



## RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION

**SUBJECT:** Commend DRPT Director Jennifer Mitchell and Former Delegate James LeMunyon for Their Efforts to Help Establish the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission

**WHEREAS:** In 2012, Congress passed the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), requiring all states with rail transit systems to identify or establish an independent agency to ensure that the rail transit systems within their borders adhered to a new safety framework, with a deadline of April 15, 2019 to establish an agency to handle the new safety oversight responsibilities and receive federal certification of the oversight program;

**WHEREAS:** In the 2017 General Assembly Session, Delegate James LeMunyon introduced HB2136 (2017), authorizing Virginia to become a signatory to the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission Interstate Compact, which established an independent state safety oversight authority for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Rail System, and was signed into law on March 24, 2017;

**WHEREAS:** During this same time, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) Director Jennifer Mitchell served as an unofficial leader for the regional development of Washington Metrorail Safety Commission (WMSC) enabling legislation, using her expertise to help negotiate compromises between Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia to ensure deadlines were met and the requirements of each jurisdiction were reflected in the legislation;

**WHEREAS:** Delegate LeMunyon and Director Mitchell's swift actions during the legislative development phase demonstrated to the U.S. Department of Transportation and the local and congressional delegations that progress was being made on passing the legislation;

**WHEREAS:** In Spring and Summer 2017, the Commonwealth of Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia jointly crafted an agreement creating the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission to serve as the state safety oversight agency for the Metrorail system, followed by Congress formally approving the compact which was ratified in August 2017;

**WHEREAS:** Director Mitchell continued to play an instrumental role in establishing the WMSC by assisting with the development of the Interstate Compact and the WMSC Bylaws and operating policies, and by helping to create a timeline and process to recruit Board members and staff and to elect officers, which culminated in the first WMSC meeting on February 7, 2018; and

**WHEREAS:** On March 18, 2019, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) certified the State Safety Oversight (SSO) Program of the WMSC, which is now responsible for overseeing and enforcing safety practices on Metrorail; reviews and approves WMATA's Metrorail safety plans and operations to ensure the rail system complies with federal and state safety rules and regulations; and identifies safety deficiencies and oversees WMATA's efforts to address deficiencies.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission hereby commends DRPT Director Jennifer Mitchell and former Delegate James LeMunyon for their efforts to help establish the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NVTC** prepare copies of this resolution for presentation to Jennifer Mitchell and James LeMunyon as an expression of its gratitude and in appreciation of their work to make the Metro system safer for all commuters in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region.

Approved this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May 2019.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Letourneau".

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Matthew F. Letourneau  
Chairman