



December 17, 2020

President-elect Joseph R. Biden Jr.  
Office of the President-elect  
Suite 38038  
1401 Constitution Ave, NW.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear President-elect Biden:

In Washington, D.C, Maryland, and Virginia, we are committed to a robust transit system that serves the people who ride trains to work and back home every day. The National Capital Region's economy depends on these workers, especially the more than 300,000 federal employees who work throughout the region. While the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) has been a lifeline for essential workers, a large number of federal employees have been working remotely throughout 2020, leaving the transit system that serves our nation's capital facing severe financial pressure.

As the chief executives of these three jurisdictions, we write today to urge your new administration to provide increased federal support for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). Without federal support, WMATA faces major budget shortfalls that will force layoffs and additional service interruptions, further hindering our region's economic recovery.

WMATA operates through the support of contributions from the governments of Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia, and we are all experiencing significant budget challenges and significant new costs resulting from the pandemic. We encourage the Biden-Harris administration to renew the federal government's commitment to Metro's future and strongly consider joining the three jurisdictions as our fourth partner in a WMATA funding agreement. We strongly believe that maintaining a safe and reliable public transit system for the nation's capital is a national priority and should be treated in that way.

We are grateful for the temporary funding from the CARES Act, which allowed WMATA to maintain jobs for its 12,900 employees and continue operations safely throughout the pandemic for the region's essential workforce, including federal employees. Without federal aid, these operations simply would not have been possible.

But WMATA is facing a significant operating deficit that will impact its ability to provide safe and reliable public transportation as the region recovers from the pandemic. Without a commitment of additional federal support, WMATA has forecasted an operating budget shortfall of \$176.5 million for FY2021 (through June 2021), followed by a \$494.5 million budget shortfall in FY2022. When pandemic relief funding runs out, WMATA will be forced to make draconian service cuts and eliminate more than 3,800 positions. This is more than one-third of its workforce, when combined with this year's layoffs.

While additional COVID-19 emergency relief for WMATA would be helpful in the short term, a long-term commitment from our federal partners is badly needed. The Metro system was built to accommodate the needs of our nation's capital and the various private and public sector agencies that support our federal government. Forty percent of Metro's peak morning riders are federal employees commuting to hundreds of federal facilities in the region. This includes 50 WMATA Metrorail stations serving major federal facilities such as the U.S. Congress, the Pentagon, and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. WMATA serves as a linchpin to federal government operations, yet the lack of a federal contribution for operating WMATA fails to reflect this fact.

We look forward to working closely with you to ensure WMATA has the resources it needs to sustain operations for the transit system most critical to the federal government. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Larry Hogan  
Governor of Maryland



Ralph Northam  
Governor of Virginia



Muriel Bowser  
Mayor of the District of Columbia

CC: The Honorable Edward E. "Ted" Kaufman, Biden-Harris Transition Team  
Julie Chávez Rodríguez, Intergovernmental Affairs, Biden-Harris Transition Team  
Nik Blosser, Intergovernmental Affairs, Biden-Harris Transition Team  
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg