

**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.



February 10, 2021

**DRAFT METRO Funding Letter**

Senator/Representative  
Title  
Address  
Washington, DC 20002

Re: H.R. Metro Accountability and Investment Act of 2021  
S. Metro Safety, Accountability and Investment Act of 2021

Dear Senator/Representative:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), we are writing to **strongly urge the federal government to reauthorize and increase its existing funding commitment to Metro in an amount of at least \$2 billion over 10 years**. As the association of local governments in metropolitan Washington, dedicated funding for Metro is a top priority and we commend the region's congressional delegation for jointly sponsoring this essential legislation.

In 2018, our local and state governments, with the strong support of COG and a coalition of business and civic organizations, worked together to pass unprecedented legislation in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia providing additional dedicated funding for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). Collectively, the region is committing an additional \$500 million a year to fund essential capital improvements to the Metro system.

As a valued partner in our Metro system, the federal government needs to continue to provide dedicated funding critical to the safety and reliability of the system. As the current commitment under PRIIA is set to expire, COG strongly urges the federal government to extend and increase existing funding commitments for Metro as proposed by the region's congressional delegation. Metro is critical to the federal government. It has transported over half the federal workforce, with more than 30 percent of Metrorail stations serving federal facilities, and serves a key role in evacuating the region during emergencies. Federal funding – together with the region's commitment – will support the major maintenance and capital rehabilitation activities that are necessary to restore and improve the aging transit system.

Your collaboration is essential to securing the additional funding our region needs to keep Metro safe and our economy thriving. We appreciate your support on this initiative.

Sincerely,

Robert C. White, Jr.  
Chair, Board of Directors  
District of Columbia

Christian Dorsey  
Vice Chair, Board of Directors  
Arlington County

Kate Stewart  
Vice Chair, Board of Directors  
City of Takoma Park