



*To Preserve And Promote Our Historic Lifestyle*

June 21, 2015

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake

100 Holliday Street, Room 250

Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Via Email

Dear Mayor Rawlings-Blake,

We are very concerned by the proposal to eliminate the Charm City Circulator's Banner Route, as it will negatively affect city residents, tourists, businesses, cultural attractions, and historic sites. This bus service helps make downtown Baltimore easily accessible and is a crucial component to attracting and retaining young professionals, families, and businesses in urban areas where parking is often limited.

The Banner route smartly connects South Baltimore and Locust Point with the downtown business district and all the Inner Harbor area has to offer. Residents depend on the Circulator to commute to work and back each day. Families utilize it to take their children to school and cultural attractions. Seniors depend on the Circulator to access grocery stores and medical care. Local business owners are reliant on the bus to get tourists and residents alike to their locations in order to patronize their restaurants and shops. As the peninsula continues to undergo a boom in residential and commercial development, there will be an increased demand for reliable public transportation to and from the city center.

The Banner Route helps support local businesses, allowing employers to attract larger workforces and clientele; frames our city as eco-friendly by providing public transportation; and provides Baltimore with the freedom and opportunity to make the most out of our city.

During our last meeting, Federal Hill Neighborhood Association voted overwhelmingly to support continuing this service in some form or another. We respectfully ask that you reconsider eliminating Circulator service to South Baltimore and Locust Point.

Sincerely,

Beth Whitmer

President, Federal Hill Neighborhood Association