bus route in 2020, the 96 bus is their only option to travel to schools outside the immediate area. Farebox data likely does not reflect the student usage of this route, and eliminating the route will leave many families with no public transportation options in the neighborhood to get their students to other schools.

In the north end of ANC 6A, the increase in frequency along the proposed C53 route (existing 90/92 route) may minimize the impact of re-routing the C51 bus off of Florida Ave NE, but we believe that doing so is shortsighted considering the significant and continuing population increase around the NoMa/Union Market neighborhood. Indeed a further 1,400 residential units are planned for the area. Additionally, the transfer from MetroBus to Metro's Red Line is more direct from the NoMa/Gallaudet station than from Union Station at H St NE.

We would also like to see a route in the new system that takes riders from H St NE to Foggy Bottom, as the X1 route does. This route has been sorely missed by commuters and students along the H St NE corridor.

¹ ANC 6A meetings are advertised electronically on, anc-6a@googlegroups.com, and newhilleast@groups.io, at www.anc6a.org, on Twitter (@ANC6A) and through print advertisements in the Hill Rag.

Lastly, the proposed C41 (revised B2) shifts the current route on 14th and 15th Streets to 17th and 19th Streets (between Benning and Potomac Avenues), which would leave no north/south routes for 10 blocks (the nearest route would be on 8th Street). Keeping the bus on 14th Street would have the additional benefit of access to an additional Safeway grocery store along the route (at 14th Street and Kentucky Ave SE).

Our Commission continues to advise our community members and schools to provide input directly to WMATA on the Better Bus website and at public hearings, but we respectfully request additional consideration of their concerns expressed to us as their elected officials. Please be advised that I can be contacted at 6A04@anc.dc.gov and the Transportation and Public Space Committee Chair Lynch can be contacted at 6ATPSChair@gmail.com.

On behalf of the Commission,



Amber Gove

Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A