



May 1, 2024

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING COG-WMATA TRANSIT TEAM TO DEVELOP A REGIONAL TRANSIT VISION

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is comprised of 24 jurisdictions of the National Capital Region's local governments and their governing officials in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia, plus area members of the Maryland and Virginia state legislatures and the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and COG provides a focus for action on issues of regional concern; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA or Metro) is our most significant regional transportation system and has played a critical role in meeting the National Capital Region's socio-economic and mobility needs for over 50 years; and

WHEREAS, COG and WMATA have a long-standing history of collaboration to support the region's transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, in 2023 COG worked with WMATA staff to conduct a thorough review of WMATA's cost structure to independently analyze and verify the magnitude of the system's budget deficit, to identify ways to optimize the funding needed for FY2025, and to identify actions to provide stability and predictability for WMATA's operating costs into the future; and

WHEREAS, ongoing coordination and engagement has helped forge consensus on short-term actions and COG and WMATA believe now is the time to address the long-term challenges the region, Metro, and other transit providers are facing; and

WHEREAS, WMATA is just one part of a regional public transit network that has evolved over time with more than a dozen rail and bus providers offering varying service levels, different technologies and fare policies, as well as an array of funding and governing models that do not always work together for the benefit of our constituents; and

WHEREAS, to unlock our transit network's full potential and reap the transportation, economic, and environmental benefits it offers, we need to develop a unified vision for transit service that addresses the complex transit needs of our region, what the region wants and needs, how much it will cost, how we will pay for it, and how to best manage it; and

WHEREAS, our two organizations are uniquely positioned to lead this effort by convening a diverse group of public, private, and civic sector leaders to ensure all regional stakeholders are involved in the process and development of the vision, all of which is consistent with Section 2 of the WMATA Compact; and

WHEREAS, over the next year COG and WMATA will partner to convene regional stakeholders and develop a long-term vision for transit needs in the region and a path forward to ensure a sustainable and financially stable transportation system.

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

- 1) COG and WMATA will partner to develop a unified vision for transit service and predictable, dedicated, and sustainable funding for public transportation in the National Capital Region including regional, local, and commuter transit services, including Union Station; operating in close coordination and cooperation providing a seamless, safe, and efficient experience to users in support of regional mobility, equity, and climate and environmental goals; and
- 2) The Boards approve the establishment of a Task Force to direct the work of the Transit Team, and the Task Force membership as jointly approved by the COG and WMATA Board Chairs (attached); and
- 3) The Boards approve the establishment of a Community Partners Advisory Group and a Government Partners Advisory Group to support the Task Force initiatives, and the work groups' membership as jointly approved by the COG and WMATA Board Chairs (attached); and finally
- 4) This Resolution shall be effective immediately.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the foregoing resolution was approved by the COG Board of Directors on May 1, 2024.

Amanda Lau COG Communications Specialist I