

TRANSIT FIRST!

Coalition members: Action Committee for Transit, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 689, Audubon Naturalist Society, CASA de Maryland, Clean Water Action, Coalition for Smarter Growth, Crofton First, Greater Greater Washington, MCGEO — UFCW Local 1994, Prince George's Advocates for Community-based Transit, Progressive Maryland, Save Maryland Area Rail Transit

Principles for Metro's Budget

In a period of economic hardship, Metro is more vital than ever for the residents of greater Washington. The Transit First Coalition believes that preserving and strengthening our Metro system is essential for healthy communities, for a clean environment, and for keeping transportation affordable. It would be unconscionable for our state and local governments to allow transit service to deteriorate while they continue to spend billions of dollars to expand the road network.

We urge WMATA to develop a 2011 budget based on the following principles:

- No cuts in service.
- The rising cost of paratransit service should be borne by all taxpayers through their jurisdictional contributions and not paid by regular transit riders through service cuts or fare increases.
- Significant cost savings are attainable by more efficient movement of buses. State and local transportation departments must cooperate in solving Metro's budget crisis by giving buses priority in movement on the roads.
- Increases in jurisdictional contributions to Metrorail and Metrobus should not be foreclosed in advance of the budget-making process.
- The new budget must incorporate mechanisms to ensure a culture of safety, openness, and accountability at WMATA.