

**Action Committee for Transit • Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 689 •
Coalition for Smarter Growth • Federal City Council • Greater Greater Washington
• Greater Washington Board of Trade**

October 7, 2015

Muriel Bowser
Office of the DC Mayor
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW,
Washington, DC 20004

Terry McAuliffe
Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia
State Capitol
Third Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

Larry Hogan
Governor, State of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1925

Dear Mayor Bowser, Governor Hogan, and Governor McAuliffe:

The undersigned organizations have come together out of concern about Metro, which is vital to our region's economic, environmental, and cultural success. We are writing to express some basic principles that we believe must be heeded if Metro is to emerge successfully from its current crisis and fulfill the essential role it plays in our region's transportation network and economy.

1. Metro needs to hire a new General Manager before the year's end who has experience with operations of large technologically complex systems, will provide strong leadership to change organizational culture, and will surround himself/herself with capable specialists.
2. To recruit the strong leader Metro needs, the Board and the jurisdictions must commit to backing up the new General Manager with the political support, organizational authority, and funding needed to do the job successfully. Our organizations stand ready to provide our assistance as well.
3. Metro must provide choices to the Board and public about key decisions, such as service changes, budgets, or planned safety and maintenance work. The Board and public need to understand and debate tradeoffs that affect them, such as how station closings, single tracking and reductions in train frequency relate to safety, maintenance, budget, and regulatory or contractual restrictions.

Our groups have been staunch advocates for maintaining transit service, ensuring adequate funding, and expanding capacity such as through more eight-car trains. Yet recent events have

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shaken our, and the public's, confidence in a system and agency which our region depends upon. We are weighing in now to help the agency reach a path to restore this confidence.

To preserve and improve the region's livability and economic health, Metro must ensure service levels that meet demand, reverse recent years' erosion of train and bus service, restore off-peak train frequencies, and return to an expansion path so that it can meet future needs for core capacity and regional access.

Sincerely,

[signed]

Nick Brand, President, Action Committee for Transit
Jackie Jeter, President, Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 689
Stewart Schwartz, Executive Director, Coalition for Smarter Growth
Anthony Williams, CEO and Executive Director, Federal City Council
David Alpert, Founder and President, Greater Greater Washington
James C. Dinegar, President and CEO, Greater Washington Board of Trade

cc: Chief Executives of MD & VA counties and VA independent cities; WMATA Board; Congressional delegation