

NVTC Urges Establishment of Metro Safety Commission

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Resolution Exhorts Commonwealth to Work Collaboratively with the District of Columbia and Maryland to Avoid Loss of Federal Transit Funds

As the General Assembly prepares to convene, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) today, in a unanimous vote, called upon the Commonwealth to act expeditiously to form a Metro Safety Commission (MSC). The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has given Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia until February 9 to pass identical legislation establishing the MSC as an independent agency charged with oversight of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). FTA, which currently oversees WMATA, has indicated it is prepared to withhold a percentage of federal transit funds should the deadline not be met. Those funds support transit in urban areas throughout the Commonwealth, not just Northern Virginia.

"Ensuring the safety of Metrorail is paramount and demands immediate action," said NVTC Chairman Jay Fiset. "Only an independent body with the authority to mandate change can get Metro back on track. Given the benefits that accrue from Metro's presence, the region must provide the leadership and resources necessary to

Press Release

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"Only an independent body with the authority to mandate change can get Metro back on track. Given the benefits that accrue from Metro's presence, the region must provide the leadership and resources necessary to establish and support the MSC."

Jay Fiset, NVTC
 Chairman

View the NVTC Resolution in Support of the MSC

NVTC works to ensure that businesses and residents are served by a high capacity, high quality network of transit systems that allows the region to thrive. It funds and promotes transit in the counties of Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun and the cities of

jurisdictions."

FTA assumed responsibility for Metro oversight in October 2015 following a smoke incident at L'Enfant Plaza. The move followed a FTA determination that the Tri-State Oversight Commission was no longer capable of providing adequate safety oversight of WMATA. A bill passed by Congress last year granted the transportation secretary authority to withhold 5 percent of transit-related capital funding to a state or a group of jurisdictions if their regional safety oversight agency is deemed inadequate. In the Commonwealth, that could amount to as much as \$6 million.

NVTC, which appoints Virginia's members of the WMATA Board of Directors, adopted a legislative and policy agenda last month supporting the establishment of the MSC in order to "enhance the safety and security of riders and systems in the region through diligent oversight."

local bus systems (ART, CUE, DASH, Fairfax Connector, Loudoun County Transit), WMATA (Metrorail/Metrobus) and the Virginia Railway Express. Visit www.NoVaTransit.org or call 703-524-3322 to learn more.

Vist NVTC's Website

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