Residence Hall Association

NWM002F 2021

November 29, 2021

**A Resolution Discouraging the Department of Transportation from Raising the Mandatory Shuttle Bus Fee**

**WHEREAS** the Residence Hall Association (RHA) is the governing body for all on-campus students at the University of Maryland (UMD), and

**WHEREAS** the Department of Transportation Services (DOTS) operates as UMD’s principal mechanism for the transportation of students throughout the greater College Park area, and

**WHEREAS** UMD requires students to pay fees that support individual departments when they pay tuition, and these fees are prone to increase every fiscal year depending on various conditions including national inflation and campus employment policies, and

**WHEREAS** DOTS is an auxiliary and self-sustaining agency that is funded through the student mandatory shuttle bus fee and other sources like parking tickets, parking permits, and fundraisers, and

**WHEREAS** DOTS has proposed a 4.04% fee increase for academic year 2022-2023, and

**WHEREAS** the fee would rise from $223 to $232 for full-time undergraduate students for the full academic year, a $9 increase, and

**WHEREAS** in recent years, DOTS has annually requested for an increase in the mandatory fee, and

**WHEREAS** UMD has a Campus Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) that reviews DOTS funding suggestions and is composed of student leaders from around campus, and

**WHEREAS** the student representatives that serve on the CTAC unanimously agreed to not support the increase but agreed to postpone the vote because of DOTS’ commitment to developing an alternative funding plan, and

**WHEREAS** Director of DOTS David Allen has stated that the University’s shuttle bus system cannot continue to operate at its current hours without the proposed 4.04% fee increase, and

**WHEREAS** cutting shuttle bus hours would greatly inhibit the ability of students to move around campus and its surrounding localities, and

**WHEREAS** students have expressed dissatisfaction with DOTS’s yearly fee increases and have proposed other methods to boost revenue, including more parking tiers and higher permit rates, and

**WHEREAS** these proposals have been overlooked by DOTS administration and no visible action has been taken to implement them, and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that at this time, RHA will not support any mandatory fee increases from DOTS for the upcoming 2023 fiscal year, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** thatthe RHA President will only reconsider RHA’s official position both on the CTAC and on the Committee to Review Student Fees (CRSF) if DOTS submits a plan to reduce the department’s reliance on increasing student fees, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that RHA does not support decreasing shuttle bus services despite its opposition to the proposed increases, which would be possible with alternative funding, and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that RHA will continue to work with DOTS to ensure that shuttle bus fees remain affordable for students while simultaneously providing an evolving bus service.

Co-authored By: Approved By:

Nicholas Marks

Senator, Cumberland Hall Council

Chair, Transportation Advisory Committee Residence Hall Association

Residence Hall Association

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Sponsored By:

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