



**Testimony of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City
April 26, 2010**

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**PUBLIC OVERSIGHT HEARING ON
FY 2010-2011 BUDGET
THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Chairman Graham and Members of the Committee:

I am Meg Maguire, convener of the sub-committee on transportation of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on funding for Metro and streetcars. Our testimony rests on a long record of strong, consistent advocacy for mass transit.

The Committee of 100 believes that a well-designed system of streetcars can spur economic development, connect neighborhoods, and complement Metrorail and Metrobus. As we understand from the Office of Budget and Planning, DDOT proposes to fund the next phase of streetcar development by reprogramming \$63 million:

- \$30 million from Budget Support Act funds including \$20 million from Great Streets and \$10 million from EMS, fire station and school modernizations;
- \$28.6 million from Metrobus and Metrorail under the old Metro Matters agreement; and
- \$ 4.4 million from the close out of old WMATA projects.

We ask the Mayor and Council to provide more information about which fire stations and school projects will be delayed, and to assess the wisdom of postponing any projects for which there is both a public need and expectation.

We oppose reprogramming urgently needed funds for Metro, the top transportation priority for the city and the region. By reserving these funds for Metro, DC strengthens its position with Maryland and Virginia to ensure support of this once-proud system.

Planning the Streetcar System

We know that the budget is exceptionally tight this year. Nevertheless, we ask you to add funds in DDOT's budget to plan the streetcar system before the District rushes to build it. Streetcar planning can avoid expensive, unintended consequences. As an example, a number of tentative routes are on