

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4290**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
INTEROPERABILITY PROGRAM AND INTERIM GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE
SUPPORT COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, on September 11, 2002, the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) adopted the recommendation of its Task Force on Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness for the National Capital Region (NCR) and created the Regional Emergency Coordination Plan (RECP); and

WHEREAS, a significant element of the RECP is the creation, utilization, and maintenance of a capacity for regional interoperability of emergency and other communications between and among the public safety and other emergency responders within the NCR; and

WHEREAS, need for this capacity for regional interoperability of voice and data communications in the NCR has been recognized and supported as a priority by the Department of Homeland Security, the Senior Policy Group, the COG Chief Administrative Officers Committee (CAO Committee), and others; and

WHEREAS, after months of research and investigation, the COG Chief Information Officers Committee (CIO Committee) have structured a proposal to address the interim requirements for the governance, creation and administration of a region-wide entity that ultimately would provide service and support to the applications, data exchanges, and infrastructure of such interoperability; and

WHEREAS, this proposal requires COG to function as the initial administrative and contracting agent for such an entity and the interoperability efforts that it will administer and oversee for the benefit of the region; and

WHEREAS, interim administration and oversight of such interoperability efforts require awareness of and sensitivity to the privacy and security policies of all the governing bodies of the COG jurisdictions which may participate in a formal program of data sharing as part of regional operability; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors believes that administration and oversight of interim interoperability must be in the hands of those regional officials who, by profession and position, are best suited in and responsible for marshaling the resources necessary to respond to regional emergency incidents, to the day-to-day management thereof, giving full weight to the requirements of each participating jurisdiction, and to recommend and craft a permanent regional structure; and

WHEREAS, The COG CAO Committee, comprised of the professional managers of the twenty-one COG jurisdictions, and its Homeland Security Executive Committee, has, since the inception of the RECP process, been involved with the creation of regional communications efforts through the Regional Incident Communications and Coordination System (RICCS) and other efforts, and its members are uniformly involved with the disaster preparedness and response efforts of their respective jurisdictions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

1. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) acknowledges the need for an interoperability program to design and implement both short and long-term regional interoperability services through an interim structure and, ultimately, a permanent structure to serve the regional communications needs of COG member jurisdictions and other entities as appropriate. COG encourages its member jurisdictions and their professional staffs to actively consider participation in the program authorized herein.
2. There is hereby established the Interoperability Council of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (Interoperability Council) as the interim administrative and oversight entity for the design and implementation of an interoperability services program as conceived by the CIO Committee and reviewed and recommended by the CAO Committee.
3. The CAO Committee, on behalf of COG and its member jurisdictions which elect to formally function as part this effort, is hereby appointed and tasked to function as the Interoperability Council with the following proposed duties and obligations:
 - a. Receive periodic reports and recommendations from advisory entities such as the COG CIO, EMA, Police Chief, Public Health Officials, and Fire Chief Committees and COG staff;
 - b. Establish regional policies regarding security and privacy of data;
 - c. Evaluate the cost effectiveness and total cost of ownership for the proposed program;
 - d. Identify and recommend methods of funding the project;
 - e. Consider and authorize COG to file grant applications in support of these efforts;
 - f. Recommend or authorize contracts in the name of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments in support of the on-going delivery of interoperability services;
 - g. Develop and establish its own protocol and procedures and file a copy with the Clerk to the Board; and
 - h. Create an executive committee within the Council to facilitate the Council's work.
4. It is assumed that since the work, records, and meetings of the Interoperability Council will include information critical to the emergency response and public safety efforts of the region, its activities are excluded from the public access provisions of the Rules and Procedures of the COG Board.
5. The COG Executive Director is authorized to provide such administrative and contracting agent services as are appropriate, and is directed to apply for such grants and enter into such contracts in furtherance thereof as may be authorized by the Interoperability Council or this Board. He will also provide such staff support to the CIO Committee and regional operability efforts as he shall deem necessary after consultation with the Interoperability Council. He is authorized to expend such funds as are already budgeted for Homeland Security purposes to underwrite these activities or, if he believes necessary, to recommend a budget adjustment to this Board.
