

Notice of Public Hearing
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Proposed Systemwide Metrorail and Metrobus Service Changes

Docket B20-03

Purpose

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority on proposed changes to Metrorail and Metrobus service and hours of operation. The hearing details are as follows:

Hearing No. 633

3 p.m., Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Due to the ongoing public health emergency and the prohibition on public gatherings related to the Covid-19 pandemic, this hearing will be conducted virtually.

Watch via wmata.com/budget

or

call (202) 962-2511 (TTY: 202-962-2033) to find out how to listen by phone.

Public hearing materials will be made available on Metro's website at:
www.wmata.com/budget

Anyone who is unable to access these materials via Metro's website or needs additional accommodation should contact the Office of the Board Corporate Secretary at 202-962-2511 or TTY: 202-962-2033 as soon as possible in order to make necessary arrangements.

For language assistance, such as an interpreter or information in another language, please call 202-962-1082 at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing date.

For more information please visit www.wmata.com/budget.

HOW TO SPEAK AT THE PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with Section 62 of the WMATA Compact, Metro will conduct a public hearing. This hearing will be conducted virtually due to the ongoing public health emergency related to the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent restrictions on public gatherings and social distancing requirements. All organizations or individuals desiring to be heard with respect to the proposed changes will be afforded the opportunity to present their views and make supporting statements and to offer alternative proposals. Individuals will receive up to three minutes to provide comments, and elected officials will receive up to five minutes to provide comments. Relinquishing of time by one speaker to another will not be permitted.

Because this hearing will be conducted virtually, all speakers must register in advance. Speakers may register online at wmata.com/budget or calling (202) 962-2511 during from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Registration will close at **12 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13th**.

Those participating in the hearing will have the opportunity to provide comments, subject to the time limits noted above, via telephone or video and after receiving information on the proposal. Please note that all comments received are releasable to the public upon request, and may be posted on WMATA's website, without change, including any personal information provided.

Information on the hearing will be provided in Metrorail stations, and MetroAccess vehicles, at some area libraries and online at wmata.com/budget.

HOW TO SUBMIT WRITTEN STATEMENTS – Testimony about this proposal may be submitted online via a survey at wmata.com/budget. The survey will open by 9 a.m. on Saturday, October 3, 2020 and will close at 9 a.m. on Monday, October 19, 2020. The survey will also provide the opportunity to submit freeform comments and upload documents. This is in addition to your ability to speak at the public hearing. For those without access to computers or the internet, testimony may also be mailed to the Office of the Board Corporate Secretary, Washington Metropolitan Area

Transit Authority, 600 Fifth Street NW, Washington, DC 20001. All comments must be received by 9 a.m. on Monday, October 19, 2020 to be included in the public record.

The comments received by the Office of the Board Corporate Secretary, along with the survey results and public hearing comments, will be presented to the Board and will be part of the official public hearing record. Please note all statements are releasable to the public upon request, and may be posted on WMATA's website, without change, including any personal information provided.

Copies of the docket in its entirety can be requested from Metro's Office of the Board Corporate Secretary by calling (202) 962-2511 during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday).

BOARD PROPOSAL

The WMATA Board of Directors has authorized the Proposed Systemwide Metrorail and Metrobus Service Changes public hearing, as required by the WMATA Compact. The proposed service changes for the second half of FY2021 are described in detail in the attached dockets. Service change proposals represent the maximum changes that the Board may adopt as part of the FY2021 budget. The Board may ultimately choose to authorize lesser changes, or no changes at all.

PROPOSAL FOR DOCKET B20-03: SERVICE PROPOSALS FOR PUBLIC INPUT AND CONSIDERATION

Metro's ridership and associated revenues have decreased significantly since March 2020 with combined Metrorail and Metrobus ridership still nearly 80 percent below pre-Covid-19 levels as of mid-September. The pandemic's impacts on the region's governments, employers, and schools, have heavily suppressed ridership and revenue and Metro's current financial path will become unsustainable this year if action is not taken to reduce expenses further.

While Metro is delaying capital projects that are not safety related, cutting back contractors, and freezing vacancies, covering a \$200 million budget shortfall is not possible without service cuts and corresponding layoffs.

To maintain safe and reliable service where it is needed most, Metro's Board of Directors will consider proposed service changes to meet the budgetary challenges posed by the pandemic. The proposed changes would focus on realigning service to where there is current demand while preserving the core of Metro's services for when demand recovers. If approved, the service changes would take effect December 2020.

Specific Metrorail and Metrobus service changes include:

Proposed Metrorail Service Changes

1. Standardize Weekday Rail Service Frequencies

Blue, Orange, Green, Yellow and Silver Line weekday headways would increase to 12 minutes during peak periods, and weekday off-peak headways would remain at 12 minutes.

Red Line weekday headways change to 6 minutes all day.

Blue, Orange, Green, Yellow and Silver Line weekend headways would increase to every 15 minutes compared to 12 minutes on Saturdays and remain at 15 minutes on Sundays. Red Line weekend headways would increase to 12 minutes from operating every 6 minutes on Saturdays and 7.5 minutes on Sundays.

2. Implement Turnbacks on the Red Line

On weekdays only, 50 percent of Red Line trips operate between Grosvenor-Strathmore and Silver Spring only, making headways 12 minutes between Grosvenor-Strathmore to Shady Grove and Silver Spring to Glenmont.

3. Implement Turnbacks on the Yellow Line

All Yellow Line trains operate between Huntington and Mt. Vernon 7-days per week.

4. Close Rail Earlier Sunday Through Thursday

The Metrorail system would close at 9 pm Sunday through Thursday instead of 11 pm; Friday and Saturday closure would remain at the current 11 pm.

Proposed Metrobus Service Changes

Retain August Service Plan

Overall bus service would continue at the current levels as introduced on August 23, 2020 instead of adding service in early 2021 as planned. This service plan provides approximately 75 percent of pre-Covid-19 levels of Metrobus service throughout the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia.

Maintain Current MetroAccess Service Area

The MetroAccess service area will not be impacted by any of the proposed Metrobus service changes or route eliminations and remain as is until July 1, 2021, at which time it may change based on a review of (a) available fixed-route service, (b) the availability of subsidized alternatives to the MetroAccess service, and (c) demand for paratransit service.

Proposed Metrobus Service Changes by Line

Discontinue Service After Midnight

All trips (on all lines) starting after 12 a.m. will be discontinued

Saturday and Sunday span will be reduced (in excess of the systemwide 12 a.m. cut-off) on the following lines:

G12, G14 – Greenbelt-New Carrollton

K12 – Forestville

K6 – New Hampshire Avenue-Maryland (see also Saturday/Sunday frequency reductions)

R1, R2 – Riggs Road

Saturday and Sunday frequency will be reduced on the following lines:

23A, 23B, 23T – McLean-Crystal City

K6 – New Hampshire Avenue-Maryland (see also Saturday/Sunday span reductions)

Y2, Y7, Y8 – Georgia Avenue-Maryland

Saturday and Sunday service will be discontinued on the following lines:

30N, 30S – Friendship Heights-Southeast

M6 – Fairfax Village

NH2 – National Harbor-Alexandria

T14 – Rhode Island Avenue-New Carrollton (discontinue Sunday service only, Saturday service will still operate with a reduced span)

V12 – District Heights-Suitland (discontinue Sunday service only, Saturday service will still operate)

Z6 – Calverton-Westfarm

Weekday span will be reduced (in excess of the systemwide 12 a.m. cut-off) on the following lines:

89, 89M – Laurel

T2 – River Road

Frequencies will be reduced on the following lines:

2A – Washington Blvd.-Dunn Loring

5A – DC-Dulles

42,43 – Mt. Pleasant

74 – Convention Center-SW Waterfront

83, 86 – College Park

C11, C13 – Clinton

C8 – College Park-White Flint

D4 – Ivy City-Franklin Square

D6 – Sibley Hospital-Stadium Armory

D8 – Hospital Center

E4 – Military Road-Crosstown

F6 – New Carrollton-Fort Totten

F8 – Langley Park-Cheverly

F12 – Ardwick Industrial Park Shuttle

F13 – Cheverly-Washington Business Park

H2, H3, H4 – Crosstown

H6 – Brookland-Fort Lincoln

H8, H9 – Park Road-Brookland
J1, J2 – Bethesda-Silver Spring
L8 – Connecticut Avenue-Maryland
MW1 – Metroway-Potomac Yard
Q1, Q2, Q4, Q5, Q6 – Viers Mill Road
U4 – Sheriff Road-River Terrace
U5, U6 – Marshall Heights
U7 – Deanwood–Minnesota Avenue
W2, W3 – United Medical Center-Anacostia
W6, W8 – Garfield-Anacostia Loop
Z2 – Colesville-Ashton

Weekday frequencies will be reduced and service will be discontinued on Saturdays and Sundays on the following lines:

62,63 – Takoma-Petworth
C12, C14 – Hillcrest Heights
D2 – Glover Park-Dupont Circle
E2 – Ivy City-Fort Totten
G2 – P Street-LeDroit Park
R12 – Kenilworth Avenue
R4 – Queens Chapel Road
X8 – Maryland Avenue

Span and frequencies will be reduced on the following lines:

3A—Annandale Road
22A, 22C, and 22F – Barcroft-South Fairlington
H11, H12 and H13 Marlow Heights –Temple Hills

The following lines will be discontinued:

3T – Pimmit Hills
3Y – Lee Highway-Farragut Square
7C,7P – Park Center-Pentagon
8S, 8W, 8Z – Foxchase-Seminary Valley
11Y – Mt. Vernon Express
15K – Chain Bridge Road
16L – Annandale-Skyline City-Pentagon
16Y – Columbia Pike-Farragut Square
18G, 18H, 18J – Orange Hunt
21A, 21D – Landmark-Bren Mar Park-Pentagon
26A – Annandale-East Falls Church
28F, 28G – Skyline City
29W – Braeburn Drive-Pentagon Express
37 – Wisconsin Avenue Limited
39 – Pennsylvania Avenue Limited
87 – Laurel Express
A9 – Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. Limited
B30 – Greenbelt-BWI Airport Express
B8, B9 – Fort Lincoln Shuttle
B29 – Crofton-New Carrollton
C28 – Pointer Ridge

D1 – Glover Park-Franklin Square
D5 – Macarthur Blvd.-Georgetown
E6 – Chevy Chase
G9 – Rhode Island Avenue Limited
H1 – Brookland-Potomac Park
J4 - College Park—Bethesda Limited
S1 – 16 th Street-Potomac Park
V1 – Benning Heights-M Street
W1 – Shipley Terrace-Fort Drum
X1, X3 – Benning Road

Modifications are proposed to the following lines as follows:

1A, 1B Wilson Blvd.-Vienna

- Discontinue all service on route 1B

1C – Fair Oaks-Fairfax Blvd.

- Eliminate route segment between Fair Oaks Mall and Alliance Drive
- Reduce frequency on weekdays

2B – Fair Oaks-Jermantown Road

- Eliminate route segment between Fair Oaks Mall and Alliance Drive
- Reduce frequency on weekdays

4A, 4B – Pershing Drive-Arlington Blvd.

- Discontinue all service on route 4A
- Reduce frequency on Saturdays & Sundays

7W – Lincolnia-Pentagon

- Discontinue entire line
- Add new route 7A,7F to Lincolnia during weekday peak periods

10A, 10E, 10N – Alexandria-Pentagon

- Discontinue all service on routes 10E & 10N

16A, 16C, 16E - Columbia Pike

- Eliminate route 16C route segment between Pentagon and Downtown DC
- Reduce frequency on Saturdays & Sundays

17G, 17H, 17K, 17L – Kings Park Express

- Discontinue all service on routes 17K & 17L

29C, 29G – Annandale

- Discontinue all service on route 29C

60, 64 Fort Totten-Petworth

- Discontinue all service on route 60
- Reduce frequency weekdays and weekends on route 64

96, 97 East Capitol Street-Cardozo

- Discontinue all service on route 97
- Operate route 96 to Capitol Heights Station at all times

<p>C21, C22, C26, C29 – Central Avenue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eliminate route C29 route segment between Pointer Ridge and Bowie State University
<p>K9 – New Hampshire Avenue MD Limited</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discontinue entire line - Add new route K6 trips during weekday peak periods to improve frequency
<p>L1, L2 Connecticut Avenue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discontinue all service on route L1 - Reduce frequency weekdays and weekends on route L2
<p>N2, N4, N6 Massachusetts Avenue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discontinue all service on routes N2,N4 - Add route N6 trips all day on weekdays - Reduce frequency weekdays and weekends
<p>P18, P19 – Oxon Hill-Fort Washington</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discontinue all service on route P19 - Reduce frequency
<p>V7, V8 – Benning Heights-Alabama Avenue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discontinue all service on route V7 - Reduce frequency on weekdays