



Dannielle M. Glaros
Chair
Council District 3
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Together Strengthening Our Community

OCT 24 2018

Mr. Jack Evans, Chairman
Board of Directors
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
600 5th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Prince George's County Council's Opposition to the Elimination of the Riders' Advisory Council

Dear Chairman Evans and Members of the Metro Board of Directors,

On behalf of the County Council of Prince George's County, I write in opposition to the proposed elimination of the Riders' Advisory Council (RAC) to be considered at the October 25th Board meeting. The RAC provides a vital link to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) on issues affecting Metrobus, Metrorail, and MetroAccess services. The proposed elimination of the RAC would critically harm the highly valued public partnership of WMATA with its ridership. The Council believes that the reformation of the RAC would be an acceptable alternative to the elimination of the RAC and should be pursued.

The RAC, a twenty-one-member multijurisdictional body, representative of Prince George's County, Montgomery County, Northern Virginia and the District of Columbia, provides a much-needed opportunity for public comment on WMATA issues. Over its thirteen years of existence the RAC has provided an important way for our residents and riders to learn about Metro issues and suggest changes directly to their representatives on the WMATA Board.

In addition, elimination of the RAC would decrease transparency and would greatly diminish public feedback on important budget and service issues. Direct dialogue with WMATA staff and the Board has been the hallmark of the RAC. The proposed alternative methods for collecting rider feedback or using social media are no substitute to the public opportunity to speak through the RAC. A valuable voice and asset would be lost.

Reformation of the RAC would be a desired alternative to elimination of the RAC and should be pursued if an alternative is needed. The Council understands that some Board members have undertaken an operational review of the RAC. Board member consideration and input should be accepted and incorporated into the operations of the RAC to make it as efficient and productive as possible. This is a viable alternative to the elimination of the RAC.



Thank you for your consideration of the afore-mentioned reasons to preserve the RAC and we look forward to the Board's actions consistent with them.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Danielle M. Glaros". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Danielle M. Glaros, Chair
Prince George's County Council

cc:

WMATA Board Members
WMATA General Manager and CEO, Paul J. Wiedefeld
The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor
Mr. Pete Rahn, Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation
The Honorable Rushern L. Baker, III, Prince George's County Executive
Prince George's County Council Members