

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

## Board Action/Information Summary

☒ Action ☐ Information

MEAD Number:  
202111

Resolution:  
☐ Yes ☒ No

### TITLE:

Legislative Update

### PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

The purpose of the presentation is to provide an update on federal and jurisdictional legislative priorities for WMATA.

### PURPOSE:

-Provide information for WMATA Board members.

### DESCRIPTION:

#### Key Highlights:

At the federal level the presentation focuses on reauthorization of federal dedicated funding and federal fiscal year 20 Transportation appropriations. In addition, the presentation provides updates on WMATA priorities in Richmond, Annapolis and D.C. Council.

#### Background and History:

WMATA's highest federal legislative priority is reauthorization of a federal dedicated funding service. In 2008, Congress recognized that WMATA required additional funds to maintain its aging infrastructure. Under the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) of 2008, Congress authorized federal dedicated funding in the amount of \$1.5 billion over ten years (\$150 million/year) to WMATA for capital and safety improvements. The first appropriation of those funds occurred in federal FY10 and WMATA has received \$150 million in each subsequent fiscal year, including in the recently approved federal FY19 appropriations bill. Congress is currently working to determine federal spending for the upcoming FY20 (the current FY19 ends on September 30, 2019).

This commitment of federal dedicated funding is matched dollar for dollar by WMATA's jurisdictional partners, Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, with each contributing \$50 million per year. The combined funding of \$300 million resulting from this federal funding partnership represents a significant portion of WMATA's capital budget and is critical to addressing recommendations of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Washington Metrorail Safety Commission (WMSC), and National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), and maintaining a safe and reliable system. These funds have been

used to repair and replace aging track, purchase new rail cars, fix escalators and elevators, and rehabilitate rail stations and platforms.

Looking to the future, WMATA estimates it will need \$15.5 billion over the next 10 years to ensure passenger safety and service reliability. In 2018, Metro's funding jurisdictions (Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia) affirmed their commitment to Metro's capital needs by approving legislation that provides \$500 million in annual dedicated funding for WMATA capital projects. WMATA is looking for Congress to renew its financial commitment to Metro by reauthorizing federal dedicated funding, in recognition that the system is essential for public safety and emergency preparedness and plays a key vital security role for the federal government.

At the state and local level, WMATA staff works closely with our funding partners to provide the support needed to ensure full funding of WMATA's annual capital and operating budget.

### **Discussion:**

**Federal:** Members of our Congressional delegation in both the House and the Senate have introduced bills that would support the reauthorization of federal dedicated funding. However, it is anticipated that action on this reauthorization would occur in-line with broader Congressional efforts to update surface transportation legislation. The Trump Administration included \$150 million for WMATA in its proposed FY20 budget.

**Jurisdictions:** At the jurisdictional level in addition to our top priority of ensuring full funding of WMATA's capital and operating needs, we work closely and coordinate with our jurisdictional partners on legislative priorities. With the start of the WMATA FY21 budget cycle, we will work with each jurisdiction's administrative and legislative branches as their respective budget schedules begin. Hearings typically begin after the first of the calendar year.

Policy issues are also pursued at the administrative and legislative levels. For instance, in the District we are working in support of bus operator assault legislation. In Maryland, legislation requiring third party elevator inspections could negatively impact WMATA operations and we are working to educate legislators.

### **FUNDING IMPACT:**

Define current or potential funding impact, including source of reimbursable funds.	
Project Manager:	Regina Sullivan
Project Department/Office:	GOVR

### **TIMELINE:**

Congress is expected to act in Fall of 2019 on Federal FY20 Transportation Appropriations. The timeline for reauthorization of federal dedicated funding is dependent	
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on Congressional action during the remainder of 2019. The District Council reconvenes on September 16, 2019. The Maryland and Virginia legislatures convene in January 2020.	
<b>Anticipated actions after presentation</b>	

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff will continue to inform the Board of updates at all levels, and most immediately, as Congress considers reauthorization of the federal partnership and federal FY20 appropriations to provide critical funding needed to address safety and state of good repair needs.

Coordinate with jurisdictions on legislative priorities in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia on key legislative priorities.

# Legislative Update

WMATA Board of Directors  
Executive Committee

Regina Sullivan  
September 12, 2019



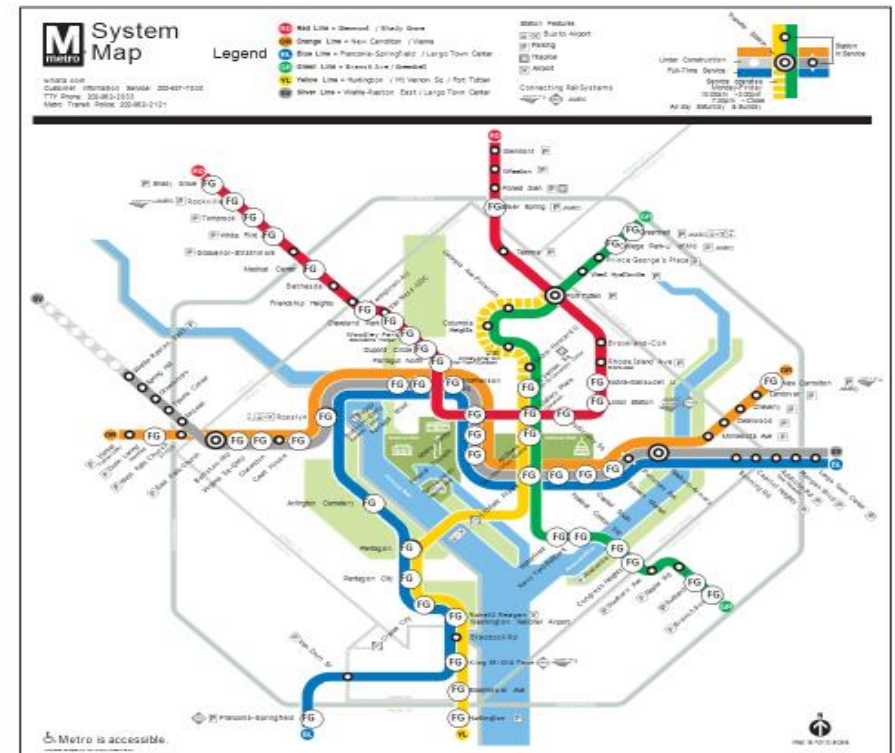
# Federal & State Priorities Update





# Essential to the Federal Government

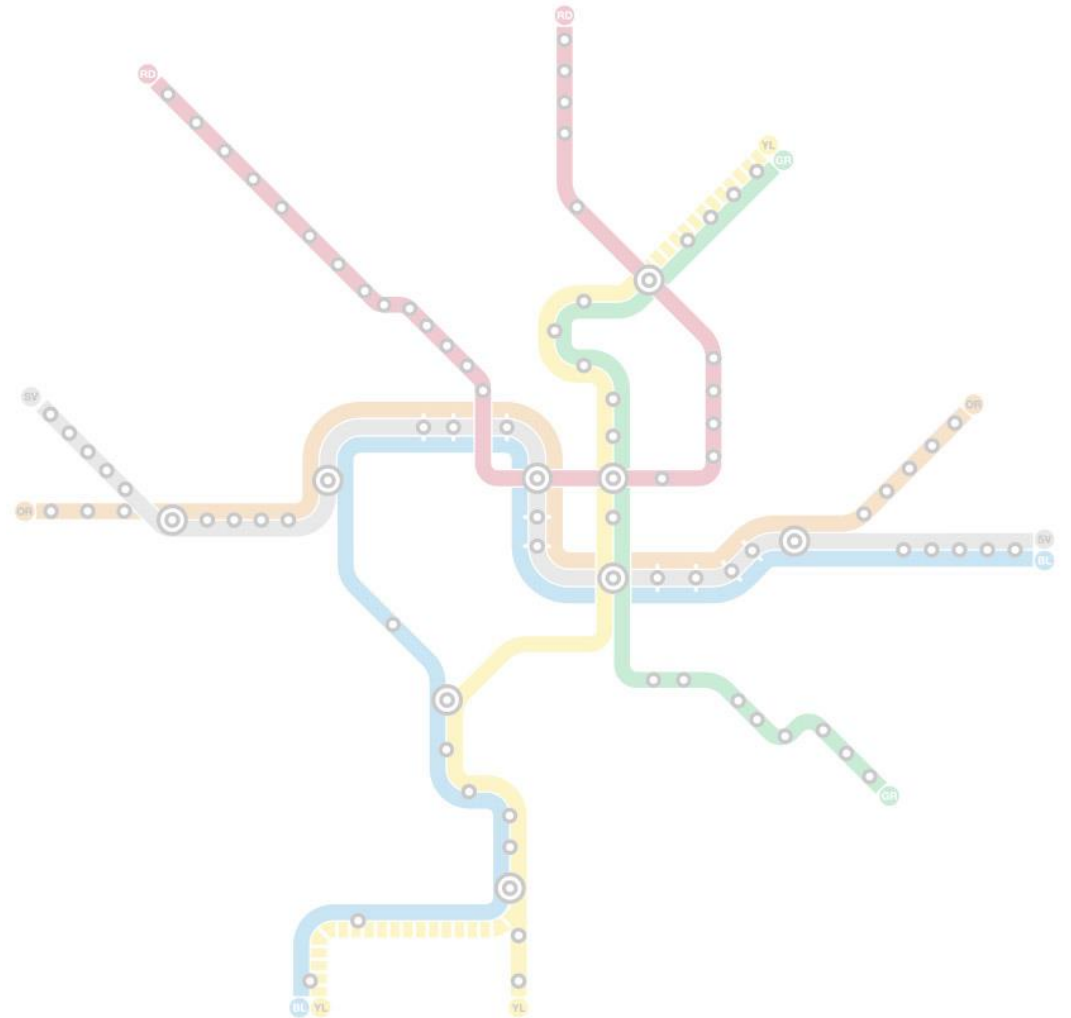
- 40% of riders during a.m. peak are federal employees
- Metro serves as a critical homeland security asset – 9/11, earthquake
- 50 stations serve 67 major federal agencies
- Americans throughout the nation depend on the system when visiting the capital and attending large national events



# PRIIA Investment

## Safety and State of Good Repair

- \$1.4 billion – Railcar Replacement
- \$475 million – Track & Structures
- \$400 million – Stations & Passenger facilities
- \$50 million – Bus & Paratransit
- \$375 million – Rail Systems



# Federal Priorities

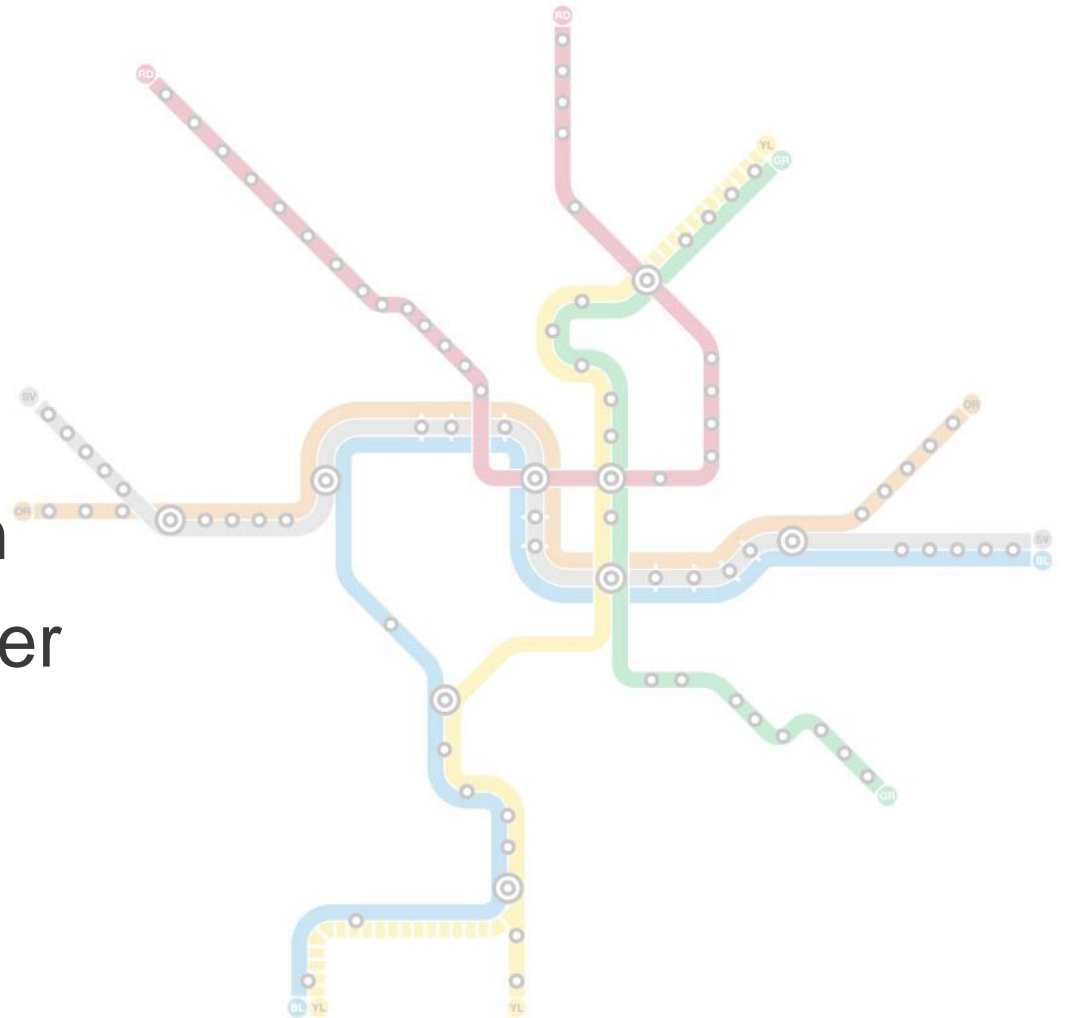
- Federal dedicated funding (PRIIA)
  - House bill, led by Chairman Connolly
  - Senate delegation bill
  - Surface Transportation Reauthorization





# Federal Priorities

- Appropriations for Federal FY20
  - President's budget included \$150 million
  - House version includes \$150 million
  - Senate action expected in September



# Maryland, Virginia & District of Columbia

- Ensure full funding
- Continue to inform legislatures on capital investments
- Provide updates during FY21 budget cycle; Safety & State of Good repair
- Pursue D.C. Bus operator assault legislation
- Coordinate with jurisdictional partners on legislative priorities

