

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

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INCREASED 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 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 close to 50 years; and

**WHEREAS**, after changing weekday ridership patterns due to shifts in commuting habits following the COVID-19 pandemic, the expiration of federal transit relief, and the rising costs of inflation, Metro identified a Fiscal Year 2025 operating budget deficit of up to \$750 million; and

**WHEREAS**, the COG Board charged the Chief Administrative Officers Committee to work 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, 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**, the Chief Administrative Officers Workgroup on WMATA Cost Structure – Interim Report was released in December 2023 making a number of recommendations to address the short-term funding deficit and overall financial stability of Metro; and

**WHEREAS**, the COG Board established the Metro Funding Strategy Group consisting of local and state elected officials, and senior administrative representatives, and State Departments of Transportation (DOTs), to collectively work on understanding the nature and magnitude of the fiscal challenge faced by WMATA and to identify a path forward to address this issue both in the immediate and longer terms; and

**WHEREAS**, this ongoing coordination and engagement has helped forge consensus on short-term actions with broad regional support; and

**WHEREAS**, with support from the administrations, legislation is active in Maryland and Virginia to provide additional operating budget funds to address the deficit in FY2025 and FY2026, with a commitment from the District of Columbia to provide additional funding in FY2025.

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

- 1) The board commends the work of local and state officials to collaborate on a short-term funding solution for Metro; and

- 2) The board urges the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia to pass the necessary legislation to allocate additional operating funds to address Metro's short-term operating funding deficit in FY2025 and FY2026; and
- 3) The board urges the federal government to act to permanently increase their financial support of both operating and capital funding for Metro; and
- 4) The board urges the continued collaboration of local, state and federal officials, in partnership with the private and nonprofit sectors, to identify long-term funding solutions to ensure financial sustainability for Metro.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the foregoing resolution was approved by the COG Board of Directors on February 14, 2024.**

**Amanda Lau COG Communications Specialist I**