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3-13-10

Good morning, my name is Nicole Davies. I live in Alexandria and I would like to comment on funding for WMATA and DASH in the 2011 fiscal year. I am urging the City Council to contribute more funding to WMATA. I would like the Council to advertise a real estate property tax rate high enough to accommodate additional funding for WMATA. If you do not advertise a high rate, then this option will not be available for everyone to review. We do not want to close ourselves off from this option.

I also believe that dedicated funding for WMATA is important. I would hate to see what traffic would be like if we did not have the option of taking Metrobus or Metrorail. Without these options, more people would be forced to drive everywhere. Our roads and highways would need additional maintenance, and everyone will end up spending more time in traffic congestion. That being said, I believe the Metro benefits everyone in this region, including those who primarily drive since the Metro reduces the amount of cars on the road. A lack of funding and dedicated revenue for WMATA leads to service cuts, which leads to increased traffic on our roads, which ultimately leads to increased spending on road maintenance. If the money has to be spent anyways, why not spend it on a transit mode that is very efficient and eco-friendly?

Also, I would like the City Council to restore full funding to DASH for the 2011 fiscal year. DASH is a wonderful system and many people depend on it to help them get to and from work. Without proper funding of DASH, many City residents will lose their primary source of transportation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.