



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale

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March 9, 2020

Mr. Paul Smedberg  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority  
600 5th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
[boardofdirectors@wmata.com](mailto:boardofdirectors@wmata.com)

### RE: Proposed Metrobus Route Changes in the Neighborhood

Dear Chairman Smedberg,

On March 2, 2020 ANC 2E held its regularly scheduled public meeting, which was properly noticed and attended by seven commissioners, constituting a quorum. At this meeting the Commission adopted the following resolution by a vote of (7-0-0) with regard to the above-referenced matter:

The undersigned are the members of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E.<sup>1</sup> We represent the residents of Georgetown, Burleith and Hillandale. While we applaud several of the initiatives contained in the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (WMATA) proposed budget, including, in particular, elimination of transfer fees between bus and rail and restoration of extended Metrorail service hours, we are writing to express our dismay at proposed Metrobus service changes that would dramatically reduce transit accessibility for the residents we represent by eliminating (1) the G2 line in Georgetown, a bus that has served the Georgetown community for more than 50 years; and (2) the rush hour service provided to Burleith and the northern areas of Georgetown by the D1 line.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> ANC 2E has not formally addressed the proposed Metrobus service changes because the details of those changes were not made public until after ANC 2E's February public meeting. ANC 2E's next regularly scheduled public meeting will convene at 6:30 p.m. on March 2, 2020, 90 minutes after WMATA's public comment period closes. A resolution that reflects the substance of the comments contained in this letter will be introduced and voted upon at that meeting.

<sup>2</sup> ANC 2E does not comment on the proposed elimination of the 30N and 30S lines, which could also curtail access to Metrorail and downtown, because WMATA has represented that it would "replace" the eliminated trips between Friendship Heights and Downtown with "additional 31, 33 trips."

#### COMMISSIONERS:

Kishan Putta, District 1    Joe Gibbons, District 2    Rick Murphy, District 3  
Anna Landre, District 4    Lisa Palmer, District 5    Gwendolyn Lohse, District 6  
Elizabeth Miller, District 7    Matias Burdman, District 8

Georgetown is the only neighborhood in the District of Columbia's inner core that does not have direct access to the Metrorail system. As a result, Georgetown's residents, not to mention visitors and employees of businesses along Georgetown's commercial corridors, as well as students and employees at Georgetown University and MedStar Georgetown University Hospital, rely heavily on Metrobus to connect the neighborhood to the rest of the city and the larger region. The changes proposed by WMATA would turn much of the neighborhood into a transit desert.

First, we urge that the existing G2 and D2 lines be maintained. The proposed consolidation of the D2 and G2 lines would eliminate the entirety of the existing G2 line west of Rock Creek Park and with it the only convenient connection many members of our community have to Metrorail. If the proposal were to be adopted, the Georgetown community and Georgetown University would lose their access to the Red Line at Dupont Circle as well as their connection to neighborhoods farther east. Riders who currently board the G2 bus at Dumbarton Street and Wisconsin Avenue NW (one of the busiest stops in Georgetown) would have to walk more than a third of a mile uphill to catch the consolidated D2/G2. The impact on Georgetown University, the largest private employer in the city, would be even more significant. On average, almost 400 students, employees and visitors currently board the G2 at the University's front gates every day. If the G2 in Georgetown were eliminated, they would be forced to walk a half mile, also uphill, to reach the nearest stop on the consolidated D2/G2 line. The alternatives identified by WMATA (Routes 31 and 33 on Wisconsin Avenue) are not practical replacements because buses on those routes go to an entirely different part of the city. Consolidating the D2 and G2 as WMATA has proposed would increase motor vehicle traffic in Georgetown substantially, if only because the vast majority of the students, residents, employees, and visitors stranded by the change would resort to Uber or Lyft. Such would not be a desirable outcome for either the Georgetown community or the city as a whole. The G2 and D2 lines should be maintained as they exist today.

We also urge that the existing D1 line be maintained. This line is vital for many daily commuters, including students at Duke Ellington School of the Arts and Hardy Middle School. The suggestion that the combined D2/G2 line would provide adequate alternative service is simply not credible. The rush hour D1 as it currently exists is consistently very crowded. Moving those riders to the proposed D2/G2 combination would inevitably result in extremely overcrowded buses. While ANC 2E would welcome the connection Burleith and Hillandale would gain to neighborhoods east of Dupont Circle from the proposed D2/G2 combination route, this should not come at the cost of reducing vital rush hour service that currently connects these neighborhoods as well as Glover Park, to Metrorail at Dupont Circle.

Residents of Georgetown, Burleith, and Hillandale (including students at Georgetown University), as well as visitors to our community and employees of the university, MedStar Georgetown University Hospital and the businesses in our neighborhood are uniquely dependent on the bus lines that currently exist. Therefore, we reiterate our belief that the elimination of the existing D1 line and the G2 line in Georgetown by

combining it with the D2 line west of Rock Creek would be both unfair and inequitable. All three lines should be maintained as they currently exist.

Commissioners Kishan Putta ([2E01@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2E01@anc.dc.gov)) and Rick Murphy ([2E03@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2E03@anc.dc.gov)) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard G. Murphy, Jr." in a cursive script.

Rick Murphy  
Chair, ANC 2E