

Mortimer L. Downey Bio
Chairman, Board of Directors
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority



Mortimer L. Downey, Chair, joined the Board in January 2010 as the first member appointed by the federal government and appointed as Board Chair in January 2015. Mr. Downey served as the U.S. Deputy Secretary of Transportation from 1993 to 2001 and as an Assistant Secretary of Transportation from 1977 to 1981. In 2008, he led the Obama transition agency review team for transportation. In all these periods, he was involved in issues affecting Metro. From 1981 to 1993, he was an officer of New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority, serving for several years as its Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer. Since 2001, he has been a transportation consultant, working on a wide variety of institutional, financial, and organizational issues for public and private clients both foreign and domestic. He holds a B.A. in political science from Yale University, a master's degree in Public Administration from New York University's Wagner School of Public Service, and completed the Advanced Management Program at the Harvard Business School. He has received numerous transportation awards, including one of the three lifetime achievement awards ever granted by the American Public Transportation Association. He is a resident of Oakton, VA.