

# BRIEFING ON TRANSPORTATION ISSUES AND WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

---

Chuck Bean  
Executive Director

Prince George's County Council  
June 13, 2016



Metropolitan Washington  
Council of Governments

# Current Safety Coordination

---

- **Fire Chiefs.** Following the 2015 Metrorail smoke incident, U.S. Senators Mark Warner and Barbara Mikulski asked COG to work with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) on radio communications and evacuation training for first responders.
  - In July 2015, the Fire Chiefs and WMATA agreed to place a full-time fire and rescue liaison in the system's nerve center, the Rail Operations Control Center (ROCC). As of this spring, liaison is 24/7.
  - In October 2015, Fire Chiefs released a study of Metro's underground communication network—urging fixes and noting better testing, installation of new equipment, and enhanced trainings.
- **SafeTrack.** COG is working with WMATA, governments, and stakeholders to ensure coordination and communication during disruptions.
  - [CommuterConnections.org](http://CommuterConnections.org) promoting alternative ways to work.

# Permanent Safety Oversight (MSC)

---

- DC, Maryland, and Virginia are creating a Metro Safety Commission (MSC), which will have full oversight authority of Metro under MAP-21 and FAST Act. Once MSC is in place, it will assume all safety oversight responsibility from the Federal Transit Administration. The MSC will be independent of WMATA.
  - Safety is first and foremost the responsibility of WMATA.
- A DC-MD-VA Executive Policy Team has been advancing the MSC Compact and Program since April 2015 in consultation with COG and independent legal advisors.
  - In May 2016, a first draft of MSC Interstate Compact was released.
  - Later this year, legislation will be introduced before the Council of District of Columbia. In early 2017, it will be introduced during the legislative sessions Maryland and Virginia.

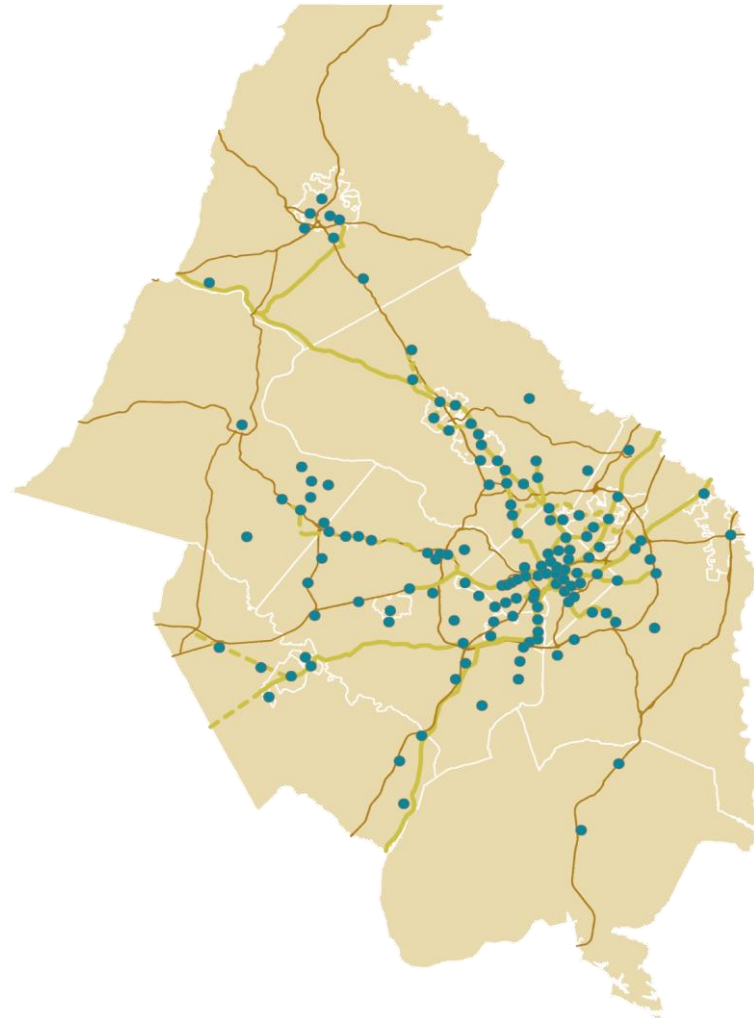
# Reforms: The Operating Enterprise, The Operating Environment

---

- At its June 2016 meeting, the COG Board of Directors passed a resolution tasking a regional panel to develop fundamental financial and operating data on Metrorail and report back by October 2016. Panel will:
  - Document funding projections for operating the current system in a safe and reliable manner and fully implementing the system's rehabilitation program.
  - Explore potential sources for any additional revenue the region might need to meet the safety and reliability needs.
  - Compile data on system performance. **“Ensure that dollars spent on our system are put toward a system that is improving,”** COG Board Chairman Roger Berliner.

# Criticality to Prince George's Future

- **Activity Centers.** 141 locations that will accommodate the majority of the region's future growth.
  - 20 Activity Centers in Prince George's County.
  - Several of county's 15 Metrorail stations are located in Activity Centers.



## Chuck Bean

Executive Director  
(202) 962-3260  
cbean@mwcog.org

[mwcog.org](http://mwcog.org)

---

777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20002



Metropolitan Washington  
**Council of Governments**