



National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board

ITEM #5

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board
FROM: Kanti Srikanth, TPB Staff Director
SUBJECT: Additional Letters Sent/Received and Report of the Director
DATE: July 20, 2016

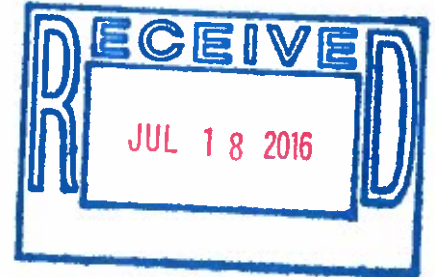
The attached additional letters sent/received and Report of the Director will be reviewed along with other letters sent/received under Item #5 of the July 20th TPB agenda.

Attachment



THE 2030 GROUP

July 12, 2016



Tim Lovain
Chairman
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Transportation Planning Board
777 North Capitol Street, NE
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

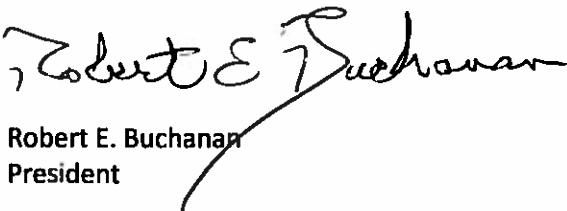
Dear Sir,

On behalf of the 2030 Group, I am writing to comment on selection criteria for identifying unfunded projects for the Region's Long-Range Transportation Plan. Although I was unable to attend the June 15 meeting on this subject, I have read reports from others who did and feel encouraged that there is a growing awareness of the need to focus on projects of greatest regional significance vs accommodating those representing local jurisdictions' desires in the past. Given the current crisis in our regional transportation system from a historic transit breakdown to unprecedented road congestion, if we do not take this opportunity to prove that we can and will truly address these problems, our ability to attract and retain the talent to sustain our regional economic viability and quality of life will be seriously threatened.

Hopefully COG can provide the leadership to recognize the need for more connectivity among our region's jurisdictions and galvanize public interest in the investment in game-changing projects that have heretofore been too political to even put forth for public consideration. Another river crossing to the west of the American Legion Bridge, for example, will take enormous pressure off the American Legion Bridge and I-270. Funding 8 car Metro trains, fixing a broken MD Beltway, and developing a better regional bus network connecting major corridors will have huge impacts on our commuting times. A few of such major projects as those tested in the 2030 Group Transportation Priority Study will do more to improve regional mobility than hundreds of smaller projects in the CLRP combined.

I know the business community will be more impressed with real projects resulting in real improvements than the continued rhetoric on process and policies, and I suspect the general public has reached this point to.

Sincerely,


Robert E. Buchanan
President