

ANC 2B Resolution Opposing Mayor Bowser’s Proposed Elimination of DC Circulator Routes

WHEREAS, Mayor Bowser's FY 2024 “Comeback Plan” Budget includes elimination of DC Circulator bus service for the Rosslyn-Dupont Circle (RS-DP), Woodley Park-Adams Morgan to McPherson Square Metro (WP-AM), and Eastern Market-L’Enfant Plaza (EM-LP) routes; and

WHEREAS, availability of affordable and efficient public transportation is a fundamental right of all residents, including working-class communities, and should be prioritized over profit-driven motives or budgetary considerations that disproportionately burden those with the least resources;

WHEREAS, public transportation is critical to the vitality, success, and very existence of the District’s business and tourism engines; and

WHEREAS, many of the District’s most popular activity centers, tourism, and nightlife destinations are served by the Circulator routes and extensions nominated for elimination; and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B along with other ANCs believe the Mayor’s requested Circulator service eliminations will produce the exact opposite effect of a “comeback” for the residents and businesses in District; and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B is an ardent supporter of the Circulator, especially the RS-DP route and its planned extension to U Street since the beginning of service; and

WHEREAS, the RS-DP route provides a convenient connection between the Dupont Circle Red Line Metro station and Rosslyn via M Street through the hearts of West End and Georgetown; and

WHEREAS, the RS-DP route reduces the number of personal vehicles thus traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions by providing an efficient public transportation option for thousands of residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, plans to extend the RS-DP route to U Street and LeDroit Park/Howard University have been in development for over a decade and it has been anticipated that Fiscal Year 2024 would at long last actualize the plan; and

WHEREAS, extension of RS-DP to U Street/LeDroit/Howard via 18th Street will make it easier for residents and visitors to travel to employment, retail, dining, and entertainment destinations across multiple neighborhoods and activity centers encouraging and supporting economic opportunity and post-pandemic business recovery; and

WHEREAS, extension of RS-DP to U Street/LeDroit/Howard will improve transit equity for a significant population of minority and lower-income residents with a low-cost, convenient service directly connecting multiple activity centers and transfers to other Circulator, Metrobus and Metrorail routes; and

WHEREAS, extension of RS-DP has the potential to replace hundreds of private vehicle trips within the route corridor, thus increasing utilization of and further supporting DDOT's planned U Street Bus Priority project; and;

WHEREAS, the EM-LP route provides connections to Metrorail and Metrobus, along with transit access to the Wharf and Audi Stadium, encouraging fewer personal vehicle trips to those destinations; and

WHEREAS, conversion of the Circulator bus fleet to all-electric coaches can be reprogrammed to better align with capital funding availability; and

WHEREAS, the DC Council's Committee on Transportation and the Environment will now conduct budget hearings and prepare a committee report that will include final recommendations for funding of DC Circulator lines;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B urges the Committee on Transportation and the Environment to recognize and prioritize the importance of DC Circulator bus service to the District's economic recovery and well-being, Vision Zero, established environmental and transportation equity objectives, and recommend that the Council provide full funding for Circulator operations in the FY24 budget and following years to prevent service reductions or eliminations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT ANC 2B urges the Committee on Transportation and the Environment to recognize the importance and necessity of extending the Rosslyn-Dupont route to U Street and LeDroit Park/Howard University in FY24, and recommend to the Council to provide the necessary funding for this and other and service improvements in the FY24 budget and following years.