



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3887

Chairman
THOMAS E. DERNOGA
Council Member, 1st District

MAR 31 2007

The Honorable Martin O'Malley
Governor, State of Maryland
State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Governor O'Malley:

We write to voice our growing concern about the looming budget shortfall facing the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). In particular, we are concerned about potential service cuts to routes that, if implemented, would affect thousands of county residents and others who rely on Metrobus and Metrorail service to commute to work, shopping, recreation and church activities. Prince George's County has and continues to strongly oppose any and all service cuts.

Much of our transit oriented development depends on a reliable rail and bus system for economic viability. The service reductions proposed in WMATA's budget would potentially reduce peak and off peak capacity, service hours and truncate lines on the Metrorail system. Two of the three stations proposed to be closed on weekends are in our County. The potential impact on bus service in our County is of an unimaginable magnitude and is twice that proposed for Montgomery County.

WMATA is a vital economic engine in our region and we cannot afford to reduce its service and strangle recovery in our region.

WMATA is also proposing fare increases that total near \$90 million. Despite the proposed fare increase, WMATA still has a \$40 million gap even after proposing \$34 million in service reductions.

Closing this gap without service reductions would require an additional contribution from Maryland to WMATA's FY 11 operating budget of approximately \$29 million. In Prince George's County, we are well aware that these are challenging budgetary times, but this is one expense we believe the state cannot forego.

**County Administration Building
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772**

Thank you for your consideration of this request and of the plight of our transit dependent residents who cannot face service cuts.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Dernoga
Chair

cc: Ms. Elizabeth M. Hewlett, WMATA Board Member
Mr. Marcell Solomon, WMATA Alternate Board Member
Hon. Barbara Mikulski, U.S. Senate
Hon. Ben Cardin, U.S. Senate
Hon. Steny Hoyer, Majority Leader, U.S. Congress – 5th District
Hon. Donna Edwards, U.S. Congress – 4th District
Hon. Chris Van Hollen, U.S. Congress – 8th District
Hon. Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
Hon. Beverly K. Swaim-Staley, Secretary, Maryland Department of
Transportation
Hon. Jack B. Johnson, County Executive
Dr. Haitham Hijazi, Director, County DPWT
Mr. Peter Benjamin, Ph.D., WSTC Commission Member
Mr. Gordon J. Linton, WSTC Commission Member
Mr. Mark Winston, WSTC Commission Member
Hon. Camille A. Exum, Prince George's County Council Member and WSTC
Commission Member
Ms. Beverly K. Swain-Staley, WSTC Commission Member

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

2010 Legislative Session

Meeting Date: March 30, 2010

Reference No.:

Draft No.: 2

Proposer(s): Council Members Dernoga and Olson

Sponsor(s):

Item Title: Transmittal letter to the Hon. Martin O'Malley, Governor, State of Maryland, expressing the position of the County Council on the proposed FY 2011 Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), budget, fare and service adjustments.

Drafter: Todd M. Turner, Legislative Officer

Resource: James Raszewski, Department of Public Works & Transportation

Personnel: Susan Hubbard, Department of Public Works & Transportation

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Date Presented: ___/___/___ **Executive Action:** ___/___/___

Committee Referral: ___/___/___ **Effective Date:** ___/___/___

Committee Action: ___/___/___

Date Introduced: ___/___/___

Public Hearing: ___/___/___ :__ __

Council Action: 3/30/2010 CHAIRMAN AUTHORIZED TO SIGN

Council Votes: TD:A, MB:A, WC:A, SHD:A, CE:A, AH:A, TK:A, EO:A, IT:A

Pass/Fail: P

Remarks: _____

AFFECTED CODE SECTIONS:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT:

(Includes reason for proposal, as well as any unique statutory requirements)

Letters approving the position of the Prince George's County Council to Governor Martin O'Malley on the proposed Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) FY 2011 budget, fare and service adjustments.

3/30/2010 – Amended on the floor.

CODE INDEX TOPICS:

INCLUSION FILES/ZONING FIGURES:

Gov. O'Malley WMATA Council Letter AIS