

Northern Virginia Transportation Coalition

P. O. Box 6149 · MCLEAN, VIRGINIA 22102 · 703/883-1830

Northern Virginia Transportation Coalition Statement on Importance of Securing Sustainable Metro Funding *March 26, 2018*

The Northern Virginia Transportation Coalition (the Coalition) believes that a well-maintained, safe, reliable and fiscally sustainable Metro system is essential to Northern Virginia's and the Commonwealth's economic competitiveness. We have long supported the establishment of new, sustainable Metro funding, tied to implementation of appropriate operational, funding and governance reforms.

Securing \$154 million/year to ensure Virginia can provide its share of WMATA's annual capital funding needs has been a top Coalition priority for the 2018 Virginia General Assembly session. We continue to support this goal and appreciate all of the work to date by Governor Northam and House and Senate leaders to ensure Virginia meets its required share of funding.

After reviewing the General Assembly's proposal, we are pleased that it provides \$154 million per year. We are concerned, however, with the reliance on reprogramming more than \$100 million dollars per year in existing regional and local transportation funds and the impact this will have on the region's ability to meet other longstanding critical regional transportation needs.

In 2013, the General Assembly demonstrated strong leadership in approving long-needed *new* funding for transportation statewide and, for the first time, approving regional packages for Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia to help these regions address their own critical needs. While insufficient to meet all of our region's needs, this funding has begun to chip away at essential transportation improvements.

Protecting existing regional transportation resources is imperative. Funding Metro should not be at the expense of addressing long-neglected regional transportation priorities.

For this reason, the Coalition believes it is absolutely critical that alternative funding sources be dedicated to Metro, significantly reducing the heavy reliance on current Northern Virginia Transportation Authority funds in the legislation that passed the General Assembly. These alternative funding sources should include allocation of additional state funding beyond the \$30 million included in the funding proposal. As alternative funding sources are considered, they should be broad-based - not significantly or disproportionately impacting any one industry. The Metro system has been a major generator of billions in economic growth that has benefitted the Commonwealth's General Fund and this statewide benefit should have greater recognition in the funding package.

The Coalition applauds the General Assembly for urging much-needed reforms that will help ensure that every dollar invested in Metro is spent efficiently, as well as for its commitment to meeting the \$154 million goal to meet Virginia's share of the systems capital needs. However, we urge Governor Northam to offer amendments that will reduce the heavy reliance on regional and, to some extent, local funding to address Metro's funding needs by utilizing more alternative funding sources, including additional state money to support Metro, recognizing that, like Dulles Airport and the Port of Virginia, Metro is a core state asset that is vital to Virginia's economic competitiveness.

Making Metro more sustainable and reliable should not result in making other parts of the region's transportation network less sustainable and reliable.

The Coalition remains committed to working with the Governor and legislature to support a fully funded, safe and reliable as well as efficiently operated Metro system, while protecting the funding for other vital regional transportation improvements.



Pat Dean, President
Associated Builders and Contractors – VA



Holly Weatherwax, President
Dulles Area Association of Realtors



John Boylan, President & CEO
Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce



Mark S. Ingraio, President & CEO
Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce



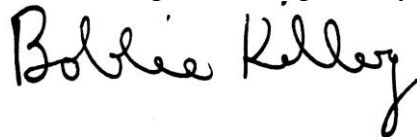
Ken Garrison, Executive Director
Heavy Construction Contractors Association



Martha D. Marks, President
NAIOP-Northern Virginia: The Commercial
Real Estate Development Assoc.



Jon W. Lindgren, Executive Director
Northern Virginia Building Industry Assoc.



Bobbie Kilberg, President & CEO
Northern Virginia Technology Council



Deborah Jones, President & CEO
Prince William Chamber of Commerce



Mark Viani, President
Southeast Fairfax Development Corp.



Keith Meurlin, President
Washington Airports Task Force



Dennis Drinkard, President
Committee for Dulles



Doug Pickford, Executive Director/CEO
Dulles Area Transportation Association



Paul Kohlenberger, President
Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce



Nancy-jo Manney, President & CEO
Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce



Tony Howard, President & CEO
Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce



Lorraine Arora, Chairman of the Board
Northern Virginia Association of Realtors®



Jim Corcoran, President & CEO
Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce



G. Evan Pritchard, Chairman of the Board
Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance



April Thomas, CEO
Realtor Association of Prince William



Virginia Case, Chairman of the Board
Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce