



OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN MENDELSON
COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Friday March 23, 2018

CONTACT: Lindsey Walton
lwalton@dccouncil.us

RAISING TAXES FOR METRO?

Proposed Budget Uses Funds for Other Purposes

WASHINGTON, DC – The regional agreement for new capital funding to help Metro will commence in 2020, not 2019, per the Mayor’s proposed FY2019 budget.

However, taxpayers will begin paying the new taxes this fall. But the money won’t go to Metro for another year.

Instead of siding with Virginia to urge Maryland to start now, the proposed budget sides with Maryland to urge Virginia to wait a year. And then it uses the first year’s monies to free up funds that can now be used for other, unrelated, and unspecified purposes in the \$14.4 billion District budget.

“I think it is wrong to take the tax increase of \$77 million intended to help Metro and instead use all of it for projects unrelated to Metro,” said Chairman Phil Mendelson.

Two years ago WMATA identified over \$25 billion in unfunded capital needs to reach a state of good repair and improve ridership capacity. Regional officials agreed to fund \$15 billion of this need over the next 10 years. Dedicated funding totaling \$500 million annually from Maryland, Virginia and the District would enable WMATA to borrow \$1.5 billion each year – starting slow and ramping up over the 10-year period – to equal the \$15 billion.

“Delaying the District’s contribution means just that – delaying the help WMATA needs,” said Mendelson.