

SUBJECT: SENSE OF THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY BOARD ON *KEEPING METRO SAFE, RELIABLE AND AFFORDABLE*

WHEREAS, The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) represents a \$40 billion asset and enterprise that has generated returns on regional and national investments resulting in increased mobility, traffic congestion relief, improved air quality, economic development and increased open space; and

WHEREAS, WMATA provides over 300 million customer trips annually and operates the nation's second largest heavy rail transit system, sixth largest bus network and fifth largest paratransit service; and

WHEREAS, While WMATA estimates it has \$25 billion in total unfunded capital needs, the system may require \$15.5 billion of this amount over the next 10 years for critical capital projects; and

WHEREAS, WMATA's operating expenses grow at nearly twice the rate of revenues; and

WHEREAS, WMATA's funding jurisdictions are unable to maintain an annual cycle of subsidy growth realized with the FY2018 budget; and

WHEREAS, WMATA is one of the only transit properties in the United States that is not funded, in part, by a dedicated source of revenue; and

WHEREAS, WMATA's employees and customers are vulnerable to a business model that is not sustainable; and

WHEREAS, General Manager/CEO Paul Wiedefeld has developed *Keeping Metro Safe, Reliable and Affordable*, a plan that will restore world-class transit for residents and visitors to the Nation's Capital; now, therefore be it the sense of the Board

That the WMATA Board of Directors generally endorses the framework and principles in the *Keeping Metro Safe, Reliable and Affordable* plan; and

That the WMATA Board of Directors supports the Authority's efforts to secure funding approaches that preserve Metro's assets and value to the region's transit network while minimizing unpredictable and unsustainable increases in costs; and

That the WMATA Board of Directors commits to a safe and reliable transit service that delivers a superior experience for riders; and

That the WMATA Board of Directors endorses actions that provide stability for our customers and employees through sustainable funding; and

That the WMATA Board of Directors will work with the General Manager/CEO to explore changes to the WMATA business model which may include, *inter alia*, a cap on jurisdictional operating and capital subsidies and continued pursuit of aggressive cost containment; and

That the WMATA Board of Directors encourages the region's jurisdictions to consider new and stable revenue sources that will capitalize a Trust Fund for WMATA'S Capital Program (such sources will require further study and may differ in each of the jurisdictions); and finally

That the WMATA Board of Directors strongly supports and advocates for the reauthorization of federal Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act funds for WMATA safety and reliability at least at the current level of \$1.5 billion over 10 years.

PROPOSED