



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

April 25, 2019

Councilmember Jack Evans  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority  
600 5th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
[jevans@dccouncil.us](mailto:jevans@dccouncil.us)

RE: The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's Proposal to Subsidize Late-Night For-Hire Ride Services

Dear Councilmember Evans:

At its regular meeting on April 10, 2019, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission ("ANC 2B" or "Commission") considered the above-referenced matter. With 8 of 9 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (8-0-0):

WHEREAS, a functioning and convenient transit system is essential to the vitality and viability of urban and metropolitan areas, especially the District of Columbia,

WHEREAS, Dupont Circle is a major residential, commercial, cultural, and entertainment center that depends heavily upon transit as a significant majority of residents, workers, and visitors do not own and/or choose to not use personal automobiles,

WHEREAS, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) has proposed to continue the Metrorail early closing hours (11:00 pm on Sundays, 11:30 pm on weeknights, and 1:00 am on Fridays and Saturdays) implemented in 2016 so as to permit greater "track time" for repairs and maintenance,

WHEREAS, the earlier closing times have created significant inconvenience and unnecessary added expense for workers, residents, and visitors needing to travel after the rail system closes, and have had a disparate impact on lower wage earners,

WHEREAS, the earlier rail closing times adversely affect nightlife businesses in Dupont Circle by curtailing the use of transit by patrons from other areas, or imposing the cost of a for-hire ride upon them,

WHEREAS, WMATA has failed to implement a comprehensive, coordinated, and viable late-night “Owl” bus alternative continuing after rail service ends as cities such as San Francisco, Boston, and Philadelphia have, and which the District formerly had,

WHEREAS, WMATA has issued a Request For Proposals (RFP) to provide a \$3 discount for each of up to 10 weekly trips by on-demand for-hire transportation to enrolled late-night employees when Metrorail is closed for a one-year pilot program capped at \$1 million,

WHEREAS, the subsidy pilot would still burden passengers with the rest of the fare, which could easily exceed \$15 per trip; and all other system users would be on their own,

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) implemented a late-night bus service pilot program which cost \$1.2 million and is available to anyone needing to use it at the price of a regular bus fare, and

WHEREAS, encouraging the further use of for-hire vehicles adds to traffic congestion and is contrary to the District’s stated objectives to reduce the number of automobiles on our streets, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and encourage the use of sustainable, environmentally-friendly transportation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B does not support and strenuously objects to WMATA’s plan to supplement its transit service by subsidizing for-hire ride services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B urges WMATA to immediately cancel the RFP and pilot program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B urges WMATA to focus efforts on the creation of a coherent and viable late-night bus operation that serves as a direct substitute for the rail routes, with a reasonable subset of the regular corridor and neighborhood bus routes, with headways of 20 minutes or less for the rail-substitute and key routes and no longer than 30 minutes on others.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B urges the Government of the District of Columbia to direct their nominees to the WMATA Board of Directors to insist on implementation of the aforementioned late-night bus services, and to oppose in the strongest possible terms the efforts to extend the early closing times without sufficient efforts and alternatives to minimize disruption to rail riders, except where explicitly necessary for rail system maintenance.

Commissioners Randy Downs ([2B05@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2B05@anc.dc.gov)) and Daniel Warwick ([2B02@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2B02@anc.dc.gov)) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel Warwick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Daniel Warwick  
Chair