



THE PEOPLE BEFORE  
CARS COALITION UNITES  
LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS  
AROUND SHARED  
PRIORITIES TO CREATE A  
SAFER AND MORE  
ACCESSIBLE  
TRANSPORTATION  
NETWORK ACROSS  
NATIONAL LANDING.

July 11, 2023

Better Bus Network Redesign Team  
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority  
300 7<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Better Bus Network Redesign Team:

The People Before Cars (PBC) Coalition writes to express our strong support of WMATA's draft Visionary Bus Network and its vision for making regional bus service fast, frequent, reliable, equitable, and convenient. Achieving this vision will require a renewed commitment from our regional leaders to prioritize increased investment in transit.

National Landing is one of the nation's most well-connected downtowns and one of the region's largest and densest mixed-use employment clusters. In fact, Amazon was attracted to National Landing to a significant degree by both Metrorail and the concentration of bus routes converging in the area providing significant multimodal connectivity.

Multiple bus lines serve National Landing via Arlington Regional Transit, WMATA's Metrobus and Metroway. Extensive bus connectivity allows commuters to get where they need to go, when they need to go, and is an essential and uniquely powerful tool for increasing affordable access to jobs and opportunity. WMATA's Visionary Network offers to significantly improve bus service for this interconnected network serving National Landing and beyond.

We commend the recommendation of higher frequency bus service and increased use of dedicated bus lanes. In addition to higher frequency bus service, the Visionary Network would expand weekend, overnight, and off-peak service.

- Weekend and overnight service will support the large segment of our workforce and our economy in the service, manufacturing, and other sectors, including the service workers who support the restaurants, retail, and offices in National Landing.
- Dedicated bus lanes are critical to enabling buses to be faster, more frequent, and more reliable, increasing ridership and decreasing operating costs per rider per mile. Local and state governments and their transportation departments must commit to providing dedicated bus lanes.

The National Landing-Potomac Yard Metroway, which runs in predominantly dedicated lanes and is able to provide frequent





bus service between the Braddock Road Metro Station and Pentagon City Metro Station, is an example for the region. In fact, this transitway is in the process of being expanded to better link Crystal City and Pentagon City with fast, reliable transit. Another great example is the recently launched 16M Columbia Pike Premium Transit Network that now provides high-frequency, one-seat, premium service connecting National Landing to Columbia Pike and Bailey's Crossroads.

The Visionary Network represents what could be accomplished if we boosted bus funding by 35% across the region: a faster, more frequent, and reliable bus network with increased weekend and 24-hour service. This investment will provide significant personal and regional economic benefits – improving access to jobs and opportunity, reducing employee turnover, saving families money, and helping companies attract and sustain a dependable workforce.

Therefore, we support and call on the region's leaders to not only meet the 35% increase in operating support for the Visionary Bus Network, but to do so on top of meeting the projected maintenance and operating needs of our existing transportation network – including addressing the FY25 and beyond operating shortfall.

The PBC Coalition calls on regional leaders to support these visionary bus service improvements and to provide the funding necessary to make it happen by the start of FY26.

Sincerely,

### **People Before Cars Coalition**

#### **Gillian Burgess**

President of the Board, Arlington Families for Safe Streets

#### **Jay Corbalis**

Vice President, Public Affairs JBG SMITH

#### **Tracy Sayegh Gabriel**

President & Executive Director, National Landing BID

#### **Kevin O'Brien**

Virginia Organizer, Washington Area Bicyclist Association

#### **Stewart Schwartz**

Executive Director, Coalition for Smarter Growth

#### **Chris Slatt**

President, of Sustainable Mobility for Arlington County

