



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

MATTHEW FRUMIN
Councilmember, Ward 3

COMMITTEE MEMBER
Executive Administration and Labor
Facilities and Family Services
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Housing
Transportation and the Environment

May 19, 2023

Randy Clarke
General Manager and CEO
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
300 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Via e-mail

Mr. Clarke:

WMATA's Better Bus initiative has the potential to revitalize bus transit in Ward 3 and across the DC region with new infrastructure and more frequent, accessible service. The Visionary Network could improve connectivity to jobs, education, and housing for all residents, and those residents deserve to make their voices heard in a convenient, user-friendly manner. Robust engagement with ample time for community groups and local government officials to make their voices heard is critical.

WMATA's intention to host 50 events in 50 days signals a commitment to seeking feedback and engages neighbors who may otherwise not provide comments. The written public comment process should be similarly accessible. The public and stakeholder engagement period following the release of the draft Visionary Network is too short for constituents and community groups provide meaningful feedback about strengths and deficiencies in the current proposal. I believe more time must be allotted to facilitate deeper analysis of how proposed changes effect quality and availability of Metrobus service. **I urge WMATA to extend its draft Visionary Network public and stakeholder engagement period by one month to conclude on July 5, 2023.**

In addition to extending the Visionary Network public comment period, WMATA should accommodate resident feedback via email and phone. The "Comment on Your Route" and survey features on the Better Bus website are helpful for providing feedback, but they do not support detailed analysis of the plan or comments on multiple routes. Also, as WMATA aims to develop an equitable Visionary Network, incorporating feedback from residents with limited technology abilities or internet access is crucial.

The current iteration of the Visionary Network makes significant strides toward a reliable and well-connected bus system, notably expanded frequent service and increased crosstown



connections. I am particularly heartened by the support for frequent bus service near historically underserved communities. However, at the same time, I have heard concerns from several constituents that the draft plan inadequately serves much of Ward 3, with limited access to much of Palisades, Spring Valley, and AU Park, challenging route changes in Glover Park and Chevy Chase, and missed opportunities for increased frequency in other areas. I look forward to discussing these concerns with you and the Better Bus team, and I will communicate my recommendations for improved bus service and connectivity in Ward 3 in a letter later in the public comment period. With effective collaboration and neighborhood engagement, we can secure a truly visionary network that better connects Ward 3 neighbors to destinations across the District.

Thank you for considering my request to extend the Visionary Network public and stakeholder engagement period. I look forward to your expeditious response to my request and information about what additional methods for public comment will be implemented.

Sincerely,



Matt Frumin
DC Councilmember for Ward 3

