



RESOLUTION #2324

SUBJECT: Support of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Metro Safety Commission (MSC)

WHEREAS: NVTC's strategic goals include the promotion of safe, reliable, and financially sound performance of WMATA's Metrorail system;

WHEREAS: NVTC's 2017 Federal and State Legislative and Policy Agenda supports the establishment of the MSC as a means to enhance the safety and security of riders in the region;

WHEREAS: Title 49 Chapter 53 of United States Code contains federal statutory requirements for public transportation safety programs and State Safety Oversight Agencies (SSOAs) that require heavy rail systems to have a legally and financially independent safety oversight agency;

WHEREAS: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) determined that WMATA's SSOA, the Tri-State Oversight Committee (TOC), does not possess adequate enforcement authority necessary to meet certification requirements for SSOAs;

WHEREAS: On October 15, 2016, the FTA assumed temporary federal oversight of WMATA's State Safety Oversight program until a SSOA is established and certified to meet federal safety requirements;

WHEREAS: If the U.S. Secretary of Transportation determines that a State Safety Oversight program is not being carried out in accordance with federal law, FTA may withhold Section 5307 funding to transit agencies in the state;

WHEREAS: Due to the unique multi-state nature of the WMATA Metrorail system, the MSC must be established through an interstate compact, which will require that identical legislation be passed in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia; and


WHEREAS: In February 2016, United States Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx informed the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia that if the MSC is not established and certified by February 9, 2017, the FTA is prepared to begin withholding Section 5307 funds until the MSC is certified as the SSOA for WMATA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission hereby urges the Commonwealth to work collaboratively with the District of Columbia and Maryland to establish the MSC as WMATA's SSOA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NVTC encourages the Commonwealth to act expeditiously in order to minimize disruptions to transit operations statewide and prevent the withholding of Section 5307 funds.

Approved this 1st day of December 2016.


Paul C. Smedberg
Secretary-Treasurer


Jay Fisetle
Chairman