



600 Fifth Street NW  
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April 6, 2011

Chair Hudgins and Members of the Board:

As you continue your deliberations on Metro's FY2012 budget, and prepare to decide on the scope and framework of the public's involvement in the budget process, the Riders' Advisory Council asks that you present a clear menu of options to the public for comment if the jurisdictions are unable to close the operating budget gap with increased subsidies alone.

In order to allow members of the public to provide input that is most helpful to your decision-making, options for both changes to fares and service should be presented, along with other options for closing Metro's budget gap that would not directly impact service. Additionally, the potential costs and benefits of each of these options must be clearly explained to the public so that they can provide informed and meaningful input. This Council strongly discourages one-time, short-term fixes, and instead encourages the Board to look at holistic, long-term remedies.

Specifically, the Council asks that the Board direct staff to include in the docket for public meetings on the budget, information regarding:

- Possible reductions in service, including information on cost savings and expected passenger and revenue losses;
- Possible increases in fares, including information on expected revenue raised and the expected number of passengers lost;
- Possible other budget actions that would not directly impact service levels or fares, and information on the impact of those budget actions on future year operating budgets.

The Council looks forward to working with the Board to ensure a transparent and meaningful public involvement process as part of the development of the FY2012 budget.

Thank you for your consideration and please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank DeBernardo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Frank DeBernardo, Chairman