



July 11, 2024

Office of Planning
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
300 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20024

To whom it may concern,

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce supports the adoption of the proposed 2025 Better Bus Network, with one revision to retain the 3Y bus route, or provide an equivalent service. The Arlington Chamber of Commerce values its participation in the Better Bus Redesign's Community Connections Committee, and supports the proposal for creating new direct routes within Northern Virginia and from Arlington to Washington D.C., and increasing frequency of service throughout the day. However, the Chamber urges WMATA to consider retaining the 3Y in some form, as it serves an important function to commuters and residents along the Langston Boulevard corridor.

A robust Metrobus network is instrumental in providing areas of Arlington which lack proximity to Metrorail stations with direct access to Washington D.C. and the broader region. The 16E/16Y routes, for instance, connect the residents along Columbia Pike with the amenities and businesses of Washington D.C. with direct bus service, and would be more frequent in the new network. The newly proposed A29 route would connect Shirlington residents directly with Washington D.C., as well. This is a clear benefit to residents of Arlington and the region. The existing 3Y route along Langston Boulevard into Washington D.C. is a positive resource for commuters along this corridor, and eliminating that route would harm commuters in the northern portion of Arlington.

As the Langston Boulevard Master Plan is implemented, maintaining a direct connection to Washington D.C. will greatly benefit current residents and serve as a catalyst for further growth and development in the area. We request a revision to the Network to include a route parallel or similar to the 3Y, ensuring a direct connection between the Langston Boulevard corridor and Washington D.C. without necessitating a bus transfer or transfer to a Metrorail station.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Bates". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Bates
President & CEO