



February 4, 2019

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Mr. Paul Wiedefeld
General Manager
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
600 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Preventive Maintenance Program and Metrorail Hours of Service

Dear Mr. Wiedefeld:

The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission's (NVTC) Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Committee¹ wishes to convey our support for Metrorail service hours that allow the Preventive Maintenance program to have adequate time to keep Metrorail safe and reliable while also staying within current operational funding constraints.

We are concerned that cutting back on these overnight work hours in FY2020 would curtail WMATA's Preventive Maintenance program, which is just beginning to yield dividends in terms of safety and reduced track incidents. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) recently stated clearly that an increase in Metrorail's service hours would cause FTA to revisit both previously-closed corrective action plans (CAPs) and pending CAPs whose findings and mitigations were based on the current hours of service. Further, we are deeply concerned that any increase in Metrorail's hours of service would produce a jurisdictional subsidy increase that is above the legislatively-mandated three percent operating cap, thereby triggering a withholding of state funds that our jurisdictions use to pay their obligations to WMATA.

NVTC's WMATA Committee shares your long-term goal of using investments in technology and work processes to increase efficiencies, reduce the demand for overnight work time, and enable WMATA to expand service hours without impacting safety or service reliability. As the Preventive Maintenance program matures, we look forward to future discussions about accommodating the demand for late night service while maintaining a safe Metrorail system.

Sincerely,

Catherine M. Hudgins
NVTC WMATA Committee Chair

¹ NVTC's WMATA Committee includes the Virginia members of the WMATA Board and serves as a forum to provide our Board Members with guidance from across the NVTC region.