



600 Fifth Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
202-962-2891

January 27, 2011

Dear Chairman Benjamin and Members of the Board of Directors:

It is my pleasure to present to you the January 2011 report of the Riders' Advisory Council.

**Random Bag Inspections:**

On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Riders' Council hosted a public meeting on the subject of the recently-instituted random bag inspections, which were begun by the Metro Transit Police Department in mid-December 2010. The meeting was attended by over 100 people, who were overwhelmingly opposed to the new inspection procedure.

The Riders' Advisory Council requests that the Board halt the current program for random bag inspection because of significant unanswered questions about the program, its potential intrusion on civil liberties, and a lack of meaningful public discussion before implementation.

We request that the Board direct senior Metro staff to undertake a further comprehensive examination of the program, analyzing its effectiveness as a deterrent against terrorism in general, and in particular, from the context of public concern about civil liberties. The review should also examine the program in light of other pressing public safety needs currently unaddressed, such as improving police response time and increasing police presence on trains and buses and in stations. There should be broad public participation in this examination, including at least one public hearing, consultation with the Riders' Council and dialogue with civil liberties organizations and other relevant groups.

The Council also recommends that the Board clarify its guidance to the General Manager to emphasize that he has authority to implement program such as this in the event of specific, credible threats, but that Board approval is required before initiating such programs in the absence of such threats or continuing them beyond a set period of time.

**Bicycle/Pedestrian Goals:**

Also at the Council's January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Council approved the attached letter specifically endorsing the staff recommendation that the Board set the goal of tripling bicycle mode share (to 2.1%) to rail stations by 2020 and quintupling that mode share (to 3.5%) by 2030. Having clear guidance from the Board on this issue will help Metro staff advocate for projects that will help it meet these goals. Additionally, the Council asks that Metro consider studying pedestrian access to bus facilities and adopting a similar goal. This item will be considered at the next Policy, Program Development and Intergovernmental Relations Committee meeting.

**Committees and Meetings:**

As required in its bylaws, the Council established and re-established committees for the coming year. The Bus, Budget and Long-Term Projects committees have been re-established for the coming year and a new committee focusing on elevators and escalators was established.

**Discussions on Metro Governance:**

Last month, the Council approved its "Report on WMATA Governance" and presented it to the Board. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board for its quick response in establishing a Governance Committee to review the recommendations from both the Council's and the Council of Governments'/Board of Trade's report. We look forward to working with the Board as it conducts its own governance examination and stand ready to provide any requested assistance.

Additionally, Council members are meeting with other stakeholders to discuss the Council's report. On January 26<sup>th</sup>, members of the R.A.C. who participated in the WMATA governance review will be meeting with representatives from the Government Accountability Office, which is conducting its own, Congressionally-commissioned review of Metro's governance. On Monday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, I will discuss the Riders' Council's report and recommendations with the Montgomery County Council's Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee. On February 12<sup>th</sup>, David Alpert, who led the Council's governance review, will be part of a panel discussion on Metro governance hosted by the League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area. Lastly, in February, Mr. Alpert expects to share the Council's report and its recommendations with the Council of Governments' Board of Directors and with the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board at their respective meetings.

**2011 Riders' Council Leadership:**

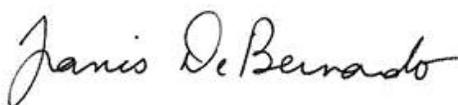
Finally, the Riders' Advisory Council held its elections for 2011 officers at its January meeting. My colleagues on the Council have graciously given me the opportunity to serve another year as the Council's chairman. The three jurisdictional vice chairs are:

- District of Columbia Vice Chair: David Alpert
- Maryland Vice Chair: Chris Farrell
- Virginia Vice Chair: Penny Everline.

I look forward to working with you and with Metro staff over the coming year to build on the progress that has been made in improving the Metro system for all of its riders.

I would be happy to answer any questions that you might have.

Sincerely,



Frank DeBernardo, Chairman



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January 21, 2010

Chairman Benjamin and Members of the Board:

The Metro Riders' Advisory Council (RAC) recently received a presentation on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Access Improvements Study. The RAC appreciates the target of tripling bicycle mode share to Metrorail stations by 2020 and quintupling it by 2030, and encourages the Board to adopt this as an official goal.

In addition, the RAC suggests that staff also formulate, and the Board approve, a specific target for improving pedestrian access to Metrorail stations. We also hope that it would be possible to conduct a similar study of pedestrian and bicycle access to Metrobus stops in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Frank DeBernardo'.

Frank DeBernardo, Chairman

cc: Richard Sarles, Interim General Manager, Metro  
Nat Bottigheimer, Asst. General Manager for Planning and Joint Development, Metro

