



2024-15

May 1, 2024

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING COG-WMATA TRANSIT TEAM TO DEVELOP A REGIONAL TRANSIT VISION

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is comprised of 24 jurisdictions of the National Capital Region's local governments and their governing officials in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia, plus area members of the Maryland and Virginia state legislatures and the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and COG provides a focus for action on issues of regional concern; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA or Metro) is our most significant regional transportation system and has played a critical role in meeting the National Capital Region's socio-economic and mobility needs for over 50 years; and

WHEREAS, COG and WMATA have a long-standing history of collaboration to support the region's transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, in 2023 COG worked with WMATA staff to conduct a thorough review of WMATA's cost structure to independently analyze and verify the magnitude of the system's budget deficit, to identify ways to optimize the funding needed for FY2025, and to identify actions to provide stability and predictability for WMATA's operating costs into the future; and

WHEREAS, ongoing coordination and engagement has helped forge consensus on short-term actions and COG and WMATA believe now is the time to address the long-term challenges the region, Metro, and other transit providers are facing; and

WHEREAS, WMATA is just one part of a regional public transit network that has evolved over time with more than a dozen rail and bus providers offering varying service levels, different technologies and fare policies, as well as an array of funding and governing models that do not always work together for the benefit of our constituents; and

WHEREAS, to unlock our transit network's full potential and reap the transportation, economic, and environmental benefits it offers, we need to develop a unified vision for transit service that addresses the complex transit needs of our region, what the region wants and needs, how much it will cost, how we will pay for it, and how to best manage it; and

WHEREAS, our two organizations are uniquely positioned to lead this effort by convening a diverse group of public, private, and civic sector leaders to ensure all regional stakeholders are involved in the process and development of the vision, all of which is consistent with Section 2 of the WMATA Compact; and

WHEREAS, over the next year COG and WMATA will partner to convene regional stakeholders and develop a long-term vision for transit needs in the region and a path forward to ensure a sustainable and financially stable transportation system.

For WMATA Board:

Motioned by Mr. Smedberg, seconded by Dr. Hadden Loh

Ayes: 7- Mr. Smedberg, Mr. McAndrew, Dr. Hadden Loh, Ms. Kline, Mr. Letourneau, Mr. Drummer and Ms. Santos

For MWCOC Board:

Motioned by Mr. Allen, seconded by Ms. Randall

Ayes: Approved unanimously; see chart listing those present/voting

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY THAT:

- 1) COG and WMATA will partner to develop a unified vision for transit service and predictable, dedicated, and sustainable funding for public transportation in the National Capital Region including regional, local, and commuter transit services, including Union Station; operating in close coordination and cooperation providing a seamless, safe, and efficient experience to users in support of regional mobility, equity, and climate and environmental goals; and
- 2) The Boards approve the establishment of a Task Force to direct the work of the Transit Team, and the Task Force membership as jointly approved by the COG and WMATA Board Chairs (attached); and
- 3) The Boards approve the establishment of a Community Partners Advisory Group and a Government Partners Advisory Group to support the Task Force initiatives, and the work groups' membership as jointly approved by the COG and WMATA Board Chairs (attached); and finally
- 4) This Resolution shall be effective immediately.

WMATA File Structure No.:

18.2.2. State and Local Government Relations

COG Board of Directors Vote

(Y=Present/Aye)

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Y/N</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Y/N</u>
<i>District of Columbia</i>				
Executive	Hon. Muriel Bowser	Y	Ms. Beverly Perry	Y
	Mr. Kevin Donahue	Y	Mr. Tomas Talamante	Y
Council	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y	Hon. Brianne Nadeau	Y
	Hon. Charles Allen	Y		
<i>Maryland</i>				
City of Bowie	Hon. Tim Adams		Hon. Dufour Woolfley	
Charles County	Hon. Reuben Collins	Y	Hon. Thomasina Coates	
City of Frederick	Hon. Michael O'Connor	Y	Hon. Kelly Russell	
Frederick County	Hon. Jessica Fitzwater	Y	Ms. Victoria Venable	Y
City of College Park	Hon. Denise Mitchell	Y	Hon. Fazlul Kabir	
City of Gaithersburg	Hon. Robert Wu	Y	Hon. Neil Harris	
City of Greenbelt	Hon. Emmett Jordan	Y	Hon. Kristen Weaver	
City of Laurel	Hon. Keith Sydnor	Y	Hon. James Kole	
Montgomery County - Exec	Hon. Marc Elrich	Y	Mr. Richard Madaleno	
Montgomery County - Council	Hon. Evan Glass	Y		
Montgomery County - Council	Hon. Kate Stewart			
Prince George's County - Exec	Hon. Angela Alsobrooks		Ms. Tara Jackson	Y
Prince George's County - Council	Hon. Tom Dernoga		Hon. Wanika Fisher	
Prince George's County - Council	Hon. Ingrid Watson		Hon. Krystal Oriadha	
City of Rockville	Hon. Monique Ashton	Y		
City of Takoma Park	Hon. Talisha Searcy			
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. Brian Feldman	Y		
<i>Virginia</i>				
City of Alexandria	Hon. Justin Wilson		Hon. Kirk McPike	Y
Arlington County	Hon. Libby Garvey	Y		
City of Fairfax	Hon. Catherine Read	Y	Hon. Tom Ross	
Fairfax County	Hon. Rodney Lusk	Y	Hon. Daniel Storck	
Fairfax County	Hon. Jeff McKay	Y	Hon. Andres Jimenez	
Fairfax County	Hon. James Walkinshaw	Y	Hon. Walter Alcorn	
City of Falls Church	Hon. Caroline Lian	Y	Hon. David Snyder	Y
Loudoun County	Hon. Laura TeKrony	Y		
Loudoun County	Hon. Phyllis Randall	Y	Hon. Koran Saines	
City of Manassas	Hon. Mark Wolfe	Y	Hon. Sonia Vasquez Luna	Y
City of Manassas Park	Hon. Darryl Moore			
Prince William County	Hon. Deshundra Jefferson		Hon. Kenny A. Boddye	
Prince William County	Hon. Andrea Bailey	Y	Hon. Tom Gordy	
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. Mark Sickles	Y		