



Friends of Bus Transit
Chevy Chase

Hearing Testimony
Department of Public Works & Operations Performance Oversight Hearing
on the District's Snow Removal Efforts
February 12, 2026

I am co-chair of Friends of Bus Transit (FoBus) Chevy Chase DC—a group of community volunteers that support a reliable, accessible, and vibrant bus system within our neighborhood and beyond. We are writing to express our continued frustration with the District's failure to clear critical pedestrian infrastructure of snow and ice.

Following the January 25, 2026, storm, bus stops, curb cuts, and crosswalks in our neighborhood remain dangerously obstructed by ice and snow—even as of today, February 11.

Despite quick street clearing, the neglect of bus stops, curb cuts, and intersections has persisted for more than two weeks—a repeat of January 2025 failures. The core issue is the lack of clear responsibility among **DPW, DDOT, and WMATA**. This "pass the buck" mentality leaves bus riders and pedestrians in a dangerous limbo.

Nowhere is this failure more evident than on the **C83, C85, and D70 lines**. While some stops were recently cleared, others remain buried under frozen embankments. As a result, commuters and students are denied safe access to transit; they are forced to scramble over ice ridges or step directly into active traffic on high-volume thoroughfares like **Western, Utah, Nebraska, and Connecticut Avenues**. This isn't just a convenience issue—it is a significant public safety hazard.

FoBus requests that the District adopt the following three-point emergency plan:

1. **Establish a Responsibility Matrix:** Formally codify which agency (DPW, DDOT, or WMATA) is responsible for "the last mile" of transit access. This document should be made public to ensure transparency and prevent "passing the buck" during future weather events.

2. **Mandate Plowing Parity:** Update District snow-removal protocols to ensure pedestrian infrastructure is prioritized alongside vehicle lanes. Mobility for pedestrians during snow emergencies is a right that must extend to the clearing of sidewalk, curb cuts, intersections, and bus stops.
3. **Conduct Transit Accessibility Audits:** Launch an immediate safety sweep of the C83/C85 bus stops. All remaining frozen obstructions must be cleared to ensure safe passage for students and commuters.

Michaela Platzer

Co-Chair of Friends of Bus Transit (FoBus) Chevy Chase





Tennyson St
2005

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