



Government of the District of Columbia
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3/4G

Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, Hawthorne
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ANC 3/4G Resolution
To Urge WMATA to Preserve
Critical Bus Service for Chevy Chase

Background and Rationale

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority faces a \$750 million budget [deficit](#) in the coming fiscal year, 2025, which begins on July 1, 2024, and that it is legally required to submit a balanced budget each year.

WMATA has indicated that, barring significant additional resources from District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia governments, it will have no choice but to implement a host of cost-cutting measures. Proposed for possible elimination within ANC 3/4G are the M4 bus line and the D31, D32, D33, and D34 bus lines.

DC and Maryland governments have indicated a willingness to provide WMATA with fresh financial assistance, and the Virginia state government is studying the same. There is therefore room for optimism WMATA can stave off deep service cuts. Nothing is certain at this point, however.

As contingency planning, WMATA is seeking citizen input on proposed changes to specific Metro bus lines. Chevy Chase residents have responded individually through WMATA's online survey and written testimony. At the same time, ANC 3/4G is called upon to weigh in as the collective neighborhood voice.

Dropping the entire M4 bus line would leave parts of Chevy Chase a transportation desert. It would critically compound the lack of local transportation options following the elimination of the E6 bus line during Covid. The M4 is a daily, Monday through Friday, vital conduit to local schools as well as a feeder line to Metro rail at Tenley Town.

Hundreds of children depend on the M4 to get to Alice Deal Middle School and Jackson-Reed High School. Scores of working adults ride the M4 to Tenley and from there to points downtown and across the DMV. Seniors throughout the neighborhood and residents at the Knollwood Retirement Community

have no readily accessible bus line other than the M4 to get to grocery stores, pharmacies, and doctors' appointments. Indeed, for seniors, the M4 was a second-best alternative to the previously cancelled E6, which took them directly to Friendship Heights.

Eliminating the M4 would force many Chevy Chase bus users to walk long distances which is simply impossible for seniors. For others, it would mean squeezing onto one single line, the E4, which would overwhelm it. It simply lacks adequate capacity for the daily flow of neighborhood commuters. They would quickly find the arrangement unworkable and seek alternative transportation. Inevitably, that would mean increased use of cars, which would in turn further depress the use of Metro rail and weaken its sustainability.

While the D31, D32, D33, and D34 bus lines are not primary conduits for ANC 3/4G residents, they are potentially essential lines for service to Tenley Town and connection to Metro rail should the M4 be eliminated.

WMATA has long been committed to avoiding creating pockets of the DMV with no public transportation options whatsoever. Chevy Chase has neared this situation with the elimination of the E6 bus line. Eliminating the M4 as well as the D31, D32, D33, and D34 lines would leave many of our residents stranded. WMATA cannot allow this to happen even under severe budgetary constraints.

Resolution

ANC 3/4G calls on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to preserve the M4 bus line as well as the D31, D32, D33, and D34 lines to provide the bare minimum level of service that Chevy Chase residents need to get to school, to work, and to myriad shops and venues for food, pharmaceuticals, and medical services. At the same time, if and as WMATA's budget stabilizes, we ask for consideration to reinstate the E6 bus.

APPROVED at a Special Public meeting, notice of which was properly given and at which a quorum of 6 members was present on March 4, 2024 by a vote of 6 "yes," 0 "no," and no abstentions.

Lisa Gore, Chair



Bruce Sherman, Secretary



Addenda

ANC 3/4G has previously voiced its concerns about Metro bus service for our neighborhood per the following documents:

<https://anc3g.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2023-03-15-WMATA-FY24-Budget-Comments.pdf>
<https://anc3g.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/ANC-Resolution-re-WMATA-Proposal-to-Eliminate-E6-Bus-10-13-20.pdf>
<https://anc3g.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/ANC-Resolution-re-WMATA's-FY-2021-Budget-draft-2-21-20.pdf>
<https://anc3g.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Chevy-Chase-ANC-3-4G-E6-Bus-Route-Issues.pdf>