**CONFIDENTIAL Issue Brief**

Fire Department-WMATA Regional Training Plan

**Background**

Following the January 12, 2015 L’Enfant Plaza incident, MWCOG Board Chairman Mr. William Euille received a formal request from the office of Senator Barbara Mikulski to complete a regional work plan for training firefighters on emergency evacuation protocols in the Metrorail system. On behalf of the COG Board of Directors, Mr. Euille responded to Senator Mikulski’s request by committing to the establishment of a work plan for developing a regional training plan for first responders on the Metrorail system.

The COG Fire Chiefs Committee has been working in conjunction with its Passenger Rail Safety Subcommittee and the appropriate WMATA representatives to develop the scope and criteria of the regional training plan. The plan will be informed by current best practices existent in jurisdictions throughout the region, new training initiatives that have already been identified by WMATA, and best practices from other similar passenger rail transit systems across the nation.

The final training plan will be incorporated as an appendix to the updated COG Fire Chiefs/Metrorail Transit Emergency Procedures/Policy Agreement and will exist as a living document that can be updated by the Fire Chiefs Committee and WMATA as necessary.

**Implications for Region**

Currently, each of the six jurisdictions that have Metro stations within its borders maintains its own best practices for working with WMATA to train jurisdictional first responders on the Metrorail system. Developing a regional plan will allow for better consistency in best training practices across the region and it will bring to light opportunities for enhancing training practices on a jurisdictional and regional level.

The COG Fire Chiefs Committee will need to work with WMATA to establish an iterative process for ensuring that the regional training plan remains relevant and implementable while taking into account the various opportunities for training and resources available for delivering the training across the region.

**Questions/Discussion Framework**

What are the key considerations for ensuring that this plan yields impactful results in the long-term?

Is there any role for entities outside of the COG Fire Chiefs Committee and WMATA in the oversight of this plan’s implementation?