

Council of the District of Columbia
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION & THE ENVIRONMENT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004

COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES ALLEN, CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION & THE ENVIRONMENT

ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC OVERSIGHT ROUNDTABLE ON THE WASHINGTON
METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY BETTER BUS NETWORK PLAN

Thursday, June 8, 2023, 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Virtual Roundtable via Zoom

To Watch Live:

<https://dccouncil.us/council-videos/>

<http://video.oct.dc.gov/DCC/jw.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/CMcharlesallen/>

On Tuesday, May 23, 2023, Councilmember Charles Allen, Chairperson of the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, will convene a public roundtable to consider the “Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Better Bus Network Plan.” The roundtable will be conducted virtually via the Zoom platform from 9:30 a.m. to approximately 1:00 p.m., and witnesses will be limited to representatives of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (“WMATA”).

In April 2023, WMATA released its Better Bus Network Plan, a proposal for a system-wide redesign of Metrobus routes, and the first comprehensive redesign since the Metrobus network was created in 1973. The plan built on the work of the Washington Area Bus Transformation Project, a group of regional transportation leaders and stakeholders that released a vision document in May 2019, outlining areas of focus for future bus network planning. A post on the *Greater Greater Washington* website reports that, among other improvements, the network redesign will “increase bus service by 56% in communities of color” and “increase bus service by 55% in low income communities.” The regional redesign will include redesigns of some regional non-WMATA bus routes as well; while WMATA is coordinating with the District Department of Transportation, the Better Bus Network will not include changes to DC Circulator routes. WMATA is accepting public comments on the plan until June 18, and WMATA has proposed adopting a bus service network redesign in its next budget.

The Committee hopes to hear more detail about WMATA’s plans for bus route changes in the District, including:

- How the redesign will impact equitable access to public transit, in particular for Black District residents and other residents who rely on public transportation;

- How wait time between busses and system service hours will change if the current plan is adopted;
- How the proposed plan would impact service to schools and job and shopping centers in the District;
- The potential cost of adopting the proposed plan, including to procure enough busses for increased service, and the proposed timeline to shift to the proposed system;
- How the redesign would impact the need to transfer within the Metrobus system and from Metrobus to Metrorail compared to the current; and
- How WMATA has engaged the public in developing the current proposal, and how WMATA will engage the public going forward.

Members of the public are encouraged to submit written statements that will be made part of the official record. Copies of written statements should be emailed to the Committee at cote@dccouncil.gov. Please indicate that you are submitting testimony for this hearing in the subject line of the e-mail. **The record will close at the end of the business day on Thursday, June 22, 2023.**