

**SUMMARY OF ISSUES
PUBLIC COMMENT
METRO FUNDING PANEL – OCTOBER 19, 2004**

Public comments covered a broad range of topics – many of them contrary or inconsistent. For example, testimony both favored (Washington Airports Task Force; Dulles Corridor Rail Association) and questioned (Landowners Workgroup) the proposed extension to Dulles Airport. Similarly, some testimony requested priority be given to better funding of highway and bridge projects, in lieu of or in addition to transit funding (Landowners Workgroup; Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance).

In general however, testimony was favorable to increased funding for transit, and in particular for dedicated sources of revenue.

- Several presenters cautioned that Maryland funding must remain statewide and through the Transportation Trust (Action Committee for Transit; Chesapeake Bay Foundation; Maryland Transit Coalition).
- About half of the presenters urged against additional reliance on the farebox for additional revenue (e.g., New Transit Riders; Washington Regional Network for Livable Communities; Sierra Club, etc.)
- Several presenters suggest that the most preferable sources of dedicated revenue should also encourage ridership or discourage automobile reliance, such as gas tax, parking fees, or consumption charges (e.g., Washington Regional Network; Chesapeake Bay Foundation). However, some testimony suggested greater farebox reliance – a market-based rather than social based concept of income (e.g., Washington Airports Task Force).
- Several presenters indicated a need for greater management accountability in lieu of or as a condition for increased funding (e.g., Sierra Club; McGuirl; Breakthrough technologies Institute; Landowners Workgroup). Some specifically wanted a change in governance, including public or stakeholder directors (Washington Regional Network; Americas Institute).
- About half of the presenters requested the ability to present public comment at a later date (e.g., New Transit Riders Group; Action Committee for Transit; Chesapeake Bay Foundation; Maryland Transit Coalition).