

Resolution R64-2017
December 13, 2017

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

**RESOLUTION ON LONG-TERM DEDICATED FUNDING AND OTHER ACTIONS SUPPORTING RESTORATION
OF 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 COG Board of Directors has identified restoring Metro as a top priority reflecting the critical role Metro plays in the success of region's economy, transportation, mobility, and overall quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the board established a Metro Strategy Group, with the primary mission of identifying dedicated funding necessary to support achievement of a fully restored, world class Metro system that is safe, efficiently managed, and maintained in a state of good repair; and

WHEREAS, the board established a Technical Panel of Chief Administrative Officers and jurisdictional financial experts that provided technical analysis on WMATA's long-term capital funding needs and the economic value of Metro, to assist the Metro Strategy Group in carrying out its mission; and

WHEREAS, in June 2017, the COG Board adopted attached Resolution R37-2017 supporting a set of principles to provide a focus for the regional actions needed to achieve these goals; and

WHEREAS, the principles emphasize the urgent need for local and state governments, the business community and other stakeholders to take unified actions to ensure that funding solutions and associated supporting actions are in place expeditiously; and

WHEREAS, a long-term dedicated bondable funding solution of an additional \$500 million a year above FY 2017 capital funding levels, implemented no later than July 1, 2019 (FY2020), is essential to implement WMATA's capital improvement program including \$15.5 billion required to achieve a state of good repair; and

WHEREAS, WMATA requires full funding for its FY 2019 capital program to ensure it can continue its state of good repair capital program and such funding should be provided either through long-term dedicated funding or if necessary, interim funding for not more than one year; and

WHEREAS, the region urges the federal government to renew its PRIIA funding commitment as well as providing new matching funds at a level commensurate with the increases in state and local funding required for WMATA's long-term safety, reliability and state of good repair and needs to take responsibility for WMATA's capital expenditures and increase their contributions beyond PRIIA funding; and

WHEREAS, establishing new funding sources will require coordinated state-level engagement together with the federal government given the essential roles of the District of Columbia, the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the United States in WMATA funding

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

1. The board supports identification and enactment by the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia of long-term dedicated bondable, reliable, and sustainable funding that, together with the federal government, collectively provides \$500 million per year of additional funding beyond FY2017 levels of commitment, and that grows with the economy, implemented by no later than July 1, 2019 (FY 2020) to support WMATA's capital funding requirements.
2. The board supports fully funding WMATA's capital funding needs for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018 (FY 2019) on a one-year interim basis should long-term dedicated funding not be in place. The board expects that any temporary short-term capital funding allocation be done in accordance with the current WMATA capital funding formula.
3. The board urges the federal government to reauthorize its existing funding commitments for FY 2019 (PRIIA and transit formula grants) and by no later than July 1, 2019 (FY 2020) to increase its funding commitment by \$125 million per year to support WMATA's long-term capital funding requirements.
4. New long-term funding should be allocated through equal $\frac{1}{4}$ shares of the \$500 million annual increased contribution, with the federal government allocating its $\frac{1}{4}$ in addition to the local shares.
5. The board feels it is essential that complementary governance and reform actions are taken resulting in enhancement of WMATA's management and operational efficiency, thereby enabling best utilization of new dedicated funding.
6. The board offers to assist all parties with reaching agreement on actions 1 through 5 through direct dialogue, facilitation and decision support as requested.

The board directs the Executive Director, or his designee, to communicate this resolution to the executive and legislative leadership in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, as well as the federal government including the regional Congressional delegation, urging their expeditious and timely actions.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the foregoing resolution was adopted by the COG Board of Directors on December 13, 2017.

**Laura Ambrosio
COG Communications Specialist**