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Chairman Downs and Members of the Board:

It is my pleasure to present you with the Riders' Advisory Council's report for March 2013.

Silver Line Service Plan: The RAC welcomed Jim Hughes, Metro's Director of Intermodal Planning, for the first of several discussions about the Silver Line. RAC members (particularly those from Virginia) foreshadowed the coming backlash from Blue Line riders whose service will be cut when the Silver Line opens. Several members noted that Blue Line riders will be paying peak fares for non-peak service, and asked Metro to find a way to "ease the pain" in the form of alternative service or lower fares. RAC members also asked about the budget implications of extending the Silver Line to Largo. In particular, RAC members wondered about the availability of capital funds for a potential pocket track at Stadium-Armory, along with the potential for future fare increases resulting from the added operating costs of extending the line to Largo. The RAC would be interested in working with the Board to address these issues as construction of the Silver Line nears completion.

Committee Work: The three RAC committees (Operations and Communications, Safety and Security, Budget and Finance) have started their work. The committees are starting to prioritize the issues which the Board has requested the RAC to address, along with the concerns that riders have raised in the various jurisdictions. Using their deliberations and conversations with WMATA staff to create concrete proposals and issue papers, the committees will decide which offer constructive solutions to the wide variety of issues faced by Metro.

Listening Sessions: The RAC Leadership Team has set a goal of hosting a series of "listening sessions" in Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia over the coming year. These sessions will be designed to interact directly with the riding public, get feedback on the needs and concerns of riders, and formulate additional issues and topics for future action. The first session is currently scheduled to occur in April, and will happen in Alexandria. Once the time and location are finalized, the RAC will issue a formal invitation to Board members to attend and participate in these sessions.

RAC Orientation: The RAC greatly appreciates the appearance by Chairman Downs at the orientation session for its new members which occurred on March 4.

I look forward to answering any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ben Ball, Chair
WMATA Riders' Advisory Council