

SUBJECT: Mid-City North/South Bus Corridors

RESOLUTION
OF THE
RIDERS' ADVISORY COUNCIL (RAC)
OF THE
WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY (WMATA)

WHEREAS, the Riders' Advisory Council (RAC) is responsible for advising the WMATA Board on issues that will facilitate WMATA's goal of providing the best service to all of its customers; and

WHEREAS, the RAC affirms its strong support for bus transportation as a flexible solution to the region's transit needs; and

WHEREAS, the RAC recognizes the growing capacity issues in the mid-city north-south corridors, including the S series buses (16th St NW), the 50 series buses (14th St NW), the 60 series buses (11th St NW), and the 70 series buses (Georgia Avenue/7th St NW); and

WHEREAS, the RAC notes that over 20% of District riders ride buses in these corridors daily and that three of the top six bus lines by ridership are in these corridors; and

WHEREAS, the RAC is concerned that population growth in these corridors will increase congestion in the future; and

WHEREAS, the RAC sees the pressing need for a comprehensive and coordinated approach to transportation in these corridors; understands that the complications of changing infrastructure and competing urban development goals make comprehensive solutions difficult; and

WHEREAS, the RAC is concerned that lack of coordination and action on the part of relevant jurisdictions and agencies is leaving riders feeling frustrated and poorly served; and

WHEREAS, the RAC appreciates the mitigation efforts WMATA has taken so far to alleviate congestion on some of these corridors; yet recognizes that these efforts to alleviate congestion are not a long-term solution to the issues of congestion and schedule unreliability; and

WHEREAS, the RAC believes that the mid-city north-south corridors are likely to be the first of many cases where WMATA and the jurisdictions will have to work together to alleviate congestion by significantly upgrading bus services towards the establishment of Bus Rapid Transit services; and

WHEREAS, the RAC recognizes the urgent need for forward movement by all relevant agencies and jurisdictions; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the RAC urges WMATA to coordinate with the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) to implement further mitigating measures now in order to relieve

congestion on the mid-city north-south bus routes, to include shorter-term operational improvements involving signal timing, additional larger buses, staggered bus stops, movement of bus stops past intersections; expanded rush-hour restrictions on parking, full scale signal optimization, and transit signal priority; and be it

RESOLVED, that the RAC encourages WMATA to diffuse passenger demand through promotion and enhancement of alternative bus routes, enhancement of bus service on parallel or complementary routes (14th St., 11th St., and Georgia Avenue lines); and be it

RESOLVED, that the RAC urges WMATA to assist DDOT in undertaking the long-awaited Transit Priority Study of 16th St., NW without further delay, advancing longer-term capital improvements towards establishing Bus Rapid Transit services, to begin with the evaluation, and if feasible, implementation of dedicated lanes for buses during peak hours; and be it

RESOLVED, that the RAC asks the WMATA Board to ensure the allocation of necessary capital and operational resources to implement improvements through creation of a forward-looking, fully budgeted strategy document which proposes integrated short and long term bus solutions for the mid-city north-south corridors; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the RAC encourages WMATA to work with its jurisdictional partners, including the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT), to establish a results-oriented working group to establish joint accountability and maintain productive communication on transportation in these vital corridors.

Reviewed as to form and legal sufficiency,

Kathryn Pett
General Counsel