

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION COALITION

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February 19, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1230 New Jersey Ave, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Madame Secretary:

The Northern Virginia business community requests that you suspend the February 10, 2017 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) decision to withhold federal transit funds from the WMATA jurisdictions. This action will allow the Virginia and Maryland legislatures to continue their work to enact the legislation required by FTA to establish the Metro Safety Commission (MSC) in a timely manner during their current, regular legislative sessions.

The Northern Virginia business community shares USDOT's and the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) concerns about the need for prompt correction of longstanding, serious safety lapses in the National Capital Region's Metrorail System and agrees that establishment of the State Safety Oversight Program in the form of the proposed Metro Safety Commission (MSC) with the ability to force necessary safety improvements is long overdue.

Northern Virginia businesses also understand that a well-functioning, efficient, and safe Metrorail system is critical for the Washington, DC Metropolitan region's economy and the federal government. Moving more than 386,000 people a day, Metro helps to knit our region into a whole: providing critical linkage between residential, employment, shopping, and entertainment centers.

While sending a strong message that USDOT/FTA is serious about establishment of the MSC, the withholding of federal funds further complicates and impedes WMATA's ability to complete the very safety improvements USDOT, FTA and the Northern Virginia business community agree are essential.

Secretary Foxx's February 9, 2017 deadline was arbitrary and did not take into consideration the fact that the Virginia and Maryland legislatures meet for only a couple of months at the beginning of each calendar year.

Currently, both houses of the Virginia legislature, with the Northern Virginia business community's assistance to ensure clean passage, have adopted corresponding versions of MSC legislation for signature by Governor McAuliffe, which is expected this week. Maryland's MSC legislation is expected to be enacted in the coming weeks. The District has already enacted the MSC.

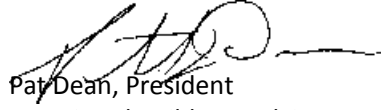
In consideration of the progress each WMATA jurisdiction has made toward establishment of MSC, we request that USDOT/FTA suspend the decision to withhold federal Urbanized Area funds, extend the deadline to establish the MSC to July 1, 2017 and allow WMATA to use these funds to continue to move forward in implementing necessary and vital safety upgrades.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Brian M. Gordon, MPA, VP of Government Affairs
Apartment and Office Building Association



Pat Dean, President
Associated Builders and Contractors – VA



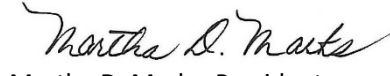
James N. Larsen, Executive Director & CEO
Dulles Area Transportation Association



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



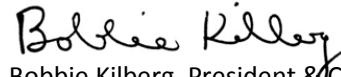
James C. Dinegar, President & CEO
Greater Washington Board of Trade



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



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



Bobbie Kilberg, President & CEO
Northern Virginia Technology Council



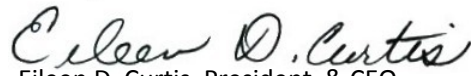
Deborah Jones, President & CEO
Prince William Chamber of Commerce



Kate Bates, President & CEO
Arlington Chamber of Commerce



Dennis Drinkard, President
Committee for Dulles



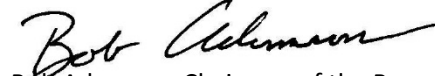
Eileen D. Curtis, President & CEO
Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce



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



Anthony Howard, President & CEO
Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce



Bob Adamson, Chairman of the Board
Northern Virginia Association of Realtors®



Jim Corcoran, President & CEO
Northern Virginia Chamber of Chamber
Commerce



Evan Pritchard, Chairman of the Board
Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance

Cc: Governor Terry McAuliffe
Secretary Aubrey Layne, Virginia Department of Transportation
Senator Mark Warner (VA)
Senator Tim Kaine (VA)
Representative Barbara Comstock (VA)
Representative Gerry Connolly (VA)
Representative Don Beyer (VA)