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February 27, 2011

Chair Hudgins and Members of the Board:

It is my pleasure to present you with the Riders' Advisory Council's report for February 2011.

FY2012 Budget:

At its February meeting, Metro's Chief Financial Officer Carol Kissal provided the Council with an overview of Metro's Proposed FY2012 budget. The Council is pleased that, as presented, the General Manager's proposed budget does not call for any increases in fares or cuts in service. We do note that the proposed budget calls for significant increases in jurisdictional contributions to close Metro's budget gap, and have asked jurisdictions to fully fund their share of Metro's budget in order to avert cuts in service.

Should the Board propose any changes in service as part of its deliberations on the FY2012 budget, the Council asks that the Board ensure that a robust public input process is included in those deliberations. Specifically, we would request the following:

- Hearings be held in locations that are transit-accessible and proximate to services proposed for changes;
- Information about proposed changes is provided to members of the public in a timely manner and clearly outlines the proposed changes, the rationale for those changes and potential alternative service for affected riders.

WMATA Governance:

During the month of February, David Alpert, the Council's D.C. Vice Chair and chair of the Council's WMATA Governance Review Committee discussed the Council's report on WMATA Governance with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board and also represented the Council in a panel discussion hosted by the League of Women Voters.

Committee Meetings:

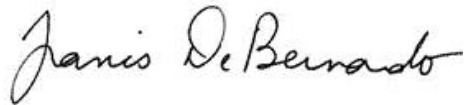
The Council's Bus and Elevator/Escalator committees met during in February. The bus committee discussed the recent changes to Metrobus fare payment options, including how to most effectively communicate those and other changes to bus riders. The committee also had discussions with staff about how to make fare purchases more convenient for customers. The elevator/escalator committee met with the new General Superintendent for Elevators and Escalators, Rodrigo Bitar, to discuss Metro's actions in response to the recently-completed audit of Metro's elevator and escalator maintenance program.

New Members:

With two new members, Joseph Kitchen from Prince George's County and Stephen Clermont from Fairfax County, joining the Council at its February meeting, I am pleased to report that all 21 seats on the Council are filled.

Thank you for your time and attention. I look forward to answering any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank DeBernardo". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Frank DeBernardo, Chairman