



February 10, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker, United States House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth H.O.B.  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader, United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: H.R. Metro Accountability and Investment Act of 2021  
S. Metro Safety, Accountability and Investment Act of 2021

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), we are writing to **strongly urge the federal government to reauthorize and increase its existing funding commitment to Metro in an amount of at least \$2 billion over 10 years**. As the association of local governments in metropolitan Washington, dedicated funding for Metro is a top priority and we commend the region's congressional delegation for jointly sponsoring this essential legislation.

In 2018, our local and state governments, with the strong support of COG and a coalition of business and civic organizations, worked together to pass unprecedented legislation in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia providing additional dedicated funding for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). Collectively, the region is committing an additional \$500 million a year to fund essential capital improvements to the Metro system.

As a valued partner in our Metro system, the federal government needs to continue to provide dedicated funding critical to the safety and reliability of the system. As the current commitment under PRIIA is set to expire, COG strongly urges the federal government to extend and increase existing funding commitments for Metro as proposed by the region's congressional delegation. Metro is critical to the federal government. It has transported over half the federal workforce, with more than 30 percent of Metrorail stations serving federal facilities and serves a key role in evacuating the region during emergencies. Federal funding – together with the region's commitment – will support the major maintenance and capital rehabilitation activities that are necessary to restore and improve the aging transit system.

Your collaboration is essential to securing the additional funding our region needs to keep Metro safe and our economy thriving. We appreciate your support on this initiative.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Robert C. White, Jr. in blue ink.

Robert C. White, Jr.  
Chair, Board of Directors  
District of Columbia

Handwritten signature of Christian Dorsey in blue ink.

Christian Dorsey  
Vice Chair, Board of Directors  
Arlington County

Handwritten signature of Kate Stewart in blue ink.

Kate Stewart  
Vice Chair, Board of Directors  
City of Takoma Park

Cc: Metropolitan Washington Regional Congressional Delegation