



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

July 13, 2017

The Honorable Jack Evans
Chairman, Board of Directors
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
600 Fifth Street NW
Washington, DC 20001
JEvans@dccouncil.us

RE: Introducing Enhanced H1 Metrobus Service to SOGO Budget Additions Service Change Proposals for FY 2018

Dear Chairman Evans,

At its regular meeting on July 12, 2017, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC 2B” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With 7 of 9 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (7-0-0):

WHEREAS, the “Finance Committee” of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (“WMATA”) Board of Directors (“Board”) is to recommend at its meeting on Thursday, July 13, 2017 whether the full Board should authorize WMATA to conduct a public hearing on a package of bus service improvements¹ through action at its regularly-scheduled meeting later that day;

WHEREAS, the draft package includes service enhancements to five bus lines within the District of Columbia – as part of an overall proposal collectively referred to as “State of Good Operations Bus Service Changes With Budget Additions”;

WHEREAS, many of the changes proposed in this package – as well as those in a related, revenue-neutral package to be presented at the “Customer Service and Operations Committee” – result from recommendations made in a series of Metrobus line studies undertaken by WMATA and the District Department of Transportation (“DDOT”) within the past several years;

¹ “Public Hearing for Potential Metrobus Service Increases.” Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. Action Item III-B, July 13, 2017. Retrieved 7/11/17 from: <https://www.wmata.com/about/board/meetings/board-pdfs/upload/3B-FY2018-Metrobus-PH-Additions-TO-POST.pdf>

WHEREAS, one such study – completed in 2013 – recommended a service enhancement to the “H1” Metrobus line, which presently runs between Potomac Park (Foggy Bottom) and the Brookland-CUA Metro station during morning and evening rush hours in the peak direction (i.e., toward Potomac Park in the AM rush and toward Brookland in the PM rush)²;

WHEREAS, the service enhancement recommended³ would “convert the current H1 service into an all-day, bi-directional service” (p. 7 of PDF) consisting of the following service elements:

1. The addition of northbound AM peak trips running at a 15 minute headway (6:00 am to 9:00 am). The current AM peak southbound trips would be modified such that there is a consistent 15 minute headway in both directions throughout the AM peak.
2. Mid-Day (9:00 am to 3:00 pm) bi-directional service running every 30 minutes.
3. The addition of southbound PM peak trips running at a 15 minute headway (3:00 pm to 7:00 pm). The current PM peak northbound service would also be modified to run every 15 minutes throughout the PM peak.
4. Evening (7:00 pm to 10:00 pm) bi-directional service running every 30 minutes.

WHEREAS, a full-time, weekday line along this corridor would fill a gap in existing transit service between the Foggy Bottom and Dupont Circle neighborhoods – both of which are densely-populated employment centers adjacent to the western portion of the Central Business District and are home to nationally and regionally significant cultural and educational amenities;

WHEREAS, this line would also provide a direct connection where none currently exists between Dupont Circle and the densely-populated Columbia Heights neighborhood, which has evolved into a major retail destination for area residents within the past ten years;

WHEREAS, full-time service on this line would enable our residents – particularly seniors and those with chronic medical conditions – to access medical services provided in or adjacent to the campuses of Washington Hospital Center and GW Hospital, both of which are ill-served by existing transit connections from the neighborhood but which would be served directly from this line;

² “Timetable, H1: Brookland-Potomac Park Line.” Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. Retrieved 7/11/17 at: <https://www.wmata.com/schedules/timetables/upload/h1.pdf>.

³ “Service Evaluation Study, Final Recommendations: Metrobus Routes H1; H2, 3, 4; H8, 9.” Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and District Department of Transportation, October 2013. Retrieved 7/11/17 at: <http://www.metrobus-studies.com/H%20Lines/H%20Lines,%20Final%20Recommendations.pdf>.

WHEREAS, according to figures from a March 2013 H Line Productivity Report⁴, the current H1 service is by far the most productive of this line series, as measured in the following distinctions:

- Highest Cost Recovery from Fares (37.19%, more than 2.5 times the WMATA standard and over 7% greater than the next-highest mark – for Saturday H2/H3/H4 trips) (p. 33 of PDF)
- Most Boardings Per Trip (43.9, more than 4.5 times the WMATA standard and 14.8 boardings more than the next-highest mark – for weekday H2/H3/H4 trips) (p. 33 of PDF)
- Lowest Subsidy per Passenger (\$2.03, nearly one-third of the WMATA standard and \$0.19 lower than the next-closest mark – for Saturday H2/H3/H4 trips) (p. 34 of PDF)
- Most Boardings per Revenue Mile (6.9, nearly seven times the WMATA standard and 2.4 greater than the next-closest mark – for weekday H8/H9 trips) (p. 34 of PDF)

WHEREAS, implementing this recommendation fulfills two of the four broader recommendations from the 2013 study, including to “provide a direct, all day, two way connection to downtown Washington from the H Lines’ service area.”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that the draft schedule of service changes to be proposed for a public hearing as Metrobus SOGO Budget Additions for FY 2018 be amended to provide for the implementation of Study Recommendation “B-1” of the “2013 Metrobus Service Evaluation Study for the H Line” – converting the H1 Metrobus into an all-day, weekday, bi-directional service between Brookland-CUA Metro station and Potomac Park/Washington Circle.

Commissioner Nicole Mann (nicole.mann@dupontcircleanc.net) is the Commission’s representative in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,



Nicole Mann
Chair

⁴ “Metrobus Service Evaluation Study, Transit Service Assessment: Metrobus Routes H1; H2, 3, 4; H8, 9.” Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. October 2013. Retrieved 7/11/17 from: <http://www.metrobus-studies.com/H%20Lines/H%20Lines,%20TM1,%20Transit%20Service%20Assessment.pdf>

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