

monwealth of Virginia constitute a highly developed and integrated metropolitan area, and its economic well-being and the comfort and welfare of the citizens thereof require free and easy movement of persons and vehicles within the area; and

Whereas, the movement of persons and vehicles within the metropolitan area is being hampered by the congestion of traffic in all areas of the metropolitan area and by the lack of adequate and coordinated mass transit facilities; and

Whereas, such conditions, which will be aggravated by the continued growth and expansion of the metropolitan area, imperil the safety of the public and constitute a serious impediment to the safe, adequate and speedy travel to and from their homes and places of employment of persons living in such areas and persons traveling through such areas, and occasion great economic loss; and

Whereas, such conditions stem in part from the fact that responsibility for dealing with the problems involved is divided among the District of Columbia, State of Maryland, Commonwealth of Virginia and Federal Government, and from the lack of an area-wide basic policy on the movement of persons and vehicles; and

Whereas, the elimination of unnecessary transit and traffic problems is of prime importance to the people of the metropolitan area and travelers through the area; and

Whereas, the National Capital Planning Commission and the National Capital Regional Planning Council, agencies of the Government of the United States, have undertaken, with the assistance and cooperation of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of Maryland, and the District of Columbia, a comprehensive study of the mass transit requirements for the metropolitan area, and

Whereas, the regulation of transit on a coordinated basis throughout the area without regard to political and legal jurisdictional boundaries through the cooperation of the States of Maryland and Virginia and the District of Columbia by and through a common agency, with the advice and assistance of all agencies of local government whose activities affect the movement of persons and vehicles, is a proper and necessary step looking towards the alleviation of transit and traffic problems in the metropolitan area,

NOW, THEREFORE,

The States of Maryland and Virginia and the District of Columbia, hereinafter referred to as signatories, do hereby covenant and agree as follows:

TITLE I

General Compact Provisions

ARTICLE I

259. There is hereby created the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit District, hereinafter referred to as Metropolitan District, which shall embrace the District of Columbia, the cities of Alexandria and Falls Church, the counties of Arlington and Fairfax, and political subdivisions of the State of Virginia located within those counties,