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# NVTC

**Northern Virginia Transportation Commission**

# NVTC

January 6, 2011

The Honorable Robert F. McDonnell, Governor  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
Patrick Henry Building, Third Floor  
1111 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor McDonnell:

The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission has authorized me to summarize a productive series of discussions regarding governance reforms for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority. Your Secretary of Transportation, Sean Connaughton, contacted NVTC to convey your desire for the Commonwealth of Virginia to have a greater role in ensuring the success of WMATA. Several state and local members of NVTC's board met with DRPT Director Thelma Drake and members of her staff on three separate occasions to consider how best to accomplish your request.

As a result of these productive discussions, the local government members of NVTC wish to summarize the outcome from their perspective:

The local government members of NVTC's board believe there is value in having the Commonwealth participate in the oversight of WMATA and welcome the Commonwealth as a partner in addressing various operating and capital challenges, including the safety, reliability, increase funding and long-term viability of the transit system on which our region and the Commonwealth so critically depend. These local members are willing to support appointment of a representative of the Commonwealth to the WMATA Board, but not at the expense of current local representation.

This local representation is critical, since the local governments interact with WMATA on a daily basis on a variety of local issues (including location of facilities, facility improvements, land use, transit-oriented development and levels of service) and also are responsible for providing funding to close WMATA's budget shortfalls. Further, WMATA's effectiveness depends on a close coordination with local transit services.



There is an immediacy to the effect of rail, bus, and paratransit operations to the local community that is felt much more acutely in Northern Virginia than in Richmond, far from the communities Metro serves. Citizens affected by delays, or by Metro-related construction, or operational changes like bus stop relocations will call their local officials and expect action.

NVTC's local representatives believe that your request should be addressed in the context of amendments to the WMATA Compact related to the composition of the WMATA Board and other issues. As part of the discussion of these amendments, NVTC's local representatives would like to reach an understanding with the Commonwealth on how positions will be determined on an expanded WMATA Board of Directors in a manner that will ensure a unified Virginia approach.

NVTC's local representatives pledge to work in good faith to bring about such an agreement by April 1, 2011 and thereafter to actively support its passage in the other Compact jurisdictions and the Congress.

In the interim, we will continue to work with your representatives through NVTC on a regular, on-going basis to ensure that your concerns on WMATA matters are addressed appropriately by the Board of Directors.

Thank you for your interest in enhancing the WMATA system. We look forward to continued productive discussions with you and your representatives that will lead to prompt and effective Compact amendments.

Sincerely,

  
William D. Euille  
NVTC Chairman

cc: The Honorable Sean Connaughton  
The Honorable Thelma Drake  
NVTC Chief Administrative Officers  
Richard Sarles, WMATA General Manager