

# Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

*One Region Moving Forward*

May 5, 2014

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Bowie  
Charles County  
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Fairfax County  
Falls Church  
Loudoun County  
Manassas  
Manassas Park  
Prince William County

\*Adjunct Member

Honorable Patrick Wojahn, Chair  
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board  
777 North Capitol Street, NE  
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Chair Wojahn:

On behalf of the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments I am writing in follow up to my letter of January 8 recommending that the Transportation Planning Board (TPB), when adopting the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan, identify cost-effective strategies and opportunities to reduce emissions to help meet the regional goals.

CEEPC realizes that it may now be too late to incorporate these considerations into this year's actions on the Region Transportation Priorities Plan (RTPP) and the Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP), so is requesting the TPB to start now to include consideration of the impact on the region's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals as it updates the RTPP and selects the package of transportation projects to be included in the next revisions to the CLRP and similar plans.

We understand that TPB will identify focus areas or points of emphasis to incorporate into the 2015 CLRP Call for Projects in the coming months. We urge you to include environmental, climate change and air quality as points of emphasis as a first step toward better alignment of transportation investments with our region's established environmental goals. CEEPC looks forward to assisting TPB put in place actions identified in the *Gold Book* compilation of best practices for local governments and the *What Would It Take* scenario, as well as other needed actions, to move forward together to address our transportation and environmental goals.

CEEPC is making this recommendation as the principal policy adviser to the MWCOG Board on climate change, energy and other environmental issues. The MWCOG Board of Directors committed to address climate change in 2008 when it adopted the [National Capital Region Climate Change Report](#). The Board set specific greenhouse gas reduction targets for the region and sets forth recommendations for achieving these targets, including for the transportation sector.

We look forward to working together to advance our common goals to create a more livable and sustainable future for our region.

Sincerely,

Roger Berliner  
Chair, Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee  
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments