



Local governments working together for a better metropolitan region

District of Columbia

March 10, 2011

*Bladensburg**

Bowie

Hon. Barbara Mikulski

College Park

U.S. Senate

Frederick

503 Hart Senate Office Building

Frederick County

Washington, DC 20510

Gaithersburg

Dear Senator Mikulski:

Greenbelt

Montgomery County

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Board of Directors voted unanimously at its March 9 meeting to urge that the House of Representatives and Senate maintain critical safety and infrastructure funding for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) as Congress completes action on FY 2011 federal appropriations.

Prince George's County

Rockville

Takoma Park

Alexandria

Arlington County

Fairfax

COG is comprised of more than 250 local, state and federal elected officials, representing 21 local governments in the National Capital Region.

Fairfax County

Falls Church

Loudoun County

Our stake in Metro—for both the National Capital Region and the federal government—has grown considerably over the years. Metro provides 1.2 million daily transit trips, reduces traffic congestion, attracts businesses and development around its stations, and fulfills a key role in homeland security evacuation plans. Each year, it transports millions of tourists to some of our nation's most famous landmarks. Metro's service is most critical to our region's largest employer, the federal government. Roughly 40 percent of its peak period customers are federal employees and more than half of its Metrorail stations serve federal facilities.

Manassas

Manassas Park

Prince William County

**Adjunct member*

Metro is also unique for being the nation's largest transit system without a dedicated revenue stream. As an aging system, Metro has recently experienced significant maintenance and safety challenges that can only be addressed through sustained annual support by its funding partners.

After years of intergovernmental work and the steadfast support of COG and other groups, federal and regional leaders crafted a 10-year, \$1.5 billion funding agreement. The Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 led by former U.S. Representative Tom Davis (R-VA) and U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) authorized \$150 million a year in federal funding for Metro to address its vital capital and preventive maintenance needs. The authorization was predicated on an annual match by the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of Maryland and the District of Columbia; each of which maintained their commitment.

We cannot afford to jeopardize this federal-state agreement. For Metro to meet the needs of the federal government and our growing region, please maintain this vital funding in the FY 2011 appropriations.

Sincerely,

Andrea C. Harrison
Chairman, COG Board of Directors

Cc:

Hon. John Boehner, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
Hon. Eric Cantor, Majority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
Hon. Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
Hon. Kevin McCarthy, Majority Whip, U.S. House of Representatives
Hon. Steny Hoyer, Minority Whip, U.S. House of Representatives
Hon. Harry Reid, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
Hon. Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
Hon. Richard Durbin, Majority Whip, U.S. Senate
Hon. Jon Kyl, Minority Whip, U.S. Senate
Hon. Harold Rogers, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
Hon. Norm Dicks, Ranking Minority Member, House Appropriations Committee
Hon. Daniel Inouye, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
Hon. Thad Cochran, Ranking Minority Member, Senate Appropriations Committee
Hon. Vincent Gray, Mayor, District of Columbia
Hon. Martin O'Malley, Governor, State of Maryland
Hon. Robert McDonnell, Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia
Members, COG Board of Directors
Chief Elected Officials, National Capital Region