

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, N.E.
WASHINGTON, DC 20002-4239**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING SENDING A LETTER TO ENDORSE INCREASING THE
TRANSIT COMMUTER BENEFIT**

WHEREAS, the COG Board of Directors believes the use of public transportation in the Washington Metropolitan region is critical to the ability of our transportation system to operate and support the growing commuter demands of the National Capital Region, the goals of Region Forward, and the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan; and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 2015 Congress decreased the provided pre-tax monthly commuter benefit from \$245 a month to \$130; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the reduction in the commuter benefit, a WMATA study estimates that as many as 8,000 fewer “full fare” trips are made on Metro during an average weekday; and

WHEREAS, despite the decrease in public transit benefits, parking benefits have remained the same, creating a greater incentive to drive to work; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Planning Board, through its Chairman, advised the COG Board of its concern with the impacts of the reduction of the commuter benefit; and

WHEREAS, HR 990, the Commuter Parity Act of 2015, would address the situation by lowering the parking commuter benefit and increasing the transit commuter benefit.

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

The Board supports sending a letter to the Congressional delegation indicating COG’s strong support for the Commuter Parity Act of 2015.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the foregoing resolution was approved and adopted by the COG Board of Directors at its regular meeting held on May 13, 2015.

***Monica Beyrouti
Clerk to the Board of Directors***