

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

**MINUTES
Board of Directors' Meeting
COG Board Room
April 11, 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 12:00 p.m. with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 14, MINUTES

Motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to adopt the minutes of the March 14th meeting.

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Gray began his announcements by recognizing Sonny Amores, COG's Chief Financial Officer, who retires this month after 29 years of service.

The 2006 COG Annual Report and 2007 Regional Directory have been mailed to members and are available for download on COG's website.

Earlier this year, the Transportation Planning Board announced that it would begin accepting applications from local governments for its new Transportation Land-Use Connections Program. At its March meeting the TPB approved 6 of the proposed projects; information on the approved projects was included in the Board's packet of information.

Preparations are underway for this year's Annual Foster Parent Gala. The event will take place May 12th at the Renaissance Marriott hotel in Washington, D.C. and will include a special video and awards ceremony hosted by NBC-4 news anchor Barbara Harrison.

In addition to the Foster Parent Gala, there are several important events occurring in the next few months. These events include COG's Local-State Partnership Dinner scheduled for June 14th at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, NARC's 41st annual conference June 23-26 in Orlando, Florida, and COG's Annual Retreat July 27-29 at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay in Cambridge, Maryland.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director David Robertson announced that during a briefing of the National Capital Planning Commission on alternative growth scenarios he received a proclamation from the Commission recognizing COG's 50th Anniversary. He noted that Carol Schwartz, Chairman of COG's 50th Anniversary Committee, has requested similar proclamations from other regional associations as well as COG's member jurisdictions.

COG had several media hits in the last month including the coverage of a press conference held by COG's Police Chiefs Committee unveiling the purchase of, through a homeland security grant, \$54 million worth of equipment and programs designed to help authorities respond better to disasters.

COG has partnered with Scotts brand fertilizer in a campaign aimed at encouraging the responsible use of fertilizer.

Mr. Robertson stated that he made many outreach efforts to various associations and member jurisdictions over the last month noting that if there are jurisdictions which would like him to visit to let him know.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Supplemental Documents: Resolutions R35-07
List of appointees (electronic)

(A.) Chairman Gray recommended and the Board adopted Resolution R35-07 making appointments to the following standing and ad hoc administrative committees for 2007:

- i. Budget and Finance Committee – Responsible for reviewing and making recommendations to the COG Board on the proposed FY 2009 work program and budget, and advise the COG Board, as necessary, on COG's budget and financial matters.
- ii. Employee Compensation and Benefits Review Committee – Responsible for providing oversight to the COG Board on the annual evaluation of the executive director and for advising the COG Board on any revisions to employee compensation and benefits.

- iii. Pension Plan Administrative Committee – Responsible for providing oversight for COG's employee pension plan and for advising the COG Board on any plan amendments.

7. COG 50TH ANNIVERSARY 1957-2007

50 years ago today, April, 11, 1957, COG was created as a forum for local leaders from the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia to discuss the issues facing the region associated with its rapid growth. For the past half century, COG has encouraged local officials to look beyond their jurisdictions at the bigger, regional picture on issues like transportation, the environment, human services, public safety and homeland security.

District of Columbia Council Member and Chair of COG's 50th Anniversary Committee Carol Schwartz highlighted several special events that have been planned in the coming months to commemorate COG's anniversary and introduced a host of sponsors whose generous contributions will help to fund these events.

On May 30, COG will hold a "Futures Forum" on how issues like globalization and climate change will affect the future of the National Capital Region. The Forum will be moderated by NBC-4 news Anchor Jim Vance and speakers include Michael Rogers former COG Executive Director, Robert Lang from Virginia Tech, Steven Fuller from George Mason, and Harriet Tregoning from the D.C. Office of Planning; Leonard Downey Jr. Executive Editor of the Washington Post will be the luncheon keynote speaker. The event is invitation only so members should notify Ms. Schwartz or COG's Executive Director David Robertson of particular individuals or groups that should be invited.

COG will also host a gala dinner on November 15 at the Mellon Auditorium for current and past area elected officials, business executives and civic and non-profit leaders. The gala is intended to be a celebratory event and as such will have a very limited program, mainly to adopt the 2009 Work Program and Budget.

Ms. Schwartz noted that this anniversary is the perfect occasion for regional leaders to celebrate 50 years of cooperation and success, and to promote more of the same in the next 50 years.

Loudoun County Supervisor Lori Waters requested that save the date cards for the Gala be prepared and distributed to the Board so that members can invite local officials and area stakeholders.

8. COG-SPONSORED REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE

Supplemental Documents: Resolution R31-07 (Electronic)

Supporting Memo from the Executive Director (Electronic)

Various supporting documents (hard-copy)

During its March meeting, the COG Board adopted its Policy Focus and Priorities for 2007; and in doing so defined a new "Regional Focus on Climate Change." This effort will build upon work ongoing in many local governments and bring it into a regional perspective, facilitate the sharing of best practices, and consider the potential for additional/new action.

Though the cause(s) of climate change is increasingly the subject of intense debate, its effect on the environment world-wide cannot be ignored. Staff, working with the Chief Administrative Officers Committee, has developed several recommendations in Resolution R31-07. This resolution would establish an interdisciplinary Steering Committee to advise the Board on the development of a regional climate change program. It calls for

expanding existing COG programs and local government actions to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in the Washington metropolitan region. In addition to establishing a reduction goal for the region, the committee will consider several other action items, including: measuring local greenhouse gas emissions and their impact on the region; preparing a catalogue of activities currently underway in local jurisdictions; identifying best practices for local governments; and recommending climate change policy and potential advocacy positions on federal, state and local climate change proposals.

To support this effort, Resolution R31-07 would authorize the use of up to \$100,000 from the Board's contingency reserve as seed money to cover staff support, and for match to federal, state, local, and private foundation grants.

Stuart Freudberg, COG's Director of Environmental Programs, added that the requested funding is to jumpstart the initiative and that in the future money could be set aside in COG's Work Program and Budget.

Upon motion for the adoption of Resolution R31-07 Fairfax County Board Chairman Gerald Connolly suggested an amendment to the second therefore clause adding the phrase "including a recommendation on any need for a long term organizational structure for the regional climate change initiative" to the end of the first sentence.

Several members noted their skepticism on drawing money from the contingency reserve, which has a strict policy for its use. They added however, that this issue is one of great proportions and importance and is just the sort of project that the contingency reserve was set up for. It was also mentioned that COG's staff has made great strides to adhering to the Board's policy on the Reserve Fund's usage and that members are confident staff will continue to be fiscally responsible.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R31-07 was unanimously adopted with amendment.

9. PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF BROADBAND ACCESS TASK FORCE REPORT

Supplemental Material: Resolution R32-07 (electronic)
Broadband Access Taskforce Report (electronic)

In 2006 the Board established a Broadband Access Taskforce (BATF), chaired by Loudoun County Supervisor Lori Waters, to foster the development of broadband internet access throughout the National Capital Region. This effort built upon the work of the Digital Divide Taskforce's 2002 report to identify and promote local and regional broadband activities. Ms. Waters briefed the Board on the BATF's report, outcomes and recommendations.

The BATF's Report provides an overview of broadband access in the national capital region and outlines local, regional, and national recommendations for expansion. It also provides ways that COG and local governments can work together to improve connectivity and regional access and set up policies to encourage competition.

The Report recommends that COG and local governments work together to establish a regional agenda for improving access to broadband by setting goals for availability and adoption by residents and businesses. It also recommends local governments to institute a Regional Broadband Advisory Board, and explore the feasibility of leveraging existing infrastructure for public use.

Ms. Waters requested the Board's adoption of Resolution R32-07 which accepts the Report and its dissemination to member jurisdictions.
Prince George's County Chief Administrative Officer Dr. Jacqueline Brown asked what an affirmative vote would mean, i.e. must the jurisdictions support and implement the recommendations in their entirety. Ms. Waters responded that the vote would simply be to accept the report not affirming particular recommendations.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, the Board unanimously adopted R32-07.

10. PRESENTATIONS ON GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

A. Approval of Metropolitan Development Policy Committee's Recommendation on Round 7 Update to the Regional Activity Centers Maps

Supplemental Documents: Resolution R33-07 (Electronic)
Activity Centers Maps Memo (Electronic)
Activity Centers Maps Draft (Hard Copy)

In July 2006, the COG Board approved COG's first series of regional activity centers maps based on its Round 6 cooperative forecasts of populations, households and jobs. The regional activity centers maps have been helpful in depicting patterns of land use and transportation planning and infrastructure investments. In this action, the Board agreed to update the maps following the adoption of each major round of forecasts.

Prince George's County Council Member and Chair of the Metropolitan Development Policy Committee Tom Dernoga along with Paul Desjardin COG's Chief of Planning briefed the Board on the latest update to the activity centers maps.

In updating these maps, several adopted criteria were used: DC as the core, mixed use development centers, employment centers, suburban employment centers, and emerging employment centers. By applying these criteria to the new Round 7.0 forecasts, three new Regional Activity Centers were identified: "Konterra" a suburban employment center in Prince George's County, and "Woodbridge" and "Gainesville" as emerging employment centers in Prince William County. It also identified six new Regional Activity Clusters.

This process found that these activity centers contain approximately 54 percent of the region's current and future employment, and slightly more than 13 percent of the region's current and future households. Employment shares are comparable to previous activity centers though household shares are significantly higher due to more than 120,000 households that were added during Round 7 approval process.

In updating the Cluster maps committee members defined 'clusters' to better represent regional concentrations of housing and employment located in close proximity to one another along major transportation corridors. Round 7.0 Activity Clusters contain approximately 70% of current and projected jobs for 2030 and slightly more than 40 percent of current households and 42 percent of future households. Again employment shares are comparable to previous activity clusters while the households are significantly higher.

These centers and clusters are descriptive of the future anticipated growth but could be used a prescriptive tool to guide future commercial and residential growth. Staff identified 3 potential policy uses for the centers and clusters: increasing the share of future employment in the regional activity centers and clusters; concentrating residential growth

in regional activity centers; and concentrating growth in transit station and commuter rail station areas.

Loudoun County Supervisor Lori Waters questioned the boundaries in her area and asked staff to look into the issue before finalizing.

Arlington County Board Member Jay Fissette noted his disappointment that commercial growth continues to increase within these areas. He also offered an amendment to the proposed resolution approving this Round of Activity Maps; the amendment would delete the phrase "as guided by local and comprehensive plans" in the third therefore clause.

City of Greenbelt Mayor Judith Davis stated that it would be helpful to know the breakdown of what 'housing' means in terms of local planning. Mr. Desjardin stated that this information is not currently being tracked but could be.

Action: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R33-07 was unanimously adopted as amended.

B. Outcomes and Recommended Next Steps on Envision Greater Washington

Supplemental Documents: Resolution R34-07 (electronic)
EGW Report (electronic)

COG, the Greater Washington Board of Trade and the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region co-convened work groups to review and make recommendations on a proposal to launch a regional visioning campaign, known as Envision Greater Washington, in early 2006. This effort arose following the Reality Check on Growth event in February 2005 and the Potomac Conference in February 2006. COG's Metropolitan Development Policy Committee, as the COG Board's principal policy advisor on growth and development, also monitored and reviewed the Envision Greater Washington proposal. A recent staff business plan expanded on the Envision Greater Washington proposal completed by the organizing committee in July 2006. Executive Director David Robertson and MDPC Chairman Thomas Dernoga briefed the Board on the outcomes and recommended next steps on Envision Greater Washington.

While recognizing that the business plan responded to several of the issues previously identified, co-convening sponsors concluded this month that their organizations would not be able to lead and support the Envision Greater Washington campaign effort as outlined in the July 2006 Moving our Region Forward report and the accompanying business plan. It was concluded that many EGW goals could be accomplished through a re-commitment to support and sustain existing organizations, networks and relationships, rather than building and investing resources in a new regional structure at this time.

The MDPC recommended in March 2007 that COG not endorse nor support the Envision Greater Washington campaign proposal as outlined in the July 2006 report and business plan. As the COG Board's principal policy advisor on growth and development issues, MDPC has proposed its review of the July 2006 Envision Greater Washington report and other supporting information and to identify specific actions that can be quickly implemented by COG or proposed for the work program and budget to advance the principles of: Stronger multi-sector, multi-jurisdictional and citizen engagement, leveraging existing plans and visions, public choice through deeper understanding of the impact and consequences of alternative growth and investment scenarios, and a commitment to action and outcomes.

District of Columbia Council Member Carol Schwartz recommended an amendment to the proposed resolution which identifies the MDPC's recommendations changing the end of the fourth clause to read "...immediate, short-term, or longer-term action.."

Several members acknowledged the importance of sustaining the valuable business relationships built through this process.

Mr. Dernoga suggested that there be staff dedicated to working on this issue, specifically in showcasing the work COG produces, and requested ongoing direction from the COG Board.

Action: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R34-07 was unanimously adopted as amended.

11. MEMBER TIME

Chairman Gray invited members to discuss topics of interest for possible referral to one of COG's policy or technical committees. No issues were discussed.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2007.

**ATTENDANCE: APRIL 11, 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	N
Maryland				
Bowie	Hon. G. Frederick Robinson	N		
College Park	Hon. Robert Catlin	Y		
City of Frederick	Hon. William Holtzinger	Y	Alan Imhoff	N
Frederick County	Hon. David Gray	N		
Gaithersburg	Hon. John Schlichting	N	Henry Marrafa	Y
Greenbelt	Hon. Judith "J" F. Davis	Y		
Montgomery County				
Executive	Hon. Isiah Leggett	N	Mr. Tim Firestine	Y
Council	Hon. Roger Berliner	Y		
	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	N		
Takoma Park	Hon. Bruce Williams	Y		
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. William Bronrott	N		
Virginia				
Alexandria	Hon. William Euille	Y	Hon. Redella Pepper	N
Arlington County	Hon. G. N. Jay Fisette	Y		
City of Fairfax	Hon. Gary Rasmussen	Y		
Fairfax County	Hon. Gerald E. Connolly	Y		
	Hon. Penelope A. Gross	Y		
	Hon. Joan DuBois	N		
Falls Church	Hon. Robin Gardner	N	Ms. Lindy Hockenberry	N
Loudoun County	Hon. Lori Waters	Y		
Manassas	Hon. Douglas Waldron	N		
Manassas Park	Hon. Frank Jones	N		
Prince William County	Hon. Hilda Barg	Y	Mr. Dana Fenton	N
	Hon. Corey Stewart	Y		
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. James M. Scott	Y		

Other Participants
Wanda Gibson Chief Technology Officer, Fairfax County
Lee Ruck General Counsel, COG