



OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN MENDELSON
COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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CONTACT: Lindsey Walton
lwalt@dccouncil.us

CHAIRMAN MENDELSON STATEMENT ON MWCOC RESOLUTION APPROVING METRO FUNDING

WASHINGTON, DC – D.C. Council Chairman Phil Mendelson was disappointed with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' vote this morning to approve the amendment resolution for a new funding plan for Metro.

"This amendment is neither fair nor equitable to the District," Mendelson said. "DC should not be required to subsidize the region in the name of regional unity. A regional system deserves a regional tax. That's what every other city does. The New York City area has a regional sales tax that includes the City and the seven adjacent counties. San Francisco has a sales tax, as do its two adjacent counties. Richmond and Annapolis don't want to raise taxes in their states, so they expect the District to pay more."

The amendment resolution proposes that new long term funding should be allocated through $\frac{1}{4}$ shares of the \$500 million annual increased contribution, with the Federal government allocating $\frac{1}{4}$ in addition to the local shares. This presumes the federal government will commit to an equal share, which is unreliable and unbondable, given the federal Anti-Deficiency Act.

"Our position, that there should be a uniform regional tax, is hardly unreasonable," Mendelson added. "Allocating shares among the three states is not fair, because it favors and disfavors jurisdictions on a per capita basis. The District would pay a quarter of the funding, while making up only 15% of the region's population. The cost to District residents is at least double the cost to most of our regional neighbors. That is not fair. A regional system benefits the whole region, the riders and non-riders alike."