



Todd M. Turner
Chair
District 4

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
Service. Community. Progress.

October 16, 2020

Mr. Paul C. Smedberg, Chair
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
600 5th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Proposed FY 21 WMATA Metro Service and Budget Changes

Dear Mr. Smedberg:

As you are aware, Prince George's County is home to over 60 Metrobus lines and 15 Metrorail Stations, all of which are heavily used by our residents and visitors. Among these are thousands of essential workers who reside in the County, including many who work for WMATA and make it possible to transport residents and visitors in the Washington Metropolitan Region. WMATA Metrobus employees and essential workers depend upon transit services every day. We, as a governmental entity, understand the budgetary pressures and hard choices confronting the Board and General Manager because of declining revenues and ridership. It is a situation that we did not anticipate nor imagine.


The County has reviewed the proposed service reductions and Metrobus eliminations and is concerned about proposed eliminations in areas without nearby or alternative transit service. Specifically, these areas of concern include the removal of Saturday service in Hillcrest Heights on the C12/C14, on the C29 between Pointer Ridge, Bowie State University and weekday service in Fort Washington on the P19. The County strongly urges WMATA to retain some portion of service in these areas because there are few alternative transit options.


As the County noted in our joint letter regarding the Bus Transformation Project, we urged, and continue to do so now, a deliberate and inclusive process for reimagining transit in the region. We are encouraged by outreach meetings among jurisdictional staff to discuss service guidelines. In the end, the County wants to make sure that any final guidelines recognize past and potential ridership trends, service equity, the ability to access activity centers, and alternative service delivery approaches. WMATA, as a steward of public transportation resources, must develop minimum standards to ensure service delivery is provided as efficiently and equitably, as possible.

Without a doubt, we face unprecedented times in our region and nation. The County stands ready to collaborate, within our resources, to make sure that transit service is preserved for our residents.

In addition, we hope that this situation will enable WMATA to expand or encourage “out of the box” thinking about how to provide transit service in our County.

Sincerely,


Honorable Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive


Honorable Todd M. Turner
Council Chair

cc: Council Members
Mr. Paul J. Wiedefeld, General Manager/CEO
Council Member, Prince George’s County Council
Major F. Riddick, Jr., Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the County Executive
Terry Bellamy, Director, Department of Public Works and Transportation