

Via mail and facsimile: 301.952.3784

October 18, 2009

Honorable Jack B. Johnson
County Executive Prince George's County
County Administration Building
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-3050

RE: NH-1 Metro Bus Routing

Dear County Executive Johnson:

At this time, both Gaylord National Hotel and Local 25 are jointly requesting that the NH-1 bus line be restored to its prior route and schedule. Both Gaylord, as the employer and Local 25, as a representative of the workforce relying on the NH-1 route, recognize that the original route and schedule provided a necessary and time-conserving, affordable service.

The original NH-1 bus route departed from Southern Avenue Metro Station, passed through Oxon Hill, stopped at the Park and Ride on Oxon Hill Road, and terminated at the National Harbor site. The original route picked up employees who reside in Oxon Hill and allowed others an affordable and convenient bus transfer at Southern Avenue, a major bus hub. The original route departed Southern Avenue around 6am on weekdays and weekends, allowing employees to arrive at work in time for a 7am or 8am shift start.

On August 2nd, WMATA initiated a change in service of the NH-1 bus line that affected hundreds of workers at Gaylord and others on the National Harbor site. The bus route was moved and now departs from Branch Avenue Station. It bypasses the entire Oxon Hill community, stopping only at the Park and Ride before entering National Harbor. The schedule also starts two hours later on weekends. The August 2nd NH-1 route change has imposed a significant burden on those who ride the bus, both in terms of substantial increased costs for transportation as well as lengthened commute times.


We believe that restoring the prior NH-1 route and schedule is the correct and feasible option for WMATA. The previous route is a known route which had successful prior operation for about a year. According to WMATA's own documents, the change was revenue neutral, thus restoring the route should not have a budget impact. Restoring the route would also be consistent with the sentiment expressed by ridership during the public review period.

We look forward to collaborating with you on this issue and appreciate your timely response.

Sincerely,



John Boardman
Executive Secretary Treasurer
Local 25



Phil Coffey
Senior Vice President and General Manager
Gaylord National Harbor

cc.

Honorable Donna F. Edwards, U.S. Congresswoman, Maryland 4th District
Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of Senate, Maryland State Assembly
Honorable Melony Ghee Griffith, Chair, Prince George's County House Delegation,
Maryland State Assembly
Councilmember Thomas E. Dernoga, Vice Chair, Prince George's County Council
Councilmember Tony Knotts, Prince George's County Council
Elizabeth M. Hewlett, WMATA Board, Maryland