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December 15, 2011

Chair Hudgins and Members of the Board:

It is my pleasure to present you with the Riders' Advisory Council's report for December 2011.

**Preliminary FY2013 Operating Budget:**

At its December meeting, Deputy General Manager for Administration Carol Kissal gave the Council an overview of the Authority's preliminary FY2013 Operating Budget. Members of the Council were most interested in the options for fare changes proposed as part of the FY2013 budget. Members had concerns that some of the concepts outlined would create specific hardships for customers who are unable to use SmarTrip cards. Members also expressed the need for Metro to make SmarTrip cards more available to allow riders to take advantage of the discount that it offers.

The Council understands that it is still very early in the development of Metro's FY2013 budget and appreciates that the Authority is beginning discussions on this critical topic sooner rather than later. We look forward to working with both Metro staff and the Board of Directors over the coming months as both the budget and concepts for fare increases are further refined.

**New Members, New Leadership:**

The Board will be making appointments to the Council later in today's meeting. Today also marks my last appearance before you as the Council's chair. It has been an honor to work with the Board, with Metro staff and with my colleagues on the Council in this position. I'd like to thank the Board for its support of the Council during the past two years I've served as chair and look forward to the Council and the Board continuing to work cooperatively on behalf of Metro's riders.

I wish you all the best for the holiday season and for the coming year.

Sincerely,

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

Frank DeBernardo, Chairman