

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

**MINUTES
Board of Directors' Meeting
COG Board Room
May 10, 2006**

**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

Chair Jay Fisette called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 12, 2006 MINUTES

Motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to adopt the minutes of the April 12, 2006 meeting.

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Fisette announced that the Board meeting would be concluded with an Executive Session to discuss a personnel related matter.

Later this month, May 24th, COG will hold its first annual Local-State Partnership Dinner at the Grand Hyatt in Washington. This dinner is a great way to strengthen

relationships with state-level officials and advance important policies on transportation, the Chesapeake Bay, air quality and homeland security. The Chair encouraged members to participate as well as to reach out to state-level officials for their involvement.

The Envision Greater Washington exploratory phase has gotten off to a good start. The Working Group met on April 26 and quickly engaged some of the difficult, but important issues. Several COG members agreed to serve on the Working Group, which is expected to meet again on May 12 and June 22. Recommendations coming out of the Working Group will be shared with top regional leaders at the COG retreat, July 28-30. COG staff is also working with the Board of Trade and the Community Foundation to raise funds for this intensive, 90-day exploratory phase so that regional officials and other stakeholders have the information necessary to make sound decisions on this issue.

Stuart Freudberg, COG's Director of Environmental Programs, highlighted several upcoming projects including a scheduled tour of water quality initiatives in Loudoun County, water quality media outreach campaign for Northern Virginia, and the continued advocacy for increased federal funding of the Chesapeake Bay.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director David Robertson announced the retirement and wished a fond farewell to Walter Weaver who has worked for COG for 37 years.

Mr. Robertson stated that he made presentations to both the Maryland and Virginia Congressional Delegations regarding regional homeland security and preparedness in the National Capital Region. In addition, he met with the Executive Director of the COG in Orlando to share information and best practices. He also met with the Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore and New York COGs as a part of the "mega region" concept that was discussed at the annual meeting.

Mr. Robertson reminded the Board of the upcoming Foster Parent Gala on May 20 and urged all to attend. The COG Retreat has been scheduled for July 28-30th and will be held in Cambridge Maryland; the planning committee is currently working on the schedule and will distribute it shortly.

The two latest "In Focus" data reports for Frederick and Prince William Counties have been released and were included in the Board's packet. Similar reports will be provided each month until all jurisdictions have been covered.

Mr. Robertson also drew the Board's attention to several recent media spotlights including a Washingtonpost.com Chat about the region with the Chair, a press conference held by area Latino elected officials at COG, and several features on the increasing gas prices.

Imelda Roberts, COG's Human Resources Director has just won an Immigrant of the Year award and will be honored at a Gala this evening.

6. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Supplemental Documents: Resolutions R19-06, and R22-06 through R25-06 (Electronic)

A. Adoption of Day Labor Summit Outcomes and Recommendations

The Human Services Policy Committee convened summit meetings in November 2005 and March 2006 to provide a forum to discuss best practices and public management responses to the challenge of day labor issues. The COG Board was briefed on the summit outcomes and recommendations at its April 2006 meeting, but deferred action at that time due to a lack of a quorum and recommended that action be taken at the Board's May 2006 meeting on the consent agenda. The Board approved Resolution R19-06.

B. Resolution in Support of Grants to Administer the Higher Education Scholarship Program

The Board adopted Resolution R22-06, authorizing the Executive Director or his designee to accept grant funds from the District of Columbia's Office of Early Childhood Development (D.C. OECD) to provide opportunities for tuition-free college level education and training for child care providers who wish to obtain an advanced degree in early childhood education. COG has been administering the Higher Education Scholarship Program (HESP) for ten years. HESP grants scholarships to family child care providers and center-based child care staff. The scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis and used at area colleges and universities. Grant funds in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 will be accepted from D.C. OECD. The Resolution also asks the Board to authorize an application for additional grant funding to the U.S. Department of Education to expand the number of HESP scholarships provided. Grant funds not to exceed \$436,000 over three years will be requested. Matching funds are required. Matching funds include an amount not to exceed \$60,900 in COG child care program funds previously approved in the FY 2007 COG budget, and D.C. OECD grants and scholarship matching funds provided by HESP partner Universities and Colleges.

C. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Enter into a Contract with ICF Consulting to Support a Comprehensive Exercise and Corrective Action Program for the National Capital Region

The Board adopted Resolution R23-06, authorizing the Executive Director or his designee to execute a contract with ICF Consulting to provide a regional homeland security comprehensive exercise and corrective action program. Task orders will be forwarded to ICF Consulting as requested by ETOP based on the availability of funds that will be provided by the State Administrative Agent for the NCR in an amount not to exceed \$618,047. ICF Consulting was chosen through a competitive bidding process. No COG matching funds will be required.

D. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Create an Online Space for the Regional Program Working Groups (RPWG) and the Regional Emergency Support Functions (RESF) to Find Information, Collaborate and Communicate

The Board authorized the Executive Director or his designee to execute the approved proposal to provide website services for the Regional Program Working

Groups and the Regional Emergency Support Functions. The State Administrative Agent for the National Capital Region will provide COG with \$29,000 in Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funding to execute the proposal to provide the needed website services. No COG matching funds will be required.

E. Approval of Funds to Support the Envision Greater Washington Phase One Work Program

The Board authorized the Executive Director to solicit and commit funding to support the three-month, Envision Greater Washington (EGW) work program. Following the recent Greater Washington Board of Trade (GWBOT) Potomac Conference, the COG Board joined the GWBOT and the Community Foundation of the National Capital Area in co-convening the first phase of EGW. Several area elected and appointed officials serve on the EGW Working Group, which has a three-month, \$100,000 work program. The requested public sector share of this work program is \$25,000. The Executive Director will solicit voluntary financial support from interested local governments, as well as supplemental COG financial support. COG supplemental support shall not exceed \$25,000 in cash or in-kind support from the approved FY 2006 COG Metropolitan Planning and Economic Development work program and/or contingency reserve. The EGW Working Group is expected to present its report and recommendations at the COG retreat, July 28-30, prior to additional public sector outreach and further COG Board review and action in the Fall 2006.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, consent agenda items A - E were unanimously agreed upon and adopted.

7. REGIONAL ACTION ON METRO DEDICATED FUNDING

Supplemental Report: WMATA Legislative Update (Electronic)
WMATA Power Point (Electronic)

In January 2005, the COG Board of Directors and the Transportation Planning Board supported the recommendation of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Metro funding, which called for a dedicated source of funding by the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. In February 2006, the COG Board established a Joint Coordinating Committee to track and support legislative efforts to enact dedicated funding, co-chaired by Chair Fissette and Vice Chair Michael Knapp. Chair Fissette briefed the Board on outcomes in the District of Columbia and Maryland, and the status of legislation in Virginia and the U.S. Congress.

In April, the DC Council and the Mayor approved legislation which would establish a nonlapsing, dedicated fund to be funded by .05% of retail sales tax revenue, to provide additional funding for maintaining and improving the transportation system of WMATA. Maryland has commissioned a study of the operating and capital funding needs of Metro in the State and Virginia, while it has yet to adopt a budget, has included provisions for Metro funding in many of its alternatives.

Rising gas prices provide another reason for the region to secure dedicated dollars for Metro as more drivers turn to public transit. New research conducted by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission on the costs of rising fuel prices and traffic congestion states that Northern Virginia drivers are paying \$400 million more on gasoline than last year (\$250 more per resident).

NVTC stated traffic congestion costs the D.C. region \$2.5 billion annually or \$577 per commuter. It also stated past investments in public transit have saved the region \$1 billion in congestion costs. Dedicated Metro funding directly improves the lives of the region's residents by offering drivers a choice of not paying higher gasoline and congestion costs. It is estimated that congestion costs \$577 per commuter and gas costs at least \$250 more as prices rise, while dedicated funding (in Virginia, a quarter-cent sales tax proposal or \$38 per person) would cost area residents a fraction of these costs.

ACTION: Upon Motion Made, and Seconded, Resolution R21-06 was unanimously approved and adopted.

8. PRESENTATION ON SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Supplemental Documents: Sister Cities International Bio (Electronic)

In October 2005, the Board adopted a resolution to endorse the Sister Cities International 50th Anniversary Conference in Washington, D.C. which will be held July 13-16. The conference will serve as a great opportunity to find out about best practices world wide, and to learn from local governments that have been active in Sister City relationships with communities in other countries. Cindy de Sales, from Sister Cities International, briefed the Board on the conference and opportunities for local governments to get involved in the Sister Cities program.

Sister Cities International is a nonprofit citizen diplomacy network that creates and strengthens partnerships between U.S. and International Communities. The upcoming conference will bring together over 1,000 members representing 40 countries from around the world. Its many events include a gala to award outstanding leaders in the area of humanitarian partnership and global citizenship as well as a youth summit on global citizenship. The conference is an excellent way to learn about the opportunities provided by the program as well as ways to build upon existing relationships.

Many of COG's local governments have "sister cities" including the District of Columbia, Frederick, Prince George's, Arlington and Loudoun counties as well as the cities of Rockville and Alexandria.

Chair Fissette stated that Sister Cities is a wonderful opportunity for local governments, but the relationship takes a lot of work on the part of citizens and cannot be government driven if it is going to be successful. He added that it would be helpful to know what local governments contribute and requested that COG staff compile the data for distribution.

9. BRIEFING ON THE 2006 UPDATE TO THE LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Supplemental Documents: CLRP Power Point (Electronic)

COG Transportation Director Ron Kirby briefed the Board on the 2006 Update to the Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan including the new projects and studies, as well as the 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 which means 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.”

In April, the Transportation Planning Board approved one billion dollars worth of new transportation projects linked to the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative and the new Washington Nationals stadium. The three Anacostia projects, along with two other modest road-improvement projects and two new studies, are now included in the region’s long-range transportation plan. The projects, along with land use changes linked to the new Nationals baseball stadium, will be included in the air quality conformity analysis to be conducted as part of the 2006 transportation plan update.

The Round 7.0a forecast will be reviewed by the COG Board at its October 10th meeting and the final 2006 CLRP Update will go before the Transportation Planning Board on October 18th.

10. OUTCOMES OF REGIONAL “STREET SMART” PEDESTRIAN SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Supplemental Documents: Street Smart Power Point (Electronic)

The recently concluded 2006 regional “Street Smart” pedestrian safety campaign funded by federal, state, and local governments and sponsored by the Transportation Planning Board and COG, received strong support from area local governments, law enforcement agencies and state transportation officials. Pedestrian safety was identified by the COG Board as a priority, cross-cutting policy focus for 2006. Michael Farrell from the Department of Transportation Planning at COG and Dr. Samir Fakhry Chief of Trauma Services at Inova Fairfax Hospital briefed the Board on the Street Smart events held in recent weeks, on the findings of a recent report on pedestrian injuries in the Washington region, and on recommended next steps.

Mr. Farrell gave a brief overview of the campaign which includes radio, newspaper, and transit advertising for changing pedestrian behavior. The most recent campaign ended in April and received extensive media coverage; the next campaign will be held in March and April 2007. This campaign is supported by state-allocated federal transportation safety funds matched by voluntary contributions from local governments.

Mr. Fakhry presented the results of the Fairfax Inova Pedestrian Injury Report funded as part of the Street Smart campaign with Federal Motor Carrier Funds allocated by the D.C Metropolitan Police Department. There are approximately 3,000 pedestrian injuries each year, approximately 80 of which are fatal. The research has shown that a majority of these accidents occur because of specific behavioral patterns including not crossing at intersections or crossing at intersections without signals; data is not available for those injuries which resulted from vehicular misconduct because the police are usually not there to make note, however it is estimated that responsibility is evenly distributed. In addition to behavioral patterns, the design of the traffic network has a significant impact and without suitable pedestrian accommodations there is not much that can be done to existing neighborhoods to reduce the number of incidents.

The data presented was incomplete and Mr. Fakhry stated that further analysis is necessary for a complete understanding of pedestrian and vehicular accidents as well

as in forming policies and public education campaigns. Fairfax County Supervisor Penelope Gross recommended that the Human Services Policy Committee and Public Safety Policy Committee jointly consider specific policy recommendations on additional local and regional measures to enhance pedestrian safety and that those recommendations include an examination of how community design standards can support pedestrian mobility and safety. In addition, Ms. Gross requested that COG send a letter of support to Honda requesting the continued funding for pedestrian test dummies which have been instrumental to understanding how the human body reacts to certain pedestrian related injuries.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, the Board unanimously agreed to have both the Human Services Policy Committee and Public Safety Policy Committee review ways to enhance pedestrian safety as well as to transmit a letter of support to Honda.

10. 3rd QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

Supplemental Documents: 3rd Quarter Financial Report

Dr. Jacqueline Brown, COG's Secretary Treasurer, stated that there is a cash balance of \$2,516,463; the reserve increased from \$5,957,914 to \$6,270,974; and COG's total revenue of \$17,461,077 exceeded costs by \$639,663.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

By motion the Board of Directors concluded the public meeting and convened in Executive Session for personnel purposes.

12. RECONVENED PUBLIC SESSION

The Board reconvened in Public Session for such purposes as the Board deemed appropriate.

ACTION: There being no further business, the Board adjourned until its next meeting on June 14th.

**ATTENDANCE: May 10, 2006
BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ALTERNATES 2006**

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Y/N</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Y/N</u>
District of Columbia				
Executive	Hon. Anthony A. Williams	N	Ms. Alfreda Davis	N
	Mr. Robert Bobb	N	Ms. Sharon Anderson	Y
Council	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y	Mr. Kwame Brown	N
	Hon. Carol Schwartz	N		
Maryland				
Bowie	Hon. G. Frederick Robinson	N		
College Park	Hon. Robert Catlin	Y		
Frederick County	Hon. John R. Lovell, Jr.	Y		
Gaithersburg	Hon. John Schlichting	N		
Greenbelt	Hon. Judith "J" F. Davis	Y		
Montgomery County				
Executive	Hon. Douglas M. Duncan	N	Mr. Bruce Romer	N
Council	Hon. Nancy Floreen	N		
	Hon. Michael Knapp	N		
Prince George's County				
Executive	Hon. Jack B. Johnson	N	Dr. Jacqueline Brown	Y
Council	Hon. Camille A. Exum	N		
	Hon. Tony Knotts	N		
Rockville	Hon. Robert E. Dorsey	Y		
Takoma Park	Hon. Bruce Williams	N		
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. William Bronrott	Y		
Virginia				
Alexandria	Hon. Redella S. Pepper	Y		
Arlington County	Hon. G. N. Jay Fiset	Y		
City of Fairfax	Hon. Gary Rasmussen	N		
Fairfax County	Hon. Gerald E. Connolly	N		
	Hon. Penelope A. Gross	Y		
	Hon. Joan DuBois	Y		
Falls Church	Hon. Daniel Gardner	N	Ms. Marti Meserve	N
Loudoun County	Hon. Lori Waters	Y	Mr. Bruce Tulloch	N
Manassas	Hon. Douglas Waldron	N		
Manassas Park	Hon. Frank Jones	N	Mr. Michael Bunner	N
Prince William County	Hon. Sean Connaughton	Y	Mr. Dana Fenton	N
	Hon. Hilda Barg	Y	Mr. Rick Canizales	Y
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. James M. Scott	N		

Other Participants

Cindy de Sales, Sister Cities
International

Dr. Samir Fakhry
Chief, Trauma Services Inova
Fairfax Hospital

Dr. Refaat Hanna
Injury Prevention
Epidemiologist Inova Fairfax
Hospital

Dr. Jacqueline Brown
CAO, Prince George's County
Secretary-Treasurer, COG

Ron Kirby
Director, DTP, COG

Michael Farrell
Department of Transportation
Planning, COG