



**Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
HB 467 – Metro Funding Modification Act of 2025
SUPPORT**

The City of Rockville is thankful to Chair Barnes and the members of the House Appropriations Committee for the opportunity to provide written comments in support of HB 467. We thank Delegate Korman for sponsoring this important legislation, which aligns with our Economic Development, Affordable Housing, and Climate Action Plan goals.

The Rockville Mayor and Council unanimously support HB 467, which would index to inflation the \$500 million in Metro funding that is shared between Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The legislation would take effect when Virginia and the District of Columbia enact similar laws. This legislation is vital to the region. WMATA rail and bus systems are key drivers of economic competitiveness and community livability. Increasing WMATA’s resources would support further progress as they work to upgrade their infrastructure and equipment and advance efforts to improve the safety of their services.

WMATA is critical to the Rockville community and its transportation network. Numerous WMATA bus routes run through our City neighborhoods. Further, the Twinbrook and Rockville Metro stations are located within the City, and the Shady Grove Metro station is near our borders. Metro transport provides safe and environmentally sustainable transportation for those who walk, bike, and roll. Additionally, Metro stations support transit oriented development and attract economic investment in Rockville and in other jurisdictions in Maryland.

In the City, there are opportunities and activities near Rockville Metro stations. On December 16, 2024, the Mayor and Council adopted a WMATA study concept (Concept I Plan) that furthers the vision of the Rockville Station to become an iconic gateway and multi-modal hub that connects the greater area, enhances the experience of downtown Rockville as a destination, and maximizes safety for commuters and residents. The Mayor and Council requested that WMATA move forward with the necessary processes to proceed with the joint development of its properties at the station. This project will enhance wayfinding in our Town Center and facilitate the construction of hundreds of new housing units. We are very excited about the opportunities and amenities this project would bring to our community.

Phase 1 of the Twinbrook Quarter Development, near to the Twinbrook Metro, opened in October of 2024 and includes a 452 unit multi-family development and an 80,000 square feet space for a Wegmans supermarket, which is anticipated to open in June of 2025.

Additionally, the site includes 25,000 square feet of small shop retail space. It is anticipated that the retail shops will open throughout 2025.

In the spring of 2025, the Mayor and Council are scheduled to discuss the adoption of an annexation plan for the Shady Grove Metro Station and CSX properties and to schedule a public hearing date. This Metro station is close to our borders. The examples noted in these comments are a sample of the broad activity occurring in the City and demonstrate the importance of Metro presence in and near Rockville.

HB 467 is an important step forward in that it continues the regional collaboration and support of WMATA, which benefits our local economies and provides critical transportation services to our community, and supports transit oriented development. With the significant changes at the Federal level, it is increasingly important to make smart investments that support economic development, livability, environmental sustainability, and increased housing stock. For these reasons, we urge the Committee to provide HB 467 with a favorable report.