

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 in 1965 (Chapter 869, Acts of 1965).

The Authority was created to plan, finance, and develop a regional rapid transit system for the national capital area. That metrorail system, known as Metro, opened in 1976 with a single line less than five miles long. Metro now is a 78-mile rail system of five lines, serving 67 stations linking Maryland, Washington, DC, and Virginia. Upon completion, the system will be 103 miles long.

Congress, the General Assemblies of Maryland and Virginia, and the City Council of the District of Columbia have authorized the Authority to acquire and operate all mass transit bus facilities in the Washington, DC, region. The Authority also maintains a regular police force to protect patrons, personnel, and property.

The Authority is governed by a six-member Board of Directors (and six alternate directors). Each Compact signatory appoints two members. Maryland members are appointed by the Washington Suburban Transit Commission from among its own members. 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 Authority's chief administrative officer is the General Manager (Code Transportation Article, secs. 10-202 through 10-204).

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

*Chairperson: Patricia M. Worthy, 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 the commercial transportation of passengers in the Washington, DC, 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; Arlington and Fairfax counties in Virginia; and Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland.

The Commission prescribes fares, regulations, and practices of transportation companies and interstate taxicabs in the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit District.

Expenses of the Commission are allocated annually in proportion to the population of each signatory in the Metropolitan District. Maryland's share in fiscal year 1991 was 45.2 percent.

The Commission has three members. One is appointed by the Governor of Maryland from the Maryland Public Service Commission. The Governor of Virginia appoints one from the Virginia State Corporation Commission. One is appointed by the Mayor of the District of Columbia from the District Public Service Commission. Each member's term coincides with the term of office in the agency from which the member is selected (Code Transportation Article, sec. 10-203).