

## **Washington Suburban Transit Commission (WSTC)**

**Compliance Report:** Lobbying

**Reporting Period:** Calendar Year 2022

Following the 2020 Regular Session of the Maryland General Assembly, House Bill 370 was enacted on May 8, 2020 as *Chapter 185 - Bicounty Commissions – Annual Reports – Conflicts of Interest and Lobbying - PG/MC 102–20* (hereafter Chapter 185, or Ch. 185) under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution. Chapter 185 requires each Maryland bicounty Commission to produce an annual report on lobbying before the bicounty commission and regulation of that lobbying during the previous calendar year, submit the report to the governing body of each county in which the bicounty commission operates, and publish the report on the bicounty Commission’s website.

### Lobbying Before the Washington Suburban Transit Commission

In Calendar Year 2022, the Washington Suburban Transit Commission (WSTC, or the Commission) as a body was not lobbied or approached with the intent of lobbying by an identified, regulated lobbyist or lobbying firm registered with the Maryland State Ethics Commission to discuss transportation or transit issues or topics in the Transit District (Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties).

The Commission received a briefing from Mr. Nino Vaghi at its December 14, 2022 semi-annual business meeting on a novel transit station/high-volume parking concept. Mr. Vaghi presented his Park-n-Rail™ concept to the WSTC with the hope of receiving an endorsement of his product from the Commission and the Commission’s assistance in securing a meeting for him with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. Mr. Vaghi is not a registered lobbyist, and his presentation would be most accurately described as a sales pitch, and not a lobbying effort. No food, drink, gifts, or funds were offered or provided by Mr. Vaghi to the Commission or the Commissioners.

### Lobbying of Commissioners

Commissioners were asked to report whether they were registered with the Maryland State Ethics Commission as a regulated lobbyist, and/or if they had been lobbied or approached with the intent of lobbying by an identified, regulated lobbyist or lobbying firm registered with the Maryland State Ethics Commission in Calendar Year 2022 to discuss transportation or transit issues or topics in the Transit District as a result of their official role as a Commissioner of the WSTC. All Commissioners responded that they were not registered, regulated lobbyists in Calendar Year 2022. Likewise, no Commissioners reported that they were lobbied or approached by a registered, regulated lobbyist or lobbying firm as a result of their position on the Commission in Calendar Year 2022.

The Commissioners of record of the Washington Suburban Transit Commission during Calendar Year 2022 included:

- Mr. Raymond Briscuso
- Col. Donald Drummer
- Mr. Michael Goldman
- Mr. Thomas Graham
- Hon. Thomas Hucker
- Secretary of Transportation James F. Ports
- Hon. Todd Turner

### Questions

Any questions, comments, or requests for additional information should be directed to:

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