



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

MEMORANDUM

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TO: Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council

FROM: Phil Mendelson, Chairman   
Councilmember Charles Allen 

DATE: December 1, 2022

RE: **Request to Place Measures on the Agenda for December 6, 2022 Legislative Meeting**

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Please place the following measures on the agenda for the December 6, 2022 Regular Legislative Meeting:

- **Fare-Free Bus Funding Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2022**
- **Fare-Free Bus Funding Emergency Amendment Act of 2022**
- **Fare-Free Bus Funding Temporary Amendment Act of 2022**

These measures would amend the Department of Transportation Establishment Act of 2002 to require the Director of DDOT to enter into an agreement with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (“WMATA”) for fare-free Metrobus travel and expanded after-hours Metrobus service in the District and would establish and direct revised revenue to two new special funds -- the Fare-Free Bus Service Fund and the Bus Service Enhancement Fund.

This legislation is necessary now to ensure funding for Bill 24-429, the Metro for D.C. Amendment Act of 2022, which is scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading this month. Fare-free bus service within the District and expanded overnight service on key bus routes would be a tremendous boost for public transit and a major advance for transit equity in the District, providing particular benefit to communities of color, lower-income residents, and workers in the District’s service industries. Ensuring that sufficient funds are identified for this purpose now will provide WMATA with the certainty it needs to begin planning for the service changes, which could be implemented as soon as July 2023, once the Council has formally appropriated the identified funds in both the Fiscal Year 2024 regular budget and an anticipated Fiscal Year 2023 supplemental budget. The opportunity to provide this transformational service for District residents is one that the Council should not miss.

Draft copies of the measures are attached. Please call me or Christian A. Washington, Special Counsel at (202) 724-8083 if you have any questions.

cc: All Councilmembers  
Council Officers