



City of Bowie

2614 Kenhill Drive
Bowie, Maryland 20715

January 27, 2010

Mr. John B. Catoe, Jr.
General Manager
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
600 Fifth Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Hearing Number 547
WMATA Proposed Service Reductions

Dear Mr. Catoe:

The Bowie City Council wishes to express its opposition to the proposed cuts in service for Metrobus and Metrorail, which are the subject of Public Hearing Number 547. The options under consideration to address current fiscal difficulties include using capital budget dollars to pay for parts that are needed to keep the bus and rail system in good working order, increasing fares up to 10 cents on all modes of transportation and reducing Metrobus and Metrorail service.

The specific proposals to reduce Metrobus service include reducing the frequency of service on certain bus routes and eliminating service on routes or portions of routes with low ridership. The specific proposals to reduce Metrorail service include increasing intervals between trains, closing one entrance at stations with multiple entrances during evenings and weekends, and reducing the hours of Metrorail service.

According to the 2000 Census, approximately 6% of Bowie's population of over 50,000 residents used public transit for their daily commute to work. As of the latest results from the American Community Survey, approximately 10% of the City's 58,000 residents are now using public transit to get to work. The increasing dependency of our residents on the transit system to provide access to employment is a cause for great concern, in light of the reductions now under consideration by WMATA.

The City Council joins Prince George's County and all of the residents who testified at WMATA's previous hearing in strongly opposing service cuts. The City Council prefers that users face a fare increase to ensure that necessary services continue. Our understanding is that the proposed service cuts *in FY 10* would:

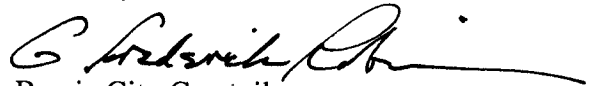
Letter to WMATA re: 2010 Service Reductions

- **Eliminate 80 weekday trips**
- **Eliminate 10 weekend trips**
- **Impact 1300+ weekly or 70,000+ yearly riders**
- **Reduce Metrorail service** during specific hours and at specific stations
- Impose devastating impacts on transit dependent riders
- Reverse over 10-years of continued efforts by Prince George's County's Department of Public Works and Transportation to build a better bus service throughout the county
- Lead to projected \$5.2 million in additional Metrobus service cuts in FY 11

Since so many of the City's residents use Metrobus or Metrorail to commute to jobs in other parts of Prince George's County or the metropolitan area, the proposed service cuts will have a devastating and direct impact on their ability to get to work.

For all of the above reasons, we respectfully ask you to not cut current transit services. Given the choice, the City Council recommends that WMATA require users to pay a fare increase to ensure that necessary services continue.

Sincerely,



Bowie City Council
G. Frederick Robinson
Mayor

cc: Honorable Douglas J.J. Peters, State Senator
Honorable James Hubbard, State Delegate
Honorable Marvin Holmes, State Delegate
Honorable Geron Levi, State Delegate
Honorable Jack B. Johnson, County Executive
Honorable Ingrid M. Turner, Prince George's County Council
Honorable Samuel H. Dean, Prince George's County Council