



October 11, 2016

The Honorable Muriel Bowser, Mayor, District of Columbia  
The Honorable Larry Hogan, Governor, State of Maryland  
The Honorable Terry McAuliffe, Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia

Re: October 12, 2016 Forum – Restoring Metro

Dear Mayor Bowser, Governor Hogan, and Governor McAuliffe:

On behalf of the leadership of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, we congratulate you on the Forum tomorrow and extend our appreciation that Metrorail is at the top of the agenda.

As regional leaders working together through COG, our top priority for the foreseeable future is working to restore Metro to world-class status. It is our top priority for a reason: Metro is fundamental to our region's economy, quality of life, and our environment.

We fully appreciate the scope of the effort required to restore public confidence and ridership in Metro, and we have confidence in General Manager Wiedefeld's ability to address these issues. We see the progress that he's made in less than a year to face the hard issues the system confronts, change the culture, and improve the safety and reliability of the system, and we expect more progress in the year ahead. Toward that end, we appreciate your support for a Metro Safety Commission that will provide the needed statutory oversight of Metro's safety.

We also foresee that we will need a serious regional conversation, the states and the localities together, about what will be needed to restore Metrorail to world-class status and ensure it is sustained for today and for future generations. While there is no doubt that Metro needs major improvement in operational efficiency and effectiveness and financial management, there will also need to be a role for Metro's funding partners to steer Metro toward a solid financial foundation.

Our shared region's economy is the 14<sup>th</sup> largest in the world and we need a world-class system to help the economy grow and to compete. Currently, most new office construction is within a half-mile of a Metro station. Property values near Metro historically have generated billions in tax revenues. Two million jobs are located near Metrorail stations and Metrobus stops, generating significant revenues for both local and state governments.

Accordingly, as you contemplate Metro and our region's future, we ask you to join with regional leaders in charting a path forward that secures a combined commitment to excellence with a secure and solid financial foundation.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Roger Berliner in black ink.

Hon. Roger Berliner  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Montgomery County Council

Handwritten signature of Kenyan McDuffie in black ink.

Hon. Kenyan McDuffie  
Vice Chair, Board of Directors  
District of Columbia Council

Handwritten signature of Matt Letourneau in black ink.

Hon. Matt Letourneau  
Vice Chair, Board of Directors  
Loudoun County Board