



March 18, 2020

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Mark R. Warner
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tim Kaine
231 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Gerald Connolly
2238 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
1705 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Don Beyer
1119 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
412 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jennifer Wexton
1217 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anthony Brown
1323 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
2136 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Trone
1213 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of the Congressional delegation for the National Capital Region:

As Congress works to address the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, I write to request your urgent assistance to deal with the dire financial circumstances we face as WMATA takes extraordinary steps to protect the health and safety of riders and employees while maintaining essential services for the Nation's Capital.

Metro activated its Pandemic Task Force, guided by the Centers for Disease Control protocols, on January 29, 2020. As of March 13, we are operating at Phase 3 of our Pandemic Flu Plan - the highest level of response - and we expect to be at Phase 3 until further notice.

Today, we began a much reduced, lifeline service to ensure we can protect our frontline employees, while maintaining regional mobility for essential trips taken by hospital staff, local and United States government officials, and emergency responders. The reduction

**Washington
Metropolitan Area
Transit Authority**

600 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
202/962-1234

wmata.com

*A District of Columbia,
Maryland and Virginia
Transit Partnership*

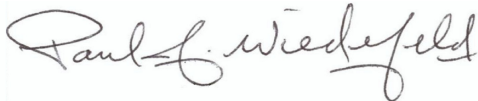
takes into account the urgent public guidance from regional leaders, along with emergency orders to cancel events, close schools and offices, and limit social gatherings across the nation. We are grateful for the leadership of Governors Hogan and Northam and Mayor Bowser. Our region is speaking with one voice: stay home and travel only if essential.

While all of these steps are critical, they come with high costs. Over the last couple of months, Metro purchased critical items and personal protective equipment (PPE) for front-line employees (i.e. hospital-grade disinfectant, wipes, face masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer) and expanded use of disinfectants for increased cleaning of Metro vehicles and equipment, totaling \$17 million. Today, Metro has lost 85% of its ridership, with limited reduction in operating cost as we continue to provide a vital service for whom public transit is the only means of transportation, as well as our health care workers and first responders. The result of this significant drop in ridership and revenue is that WMATA is experiencing about \$52 million or more each month in revenue loss in addition to increased cost.

Federal assistance is critical to help us offset the direct costs and revenue losses we are facing. We need support for transit operations, but traditional transit formulas are not designed to address our unique circumstances. We need immediate operating funding to address this unprecedented loss of \$52 million a month.

I request your support in securing this emergency funding for WMATA so that we may continue to fulfill our critical role in safely providing lifeline service throughout the National Capital Region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul J. Wiedefeld". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Paul J. Wiedefeld
General Manager and
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: The Honorable Larry Hogan, Governor, State of Maryland
The Honorable Ralph Northam, Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia
The Honorable Muriel Bowser, Mayor, District of Columbia