

SPENARD COMMUNITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION SCC 2019-01

A Resolution in Support of Improving People Mover Service

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage made major changes to the People Mover Transit System in October 2017, resulting in the elimination of bus service to many neighborhoods in the city; and,

WHEREAS, the changes have created hardships for Spenard residents who rely on the bus to get to work, school, job training, doctor appointments, and shopping; and,

WHEREAS, transit is as vital to the people of Anchorage as police, fire, streets, and schools; and,

WHEREAS, good transit service is important to the city's economic health. It adds value to neighborhoods by reducing traffic, congestion, and noise, and it makes Anchorage a more affordable place to live; and,

WHEREAS, areas formerly served by Route 36, which connected Spenard/West Anchorage to downtown and to 36th Avenue and carried riders to Loussac Library, the universities and Providence Hospital, are no longer served by the more frequent Route 40, which travels from downtown to Spenard Road and the airport, then back along Spenard Road and terminates downtown. Route 40 skips the vast majority of Spenard/West Anchorage (Northwood/48th, Wisconsin, Northern Lights), and no longer connects Spenard/West Anchorage with the library, the universities and Providence in one single route; and,

WHEREAS, the new Route 40 forces riders to walk a much greater distance to reach a bus stop than the one-quarter-mile walk envisioned in Anchorage Talks Transit. Instead, people must walk as much as a half-mile or more to reach a bus stop, which in the winter means traversing icy surfaces in the cold and dark, and/or walking in roadways because there are no sidewalks or the sidewalks are impassable because of ice and/or snow. For people who are not physically able to walk a greater distance – especially in winter or where roadways are hilly such as West Northern Lights Boulevard – the new route creates a serious hardship;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Spenard Community Council hereby requests the Public Transportation Department and the Anchorage Assembly:

1. Improve neighborhood bus service overall, but particularly in Spenard/West Anchorage, where significant gaps in service start at the corner of Northwood Drive and 48th Avenue and along Wisconsin Street to Northern Lights Boulevard.

2. Support public transit as a vital public service that is important to the economic development of community, one that helps make Anchorage an affordable place to live and work.
3. Work together with other municipal agencies to provide safe access to bus stops so that residents are not forced to walk in roadways because of poor plowing.
4. Meet with the Spenard Community Council representatives to be appointed by the Spenard Community Council Executive Board to resolve these issues in upcoming Transit on the Move Short Range Planning meetings.

RESOLVED this 6th day of February, 2019.

Jay Stange, President
Spenard Community Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Stange', written over a light-colored background.

Vote: 10 in favor and 4 opposed.