



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

September 18, 2024

Mayor Muriel Bowser
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004
com@dccouncil.gov

RE: the proposed elimination of the Circulator service, and transferring Circulator service to WMATA

Dear Mayor Bowser,

At its regular meeting on September 18, 2024, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With five of eight commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted (5-0-0), after a motion made by Commissioner Omicini and seconded by Commissioner Chadwick, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS at the end of December 2024, the DC Circulator bus service operated by the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) will cease operations after 19 years;

WHEREAS three of the DC Circulator’s lines six lines - the Georgetown-Union Station, Rosslyn-Dupont Circle, and National Mall routes - pass through ANC 2A, providing an essential transit service to residents, workers, and tourists;

WHEREAS removing the DC Circulator’s routes in ANC 2A, especially the National Mall route, will create even more difficult vehicular traffic conditions on already-busy key corridors such as Constitution Ave. NW, K St. NW, and M St. NW, as tourists and workers will likely travel by car to their destinations;

WHEREAS ANC 2A has many older residents who rely on Circulator service to reach portions of the city that are not easily accessed by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)’s current routes;

WHEREAS DC has set ambitious climate goals to “increase use of public transit to 50% of all commuter trips” and “reduce commuter trips made by car to 25%”¹ by 2032, both of which are only attainable with a robust bus service that serves the entire city, of which the DC Circulator is an essential piece;

WHEREAS the DC Circulator directly provides jobs to hundreds of people, and DC Circulator bus drivers and other workers have already begun to receive lay-off notices²;

¹ <https://sustainable.dc.gov/sdc2>

² <https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/local/dc/hundreds-of-dc-circulator-bus-drivers-get-notice-of-permanent-layoffs/65-b5cc80e4-9d0e-4fe0-9065-7b336fd87411>



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WHEREAS DC Circulator employees are members of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 689, which is also the union with which WMATA has an active collective bargaining agreement;

WHEREAS WMATA’s collective bargaining agreement ensures that “Seniority attained under predecessor companies shall be maintained,”³ meaning that transferring Circulator service to WMATA would preserve hundreds of union jobs and salaries that Circulator employees have spent years working towards;

WHEREAS DC has already invested \$100 million in electrifying the Circulator fleet, and has currently no plans to use this fleet in any DC-managed bus service;

WHEREAS the DC government has worked with WMATA already to temporarily expand some service in anticipation of shutting the Circulator down, as announced on September 10th, 2024, including the following affecting ANC 2A:

- Merging 31 and 33 into a single route along H and I Streets NW through Franklin Square
- Creating 15-minute headways along route 38B, between Rosslyn and Farragut Square

WHEREAS these changes will not cover the gap left by the DC Circulator in ANC 2A, as the National Mall route will not be replaced by any service, and no headway increase is planned for routes replacing the Georgetown-Union Station line.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges Mayor Bowser to officially transfer Circulator operations to WMATA, including all routes, personnel, and equipment, ensuring that the vast majority of routes and stops are preserved, union jobs are transferred to WMATA, and the DC Circulator fleet is used to full effect.

Commissioners Trupti Patel (2A03@anc.dc.gov) and Yannik Omictin (2A01@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Trupti Patel
Chairperson

³ WMATA - ATU Local 689 CBA 2024