



November 14, 2023

Paul C. Smedberg, Chair  
WMATA Board of Directors  
300 7<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Chair Smedberg:

The Prince George's County Council understands that WMATA faces a serious fiscal cliff in the upcoming year and structural deficits into the future. Resolving WMATA's funding challenges, in the short term and long term, is imperative if we are going to provide rapid, reliable, and affordable mass transit for our region. This is one of the most important and pressing issues to be addressed by elected officials for the success of the Washington/Metropolitan region in terms of economic development, climate goals, and equity.

WMATA rail and bus service is foundational to our region's mobility, key to our efforts to address the climate crisis, and vital to the local economy and our continued growth. A reliable, accessible regional transit system is necessary to attract employers, job centers, and people to our region. Having a world-class regional bus and rail system will help relieve road congestion, minimize everyday travel costs for residents, and reduce carbon emissions from our transportation sector, which is the highest polluting sector in our County. Ensuring that WMATA has the financial support to maintain its important mission is a critical step toward meeting our regional climate action goals.

In recent months, WMATA General Manager Randy Clarke has highlighted the major improvements in the system's performance and customer satisfaction, as well as warned of the looming funding deficit facing the system as COVID-related federal relief expires, costs have risen with inflation, and weekday ridership patterns have changed following shifts in commuting habits. We understand that transit systems across the nation are facing this same challenge.

Given the importance of WMATA to our County's sustainability and growth, the Prince George's County Council is committed to finding solutions in cooperation with regional partners. Addressing WMATA's challenges will take shared action by the leaders of the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, and the federal government. We stand ready to partner across jurisdictions and with WMATA leadership to identify solutions.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Dernoga, Chair  
Prince George's County Council

CC: Angela D. Alsobrooks, Prince George's County Executive  
Marc Elrich, Montgomery County Executive  
Michael A. Jackson, Prince George's Senate Delegation Chair  
Nick Charles, Prince George's House Delegation Chair  
Evan Glass, Montgomery County Council President  
Ben Kramer, Montgomery County Senate Delegation Chair  
Julie Palakovich Carr, Montgomery County House Delegation Chair