

Thomas Briggs
1512 Grove Avenue
Apt 1
Richmond, VA 23220

1 October 2020

Planning Division
GRTC Transit System
301 East Belt Boulevard
Richmond, VA 23224

RE: GRTC Route 77

I am unable to attend the community meeting to be held on Wednesday 14 October 2020 and want to express my opposition and complaint related to this new route. I have been a resident of Richmond for five years and a resident on Grove Avenue for two years. I moved to the Fan because it has a vibrant community, with pop-up concerts and a residential character.

I feel that there are three principal problems with the new route, which effectively destroys the character of the community:

1. Grove Avenue is not appropriate as a bus route, with a narrow street and ubiquitous curbside parking. Runners and bicyclists are forced out of the street onto sidewalks, or are left to hug parked cars as the bus passes. This is entirely inconsistent with the city's Vision Zero program and creates a dangerous environment for the residents of the area.
2. The addition of bus stops along Grove Avenue will eliminate parking in an already congested area with a dearth of parking. Quite honestly, the City made me pay for zone parking and now they are eliminating my ability to park near my residence. This shows a level of blind arrogance on the part of GRTC that is truly astonishing.
3. The character of the area; with children playing safely, pop-up public concerts and mingling of various residents of the Fan, is being destroyed by these massive busses rolling through the neighborhood. If the City and GRTC's intention is to eliminate all quiet neighborhoods in Richmond, you are well on the way to achieving your goal.

In conclusion, I must say that the route seems to be under-utilized and I cannot imagine that this makes budgetary sense. Please consider this a letter of strong opposition to the continuance of GRTC Route 77.

Respectfully,



Thomas Briggs

CC: The Honorable Kimberly B. Gray, Councilmember, Richmond City Council
President, Fan District Association