

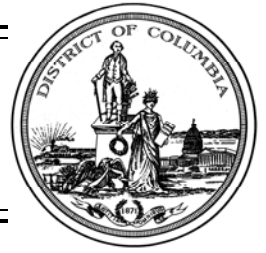
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**OFFICE OF MARY M. CHEH**  
COUNCILMEMBER, WARD 3  
CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & THE ENVIRONMENT

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**Testimony before the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority  
Hearing No. 547, Wed., January 27, 2010**

My name is Mary Cheh, and I represent Ward 3 on the Council for the District of Columbia. I am here today to express my opposition to the proposals to restructure the Massachusetts Avenue Line (N2, N3, N4, and N6 buses) and to close the south mezzanine of the Friendship Heights station. I would also like to voice my support for Chairman Jim Graham's proposal to stave off any service cuts at this time.

The Massachusetts Avenue Line, which services Friendship Heights, American University Park, Wesley Heights, and Massachusetts Avenue Heights in Ward 3. It provides an important route for Ward 3 residents to visit Dupont Circle, Foggy Bottom, and Downtown. Approximately 96,000 riders per month use the Massachusetts Avenue Line. It is my understanding that the proposed change to the line may save approximately \$40,000 annually.

While I appreciate that WMATA faces difficult budget decisions, the cost of reducing services outweigh the benefits. Reductions in service risk loss of good will and the loss of public transportation options (when they are actually needed more than ever) will negatively affect residents and businesses here in the District.

Closing the mezzanine similarly affects Districts residents and businesses on the south (District) side of the Friendship Heights station. Though it may seem only a minor inconvenience, it will negatively affect pedestrian traffic and make it less convenient for riders to use Metrorail.

I urge WMATA to reject these proposals at this time. Thank you for allowing me to present my testimony today.

Mary M. Cheh  
Councilmember, Ward 3