



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

KENYAN R. McDUFFIE
Councilmember, Ward 5
Chair Pro Tempore
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary

Committee Member
Finance and Revenue
Transportation and the Environment

October 20, 2016

Paul J. Wiedefeld
General Manager
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
600 5th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Wiedefeld,

At the outset I would like to convey my appreciation for the difficult job you have undertaken in shepherding the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro) from a culture of neglect to one of safety and reliability. As the Ward 5 Councilmember for the District of Columbia and as Vice Chair of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, I understand the indispensable role Metro plays in the economic vitality of the region. I believe Metro's SafeTrack program is needed and long overdue. However, I write to reinforce the concerns I have previously expressed to you regarding the implementation of SafeTrack, particularly Surge #10.

As you know, Surge #10 will shutdown the red line from Fort Totten to Noma-Gallaudet U, effectively eliminating Ward 5 residents' most travelled Metro line. While the shutdown cannot be avoided, Metro can take further steps to mitigate the effects on Ward 5 residents. Specifically, Metro should immediately implement the new G9 line which I and the Council funded with \$1.04 million in the fiscal year 2017 budget. Travelling from downtown to the neighborhoods and businesses along Rhode Island Avenue has long been a challenge.¹ The G9 line, which Metro has previously noted the importance of, will service Rhode Island Avenue from 14th Street, NW to just beyond the District's border at Eastern Ave, NE, thereby providing Ward 5 residents with an alternative to the train and alleviating the impending increase in traffic on Rhode Island Avenue.

Additionally, I am requesting that Metro increase service along the G8 line. As you know, the G8 continues to be one of the most overcrowded lines in the District despite the modifications to its schedule earlier this year. A redline shutdown will inevitably lead to more passengers on the G8 which already suffers from untenable congestion. Ward 5 residents need more buses along

¹ Metrobus Priority Corridor Study: Rhode Island Avenue and Baltimore Avenue Lines (2014), *available at* http://www.metrobus-studies.com/Rhode%20Is%20Ave/Rhode%20Island%20Avenue_Final_Report.pdf

the G8 line if they are to have any chance of navigating the District on public transportation during Surge #10.

SafeTrack Surge #10 is scheduled to begin on October 29, your response by October 27 is kindly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K.R. McDuffie". The signature is stylized with a large initial "K" and a prominent "M".

Kenyan R. McDuffie