

What's Happening With The Proposed Metrobus Service Cuts?

Let's look at some facts.

- The initial WMATA budget for Fiscal Year 2008 projected a deficit of \$116 million. WMATA staff proposed several actions to eliminate this shortfall, as the WMATA budget must be balanced before it takes effect on July 1.
- One of the actions proposed to reduce costs was to eliminate poorly performing bus lines. All Metrobus lines were evaluated by measuring their weekday performance in five areas against benchmarks established by WMATA. A poor performer is defined as a line that met the following criteria in at least four of the five performance measures.
 - Daily ridership: less than 300;
 - Passengers per revenue mile: less than 1.3;
 - Passengers per trip: less than 10;
 - Subsidy passenger: more than \$4.80;
 - Cost recovery: less than 12.4%.
- The evaluation identified 10 bus lines, listed below, as poor performers. These 10 lines were proposed for elimination based solely on their performance. Lines listed in bold serve Fairfax County.
 - **Route 2W – Vienna-Oakton Line;**
 - **Route 3T – Pimmit Hills Line;**
 - **Routes 12C/12D – Centreville North Line;**
 - **Routes 12L/12M – Little Rocky Run-Vienna Line;**
 - **Routes 17A/17B/17F/17M – Kings Park Line;**
 - **Routes 18E/18F – Springfield Line;**
 - **Route 24T – McLean Hamlet-East Falls Church Line;**
 - Routes 26A/26E – East Falls Church Shuttle;
 - Route 26W – West Falls Church Shuttle;
 - Route 98 – Adams Morgan-U Street Link.
- WMATA must undertake several actions before any of these lines can be eliminated. These actions include the opportunity for concerned citizens to express their views.
 - The WMATA Board of Directors must vote to authorize staff to advertise and conduct public hearings on the elimination of specific lines.
 - WMATA staff must advertise the public hearing(s) at least 30 days in advance of the hearing date(s), including the date, time, and location of the hearing(s).
 - WMATA staff must conduct the public hearing(s). All comments made at the hearing(s), as well as those received in response to the notice that the hearing(s) will be held, will be recorded.
 - The WMATA Board must receive a report from staff on the results of the public hearing(s), including the record of comments received.
 - The WMATA Board must vote to eliminate specific lines for which public hearings were advertised, held, and reported.

Where Are We Now?

The WMATA Board of Directors at this time has not taken any of the actions required to eliminate service. In fact, the Board's Budget Committee voted on February 8, 2007 to defer any action to authorize public hearings on proposed fare adjustments and service reductions. This deferral was recommended by WMATA General Manager John B. Catoe, Jr.

WMATA is actively pursuing alternate ways to eliminate the projected deficit. General Manager Catoe announced on March 2, 2007 that 100 of 281 positions will be eliminated from the agency's construction department, and that further cuts were likely.

Will My Bus Route Be Eliminated?

It's too soon to say for sure whether any Metrobus lines will be discontinued on July 1. However, the statements by General Manager Catoe clearly show that he sees service cuts as the last resort to eliminate the projected budget deficit, and he is backing up those statements with positive actions. When something happens, you'll see it here.

Is There Someone With Fairfax County That I Can Talk To About This?

Yes, there is. If you have any questions about this, please contact Randall White, whose responsibilities include coordination with Metrobus planners. Here's how you can reach him:

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