



Fairlington Citizens Association
P. O. Box 6182
Arlington, Virginia 22206

March 2, 2020

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
600 5th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001
SUBMITTED ONLINE

Re: Bus route changes with the WMATA FY21 Budget Proposal

Dear WMATA:

I am writing to express the views of the Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA), the civic association that represents more than 7400 households in Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, on WMATA's FY21 Budget Proposal. We encourage WMATA to engage more directly with its local government partners and communities to pursue consensus opportunities to optimize bus service. We are impacted by the proposed changes to the 7Y and 22A/C service. **We recommend retaining the 7Y service into D.C., and postponing the 22A/C service changes until collaborative discussions and recommendations can be made.**

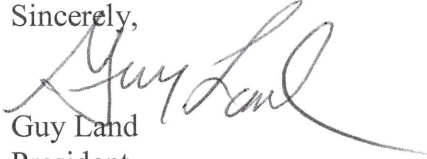
Our neighborhood (which includes North and South Fairlington, Park Shirlington, and Shirlington House) uses the existing bus service in many ways that aren't easily captured by the ridership numbers and trends alone. We have government workers who rely on the 7Y service for single trip access to Northwest D.C. (e.g., the State Department); others use the 7Y with a bike to extend their trips into D.C. During the off-peak times, we have residents with limited mobility who value the service as well as students who use it as part of their trip to Arlington County Public Schools. Many use the peak 22C service to avoid crowding on the 7. People from outside the neighborhood use the bus system to get into the community to provide in-home services (such as child care, senior support, and business assistance) to our residents.

We understand and acknowledge the performance and ridership concerns with the off-peak 22A/C service. The existing routes may not be the most cost-effective means to provide useful off-peak service. We appreciate that the replacement 22F service would offer improved schedule reliability during peak hours. However, given the diverse use cases above, we believe there are ample opportunities to explore an overall better bus network than what is currently proposed. For example, off-peak service could be provided via ART and/or DASH. The budget review cycle is not the right process to identify consensus options to optimize bus service between Arlington County Transit, Alexandria DASH, and WMATA.

Fairlington is a historic community that was developed to provide military housing for Pentagon workers in World War II. The neighborhood has long enjoyed reliable and convenient bus service in the neighborhood; many of our residents highlight bus service as a key reason to live here.

We have a long and productive history of working collaboratively with Arlington County and the City of Alexandria on local policy and services, as well as with our neighbors in Shirlington and Parkfairfax communities towards bettering our communities. To this end, we would welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with WMATA toward the goal of optimizing bus service in our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Guy Land".

Guy Land

President

president@fca-fairlington.org

cc: Arlington County
City of Alexandria