

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER NO. 1165

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served August 12, 1971

Application of Alexandria, )  
Barcroft and Washington )  
Transit Company for )  
Temporary Authority to )  
Extend Route 17. )

Application No. 693

Docket No. 229

On April 30, 1971, the Alexandria, Barcroft and Washington Transit Company (A. B. & W.) filed Application No. 693 for 90-day temporary authority to extend eight round trips of its Route 17 rush-hour operations to serve Wakefield Chapel Road, Braeburn Drive, and Olley Lane in Annandale, Virginia. Order No. 1148 set this application for public hearing.

A large number of residents of the area to be served by the proposed route extension attended an evening hearing which was held on June 29, 1971. Most of those who spoke, and all of those who spoke against the application, lived on the bus route itself. Those in favor of the new service urged us to grant the requested authority as it would provide convenient commuter service for them, and might expand to provide midday local transportation which would be especially useful for their children. Opposition to a bus route in the neighborhood was based on the grounds that it might tend to increase traffic, change the residential character of the neighborhood, and be a safety hazard for children walking and playing in the area.

The Fairfax County Public Utilities Commission, which had originally devised the proposed routing, and had supported and aided in its preparation, appeared at the hearing and reiterated that it favored the proposed bus service.

The proposed route extension is designed to serve a growing area of approximately 3,500 residents. It bisects

this neighborhood by use of Braeburn Drive, the area's major collector street. Similar bus service in comparable areas in Fairfax County has been widely utilized and we would expect this extension to provide benefits to area residents.

A sufficient number of local residents have expressed desire for bus service to establish that a need exists for A. B. & W.'s proposed operation. While most of the objections presented were directed at the routing of buses along Braeburn Drive, none of these objections constituted a valid ground for denying public transportation.

Both the Engineering staff of the Commission and the Virginia Highway Department examined the proposed route extension and found the roadways involved are in their dimension and structure fully adequate for safe bus operations. We do not believe that eight buses in the morning and eight buses in the evening constitute a material increase in traffic. Nor is the character of this traffic inherently more dangerous than automobile or truck traffic; and in fact it may serve to decrease traffic by attracting current automobile users. Finally, we do not agree with the contention that large numbers of people will drive to this neighborhood, leave their cars parked all day, and ride into work, as nearby there are convenient places to park which receive more frequent and significantly faster service to employment centers. The grant of 90-day temporary authority will both fill the need for the proposed service, and give us an opportunity to monitor the effects of its operation.

**THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:**

1. That the Alexandria, Barcroft and Washington Transit Company be, and it is hereby, granted 90-day temporary authority to operate the extension of its Route 17 applied for in Application No. 693, effective August 23, 1971.

2. That the Alexandria, Barcroft and Washington Transit Company post notice of this extension in all buses operating over the affected route.

3. That the Alexandria, Barcroft and Washington Transit Company submit to this Commission a weekly report showing the daily ridership by trip over this extension.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:

  
DOUGLAS N. SCHNEIDER, JR.  
Executive Director

