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December 16, 2010

Chairman Benjamin and Members of the Board:

It is my pleasure to present you with the Riders' Advisory Council's report for December 2010.

**WMATA Governance Review:**

The Council approved the final version of its Report on Metro Governance at its December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. You all should have received a copy of that report, as well as a letter outlining the areas of agreement and points of departure between the recommendations contained in the Riders' Council's report and those in the "Moving Metro Forward" report issued by the Council of Governments and Board of Trade in November.

The Riders' Council report makes 6 high-level recommendations and 25 specific sub-recommendations to improve the governance structure to help address the problems facing WMATA.

The high-level recommendations are:

1. The Board is analogous to a legislature and should include public officials.
2. The Board should set clear, high standards for its members.
3. The Board should focus on high-level policy and objectives.
4. The Board should act as a regional body rather than as individuals.
5. WMATA's top staff member should be a CEO rather than a General Manager.
6. Board decision-making should include a clear and accessible public input process.

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, David Alpert, the Council's District of Columbia Vice Chair attended a meeting of officials from Northern Virginia and representatives from the Commonwealth of Virginia to discuss the Council's recommendations.

The Council looks forward to having further dialogue with the Board and other regional stakeholders to advance the issue of Metro governance. We would also like to thank all of the Board members who attended the discussion sessions earlier this year and who provided feedback on the report – your participation greatly improved both the process and the final product.

**Elevator/Escalator Discussion:**

Also at the December meeting, David Lacosse, Metro's Director of Elevator and Escalator Maintenance, provided an overview of the recent Metro elevator and escalator assessment conducted by Vertical Transportation Excellence, an outside consultant. He explained the steps that Metro is taking to improve elevator and escalator availability and to comply with the consultant's recommendations. We expect to continue discussion on this important issue in the New Year.

**Transit Benefits Letter:**

The Council also approved the attached letter to members of the region's Congressional delegation asking for their support in extending the current \$230/month transit benefit, which will otherwise revert to \$120/month without legislative action. The current \$230/month maximum is equal to the maximum monthly benefit provided for automobile parking. We are hopeful that Congress will take action to preserve the higher transit subsidy given public transit's positive impact on congestion, air quality and economic development.

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Access Study Meeting:**

On December 6<sup>th</sup>, the Council's Long-Term Projects Committee held a meeting to provide feedback on Metro's Bicycle and Pedestrian Access study and its associated recommendations. We look forward to providing the Board with comments in recommendations following our January meeting.

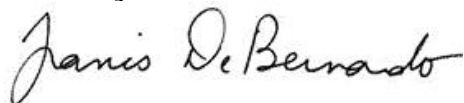
**Council Elections/2010 Recap:**

On a final note, the Council will hold elections for officers at its January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meeting; as such, this is possibly my final opportunity to address you as Riders' Council chairman. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your willingness to work with the Council over the past year. This year has brought many challenges to Metro – from last winter's blizzards to the search for a new General Manager to the budget pressures and fare increases exacerbated by the poor economy. It is my hope that during this year, the Council's feedback has assisted both the Board and Metro staff in making decisions on these and a host of other issues that we have discussed.

The Council is looking forward to working with the Board and with Metro staff in the coming year to ensure that riders' voices are included in Metro's decision-making and to continue to advocate for changes that will improve Metro services for all of its riders.

As always, thank you for your time and attention, and best wishes for the holiday season and the New Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank DeBernardo".

Frank DeBernardo, Chairman