

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
LEGISLATIVE COMMUNIQUE**

**BILL IDENTIFICATION:**

- **Legislative Body:** Maryland General Assembly **Bill Number: H.B. 1345/S.B. 850**
  - **Committee/Subcommittee:** Ways and Means
  - **Name: "Maryland Mass Transit Funding Study"**
  - **Primary Sponsor(s):** Del. Hixson (Mont.), Sen. Kramer (Mont.)
  - **Status of Bill:** Senate bill signed by Governor; House bill vetoed for duplicativity.
  - **Next Major Action Expected or Proposed:** Appointment of committee members.
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**PURPOSE OF BILL:**

This study charges the DOT to create a detailed analysis on the operating and continued maintenance needs of Metro; to review how transit services across the country are funded; and to identify State funding strategies to take advantage of potential new federal funding for WMATA. It will be led by a Transit Funding Steering Committee comprised of:

- 3 Members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate
- 3 Members of the House appointed by the Speaker of the House
  - Hixson (Mont.), Bohanon (St. Mary's), Goodwin (Balt. City)\*
- Secretary of Transportation, or his designee
- Secretary of Management and Budget, or his designee

Once the study begins, a report shall be submitted to the General Assembly on or before December 15, 2006.

\*Tentative House nominations; the Senate has not made recommendations.

**REGIONAL IMPACT:** While this bill does not dedicate funding for Metro it is a step in the right direction and should be acceptable for keeping the federal funding in play.

**RELATIONSHIP TO COG STRATEGIC PLAN/EXISTING COG POLICIES:**

Follows the COG adopted policies on Metro funding.

**SPECIFIC JURISDICTIONAL IMPACT (IF ANY) / JURISDICTION**

**CONTACT:** Outcomes of the study, positive or negative, will have significant impact for all COG jurisdictions.

**POSSIBLE COG BOARD ACTION(S):**

- Receive Information**
- Refer to COG Jurisdiction(s)**
- Refer to COG Committee for**
  - for Information**
  - for Action**

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- Proposed COG Board Resolution**
    - Supporting Bill**
    - Opposing Bill**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Together with the TPB, the Board of Trade's B-TRAC, and other regional stakeholders, present information and supportive policy statements to the Transit Funding Steering Committee.

**RELATED LEGISLATION: VIRGINIA BUDGET**

A budget has yet to be adopted in Virginia; negotiations are still underway specifically in the area of capital expenditures where some current transportation needs may be considered. Major transportation funding, including long-term funding, have been removed from the budget and have been set aside for later negotiations; House and Senate proposals for transportation amounts are significantly different.