



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

JANESE LEWIS GEORGE

Ward 4 Councilmember
Chair of the Committee on
Facilities and Family Services

COMMITTEE MEMBER

Committee on Transportation and the Environment
Committee on Executive Administration and Labor
Committee on Public Works and Operations

March 15, 2023

General Manager Randy Clarke
& WMATA Board of Directors
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
300 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear General Manager Randy Clarke and WMATA Board:

I write to you on behalf of Ward 4 residents to comment on WMATA's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2024. I support many of Metro's plans for next year, including more frequent MetroRail service, simplified MetroRail fares, new crisis intervention specialists, improved customer service, capital improvements, and advancements in sustainability. Our community is deeply grateful that the reconstructed Northern Bus Barn will open as a fully zero-emissions bus facility that will better serve both our community and our planet. We are also thankful for your partnership to improve safety at the Petworth and Takoma Metro Stations.

I am requesting one important change to WMATA's proposed budget to better serve riders and support public transit in Ward 4: restoring bus service, starting with the S1 route. The S1 was the only bus route that brought residents of Brightwood, Manor Park, Crestwood, Sixteenth Street Heights, Petworth, and Columbia Heights directly to Foggy Bottom to work, go to school, worship, or visit local businesses. Foggy Bottom is home to major federal agencies like the State Department and the General Services Administration, schools like George Washington University and the School Without Walls, global institutions like the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, and many churches, museums, shops, and restaurants. Since the S1 route was removed without a suitable replacement, these residents have faced significantly longer commutes or stopped relying on Metro altogether. Restoring the S1 would greatly improve service and make Metro the best option again for many residents.



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Restoring the S1 bus would also leverage the District's new bus priority lanes on 16th Street that are facilitating better service for riders. It would also increase Metro service and reliability along 16th Street, which is one of the District's most in-demand transit corridors.

In addition, I support improved bus connections in other parts of Ward 4. DCPS students in the Lamond Elementary community would welcome and use a new bus route connecting them to Coolidge High School and Ida B. Wells Middle School. And despite adjustments to the M4 route, the loss of the E6 has deprived many Ward 4 residents of a direct bus to Connecticut Avenue in upper Chevy Chase and the Friendship Heights station.

Thank you for considering this request, and for the tireless work of WMATA's leadership and entire team in service to our communities. I look forward to continuing our partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janeese Lewis George".

Janeese Lewis George
Ward 4 Councilmember