



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

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**Supervisor Pat Herrity**

**Board Matter**

**October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Request for Information on Feasibility of WMATA Financial Control Board**

**Background:** Mr. Chairman, our Board has long celebrated the economic benefits and lamented the financial burden on our residents of funding to Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). There is broad agreement that [WMATA](#) is the hub of our local economy and has become “too important to fail.”

While WMATA provides necessary transportation options for many of our residents, over the years the fiscal burden has grown significantly. For our residents, WMATA’s shortfalls impact more than just our transportation funding. These shortfalls necessitate larger and larger contributions by our taxpayers, tying up the 26 percent of our non-FCPS bond capacity, and impacting our ability to fund other necessary capital projects including parks, senior centers, recreation centers, schools and roads. Annually, WMATA is a significant piece of the County budget, accounting for \$63 million in the general fund and **\$278 million in disbursements** as part of the FY 2025 budget.

While I commend WMATA for some of the steps it has taken to solidify its financial standing, many of our residents, including former Congressman Frank Wolf, and I believe WMATA would benefit from greater oversight in the form of a Financial Control Board model.

As explained more fully in the attached op-ed, ([WMATA needs Anthony Williams - Washington Times](#)) the District of Columbia utilized a financial control board in 1995 to help the city move from repeated deficits to a balanced budget. The financial control board had the directive to balance the district’s budget within a set timeframe and was given various authorities to oversee spending decisions.

**Motion:** Therefore, I move without objection that the County Executive prepare a briefing for the Board on the feasibility, cost, benefits, challenges and process of instituting a Financial Control Board for WMATA, including other examples of financial control boards.