

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority is a governmental agency created by an Interstate Compact entered into by and between the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the District of Columbia with the consent of Congress. Maryland ratified the Compact by Chapter 869, Acts of 1965.

The Authority was created to plan, finance, and develop a regional rapid transit system for the national capital area. Congress and the General Assemblies of Maryland and Virginia enlarged this purpose to include the ownership and operation of all mass transit bus facilities in the Washington region. All of these facilities were acquired by February 4, 1973 (Chapter 776, Acts of 1971). Legislation was passed by Congress and signed by the President on June 4, 1976 (P.L. 94-306), to approve a compact amendment passed by the Maryland and Virginia General Assemblies in 1974. This law authorized the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to establish and maintain a regular police force for the protection of its patrons, personnel, and property (Maryland, Chapter 586, Acts of 1974; Virginia, Chapter 576, Acts of 1974).

The Authority is controlled by a six-member Board of Directors (and six Alternate Directors). Each of the three signatories to the Compact appoints two members. Maryland members are appointed by the Washington Suburban Transit Commission. Virginia members are appointed by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission. District of Columbia members are appointed by the District of Columbia City Council. Board members and alternates serve terms coterminous with their service as members of their appointing bodies.

The chief administrative officer is the General Manager, who is responsible for all activities of the Authority subject to policy direction by the Board (Code Transportation Article, secs. 10-202 through 10-204).

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

Commissioners:

Patricia W. Clement, *District of Columbia*; Lilo K. Schifter, *Maryland*; Preston C. Shannon, *Virginia*.

William H. McGilvery, *Executive Director*

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The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission was established in 1961 to regulate privately-owned transportation facilities in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan District. The Commission was created by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact, an agreement among Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia. Maryland ratified the Compact in 1959 (Chapter 613, Acts of 1959). The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit District, also created by the Compact, embraces the District of Columbia, the cities of Alexandria and Falls Church, and Arlington and Fairfax counties in Virginia, and Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland.

The Commission is composed of three members. One member is appointed by the Governor of Maryland, one by the Governor of Virginia, and one by the Mayor of the District of Columbia. Each Commissioner's term coincides with his term of office in the agency from which he is selected. The Commission selects its own officers.

The Commission has the power to prescribe fares, regulations, and practices of transportation companies and interstate taxicabs in the area.

Expenses of the Commission are allocated annually in proportion to the population of each signatory in the Metropolitan District. Maryland's share is forty-five percent (Code 1957, Art. 41, secs. 257-307).