



600 Fifth Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
202-962-2891

November 3, 2010

Dear Local Chief Executive Officer/Chief Legislator:

As winter approaches and public agencies begin to formulate plans to maintain operations during inclement weather, the Riders' Advisory Council urges you to develop plans to clear select bus stops to help get the region moving after winter storms.

During last winter's snow storms, the region's access to transit was severely hampered both by unplowed roads as well as by uncleared bus stops. While roads were cleared relatively quickly given the amount of snowfall, many bus stops remained snowbound for days and weeks after bus service was up and running again, severely hindering riders' access to Metrobus and local bus services.

We understand that local governments have limited resources and that those resources were stretched extremely thin by last winter's record-breaking snow storms. However, even snowfall in amounts less than last years' blizzards can make it difficult for riders to access bus stops and consequently, to use fixed-route bus transit.

In order to improve transit access following future snowstorms, the Riders' Advisory Council asks that you and your staff work cooperatively with Metro and other regional transit providers to identify key locations that would be cleared. Given resource constraints, not all of the region's 12,000 Metrobus stops can be cleared following snowstorms. However, we urge you and your staff to work with Metro to identify a specific set of key stops in your jurisdiction that would benefit the maximum number of riders with minimal expenditure of resources. Criteria for such key stops could include:

- High-volume locations;
- Transfer points between bus lines;
- Bus stops on "core" Metrobus lines that will operate following significant snowfall;
- Bus stops serving populations with special needs, such as hospitals and senior centers.

The availability of transit service helps keep our region moving both during and after severe winter weather. Clearing key bus stops to ensure that the region's residents will have access to buses – the mode that provides the most extensive regional transit coverage – is critical to maintaining regional mobility.

Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any further information or should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank DeBernardo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Frank DeBernardo, Chairman