



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

November 24, 2015

Mr. Mortimer Downey
Chair, Board of Directors
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
600 5th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Councilmember Jack Evans
Chair, Finance & Administration Committee
Board of Directors
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
600 5th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

RE: WMATA proposal to create a “University Pass” program for DC college students

Dear Chair Downey and Councilmember Evans,

At its regular meeting on November 18, 2015, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With four of seven commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution, which was introduced by Commissioner Zhurbinskiy and seconded by Commissioner Schrefer, by a vote of (4-0-0):

WHEREAS, Washington, D.C. has a large population of college students, with seven universities primarily based in D.C., and multiple universities in Maryland and Virginia participating in the Metro system;

WHEREAS, many college students are turning their backs on Metro, choosing rideshare options such as Uber and Lyft as primary methods of transportation;

WHEREAS, Metro ridership has declined by five percent over the past five years, despite rapid population growth;

WHEREAS, a decrease in Metro ridership leads to reductions in service, negatively impacting all who use the system;

WHEREAS, Metro is a sustainable form of transportation, and decreased usage in favor of automobile options will lead to increased air and water pollution;



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WHEREAS, a discounted metro pass for college students could substantially increase Metro ridership by incentivizing college students to start using Metro or using Metro more often;

WHEREAS, a Metro report dated October 8, 2015 proposed offering unlimited ride products to local university students as a way to increase ridership;

WHEREAS, many other cities, such as Minneapolis-St. Paul, Seattle, and Chicago, have similar programs;

WHEREAS, ANC 2A represents the largest college student population in the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, students at the George Washington University, many of whom reside within the boundaries of ANC 2A, have expressed support for the university ride pass program;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A supports Metro’s plan to create an unlimited ride pass for college students, thereby offering students affordable transportation options, promoting sustainability, increasing Metro ridership, and supporting infrastructure investment.

Commissioners Eve Zhurbinskiy (2A08@anc.dc.gov) and Patrick Kennedy (2A01@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Patrick Kennedy
Chairperson

CC: Ann Chisholm, Government Relations Officer – DC, WMATA
Andrea Dowd, President, GW Student Association
Casey Syron, Executive Vice President, GW Student Association