

COMMUNITY WORK PLAY

YEAR

2006 ANNUAL REPORT







Just a few years ago, the need to create environmentally-friendly buildings was not on developers' radar. Firefighters and police officers didn't have to struggle to find an affordable place to live. The Anacostia waterfront was not a target for new development. Metro didn't yet face a severe lack of funds needed to repair trains and tracks.

Today, such topics have become issues of regional focus. They are affecting how people live, work and play in a growing number of jurisdictions. Without a unifying force, such concerns could fall under the radar. They could challenge the growth and prosperity that makes the region great.

Thankfully, there is a unifying force. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. COG. It exists to facilitate collaborative solutions to common problems. What began 50 years ago with seven jurisdictions is now 21 local governments strong, united for one overarching mission.

ER

Making the metropolitan Washington area a better place to be.





**MISSION AND
VISION**



21 local governments
3,020 square miles
4.65 million people.

One mission:

The elected officials of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments envision the National Capital Region as the best place to live, work, play and learn. COG is the place where intergovernmental plans are developed to enhance the quality of life in the National Capital Region.

COG fosters regionalism by:

- promoting regional partnerships
- developing best practices
- applying cutting-edge technologies
- providing a forum for decision-making

ON



LIVE



WORK



PLAY



LEARN



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

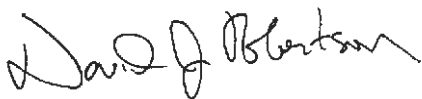
Transportation. Air quality. Development on the Anacostia River. Pedestrian safety. Funding for Metro. Affordable Housing.

These are just a few of the issues we face today as the region grows and changes. More importantly, they are all matters the region's leaders addressed in 2006 through the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

As a convener of 21 local governments and more than 250 members, COG is the place where regional solutions to these issues begin to take form. Take, for example, our analysis of the federal government's decision to consolidate the roles of several of the region's military facilities, thus moving many military employees to new locations. COG's report was reviewed by local lawmakers and federal officials who are now looking into concerns about traffic congestion and transportation funding.

Such results-oriented efforts are the reason I like to refer to COG as a catalyst for action. As the place where regional solutions are established by the area's leaders, COG is a wonderful model for collaborative problem-solving.

It is with great pride that we present some of our recent achievements in the COG 2006 annual report.



David J. Robertson
Executive Director

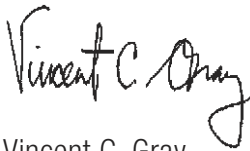
Most of my career has focused on the health and well-being of young people and families. Therefore, I was pleased to serve as chairman of COG's Human Services Policy Committee in 2006. The committee's work program centered on issues many families face each day: job access issues affecting undocumented workers, health concerns, and strategies to combat predatory lending.

Our work was proof that the regional concerns addressed at COG go beyond governmental policy issues, maintaining the region's transportation infrastructure, and coordinating the area's homeland security programs. Our work is relevant to citizens in important ways that touch their personal lives.

But that is only part of the COG story.

In the following pages you will discover how elected officials came together to influence ground-breaking advancements in everything from the health of the environment to affordable housing to public safety. Through COG, we have been able to put aside some of our differences and cross jurisdictional boundaries to make sure the region as a whole remains the nation's best place to live, work, play and learn.

As we prepare to celebrate COG's 50th anniversary, we have a lot to be proud of. I look forward to continuing our work together.



Vincent C. Gray

2007 Board of Directors Chair



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

TRAFFIC AND TRANSIT



Studies by the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – the metropolitan planning organization for the region – predict that congestion on the area’s already clogged roadways, trains and buses will more than double within 24 years if development and transportation plans don’t change. In some outer suburbs like Prince William County, morning traffic could increase five-fold.



All stand to impact what shape the region

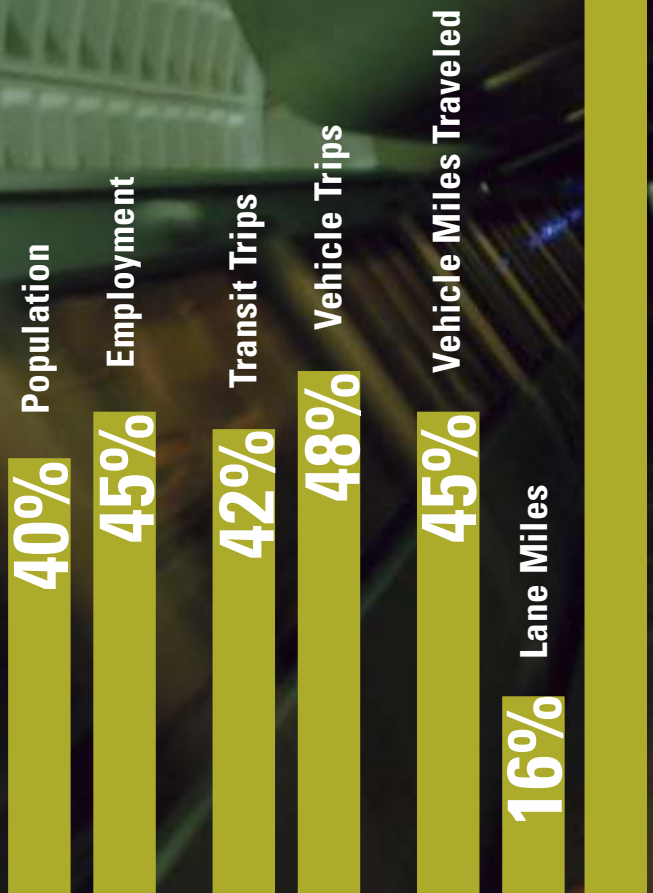


CHANGE IN LAND USE AND TRAVEL FORECASTS 2002-2030

Through COG and the TPB, officials and planners are working together to figure out ways to prevent that prophecy from coming true. Some projects – like a study showing governments how to reduce congestion by coordinating transportation plans with development – are ongoing. Others address immediate, time-sensitive needs.

gion will take in years to come.

Over the next 24 years, a significant increase in population and jobs will lead to additional vehicles, trips, and congestion on the region's transportation system. Vehicle miles of travel, a measure of how much people drive, is increasing faster than new roadways slated for construction.



TRAFFIC AND TRANSIT

Aerial Traffic Study

The TPB's aerial study, conducted every three years, analyzes highway traffic congestion to help guide future transportation planning. The 2006 survey:

- Involved 80,000 aerial photographs
- Covered 300 miles of freeway

“The report, which the council publishes every three years,

- Identified the 10 worst chokepoints
- Found a 64 percent increase in evening rush hour traffic

Metro Funding

The region's public transit system is among the nation's most advanced, used by thousands of people every day to get to work, school and recreational activities. But without a dedicated source of funding, rising demands could outpace capacity. COG's persistent work on the issue led to proposed

federal legislation in 2006 that would have provided a \$1.5 billion match to D.C., Maryland and Virginia dollars for basic system improvements. Although D.C. was the only jurisdiction to take action, officials continue efforts through COG to get all three on board. Dedicated funding would pay for:

- 340 new rail cars
- 275 new buses
- 3 bus garages
- tunnel repairs
- system upgrades
- escalators
- elevators
- other improvements

TOP CONGESTED LOCATIONS



A I-495 between I-270 and Connecticut Ave Avg. Speed 5-10mph (pm)

B I-395 between VA 110 and GW Memorial Pkwy Avg Speed 5-10mph (pm)

C I-95 between Dale Blvd and Prince William Pkwy Avg Speed 7-15mph (am)

D I-495 between St Barnabas Road and I-295 Avg Speed 8-15mph (am)

E, F, G Anacostia River Crossings, Frederick Douglass and 11th St Bridges Avg Speed 10-15mph (am)

Metro Access

The TPB provided the first comprehensive study of the MetroAccess system for people with disabilities.

"A new report from the regional TPB deals with some longer-running issues about [the Metro Para transit]"



provides the most definitive look at traffic in the region."

*The Washington Post,
February 2006*

program's quality and reliability. It makes plenty of specific recommendations on better communications and monitoring. The report's recommendations also address metro's concerns about the cost of paratransit." – WAMU Radio, February 2006



Bike and pedestrian plan

A new TPB plan could make walking to public transit, biking to work, and participating in leisure activities, like jogging, safer with new paths, bicycle lanes and other facilities. Proposals set forth in the bike and pedestrian plan, at an estimated cost of \$530 million, would cover:

- 680 miles
- 350 projects
- 20 miles of new trails along the Anacostia River

"For those who bike or walk to work, there is a new plan to make the D.C. area more pedestrian and bicycle friendly. Well aware of the region's growth and the demand for alternative travel, planners for the national capital region have a plan to make pedestrian and cycling safety a top priority." – NBC4, June 2006

Transportation/Land Use Connection Program

Putting jobs and homes closer together is one way planners can keep bad traffic from becoming worse.

That's what recent TPB studies show – and it's what the board's newest program promotes. The new technical assistance program offers consultation and resources to local governments.

"COG has started a six-month pilot program that offers grants for planning projects that reduce congestion, increase use of mass transit, and cluster housing and jobs together. It's what many municipalities are trying to accomplish with their zoning laws, but they still need more incentives." – Washington Business Journal, October 2006



ENVIRONN

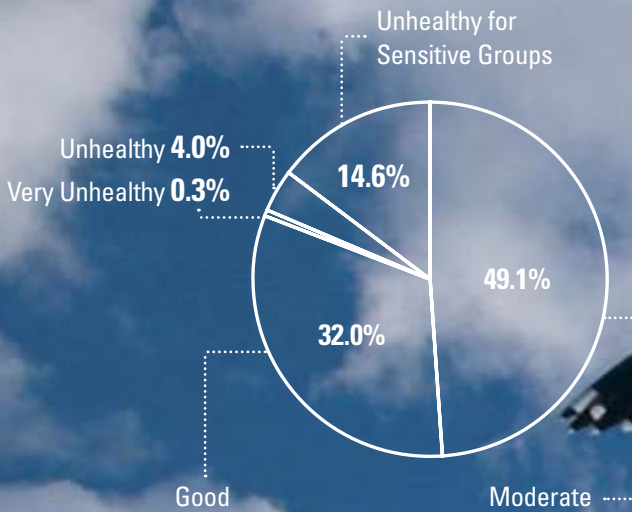


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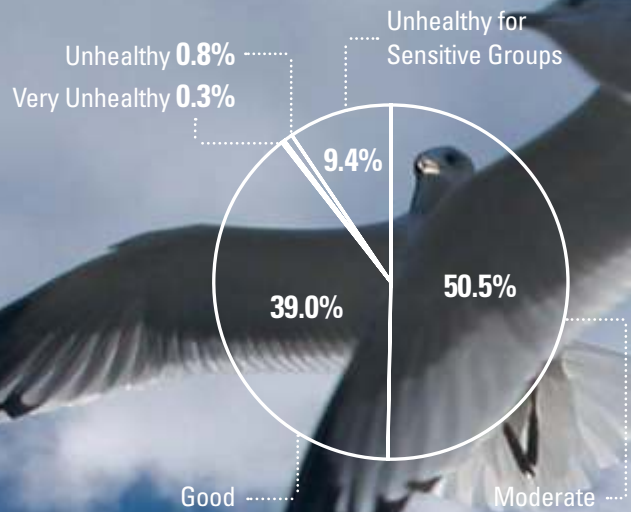
Through COG, officials are developing new programs and policies to help address environmental concerns.

The area's increasing population is spurring great economic and job growth. Inevitably, it also threatens the area's natural landscape as developers build homes on land once covered by forests and farmland. As a result, maintaining the quality of our water, land and air is an increasing challenge. Through COG, officials are developing new programs and policies to help address environmental concerns.





May-Sept 1999-2002



May-Sept 2003-2006

Healthier Air

In spite of rapid growth over the past decade, the region's air is getting cleaner – especially good news for 1.5 million residents who suffer from respiratory ailments and other health concerns. The Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC), the body charged with preparing an air quality plan for the region, has assisted local governments with the programs and policies that are working to reduce ozone, a harmful gas formed when the sun heats polluted air. The committee is also working to reduce pollution from small particles as required by new federal standards.

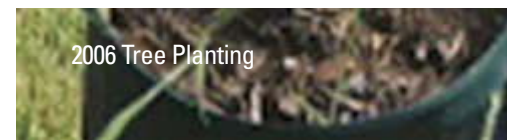
Anacostia revitalization

The Anacostia Waterfront Initiative – brought about by the District of Columbia's plans for a new Washington Nationals stadium – was good news for a neighborhood and waterway that stood among the region's most neglected. To help the city with the 25-year plan for cleanup and development, the COG Board created a leadership council and steering committee to focus on restoring the Anacostia watershed. At the same time, \$1 billion dollars of related projects were added to transportation plans.



“The number of dangerously smoggy days in the Washington area

The Washington Post, September 2006



2006 Tree Planting



ENVIRONMENT

Energy Plan

As skyrocketing oil prices take a toll throughout the region – at the gas pump, in businesses and in the home – the environmental team is equipping local governments with the resources they will need to help shape the environmental landscape of the future. COG's new energy plan for the region outlines strategies on everything from using alternative fuels to promoting public transit. It addresses energy conservation, climate change, green building and energy generation.

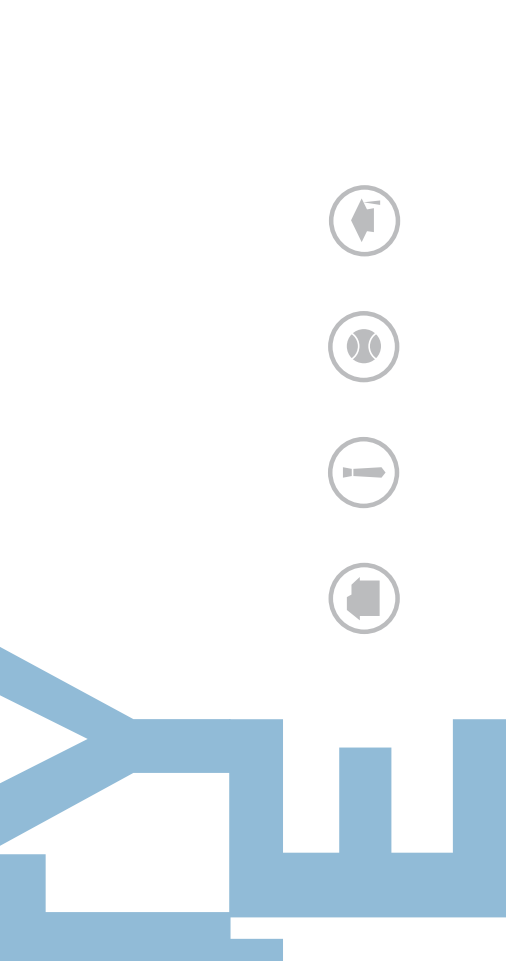
Green Building

New green building strategies, such as low-flush toilets and roof-top gardens, can help balance the impact of population growth. COG's Inter-Governmental Green Building Committee studies the issue, and in 2006 sponsored a forum to share best practices. As a result, a regional green building policy is expected to be released in mid-2007.



has declined by more than 40 percent since 2003."



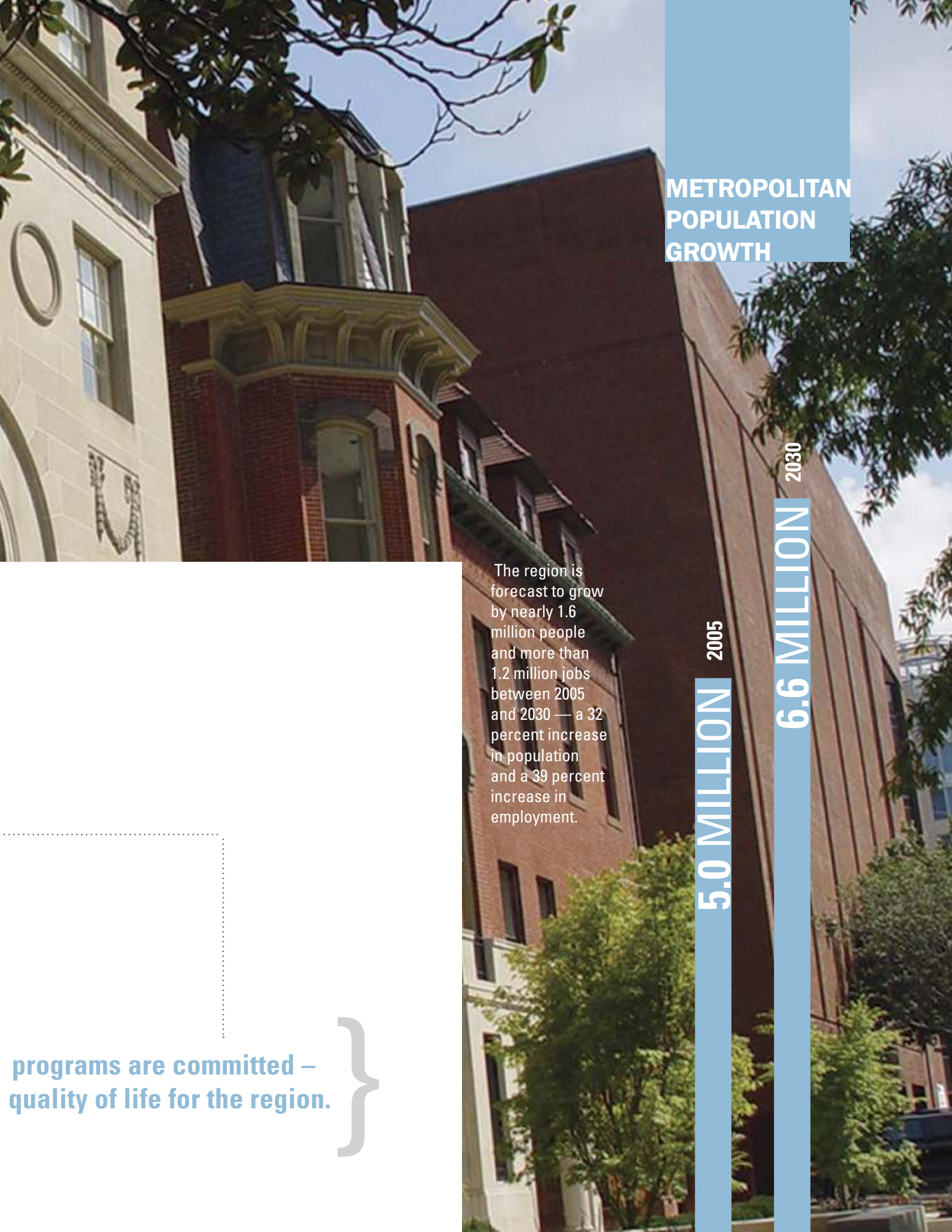


QUALITY OF LIFE

As new issues arise, so do collaborative approaches to solving common challenges to the way communities live, work and share life. All COG departments and programs are committed – above all – to a superior quality of life for the region.



All COG departments and above all – to a superior



METROPOLITAN POPULATION GROWTH

The region is forecast to grow by nearly 1.6 million people and more than 1.2 million jobs between 2005 and 2030 — a 32 percent increase in population and a 39 percent increase in employment.

2005
5.0 MILLION

2030
6.6 MILLION



programs are committed –
quality of life for the region.





“Political leaders and housing officials from across the Washington to convert local governments to the cause of affordable housing – and

Affordable Housing

More and more people – teachers, firefighters, police officers – cannot afford to live near their work in this expensive metropolitan region. The Washington Area Housing Partnership at COG is working to change that. In 2006, the partnership sponsored workshops in seven jurisdictions to educate officials, developers, and citizens on:

- Affordable Housing Trust Funds
- Workforce Housing Options
- Employer Assisted Housing
- Developer Incentives
- Community Development Block Grant Funds
- Community Land Trusts
- Involving the Private Sector

Regional Planning

When the U.S. Department of Defense introduced its Base Realignment and Closure plan, residents became worried about what affect the proposed changes could have on their daily lives. COG came forward to study just that, and in the process influenced several lawmakers – Rep. James P. Moran Jr. and Rep. Thomas M. Davis III among them – who say the changes should wait until federal money is available for road improvements needed to accommodate the influx of employees.

Homeland Security

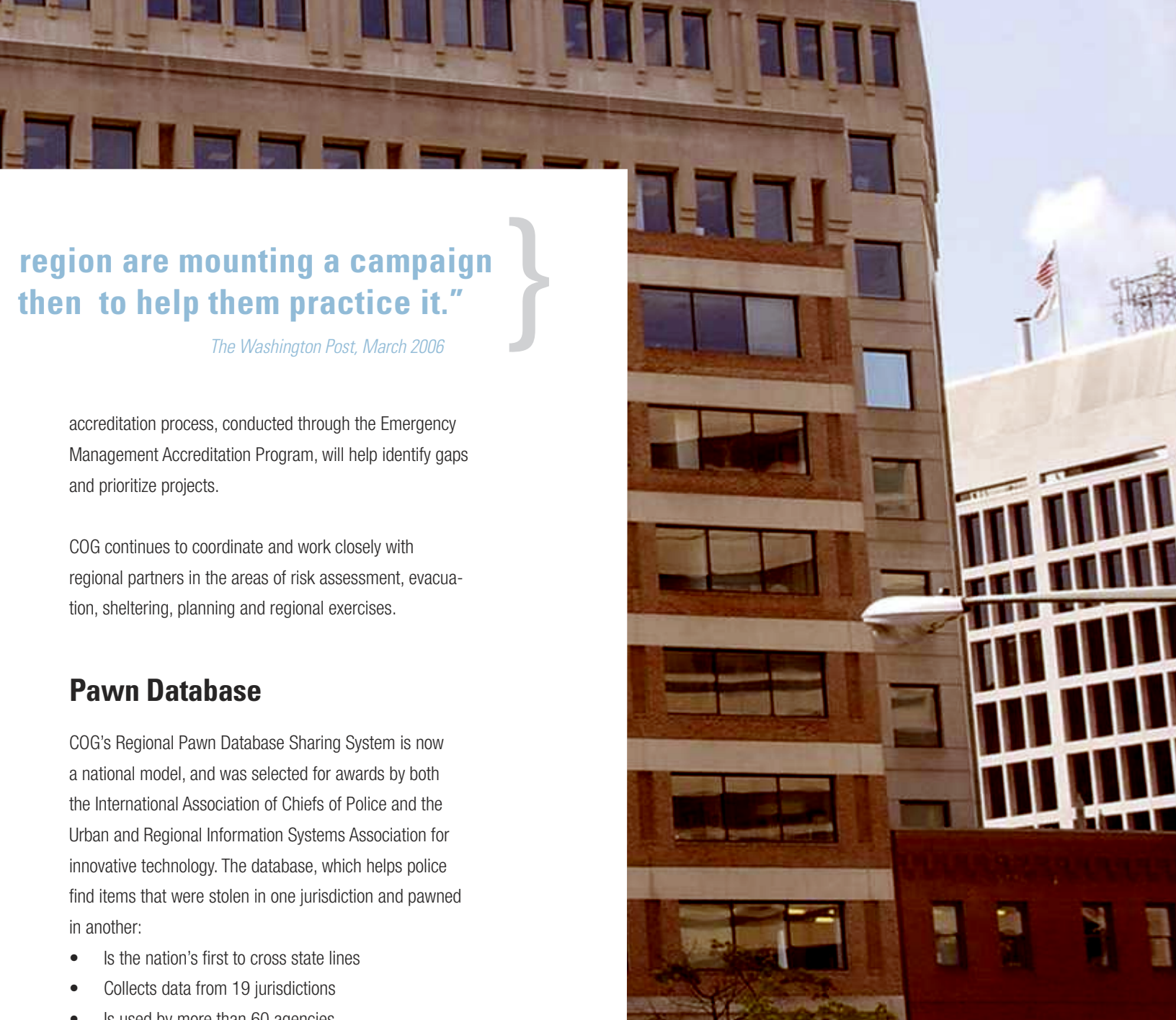
In 2006, the National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council adopted a strategic plan to direct homeland security planning for the next three to five years. The plan lists steps for improving disaster response in everything from decontaminating victims of a chemical attack to providing for stranded pets.

“The 118-page plan takes aim at one of the main problems in coping with a disaster: the fragmentation of the region, which includes more than 20 cities and counties and scores of federal agencies, spread out over two states and the District.” – The Washington Post, September, 2006

The area also became the first at a regional level to use a nationally recognized accreditation process for assessing emergency management capabilities. The standards and

At COG’s 2006 annual membership luncheon, Former HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros outlined seven key steps to helping residents achieve home ownership.





region are mounting a campaign
then to help them practice it.”

The Washington Post, March 2006

accreditation process, conducted through the Emergency Management Accreditation Program, will help identify gaps and prioritize projects.

COG continues to coordinate and work closely with regional partners in the areas of risk assessment, evacuation, sheltering, planning and regional exercises.

Pawn Database

COG's Regional Pawn Database Sharing System is now a national model, and was selected for awards by both the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association for innovative technology. The database, which helps police find items that were stolen in one jurisdiction and pawned in another:

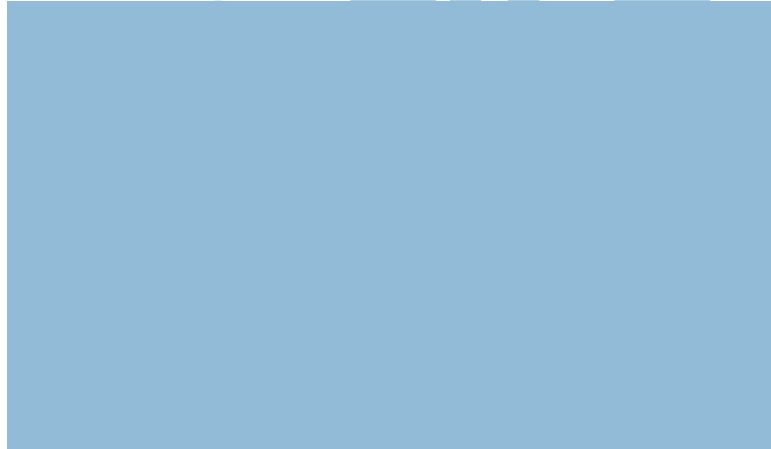
- Is the nation's first to cross state lines
- Collects data from 19 jurisdictions
- Is used by more than 60 agencies

Within the first six months, it:

- Led to 1,320 arrests
- Recovered \$4 million in stolen property



QUALITY OF LIFE



COG EVENTS catalysts

As new challenges accompany the metropolitan area's great economic growth, COG continues to unite leaders through special events that serve as catalysts for action on effective, lasting solutions to shared problems. Here are just a few of the 2006 events:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Meth Lab Conference | Broadband Forum |
| Day Labor Summits | Diesel Directions Workshop |
| Obesity Conference | State-Local Partnership Dinner |
| Bike to Work Day | Water Use It Wisely Day |
| Predatory Lending Conference | Hydrogen Workshop |
| Green Building Forum | Street Smart Press Conference |
| Water Quality Workshop | Foster Parent Appreciation Gala |
| Tree Planting | Potomac Trash Summit |
| Alternative Fuels Seminar | Air Quality Press Conference |
| Arrive Alive Training | Animal Services Awards |



Hydrogen Workshop



Tree Planting

2006 Award Winners

District of Columbia Mayor Anthony Williams
Elizabeth and David Scull Award

Washington Area Bicyclist Association
Regional Partnership Award





for action



Bike to Work Day



COG Annual Meeting



Foster Parent Appreciation Gala



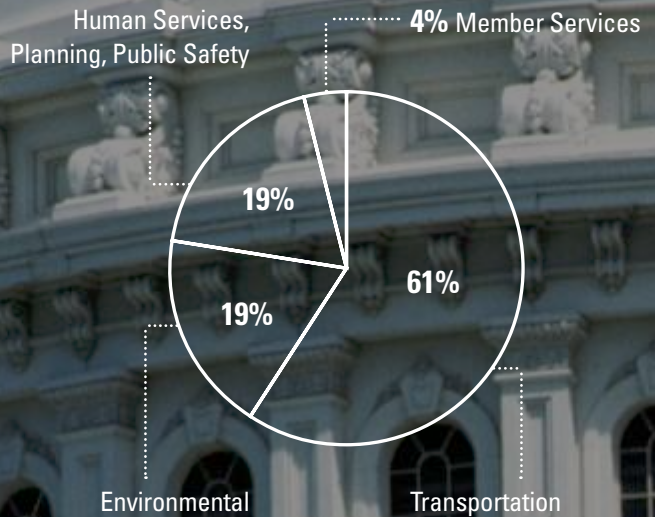
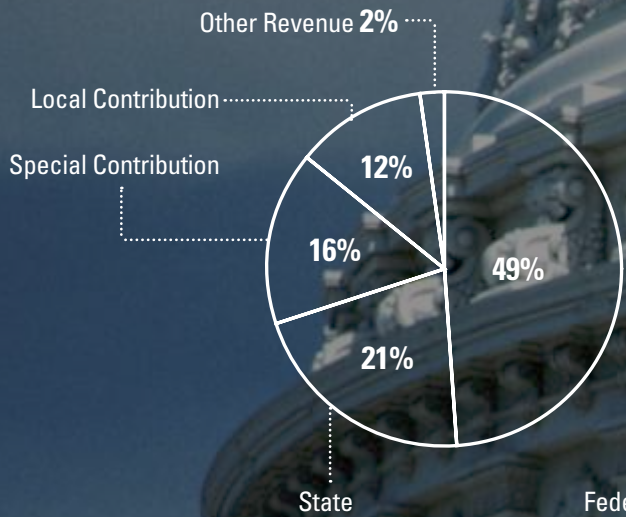
Street Smart Press Conference



Day Labor Summit



Water Use It Wisely Day



FY 2006 Revenue Sources

Source	Amount (\$)
Federal	10,894,403
State	4,759,470
Special Contribution	3,614,296
Local Contribution	2,815,062
Other Contribution	470,000
Total	22,553,231

FY 2006 Revenue by Program Area

Source	Amount (\$)
Transportation	13,798,000
Human Services, Planning, Public Safety	3,608,560
Environmental	4,279,798
Member Services	866,873
Total	22,553,231

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

COG received a clean audit for fiscal year 2006 from an independent firm.

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Frederick County
City of Gaithersburg
City of Greenbelt
Montgomery County
Prince George's County
City of Rockville
City of Takoma Park
City of Alexandria
Arlington County
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