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In response to Metro's announcement that a 40-year-old Red Line communications cable along a segment of the Red Line is in emergency need of replacement, ATU Local 689 releases the following statement:

Washington D.C. – December 13, 2017: “The defective 40-year old communications cable is as old as the Metro system itself, and serves as a reminder of the desperate need for a dedicated funding source and an improved transit experience for the riding public.

“It is time for Metro to secure dedicated funding and be honest with the public about the years of neglect that has brought us to this moment. WMATA’s practice of continuing to defer maintenance and outsource some maintenance work to private contractors, whose work is often identified as less than satisfactory by our members who then have to redo the work, has real-life consequences for the riding public and will lead to the demise of a transit system this region cannot go without.

“We are calling on our elected officials to reject Rep. Barbara Comstock’s (R-Va.) so-called "Metro Accountability and Reform Act" because it is only designed to demoralize Metro’s workforce and enrich private contractors, not improve the system. ATU Local 689 supports Rep. Anthony Brown’s (D-Md.) “WMATA Flexible Funding and Safety Improvement Act,” because it provides a realistic roadmap to correct the years of leadership failures at WMATA. Waiting a day longer only makes the state of the system worse, and the riding public deserves much better.”

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