

sense of normalcy after decades of division. Regrettably, intransigence on the Turkish Cypriot side remains a formidable obstacle to ending the artificial division of Cyprus. We must encourage and support the efforts of open-minded reformers. I am hopeful that negotiations will resume under the auspices of the United Nations Good Offices Mission for Cyprus and that a new generation of Cypriots will have the opportunity to exercise their fundamental freedoms, including freedom of movement, and enjoy economic prosperity in their own land.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ACT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my House colleague, Delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON today, in introducing the "Metropolitan Washington Regional Transportation Act."

No one would expect the road system and limited transit service that existed in the 1970s to serve us today. Yet much of the transportation infrastructure in this region was designed and built more than 30 years ago and has already reached the saturation point. A disruption on any single thoroughfare, be it rail or road, can overwhelm other roadways and shut down the entire region. Rush hour conditions in this region are becoming a 24-hour phenomenon. For more than a decade we have suffered some of the worst traffic congestion in the nation. According to the Greater Washington Board of Trade, this increased commuting time and congestion costs each man, woman, and child in the region close to \$1,600 for each rush-hour driver in lost time, wasted fuel, and environmental damage. Long commutes and traffic congestion have also become quality-of-life issues to area residents, robbing many families of the one commodity Washingtonians never seem to have enough of—time.

Some drivers facing a longer commute have even become a safety hazard as they race recklessly to cut a precious few minutes from their daily commute. For those who lack cars, the distance between employment opportunities and affordable housing has grown more and more difficult to traverse. Our economic prosperity and quality of life hinge on improving our congestion problem.

Unfortunately, as we look to the future the traffic situation only grows worse. Even with the increase in Federal funds that Virginia, Maryland and DC will receive under legislation reauthorizing Federal surface transportation programs, "TEA-21," this region will still fall seriously short of meeting the growing demand for transportation improvements. For the period of 1990 through 2020, this region can expect both a 43 percent increase in population and a 43 percent increase in employment. This growth and increased dependency on the automobile is expected to increase, by 79 percent, the number of vehicle miles traveled in the region by 2020. The Board of Trade estimates that transportation spending is expected to fall short of the region's transportation needs by more than \$500 million annually.

Any solution to current and future congestion demands strategic investment in both our road and mass transit system. It demands better land use and planning decisions and better interjurisdictional cooperation. And it also demands that this region come together and raise additional revenue to finance priority transportation projects that will provide immediate congestion relief. It may not be a popular idea, particularly in light of Northern Virginia's failed attempt to enact a regional sales tax for transportation improvements. I think the key to success, however, is with some healthy Federal incentives that encourage this region to do more.

The legislation I am introducing provides a new option to help the metropolitan Washington region more effectively address its transportation needs. It has seven key elements: it turns the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board into a regional transportation authority with the power to issue bonds, receive Federal grants and local funds; it directs the new authority to develop a list of critical congestion relief projects that have not been funded under current and forecasted Federal, State, or local transportation plans; it directs the authority within two years to contract out through the States, local governments or the private sector to build the approved list of projects; it allows tolls on interstate highways for the purposes of building more HOV and new HOT lanes; it grants consent to the metropolitan Washington region jurisdictions to enter into an interstate compact or agreement to create a more permanent authority that would help meet the region's long-term transportation needs; it provides \$100 million annually in Federal grants to leverage more State and local funds; and it provides \$5 million annually for expanding the network of non-motorized trails within the region.

This legislation provides the framework under which regional transportation needs could be addressed. It requires consultation with State and local officials at every level and in an effort to win State support, the legislation preciously guards State control of both the corporation and the authority through veto power. It does not raise anyone's taxes, but it does provide a mechanism or a "vehicle" through which the local jurisdictions could coordinate and commit future revenues to finance the construction of specific transportation projects that otherwise will not get built or built anytime soon.

The "Metropolitan Washington Regional Transportation Act" gives us a choice and helps start a debate on how we should take control and improve our future transportation system and improve our quality of life. Our failure to act and meet our transportation needs will have a much higher cost. The Board of Trade places the cumulative regional economic losses from the failure to meet our transportation needs in the year 2020 at between \$70.2 billion to \$182 billion. That economic loss includes: a 350 percent or \$345 million increase in shipping costs; \$1.3 billion to \$2.6 billion in higher warehousing and inventory costs; \$1,365 per household, per year, higher consumer costs; and more than \$1,000 per household, per year, in higher personal travel costs.

In the past, leaders from this region have shared a vision and worked together successfully to address important transportation needs, through such institutions as the Metro-

politan Washington Airports Authority, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, and the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. We need a similar vision to carry us forward another 30 years. The Metropolitan Washington Regional Transportation Act will help us craft this vision.

JOHN DAVID GARCIA

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share with you the personal motto of Deputy Constable John David Garcia, a brave law enforcement officer from Magnolia, Texas, who tragically lost his life in the line of duty one week ago today.

"Always do right. This will gratify some, and astonish the rest."

These words were written on the back of a Magnolia Deputy Constable's "officer trading card." What make these words so special are not only the meaning, but also the fact that this officer lived by them each day that he protected and served the people of Texas. Garcia was killed in a tragic car accident, on July 17, 2003 while patrolling just outside the city of Magnolia in Montgomery County, Texas.

Born July 25, 1969, Deputy Garcia was a young officer who began his career in law enforcement in 1997, and had been with Precinct 5 since 1999.

Everyone will remember John David Garcia differently. To some, he will be remembered as one of the finest officers in Constable David Hill's precinct—always giving 110 percent. All of Deputy Garcia's fellow law enforcement officers will remember him as a person who was eager and willing to serve, especially with his service to the Hispanic community in the area.

Most importantly, he is known as a loving husband, father, son, and friend. Deputy Garcia leaves behind his wife, Shannon, and 14-year-old daughter, Patricia. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends during this time.

Deputy Garcia's dedication and values are reflected in his personal creed and the life that creed embodied.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring the life and service of Deputy John David Garcia. All residents of Montgomery County, Texas and the 8th Congressional District are grateful for his service and dedication.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 29TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 29th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of the Republic of Cyprus, which occurred on July 20, 1974. It is my firm