

September 29, 2005

Ms. Judith Davis  
Chair  
Metropolitan Washington COG  
Suite 300  
777 North Capitol Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002

Mr. Dana Kauffman  
Chair, Board of Directors  
WMATA  
600 Fifth Street  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Ms. Davis and Mr. Kauffman:

Meeting Metro's future revenue needs is a matter of vital importance for our region. The resolution passed unanimously by the Transportation Planning Board on September 21 represents an excellent starting point for development of a workable solution to this problem. Discussion of Metro funding will continue at the October 3 "summit meeting" that WMATA and COG are sponsoring with the Board of Trade.

The ultimate responsibility for spending public money rests, of course, with elected officials. But in our complex and diverse region, no plan to finance Metro's increasing budgetary requirements can succeed without a public dialogue that builds the broadest possible consensus of support. In that process, each of the major constituencies concerned with this question — business, labor, transit riders, and environmentalists — must have a full and equal seat at the table when the issues are discussed and when decisions are made.

We look forward to working with you and, following the TPB's resolution, propose that any effective funding strategy for WMATA includes the following:

- Ensured local match funding to the federal share that guarantees full funding but does not limit local revenue sources.
- Recognition that the WMATA compact has served the region well, and that all these commitments and reforms can be made without amending the compact.
- Enhanced accountability through the creation of an Inspector General position who reports directly to the WMATA Board; and the addition of non-voting federal and riders representatives to the WMATA board of directors.
- Support for local member governments' work with WMATA to achieve transit-oriented development to generate increased revenues and riders for the system, and accomplish local and regional land use and transportation goals.

Again, we are eager to work with you and with other supporters of Metro to provide the revenues that will enable our regional transit system to fulfill its mission. This task is essential for the future economic, environmental, and transportation success of the Washington area.

Joslyn Williams, President  
Metropolitan Washington AFL-CIO

Kim Coble, Maryland Director  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Ben Ross, President  
Action Committee for Transit

Mike Golash, President  
Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 689

Neal Fitzpatrick, Executive Director  
Audubon Naturalist Society

Brad Heavner, Director  
Maryland Public Interest Research Group

Dru Schmidt-Perkins, Executive Director  
1000 Friends of Maryland

James W. Allen Jr. and Karren Pope-Onwukwe, Co-Chairs  
Prince George's Action for Community Transportation

Jerry Lozupone, Secretary-Treasurer  
Washington D.C. Building and Construction Trades Council

cc: WMATA Board