



FAQ: Independent Review of WMATA

What? Former U.S. DOT Secretary Ray LaHood will lead an objective, top-down review of WMATA. Virginia is paying for this independent review but no jurisdiction will control the review. Governor McAuliffe has talked with Governor Hogan who is supportive of this effort and has reached out to Mayor Bowser. Secretary LaHood is a respected leader and transportation expert that can bring an objective look at this situation without the bias of any jurisdiction.

Why? WMATA is critical for the Washington, D.C. region – moving more than one million people a day. It provides key connectivity between Maryland, the District and Virginia, and removes hundreds of thousands of vehicles a day from the region’s congested roadways.

Unfortunately, WMATA today has significant problems that hinder its ability to serve this region’s residents and businesses. This did not happen overnight. It is the result of decades worth of decisions.

Ensuring WMATA is a world-class transit system will help ensure the Washington region remains an economically vibrant region.

How? It is a review that will benchmark WMATA’s performance and condition relative to its peers to help identify potential reforms that will improve WMATA. Everything will be looked at, including operating, governance, and financial conditions.

The review will:

- Undertake a strategic assessment of WMATA reviewing Board governance, labor policies, and its long-term financial stability;
- Benchmark WMATA organization conditions relative to comparable transit systems across the country on key issues over time such as system costs and expenses, governance, funding levels, cost recovery, maintenance costs, and rail safety incidents;
- Develop recommendations for potential WMATA reforms, including mitigating growth in annual operating costs and sustainable funding; and,
- Identify recommended executive and legislation actions.

The review will be conducted over the coming months and a final report will be issued in November 2017.

Our region needs and deserves these answers. This review will help provide the information necessary to make the hard decisions to make WMATA a system that delivers for the entire region.