

Resolution R17-2021
February 10, 2021

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING REAUTHORIZATION OF THE PASSENGER RAIL INVESTMENT AND
IMPROVEMENT ACT AND INCREASED FEDERAL FUNDING FOR METRO**

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, plus area members of the Maryland and Virginia 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 Metrorail system is the most significant regional transportation system and plays a critical role in meeting the National Capital Region's socio-economic and mobility needs and has served this need for the past 40 years; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the region's local governments and states worked together to pass unprecedented legislation in the District of Columbia, the State of Maryland, and the Commonwealth of Virginia to establish dedicated funding for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). Collectively committing an additional \$500 million a year to fund essential capital improvements to the Metro system; and

WHEREAS, increased federal funding, especially in light of decreased ridership due to the COVID-19 pandemic, is essential to maintaining the system in a state of good repair, and

WHEREAS, increased dedicated federal funding for both capital and operating budgets is critical to the continued safety and reliability of the system.

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

The board commends the collaboration of the regional congressional delegation to jointly sponsor Metro funding legislation and strongly urges the federal government to reauthorize and increase its existing funding commitment to Metro in an amount of at least \$2 billion over 10 years. The board directs the Executive Director, or his designee, to send a letter to leadership of the appropriate congressional committees stating COG's support of continued and increased federal funding for Metro. Furthermore, the board encourages individual COG jurisdictions to consider passing similar resolutions in support of dedicated federal funding for Metro.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the foregoing resolutions were adopted by the COG Board of Directors
February 10, 2021
Janele Partman
COG Communications Specialist**