

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002-4290**

**MINUTES
Board of Directors' Meeting
COG Board Room
June 13, 2007**

**BOARD MEMBERS, ALTERNATES AND PARTICIPANTS PRESENT AND NOT
PRESENT**

***SEE ATTACHED CHART FOR ATTENDANCE**

STAFF

**David J. Robertson, Executive Director
Lee Ruck, General Counsel
Nicole Hange, Clerk to the Board**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Vincent Gray called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 9, MINUTES

Motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to adopt the minutes of the May 9th.

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Climate Change Steering Committee held its first meeting May 23, at which time its members agreed to a work program that will serve as a guide for reaching COG's goals for the new Climate Change initiative. Updates will continue to be provided as the Committee's work progresses.

The Washington Area Housing Partnership launched its outreach campaign this month. The campaign's goal is to promote community support for affordable housing in our neighborhoods, and includes 200 radio spots as well as more than 200 Metrorail and Metrobus posters. Partnership Chairman, Barbara Favola of Arlington County, will be invited to brief the Board, during one of its fall meetings, on the campaign's impact and other planned initiatives.

COG sponsored a very successful reverse auction for the cooperative purchase of natural gas earlier this month. The auction was the largest for natural gas in the mid-Atlantic region, and was arranged by the District of Columbia's Office of Contracting and Procurement together with COG's Cooperative Purchasing Program. As a result of the auction, the participating 24 jurisdictions will now save an estimated \$10 million compared with current rates.

The Local-State Partnership Dinner is tomorrow, June 14 at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill. The focus of the dinner will be state engagement on climate change.

The Board was reminded to mark their calendars for COG's Annual Retreat to be held July 27-29 at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director David Robertson highlighted several events that received media attention over the last month, including COG's 7th Annual Bike to Work Day and the 50th Anniversary Futures Forum.

Mr. Robertson announced that Major General Guy Swan commander of the Joint Force Headquarters for the National Capital Region has been reassigned to a new team in Colorado Springs Colorado. Major General Swan has been a strong supporter of COG and its role in homeland security and public safety issues in this region. Outreach has begun with the new commander.

Mr. Robertson also provided the Board with an update to the ICC litigation. The insurance firm has reversed its initial decision to deny coverage and will pay the full costs of litigation support less the deductible. In addition, COG's General Counsel Lee Ruck noted that COG received another bit of good news that the lawsuit brought by the Environmental Defense Fund and the Sierra Club has been dropped against COG, the TPB, and their respective Chairs.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Supplemental Documents: Resolutions R42-07 to 4
3-07 (Electronic)

A.) Resolution Authorizing COG to Amend Booz Allen Hamilton Contract to Complete an Additional NCR Homeland Security Strategic Plan Task

The Board adopted Resolution R42-07, approving a proposal to amend the Booz Allen Hamilton contract to complete an additional NCR Homeland Security Strategic Plan task. The purpose of amending the Booz Allen Hamilton contract is to complete the task of providing labor to support the revision of 30 NCR Strategic Initiatives and associate milestones. COG is being provided \$55,000 through a Grant Adjustment Notice to its Urban Area Security Initiative Grant to amend the current contract. No COG matching funds are required.

B.) Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Host Critical Homeland Security-Related Equipment on Behalf of the Region

The Board adopted Resolution R43-07, authorizing the Executive Director or his designee to execute the approved proposal to provide hosting and system engineering services for the National Capital Region Interoperability Program (NCRIP). The State Administrative Agent for the National Capital Region will provide COG with approximately \$63,500 in Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funding to execute the proposal to provide the needed hosting services. No COG matching funds are required.

7. HIGHLIGHTS FROM COG'S REGIONAL FOSTER PARENT GALA

COG, in partnership with the Freddie Mac Foundation, recently sponsored its 5th Annual Foster Parent Appreciation Gala. The event honored the contributions of nine outstanding foster families as well as the many individuals throughout the metropolitan area who open their homes and hearts to children in need. More than 600 foster and adoptive parents, family members, elected officials, and social services administrators and staff were in attendance, including NBC-4 New Anchor and host of "Wednesday's Child" Barbara Harrison.

To showcase the event, the Board was shown a heartwarming video of the 9 foster parent honorees. Many members spoke to the gravity and importance of this program and suggested that the video be distributed to as many media outlets as possible.

8. OUTCOMES OF COG'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY FUTURES FORUM

The Future's Forum, held May 30, presented an opportunity to use COG's 50th Anniversary as a catalyst for discussing the direction of the region's future. The first of two 50th Anniversary special events, the Forum brought together an estimated 200 public officials and business and civic leaders from around the region. District of Columbia Councilmember and Chair of the 50th Anniversary Committee Carol Schwartz and John Mason, COG Futures Forum Subcommittee Co-Chair, briefed the Board on the events of the day and outcomes/next steps.

Forum panelists included Michael Rogers former COG Executive Director currently with MedStar, Dr. Stephen Fuller from George Mason University, Dr. Robert Lang from Virginia Tech and Harriet Tregoning with the D.C. Office of Planning. Each highlighted profound changes that could affect our region's growth, infrastructure, prosperity and quality of life. NBC-4 News Anchor Jim Vance moderated the discussion adding an interesting and dynamic perspective. The lunch session was led by Leonard Downie Jr., executive editor of the Washington Post. Mr. Downie spanned the range of regional issues facing public officials and business and civic leaders in his comments, and challenged COG to take bold steps to address these issues.

Several themes emerged from the discussions which warrant further attention including climate change, housing affordability and the notion of mega regions, specifically the role COG will play in addressing them. A summary of discussion and key outcomes and evaluation feedback will be presented at the Board's retreat in July. In addition, the written summary will be mailed to everyone who attended or registered for the Futures Forum. Also, condensed version of the summary and outcomes, coupled with images and graphics presented on May 30, will be included in a 50th Anniversary commemorative book that will be given out at the gala in November.

Chairman Gray, and others, commended Ms. Schwartz and Mr. Mason for their hard work in planning such a successful event. The Board was reminded to mark their calendars for the November 15 Gala which will be held at the historic Mellon Auditorium.

Bruce Williams, Mayor of Takoma Park, announced that his Board adopted a proclamation honoring COG's 50th Anniversary.

9. PROPOSED ACTION ON ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS AT REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT

Recently, there have been several amendments proposed to the Federal Aviation Administration's reauthorization bill to waive regionally adopted limitations on flights at Reagan National Airport. Alexandria City Councilmember Rob Krupicka, who also chairs COG's Aviation Policy Committee and Margaret McKeough with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority briefed the Board on the proposed amendments and urged it to reaffirm its position supporting the slot and high-density rule at Reagan National Airport through resolution.

According to the FAA, the number of takeoffs and landings at Reagan Washington National Airport is limited to 60 per hour. Concurrently, the perimeter rule ensures that flights into National come from airports within a 1,250 mile radius and longer distance flights are directed to Dulles and BWI. The amendments proposed in Congress would increase the number of takeoffs and landings per hour and allow flights on an exception basis outside the 1,250 mile maximum. This would most negatively affect landside infrastructure. Ms. McKeough noted that an increase of four slots, for example, could result in 400 more passengers and possibly 500 more an hour, placing considerable strains upon existing gate and parking infrastructure which are already at capacity.

The existing slot and perimeter rules have been very important tools in managing the volume of air traffic at National and Dulles airports and balancing the economic viability of the region's three airports-National, Dulles, and BWI. COG's position has been and continues to be that: the current rules have worked in managing the airports available capacity, flights from National currently operate in harmony with its neighbors, and the master planned capacity is based on existing slot and perimeter rules.

Vice Chair Gross offered an amendment to the resolution which would have the resolution transmitted to the Chair and members of the appropriate committees in Congress, instead of the Chair and ranking member as was written. She also noted several grammatical errors.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R40-07 was unanimously approved and adopted as amended.

10. BRIEFING ON THE 2007 UPDATE TO THE LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

At its May 16 meeting, the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) approved the inclusion of four major projects in the 2007 update to the transportation plan. COG's Director of Transportation Programs Ron Kirby briefed the Board on the 2007 update on the new projects and studies, land use changes and schedule for completion.

The CLRP for the Washington Region is a comprehensive plan of transportation projects and system-wide strategies for the next 25 years. It is updated by the Transportation Planning Board every 3 years but is typically amended in intermediate years. The CLRP and the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) are required by federal law to be financially constrained meaning they can only include projects for which funding "can reasonably be expected to be available." For air quality nonattainment and maintenance areas, projects can be included in the first two years of the TIP only if funds are "available or committed."

Three of the approved projects are located in Northern Virginia: I-95/I-395 High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes where eleven new access points will be added, roads will be widened, there will be a substantial increase in bus service, and tolls will be implemented at varying amounts during the day to fully fund the projects; spot improvements to I-66 to accommodate demand during peak hours; and a link will be built connecting the Braddock and Pentagon metro stations at Potomac Yard in Alexandria. The fourth project is a new developer-funded interchange on US 340 which will provide better access to Jefferson Technology Park in Frederick County.

Vice Chairman Michael Knapp questioned how the projects would be funded if demand was reduced because of the increasing tolls. Mr. Kirby responded that if traffic patterns continue as projected the project will fund itself, but it is not a certainty. He added that because this is a private sector project, the financial markets must sign on for it to work.

In response to Montgomery County Councilmember Roger Berliner's question of 'how much' Mr. Kirby stated that tolls at regular non-peak times would be 10 cents per mile and could go up to \$1.50 per mile at the height of rush hour.

All toll booths will be electronic where the vehicle is fitted with a transponder from which money is deducted- greatly reducing the amount of back-up at the stations.

11. ADOPTION OF 2007 REGIONAL HOMELESS ENUMERATION

On January 25, 2007, COG's Homeless Services Planning and Coordination Committee conducted the seventh regional enumeration of the homeless population in metropolitan Washington. The annual enumeration is part of an ongoing effort to monitor and report on the number of people found on the streets, in emergency shelters, in transitional and permanent supportive housing, or otherwise homeless and in need of a safe shelter. Michael Ferrell, Chairman of COG's Homeless Services and Planning Committee briefed the Board on the results of the enumeration as described in the report.

The report found a modest decrease in the region's homeless population from last year. This decline is the first since 2004 and coincides with an increase in the number formerly homeless in permanent supportive housing. Those who are chronically homeless, continuously without a home for at least one year or experiencing four episodes of homelessness within three years, rose slightly. Mr. Ferrell said this rise and the number of homeless, despite being employed, indicate a real need for more services and support.

The Committee made the following recommendations in its report: a more targeted distribution of homeless resources, provision of jobs that pay a living wage, placing homeless in housing first instead of emergency shelter-providing them with supportive services instead, and creating affordable housing opportunities at ALL income levels.

Mr. Ferrell stated that he is confident that by implementing these recommendations, specifically the targeted focus of resources, homelessness can be eradicated.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R41-07 was unanimously approved and adopted.

12. MEMBER TIME

Chairman Gray stated that "DC Vote" legislation has passed the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and will not go before the Senate for a vote. Several amendments have been made but none which change or modify the intention of the bill.

City of Greenbelt Mayor Judith Davis mentioned that she recently attended a meeting of the National League of City's steering committee on Energy, Environment and Natural Resources in Minneapolis which focused on sustainability. The City has done much in terms of green building and sustainability and Ms. Davis will be providing that information to COG's Green Building subcommittee as well as the Climate Change Steering Committee.

Vice Chairman Penny Gross stated that there was a bit of confusion surrounding the June 8th announcement of an air quality forecast of 'code orange' which was subsequently retracted. She questioned the method or process by which announcements are made and corrections addressed. Joan Rohlf, COG's Chief of Air Quality Planning, stated that the issue was actually due to computer network problems not a change in the forecast. A memo providing background and full explanation of the problem will be provided to the Board.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2007.

**ATTENDANCE: JUNE 13, 2007
BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ALTERNATES 2007**

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Y/N</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Y/N</u>
District of Columbia				
Executive	Hon. Adrian Fenty	N		
	Mr. Dan Tangherlini	Y		
Council	Hon. Vincent Gray	Y		
	Hon. Carol Schwartz	Y	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y
Maryland				
Bowie	Hon. G. Frederick Robinson	N		
College Park	Hon. Robert Catlin	Y		
City of Frederick	Hon. William Holtzinger	N	Alan Imhoff	Y
Frederick County	Hon. David Gray	N		
Gaithersburg	Hon. John Schlichting	Y		
Greenbelt	Hon. Judith "J" F. Davis	Y		
Montgomery County				
Executive	Hon. Isiah Leggett	N	Mr. Tim Firestine	N
Council	Hon. Roger Berliner	Y		
	Hon. Michael Knapp	Y		
Prince George's County				
Executive	Hon. Jack B. Johnson	N	Dr. Jacqueline Brown	N
Council	Hon. Camille A. Exum	Y		
	Hon. Tony Knotts	N		
Rockville	Hon. Robert E. Dorsey	Y		
Takoma Park	Hon. Bruce Williams	Y		
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. William Bronrott	N		
Virginia				
Alexandria	Hon. William Euille	N	Hon. Redella Pepper	N
Arlington County	Hon. G. N. Jay Fisette	N		
City of Fairfax	Hon. Gary Rasmussen	N		
Fairfax County	Hon. Gerald E. Connolly	N		
	Hon. Penelope A. Gross	Y		
	Hon. Joan DuBois	N		
Falls Church	Hon. Robin Gardner	N	Ms. Lindy Hockenberry	Y
Loudoun County	Hon. Lori Waters	Y		
Manassas	Hon. Douglas Waldron	Y		
Manassas Park	Hon. Frank Jones	N		
Prince William County	Hon. Hilda Barg	Y	Mr. Dana Fenton	N
	Hon. Corey Stewart	N		
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. James M. Scott	Y		

Other Participants
John Mason Co-Chair, COG Futures Forum
Rob Krupicka Councilmember, City of Alexandria
Margaret McKeough Executive Vice President and COO, MWAA
Michael Ferrell Executive Director, Coalition for the Homeless