

Study Underway to Improve Bus Service on Key Metrobus Routes

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), in partnership with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), has launched a study into ways of improving transit service along Metrobus routes 30, 32, 34, 35, and 36, along with Metrobus route M6.

The current 30s Line service—which runs generally along Pennsylvania Avenue from Naylor Road and Southern Avenue Metro Stations to the Foggy Bottom area, and along Wisconsin Avenue from Georgetown to Friendship Heights—has the highest ridership of any line in the Metrobus system.

What Is the Study About?

The purpose of this transit study is to examine ways in which service along the 30s and M6 lines can be improved. This includes:

- Asking riders and community partners what they think should be done.
- Conducting workshops and surveys to encourage input.
- Investigating limited-stop and express service and the use of local shuttles.
- Identifying new vehicle types, bus stop designs and locations, methods of service monitoring and traffic management, and other improvements.
- Developing a strategy and timetable to phase in the improvements.
- Determining sources of funding.



Rush hour passengers catch the 35 at Washington Circle.

Study Specifics

The study will take place in two phases. The first phase includes:

- Assessing existing transit service in the corridor.
- Interviewing bus drivers, supervisors, and trainers.
- Surveying riders.
- Determining how often buses along the corridor fail to adhere to schedules and routes.
- Studying the frequency of late and missed trips, detours, and bunching of buses.
- Examining ways of speeding up fare payment, passenger loading, and boarding and alighting by stop.

A thorough examination of these and other factors will give planners a clear picture of the recommendations they need to make.

Facts about Metrobus Routes 30, 32, 34, 35, 36:

- Average weekday ridership = 20,000
- Average monthly ridership = Nearly half a million
- One of the most heavily used Metrobus corridors.
- For many Washingtonians, they are the main link from Southeast to Downtown and points beyond.
- The 30s Line could be considered a victim of its own success in terms of overcrowding and delays.

The second part of the study includes:

- Evaluating current traffic operations.
- Documenting roadway conditions, curbside uses, and recurring detours and points of delay.
- Inspecting bus stop conditions in order to improve stop amenities, accessibility, signage, and locations.

Following the evaluation process and public outreach effort (see below), service and operation plans will be developed.

The service and operations plans will:

- Build on work that has already been done.
- Coordinate with existing planning processes.
- Suggest routing, vehicle requirements, and the location of stops.
- Include long-term ridership forecasts.
- Detail benefits to passengers.
- Enhance driver training requirements and supervision standards.
- Set operations control standards to measure performance and get information to passengers.
- Put a system in place for detours and incident response.

How You Can Get Involved

The study is soliciting the input of riders, communities, and businesses, and will work with the public, stakeholders, and District planners to identify and evaluate transit service improvements.

A series of public meetings will take place in 2007, two of which will be design workshops in which participants can help identify problems and take a hands-on role in crafting solutions to problems with the existing service.

Left: Metrobus routes 30, 32, 34, 35, 36, and M6 cut a swath across the entire District, from Friendship Heights in NW to Naylor Road and Southern Avenue in Southeast. WMATA and DDOT are working together to find ways to improve service in this important transit corridor.

Workshops

The first two public meetings for this project will take place on:

Thursday, July 19, 6:00-8:30 pm,
Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church,
Fellowship Hall, 3000 Pennsylvania Ave SE;

Tuesday, July 24, 6:00-8:30 pm, St. Columba's
Episcopal Church, Great Hall, 4201 Albemarle St NW.

If you would like to be added to the project mailing list to receive updates about the project and meeting announcements, please visit the project website at www.metrobus-30s-dc.com, or call the project hotline at 703-682-5060.

Project Contact:

Website: www.metrobus-30s-dc.com

Hotline: 703-682-5060

