

Residents ask for more bus routes

Layla Wilder

The Fairfax County Transportation Department hosted two meetings aimed at gleaning public comments about changes to three bus lines running through a chunk of western Fairfax County.

Beginning in 2009, the Fairfax Connector system will absorb lines 12, 20 and 2W from the Metrobus system. Lines 12 and 20 serve Centreville and Chantilly, and line 2W serves Vienna and Oakton.

The county transportation department is gathering comments about changing the routes and improving services.

About 30 people attended the public meeting at Rocky Run Middle School on Oct. 16, commenting on the need for more buses and bus stops, and a need for a north-south route on Route 28.

Rollo Axton, transit services division chief for the county's Department of Transportation, said public input on the changes is "vital."

Thomas Greer spoke about a need for a north/south route on Route 28. He currently travels two hours from Centreville to Herndon, going to the West Falls Church Metro station to catch a ride back west.

Centreville and Chantilly need more buses because the immigrant population there can't drive, Kent Chang, also a Centreville resident, said.

Cheryl Huckerbey of Chantilly suggested mid-day services would be beneficial because people often need to travel back at that time.

No route changes are proposed to line 2W, but the routes of the other lines may be altered, according to a release from the county.

The transportation department will consider the comments they've received and host follow-up public meetings in December.

The county's Board of Supervisors approved the change to three lines in 2006.

According to Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey (R), it's a way for the county to save money and provide better service. He said the change could save the county up to \$800,000 annually.

The county's newest buses will be used to service the routes and will be housed at the new West Ox Road bus garage, which is under construction.

Axton said fare prices on the routes should not change after the transition.

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