

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20002**

**RESOLUTION ON LEGISLATIVE
ACTION ON METRO DEDICATED FUNDING**

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), the Greater Washington Board of Trade (GWBOT) and the Federal City Council jointly convened a special panel in late 2004 to examine ways to establish dedicated funding for WMATA, which is one of the few major transit systems in the nation without a significant source of dedicated funding; and

WHEREAS, the Panel issued its report in January 2005 and stressed the immediacy of the need for dedicated funding, the desirability of one or more dedicated revenue sources, and the need for adequate federal participation in ensuring appropriate levels of capital maintenance and system enhancement for the region's most important transportation investment; and

WHEREAS, in late 2005 legislation (H.R. 3496) was introduced by Representative Tom Davis (R-VA) and co-sponsored by several members of the region's congressional delegation and subsequently approved by the House Committee on Government Reform, which provides for an additional \$1.5 Billion in federal contributions for capital and preventive maintenance projects for WMATA in increments over 10 years, and which federal contributions are conditioned upon amendments to the WMATA compact providing for dedicated funding by Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia in approximate like amount; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia recently enacted the "Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Fund Act of 2006," which establishes a non-lapsing, dedicated fund, to be supported by .05 percent of retail sales tax revenue to provide additional funding for maintaining and improving the transportation system of WMATA, and is conditioned upon like adoption in Maryland and Virginia and the federal passage of H.R. 3496; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland General Assembly passed H.B. 1345, "Transportation Funding - Mass Transit - Funding Study," which requires the Maryland Department of Transportation to conduct an analysis of operating and capital needs funding needs for transit in the State over a twenty year period, review how transit services across the country are funded, and to identify State funding strategies to take advantage of potential new federal funding for WMATA; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia General Assembly, as part of its budget deliberations, is considering several options to increase funding for transportation throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia, including proposals that address the transportation needs of Northern Virginia, generally, and a permanent and dedicated source of revenue for WMATA, specifically.

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

1. COG commends the local, state and federal public officials who have contributed to the regional effort to insure continued funding for WMATA and further commends the business, environmental, and civic groups that have come together in support of this effort.

2. COG especially commends the District of Columbia as the first of the regional partners to step forward and adopt legislation creating its share of the dedicated funding for WMATA.
3. COG authorizes and directs its staff, and encourages others, to support the efforts of the Maryland Department of Transportation as it performs the study required by the Maryland General Assembly.
4. COG encourages Members of the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates to specifically address WMATA's long term need for dedicated funding as they continue their budget deliberations and ultimately address the transportation needs of the Commonwealth.
5. COG encourages Congress to give full and expeditious consideration of H.R. 3496 as it reaches the House floor and is referred to the Senate, as an appropriate recognition of the federal government's reliance upon WMATA as the primary transportation facility serving federal employees and federal interests in the National Capital Region.
6. Copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to area local governments, the Governors of Maryland and Virginia and state legislators in Suburban Maryland and Northern Virginia, and the region's congressional delegation.