

A RESOLUTION

25-668

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

October 1, 2024

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend section 47–362 of the District of Columbia Official Code to require that the Mayor submit all reprogramming requests related to the DC Circulator to the Council for prior approval; and to amend the Department of Transportation Establishment Act of 2002 to require that money from the sale, lease, or transfer of DC Circulator assets be deposited in the DC Circulator Fund and expended to support DC Circulator workers, and to require that the District Department of Transportation coordinate with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to determine the feasibility of assuming control of the DC Circulator, providing alternative or additional bus service, or hiring former DC Circulator workers at their current pay and seniority status.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “DC Circulator Transition Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2024”.

Sec. 2. (a) The District Department of Transportation (“DDOT”) manages the DC Circulator bus system (“DC Circulator”) through a partnership with RATP Dev USA.

(b) The Mayor’s FY24 Proposed Budget would have eliminated one-half of the DC Circulator routes in operation. While the Council was able to identify one-time funding to maintain service in FY24, future funding for the DC Circulator was uncertain. The Council, accordingly, encouraged the Executive to form a transition plan for winding down DC Circulator operations to minimize the impact on riders and operators. The transition plan would consider, among other things, whether the Washington Metrorail Transit Authority (“WMATA”) could either absorb the DC Circulator and maintain service or offer alternative routes through its own Metrobus service.

(c) As anticipated, the Mayor’s FY25 Proposed Budget included a proposal to completely wind-down the DC Circulator over the fiscal year, with a complete termination of service by Spring 2025. Now, however, service cuts are scheduled to begin as soon as October 1, 2024, and

the operators who rely on the service for their livelihoods will begin experiencing the negative impacts resulting from the loss of employment.

(d) By setting aside money derived from the disposition of the DC Circulator’s assets, the District can financially support DC Circulator workers—many of whom have several years of service to the District—while they seek employment.

Sec. 3. The Council determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the DC Circulator Transition Emergency Amendment Act of 2024 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.