

# COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

## 2006 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-78-2006

Proposed by Council Member Dean

Introduced by Council Member Dernoga

Co-Sponsors \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Introduction October 3, 2006

### RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Supporting dedicated funding for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority  
3 (WMATA) and increasing the Federal Government contribution thereto.

4 For the purpose of urging The United States Senate to act on the National Capital  
5 Transportation Amendments Act of 2005 and for the State of Maryland to address transit funding  
6 needs.

7 WHEREAS, WMATA transports 1.2 million people a day by rail and bus throughout the  
8 Washington region. During peak travel periods, 42% of all trips to the region's core are made on  
9 transit. Metro service reduces congestion on the region's highways, saves drivers approximately  
10 35 hours in travel time annually, and avoids using 75 million gallons of gas a year; and

11 WHEREAS, WMATA's Metrorail and Metrobus service provide a critical role in Prince  
12 George's County's transportation network. Prince George's County has the highest number of  
13 rail stations and most Metrobus service of any suburban jurisdiction in the region, yet significant  
14 needs for service remain unmet in the community; and

15 WHEREAS, Metro plays a key role in Prince George's County's economic development  
16 and land-use strategies. The county is promoting quality Transit Oriented Development -  
17 vibrant, mixed-use developments within walking distance of the county's 15 Metro stations - to  
18 reduce sprawl and auto-dependency and capitalize on economic opportunities; and

19 WHEREAS, WMATA faces significant funding challenges. A Brookings Institution report,  
20 *Washington Metro: deficits by Design*, found that WMATA's unprecedented lack of dedicated  
21 funding sources necessitated an over-reliance on annual appropriations from state and local  
22 governments, making WMATA vulnerable to recurring and chronic financial crises.

1 WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Council of Governments, the Greater Washington Board of  
2 Trade and the Federal City Council formed the Panel on Metro Funding. The Panel was tasked  
3 to research funding options for WMATA, which it reported in January Of 2005 to elected  
4 officials of Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia; and

5 WHEREAS, the Panel identified a \$2.4 billion shortfall between 2007 and 2015, excluding  
6 cost increases for Metroaccess. The panel also recommended that the Compact jurisdictions  
7 mutually create a dedicated revenue source for WMATA; and

8 WHEREAS, the Panel recommended that the federal government significantly participate  
9 in addressing the shortfalls, given its reliance on the Metro system. There are 35 Metrorail  
10 Stations that directly serve federal facilities and nearly half of Metro's peak period riders are  
11 federal employees. Metro also plays a significant role in all federal homeland security planning  
12 for the Washington region; and

13 WHEREAS, to meet WMATA's needs, Congressman Tom Davis of Virginia introduced  
14 H.R. 3496, the "National Capital Transportation Amendments Act of 2005," co-sponsored by  
15 Congressmen Hoyer, Van Hollen and Wynn. This bill would authorize up to \$1.5 billion for the  
16 capital needs of the WMATA system over 10 years, if the WMATA Compact members establish  
17 dedicated funding for WMATA. The House of Representatives passed this bill, which is now  
18 pending before the Senate Homeland Security & Government Affairs Subcommittee; and

19 WHEREAS, the Maryland legislature passed in April of 2006 Senate Bill 850 – Mass  
20 Transit Funding Study– requiring the Maryland Department of Transportation to study transit  
21 funding needs statewide and identify strategies to meet the requirements of the Davis bill. The  
22 report is due December 15, 2006.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's  
24 County, Maryland, that the County Council urges the United States Senate to pass H.R. 3496, to  
25 provide additional federal funding to WMATA as a match to locally generated dedicated funds;  
26 and

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council expresses its support of Maryland's  
28 Transit Funding Study to identify transit funding needs and urges the Governor and Maryland  
29 General Assembly to work with Congress to obtain additional federal funding and ensure stable  
30 and reliable funding, for WMATA.  
31

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of Council should transmit this resolution to  
2 Senator Barbara Mikulski, Senator Paul Sarbanes, the Governor of Maryland and President of  
3 the Maryland Senate, the Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates, and members of Prince  
4 George's County state legislative delegation.

Adopted this 31st day of October, 2006.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE  
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas E. Dernoga  
Chairman

ATTEST:

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Redis C. Floyd  
Clerk of the Council