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February 27, 2025

Chair Santos and Members of the Board:

Thank you for the opportunity to present the Riders' Advisory Council's report for February 2025.

### **FY2026 Budget Hearings**

RAC members attended this month's hearings on Metro's Proposed FY2026 Budget to listen to comments from members of the public. Overall, those that testified were supportive of Metro's plans to optimize rail service and provide targeted service increases to address crowding. We look forward to coming back to the Board next month with formal recommendations around Metro's Proposed FY2026 budget.

### **Winter Weather Service**

In both January and this month, severe winter weather posed significant challenges to Metro's operations, especially Metrobus. As a group, we appreciate the hard work of Metro employees to keep the region moving throughout the worst snowstorms this region has seen in several years, on top of the additional operational challenges brought on by the Inauguration and former President Carter's funeral. We look forward to talking with staff at an upcoming meeting to discuss any opportunities for improvement, especially around keeping customers informed during rapidly changing conditions.

### **New Member Recruitment**

Following the last month's Board action to amend the RAC's Bylaws, the RAC is undertaking a recruitment to fill the four newly created seats. We'll look forward to coming back to the Board next month with candidates for appointment.

As always, thank you for your time and attention; I'm happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

*Cole Staudt*

Cole Staudt, Chair

Riders' Advisory Council