

Statement of Richard Sarles

Chief Executive Officer/General Manager

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Before the Council of the District of Columbia

Committee on Public Works and Transportation

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Good morning, Chairman Wells and other members of the Committee and staff, my name is Richard Sarles and I am the Chief Executive Officer/General Manager of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) commonly known as Metro. It is a pleasure to appear before the committee today to discuss Metro's Fiscal Year 2010 year-end financials and the status of our budget at the mid-point of Fiscal Year 2011. Let me for the record introduce the Metro staff with me today who will assist in answering the committee's questions. We have Ms. Carol Kissal the Deputy General Manager for Administration and Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Matthew Brown, Managing Director of Budget Services; Mr. Dave Kubicek the Deputy General Manager for Operations; Mr. Jack Requa, Assistant General Manager for Bus; Mr. Nat Bottigheimer, Assistant General

Manager for Planning and Joint Development; Chief Michael Taborn of the Metro Transit Police; and Ms. Barbara Richardson, Assistant General Manager for Customer Service, Communications and Marketing.

Before, I get into the budget and spending details for Fiscal Year 2010 and the first half of Fiscal Year 2011 let me take a moment to update you on the current situation in regard to our PRIIA funding. As you know, the House version of the federal Fiscal Year 2011 continuing resolution eliminated the \$150 million of PRIIA funding. The PRIIA legislation required our local partners – the District of Columbia, the State of Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia to match the federal funds by providing \$50 million each for a total additional \$150 million. Therefore the elimination of the federal funding could jeopardize the entire \$300 million.

On a more positive note, the Senate Appropriations Committee version of the bill released last Friday restores the PRIIA funding.

I want to assure the Council and the citizens of the District of Columbia that we are working diligently to ensure that the \$150 million is restored in the final version of the continuing resolution. Metro's Board of Directors, our senior

leadership, our government relations team and I are all engaged in the effort to preserve those critically needed capital dollars. We are very grateful for the letter of support from Mayor Gray. We also received letters of support from Governors O'Malley and McDonnell.

And, Mr. Chairman, I certainly want to thank you, other members of the Council and the District of Columbia representatives on the Metro Board for supporting our efforts to secure the full federal appropriations.