

**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 11, 2008

**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 Mike Knapp called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 9 MINUTES

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adopt the minutes of the May meeting.

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Knapp reminded the Board that COG will convene "The Foreclosure Crisis: A Regional Perspective" on June 19 to address the continued increase in housing foreclosures across the region.

Letters of invitation have been sent to members of the Board and other COG leaders to attend the 10th annual COG Retreat, July 25-27 in Cambridge Maryland. The program is being finalized and will include many of the suggestions made during last month's meeting. Members are encouraged to register as soon as possible because space is limited.

Mr. Knapp announced that Fairfax County Board Chairman Gerry Connolly has won the primary to become the Democratic candidate in the race for the Virginia 11th Congressional district seat.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There were several events this past month that Mr. Robertson participated in, including the annual SERV-A-THON where volunteers came together to renovate needy schools in the District of Columbia.

Mr. Robertson met with Maryland Delegate Benjamin Barnes to strengthen the Board's relationship with state legislators. He also met with representatives at Montgomery College to further discuss plans for a fall Thought Leadership Series. Staff will brief the Board on the proposal at its July meeting.

Several events drew media attention including Bike to Work Day and the release of the Annual Homeless Enumeration Report.

Mr. Robertson also announced City of Takoma Park Mayor Bruce William's receipt of Equality Maryland's Out for Equality award.

COG has recently seen a significant increase in its Dunn and Bradstreet credit rating as a direct result of strategic efforts by COG's Chief Financial Officer.

The recent Code Red day revealed the need for COG to fine tune its air quality communications and ensure accurate information being transmitted in a timely manner.

Congress recently passed legislation to amend the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 relating to the implementation of mutual aid in the National Capital Region. The bill was drafted and advocated by the COG Attorneys Committee, in consultation with the Region's public utilities and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, to provide more consistent coverage for volunteers, quasi-governmental entities, and MWAA operations engaged in disaster recovery.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Supplemental documents: Resolutions R34-08 through R36-08

A. Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Contract with the Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory for the Fiscal 2009 Operation of the Chain Bridge Monitoring Station

The Board adopted Resolution R34-08, authorizing the Executive Director to execute a five-year contract with the Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory (OWML) for continuation of the Potomac River water quality monitoring program at Chain Bridge. COG has sponsored this regional monitoring program since 1983. The total cost of the five-year contract is \$661,144. Funding for the first year of the contract is included in the FY2009 Regional Water Fund work program and budget. The remaining four years of the contract will also be funded by the Regional Water Fund, contingent upon availability of funds. No COG matching funds are required.

B. Resolution Authorizing COG to Fund Training and Exercise Activities

The Board adopted Resolution R35-08, approving a proposal authorizing COG to fund training and exercise activities approved by the Exercise and Training Operations Panel (ETOP). The purpose of the training and exercises is to enhance emergency preparedness in the National Capital Region. A number of contractors will be pre-qualified to conduct training and exercise activities on a task order basis. COG is being provided \$250,000 through a Subgrant from the State Administrative Agent (SAA) to fund ETOP approved training and exercise activities. No COG matching funds are required.

C. Resolution Authorizing Adjustment to COG Salary Ranges

In October 2005, the COG Board adopted Resolution R36-05, revising COG's salary ranges for its 15 position grades following completion of a consultant-support compensation study. The purpose of the study was to ensure that COG remains a market-competitive employer able to attract and retain highly qualified staff. In taking this action, the COG Board also approved COG's purchase of software that will allow management to conduct annual compensation studies with little or no additional consultant cost to the organization. COG management completed its FY 2009 salary study and proposes to increase salary ranges for position Grades 1 through 14, effective July 1, 2008. This is an adjustment to salary ranges only, affecting just one incumbent, and does not provide a market rate adjustment for all staff; but rather ensures that COG salary ranges remain market-competitive.

D. Appointment of Voting Representatives to NARC Annual Membership Meeting

The Board appointed Fairfax County Supervisor Penelope Gross and Mr. David Robertson as COG's primary and alternate voting representatives, respectively, at the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) annual membership meeting. The NARC annual conference and exhibition is scheduled for June 15 to 17 in Des Moines, Iowa.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolutions R34-08 through R36-08 were unanimously approved and adopted.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM APRIL 29 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY WORKSHOP

Supplemental Documents: Resolution R32-08 (Electronic)
Pedestrian Safety Workshop Summary (Electronic)
Proposed Letter to State Legislators et al (Electronic)

Recently WMATA, COG, the three Departments of Transportation, and AAA sponsored a conference focusing on pedestrian and vehicular safety as the number of pedestrian accidents and fatalities increases across the region. Over 200 area officials, transportation planners, law enforcement officers and community activists gathered to discuss solutions focusing on three core principles: Education, Enforcement, and Engineering. Ron Keele, Chief Safety Officer at WMATA, provided a brief introduction of the conference and

acknowledged that an impetus for WMATA sponsoring the event was recent pedestrian fatalities involving Metro buses and trains and the need to find ways to reduce such tragedies. George Branyan, Pedestrian Program Coordinator for DDOT presented an overview of the causes of and potential solutions for pedestrian accidents and fatalities.

Pedestrians currently account for one fifth of all traffic fatalities in the Washington region, more than 80 deaths per year, and 2,300 injuries. One contributing factor is that crosswalks have lost much of their meaning either because they are inconvenient, motorists do not stop for pedestrians, or both; so pedestrians have little incentive to use crosswalks.

Mr. Branyan stressed that we are all pedestrians whether one is walking to the nearest metro station or from the parking lot to the grocery store. And as fuel prices soar, transit ridership and walking is also increasing which may result in higher pedestrian-motorist collisions.

Workshop participants identified three principles or philosophies that should guide policy development: pedestrian safety is fundamental to transportation planning, Street Smart Campaign should be enhanced to expand its outreach and duration; and that walkable communities are developed for the future that build on past successes.

They also concluded that enforcement of existing pedestrian safety measures must be improved and should adhere to ADA guidelines, that differences in laws across the region makes it difficult to educate the walking and driving community, and that the region should implement pedestrian safety performance measures in transportation and land use projects.

The Board was asked to adopt Resolution R32-08 which advocates for consistent pedestrian safety laws across the region; urges sustained efforts by jurisdictions to enforce pedestrian safety laws and provide designated traffic enforcement units; and enhance public safety education efforts with increased targeting of high risk populations through programs like Street Smart.

Dan Tangherlini, City Administrator for the District of Columbia stressed that while this action is a step in the right direction, the region is not going far enough; there must be explicit goals and measurements of goal attainment.

Arlington County Board Member Jay Fissette suggested an amendment to the resolution which would insert the following as number 4. in the "Now, Therefore" clause "In order to accomplish these goals for enhanced pedestrian safety, the region urges the Transportation Planning Board to significantly increase available funding for its successful TLC program." He also requested that copies of the resolution be transmitted to the Transportation Planning Board.

Prince George's County Chief Administrative Officer Jacqueline Brown noted that the Maryland General Assembly should also receive copies of the resolution.

Loudon County Board Supervisor Lori Waters recommended that the following phrase be added to the end of number 4 in the Therefore clause "...and provide local jurisdictions with discretion to lower speed limits and provide additional traffic calming measures."

City of Falls Church Councilmember Hal Lippman asked that "including licensure" be included in number 1 in the Therefore clause after "effective driver education."

ACTION: Upon Motion Made and Seconded, Resolution R32-08 was unanimously approved and adopted as amended.

Chairman Knapp requested that staff work to develop a Pedestrian Safety Work Plan and return to the Board with its recommendation in the fall.

8. FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION REPORT

Supplemental Materials: Regional Foster Care and Adoption Report (Electronic)
PowerPoint (Electronic)

Annually COG's Foster Care and Adoption Committee, with the approval of the Child Welfare Directors' Committee, compiles regional data on foster care and adoption in the region. Committee Chairman Katherine Froyd provided an overview of the preliminary analysis and trends. Terri Braxton, COG's Chief of Children and Family Programs, provided highlights from the Regional Foster Parent Appreciation Gala held May 17, including a taping narrated by Barbara Harrison.

In 2007, there were 4,430 children in foster care in the region. Nearly half of these children were in the District of Columbia's child welfare system. Prince George's County had the second largest number with 586 children, followed by Fairfax County with 471; an overwhelming majority are African American with an even distribution by gender.

1,097 children were in residential placements and group home settings (or congregate care) though; agencies are consistently trying to decrease the number of children in these placements. Congregate care can be as much as ten times more expensive than family foster homes and usually requires the child to be placed out of the community making reunification or other permanency plans more difficult. In addition, there are not enough local treatment programs for this population and virtually no residential treatment programs in the region for pre-teen foster children who were sexually abused and in turn, develop sexual offender behaviors.

Last year, the region had 2,154 foster parents, with the majority of families residing in the District of Columbia. About 60% of foster homes serving the District's children are located in Prince George's County. 579 new foster families were approved in the region. While an increase, the region also closed 312 foster families. The reason for closing families could include: the foster parent's request, the foster family moved, the foster family was out of compliance, the health of the foster family, the foster family adopted child(ren), divorce, etc.

Foster parent reimbursement rates vary across the region with the District of Columbia providing its parents with \$767.40 per month, Maryland pays \$735, and Virginia has the lowest reimbursement rates in the country at \$405 per month. (Arlington County does provide its parents with an additional \$100 per month.)

The report found that there were a total of 631 children who were reunited with their families. There were 768 children waiting to be adopted, and a total of 305 youth were emancipated from the foster care system without being adopted or reunited with their families. In the Washington metropolitan region, youth can stay in foster care until their 21st birthday as long as they are in school/vocational program, have a documented disability or are in transition to independence, but are free to leave after their 18th birthday.

Ms. Froyd stated that the numbers show that the region does not have enough foster parents to serve its needy children and innovative outreach strategies and incentives must be employed to retain and recruit individuals to participate in the program.

In response to several member comments, Ms. Froyd added that the region needs to provide increased supportive services for foster families including training and education as well as strategies for localities to prevent children from unnecessarily being placed in congregate care.

9. BRIEFING ON AVIATION POLICY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES AND PROPOSED ACTION ON ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS AT REAGAN WASHINGTON NATIONAL

Supplemental Material: Slot Rule Change Memo (Electronic)
Resolution R33-08 (Electronic)
PowerPoint (Electronic)
Proposed Letter to Congressional Delegation (Electronic)

As has been the case in the past, members of Congress have introduced legislation which would change the slot and perimeter rules at Reagan National Airport. Alexandria City Councilmember Rob Krupicka, and Chairman of the Aviation Policy Committee briefed the Board on this new round of amendments asking for a reaffirmation of the Board's opposition to such changes and provided an overview of the policy committee's priorities for 2008.

The Aviation Policy Committee's enhanced mission is to provide a broad, balanced, and integrated perspective on matters relating to airport and aircraft policies in the Washington metropolitan region. The Committee has focused on the implications of general aviation trends and economic impacts on communities across the region, as well as addressing noise concerns.

Mr. Krupicka stated that the policy committee's focus for 2008 has and will be to explore general aviation and best practices for economic development, provide outreach to communities impacted by helicopters, Part 150 implementation, and advocate for no change in slot and perimeter rule at Reagan Washington National Airport.

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.

The Board was asked to reaffirm its position on changes to the slot and perimeter rule at Reagan National and transmit a letter to the Congressional delegation stating such.

Arlington County Board Member Jay Fissette requested that those members of Congress advocating the changes should be also be sent copies of the letter and resolution.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R33-08 was unanimously approved and adopted.

12. MEMBER TIME

No issues were addressed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05pm.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2008

**ATTENDANCE: JUNE 11, 2008
BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ALTERNATES 2008**

<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	N	Hon. Carol Schwartz	N
	Hon. Kwame Brown	N	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y
Maryland				
Bowie	Hon. G. Frederick Robinson	N		
College Park	Hon. Robert Catlin	Y		
City of Frederick	Hon. William Holtzinger	N	Hon. Alan Imhoff	Y
Frederick County	Hon. David Gray	N	Hon. Jan Gardner	N
Gaithersburg	Hon. Sidney Katz	N	Hon. Henry Marraffa	Y
Greenbelt	Hon. Judith "J" F. Davis	Y	Hon. Rodney Roberts	N
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	Y
Council	Hon. Camille A. Exum	Y	Hon. Tom Dernoga	N
	Hon. Tony Knotts	N		
Rockville	Hon. Susan Hoffmann	N	Hon. John Britton	N
Takoma Park	Hon. Bruce Williams	Y	Hon. Terry Seamens	N
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. Benjamin Barnes	N		
Virginia				
Alexandria	Hon. William Euille	N	Hon. Redella Pepper	Y
Arlington County	Hon. Jay Fissette	Y	Hon. Walter Tejada	N
City of Fairfax	Hon. Gary Rasmussen	N	Hon. Jeffrey Greenfield	N
Fairfax County	Hon. Gerald E. Connolly	N	Hon. Sharon Bulova	N
	Hon. Penelope A. Gross	Y	Hon. Michael Frey	N
	Hon. John Foust	N	Hon. Patrick Herrity	N
Falls Church	Hon. Robin Gardner	N	Hon. Hal Lippman	Y
Loudoun County	Hon. Lori Waters	Y		
Manassas	Hon. Douglas Waldron	N		
Manassas Park	Hon. Frank Jones	N		

Prince William County	Hon. Wally Covington III	Y		
	Hon. Frank Principi	N		
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. James M. Scott	Y		

Other Participants

Ron Keele, WMATA

George Branyan, DDOT

Katherine Froyd, Fairfax County Department of Social Services

Terri Braxton, COG

Rob Krupicka, Alexandria City Councilmember
--