

Mr. Randy Clarke, General Manager and CEO
Washington Area Transit Authority (WMATA)
300 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Board of Directors
WMATA
300 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Sharon Kershbaum, Acting Director
DC Department of Transportation
55 M Street, SE, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20003

June 5, 2024

To WMATA and DDOT,

This letter from the residents of Chevy Chase DC, Barnaby Woods, and Hawthorne requests that you, members of the WMATA Board of Directors, and officials at DDOT, restore the E6 bus line to its full original and pre-pandemic transit route in our community now that the COVID-19 health emergency is behind us. Tax-paying residents of ANC 3/4G should be able to access transportation services that are essential to our urban quality of life. We also deserve the chance to contribute to the goals of the District's Clean Energy DC plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by using public transportation instead of driving.¹

WMATA combined the M4 bus route with a segment of the E6 bus line and "discontinued" the majority of the route during the pandemic. Many E6 riders assumed WMATA would restore the route post-pandemic. Because WMATA did not make its decision to cancel the E6 public, we did not have an opportunity to express our concerns.

Our community has lost a much needed bus route. Before the pandemic, the E6 was a popular bus line for area residents with nearly 300 daily riders on weekdays in 2019, up 7% from the previous year. WMATA's decision further isolates residents in our community because the M4 does not mirror most of the E6 route, and it limits access to bus service for many residences.

We believe this change can no longer be justified. Over the past four years, our residents have felt the many negative effects of the missing E6 bus line for our regular commuters, seniors, local school students and their parents, especially at Lafayette Elementary and the Blessed Sacrament, remote workers, and the many workers in our community who provide daily essential services to our residents.

¹ "Eighteen percent of the District's greenhouse gas emissions come from private passenger vehicles," [Sustainable DC 2.0 Plan](#), p. 126.

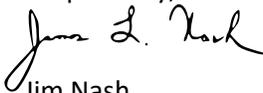
WMATA has eliminated the only direct Metrobus route for the residents of Chevy Chase DC, Barnaby Woods, Hawthorne, and Knollwood to our community center and public library,² the Avalon Theater, the Safeway grocery store, the CVS pharmacy, and the many shops and restaurants along Connecticut Avenue. Further, we have lost direct bus service to Friendship Heights, including Metro, medical facilities, such as Well by Kaiser Permanente, Medstar Health, the Barlow Building with its many doctors, dentists, and other service providers, as well as shops, restaurants, and grocery stores.

Without the E6, hundreds of residents that for decades had access to reliable, convenient, and safe bus service have no choice but to drive. For some, especially our older residents, this is an inequity that impinges on their quality of life and independence. As one example, the walk from the Tenleytown Metro, the closest M4 stop to the Friendship Heights Metro, takes nearly 20 minutes, a challenge for some older residents and people with disabilities. A transfer to Metro bus or rail may increase the cost and can add up to 45 minutes to what had been a 10-minute trip.

We ask, as we did in two recent ANC 3/4G resolutions on [October 13, 2020](#) and [June 12, 2023](#) that WMATA retain the E6 service. We request that the E6 be fully funded in the FY2025 budget and all future budgets. We also propose WMATA consider offering more frequent E6 buses during the day, in the late evenings, and add some weekend service. Many residents of our ANC have no nearby public transit options on Saturdays or Sundays because the M4 operates on weekdays only.

We would like to meet with WMATA officials to understand the current status of the E6 line, to present our views on the essential service the E6 had offered our residents of all ages for many decades, and how to restore the E6 bus route.

Respectfully,



Jim Nash

Commissioner and Chair of ANC 3/4G Transportation Committee

² The city plans to build a new library and community center on the current [Chevy Chase Civic Site](#), and we expect this will attract more area residents to our civic core at the intersection of Connecticut Avenue and McKinley Street.