

The Washington Post

A Win-Win for Bus Riders

*Tuesday, May 27th:
(Letter to the Editor)*

The May 23 Metro article "New Rules Close Doors on Metro Shuttle Buses," about new federal regulations for charter bus operations, failed to explain how or why the new rule came about. Replacing 30-year-old regulations, the rule was drafted in response to a request from Congress.

The regulations, developed with significant input from all types of bus operators around the country, are designed to protect private bus companies from unfair competition from federally subsidized public operators. They also protect vital commuter services while providing the kind of transportation support needed to make special events such as football games and cultural performances successful.

Many cities gearing up for their summer festivals and concerts have already successfully adjusted to the new rule. For example, here in Washington, two private bus operators are providing convenient shuttle service to Washington Nationals' baseball games.

The regulation also allows transit agencies to focus on their core mission -- providing high-quality, timely bus service -- without sacrificing services that riders expect from them on regular fixed routes.

All in all, we believe this regulation is a win-win for riders and for all types of charter operators around the country.

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