



**National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board**

ITEM #5

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board
FROM: Kanti Srikanth, TPB Staff Director
SUBJECT: Additional Letters Sent/Received and Report of the Director
DATE: June 15, 2016

The attached additional letters sent/received and Report of the Director will be reviewed along with other letters sent/received under Item #5 of the June 15th TPB agenda.

Attachment



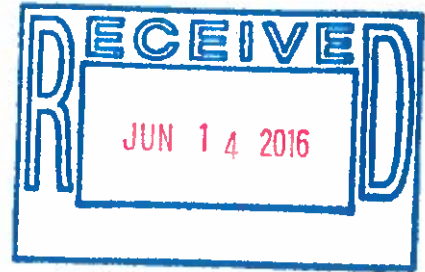
**U.S. Department
of Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

Under Secretary for Policy

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC 20590

June 7, 2016



Mr. Timothy Lovain
Chair, National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board
777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. Lovain:

Thank you for your letter supporting funding for the State of Virginia's Atlantic Gateway project under the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant Program funded by the Fiscal Year 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act. I appreciate your interest in the TIGER program. Secretary Foxx has asked me to respond on his behalf.

Over the last seven years, the TIGER program has allowed the Department to award more than \$4.6 billion to support critical road, rail, transit, port, and multimodal projects. The competitive nature of the program encourages innovation and collaboration, and the broad eligibility criteria allow the program to fund complex multimodal and multi-jurisdictional projects that are difficult to finance using traditional formula funds.

A Federal Register notice, published on February 26, 2016, announced the availability of funding for an eighth round of TIGER discretionary grants, project selection criteria, and application requirements. The deadline for submitting final applications was April 29, 2016, and we plan to announce selected projects this fall.

The Department welcomes the opportunity to fund innovative transportation projects through the TIGER Discretionary Grant Program, and I assure you that all properly submitted applications will receive full and careful consideration. Your support for the program is meaningful to me, and your knowledge of the transportation needs in your area is valuable and appreciated. If I can provide further information or assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Carlos Monje, Jr.
Acting Under Secretary

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO CONVENE A TECHNICAL PANEL TO PREPARE A METRORAIL SAFETY, RELIABILITY AND STATE OF GOOD REPAIR NEEDS AND REVENUE ASSESSMENT AND COORDINATE WITH WMATA ON DEVELOPMENT OF OPERATING BENCHMARKS AND PERFORMANCE METRICS

WHEREAS, the Metro rail 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, a series of recent events including the January 12, 2015 L'Enfant Plaza smoke incident, subsequent smoke, fire and other disruptive events in 2015 and 2016 have undermined Metrorail's reliability and strongly reinforce the urgent need to restore the safety of the aging Metrorail system; and

WHEREAS, these recurring issues led to a 29 hour complete shutdown of the system in March of this year and the region is now faced with an extended period of safety-related repair and maintenance work activities called SafeTrack, which is anticipated to cause significant inconvenience and disruption of socio-economic activities in the region; and

WHEREAS, on March 30, 2016 COG in partnership with the Greater Washington Board of Trade held a summit of the regional elected and business leaders to discuss the importance of restoring Metro rail to a World Class System by addressing the safety and service reliability challenges the system is facing at present; and

WHEREAS, the region's leaders are unified in their desire to help the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority address the safety and service reliability issues faced by its Metro rail system; and

WHEREAS, the current safety and service reliability issues of Metro are partly due to the funding constraints it faces; and

WHEREAS, on January 6, 2005, COG, the Greater Washington Board of Trade and the Federal City Council issued "The Report of the Metro Funding Panel", and

WHEREAS, the 2005 report examined and documented Metrorail operating and capital funding needs for 2005-2015, and evaluated a range of financing alternatives for providing funding to meet the needs; and

WHEREAS, the 2005 report concluded that insuring safety, reliability, and state of good repair for the Metrorail system requires stable and predictable funding; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the United States Congress adopted the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) which established an annual, ten year dedicated federal appropriation of \$150 million annually, matched by \$50 million each from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia, and such funding has helped address some of the capital cost needs to bring Metrorail into a state of good repair identified in the 2005 study; and

WHEREAS, the current state of safety and service concerns associated with Metrorail and the resultant disruptions to mobility and commerce in the region reaffirms the need to thoroughly explore and address to the best of the region's ability the funding and revenue needs of the Metrorail system;

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

- A. The Board authorizes the Executive Director to convene a Technical Panel of Chief Administrative Officers and Chief Financial Officers, who in partnership with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Chief Financial Officer will:
 1. Document current funding projections for:
 - a. Operating the current Metrorail system in a safe and reliable manner;
 - b. Fully implementing the Metrorail system's replacement/rehabilitation program.
 2. Provide the Board with an interim report by October 12, 2016 or in a timely manner following release of WMATA's needs assessment; and
 3. Explore potential sources for any additional revenue the region may need to meet the above safety and reliability funding needs of the Metrorail system, and
 4. Resources to carry out the work of the Technical Panel shall be mainly provided by in-kind contributions, however, the Executive Director is authorized to allocate additional resources to support this initiative drawn from the existing FY 2016 and FY 2017 approved work program and budget.
- B. The COG Board further authorizes the Executive Director to coordinate with WMATA on development of operating benchmarks and performance metrics for the Metrorail system for review and input from the Technical Panel with the report issued to the Board.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the foregoing resolution was adopted by the COG Board of Directors on June 8, 2016.

**Laura Ambrosio
COG Communications Specialist**