

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002-4239**

**MINUTES
Board of Directors' Meeting
COG Board Room
September 8, 2004**

BOARD MEMBERS, ALTERNATES AND PARTICIPANTS PRESENT AND NOT PRESENT

***SEE ATTACHED CHART FOR ATTENDANCE**

STAFF

**David J. Robertson, Executive Director
Lee Ruck, General Counsel
Robert Griffiths, Director, Technical Services, TPB**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 14, 2004

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

3. AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda. Item #7 was moved up to Item #6.

a) Gang Summit – September 29

Chair Mendelson announced that the Gang Summit will be on September 29 and held at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia. Participants will share knowledge of existing gang initiatives. Chair Mendelson thanked Walter Tejada and Penelope Gross for chairing the planning committee.

b) National Preparedness Month – September

In the coming months, the Emergency Preparedness Committee will announce plans for the Citizens Education Program for public awareness.

c) Low Impact Development Conference – September 21 – 23

COG is assisting Prince George's County and the Anacostia Watershed Toxics Alliance with hosting the LID conference in College Park under a grant from the EPA.

d) COG Board Retreat Summary

Chair Mendelson informed the Board that a summary of the retreat was in their packets.

e) Council Member Camille Exum appointed to WAHTF

Chair Mendelson appointed Council Member Camille Exum to WAHTF. The Board welcomed new members: Douglas Waldron, Mayor of Manassas and Frank Jones, Mayor of Manassas Park. Present at the meeting was Frederick Robinson, Mayor of Bowie. Chair Mendelson presented certificates of appreciation to departing Board members, Kelvin Robinson and Peter Shapiro.

The Institute for Regional Excellence class graduation will be held at George Washington University on September 10.

f) Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director highlighted activities as of September 2004 by other COG policy bodies, officials and staff.

General Counsel Lee Ruck updated the Board on Mutual Aid Liability legislation. The Attorneys Work Group has been working with the House Government Reform Committee, and Congressman Tom Davis may introduce the bill this week. The Senate Government Affairs Committee is considering a bill that contains mutual aid language from the 911 Commission Report. Senators McCain and Lieberman intend to include a provision in the bill. He said he hoped this matter would be acted on in the remaining session of Congress.

4. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

(A) Resolution Authorizing Application to the Bank Of America Foundation for Funding Under the Neighborhood Builders Award

Resolution R41-04 – Authorizes the Executive Director to submit an application for the Bank of America Foundation's Neighborhood Builders Award. Funding in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 is requested for a period covering two years.

(B) Resolution in Support of a National Foster Parent Advocacy Conference

Resolution R42-04 - Authorizes the Executive Director to accept grant funds from the Freddie Mac Foundation, the Maryland League of Foster and Adoptive Parents, and the DC Metropolitan Foster and Adoptive Parent's Association to sponsor the National Advocacy Summit.

C) Request for Authorization to File a Grant Application with the Federal Aviation Administration for Phase XXII of the Continuous Airport System Planning Program

Resolution R43-04 - Authorizes the Executive Director to accept grant funds from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for Phase XXII of the Continuous Airport System Planning (CASP) program for the National Capital Region, in an amount not to exceed \$405,362, for Phase XXII of the program.

(D) Recognition of National Preparedness Month

Resolution R44-04 - Authorizes the Board to recognize September as National Preparedness Month in the National Capital Region.

6. REPORT OF CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NOISE COMPATIBILITY STUDY FOR REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT

CONAANDA Chair Barbara Favola briefed the Board on the Noise Compatibility Study. The Citizen's Advisory Committee to the Airports Authority did a study on noise compatibility and proposed recommendations for the region. There were five public hearings on the issue, and various organizations were represented.

The FAA considers 65 decibel level to be the national standard, so if areas are above that number, they're in line for mitigation measures. According to FAA framework, no new citizenry could be disadvantaged by the new proposals. The committee is trying to build on a voluntary agreement that's been in place since the 1980s.

The study includes several recommendations, including a noise mitigation agreement. All members of the committee agreed to move forward with the report except one, the Airline Transport Association, which did not like one of the proposals. Ms. Favola asked the Board to adopt R38-04. The committee will submit the report to the Airports Authority. A public hearing will take place on October 14 at 6 p.m. at the courthouse in Arlington County. The report will be submitted to the FAA, which may reject or accept it. If approved, a technical advisory committee will be formed to implement the recommendations.

Council Member Redella Pepper commended Ms. Favola and moved to adopt the resolution, which was seconded. Mayor Judith Davis asked if BWI was under CONAANDA's jurisdiction and whether a similar study could be done in that area. Ms. Favola said CONAANDA does not work with BWI and suggested she contact the area's airport authority.

Additionally, Ms. Favola said she knew of a Maryland study that deals with various transportation issues and will include BWI; airline traffic patterns may be studied. Supervisor Catherine Hudgins asked if there'd been a comparable study at Dulles. Ms. Favola said she didn't think so, but because they are adding a new runway, an environmental impact study is being done. The study may or may not address noise. R38-04 was approved with 21 yeas and 1 nay.

7. PRESENTATION ON INITIAL FINDINGS OF THE REGIONAL MOBILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY STUDY

Bob Griffiths of COG presented the first phase of the TPB's Regional Mobility Study. The study grew out of Board members' dissatisfaction in voting to approve a Long Range Plan that showed traffic performance worsening over the next 25 years. The increase would not be met with funding, and the projected ridership could not be accommodated.

As a result, the Board asked the TPB to look at alternatives. The results of the study showed very slight reductions in daily vehicle trips, a moderate increase in transit and a slight reduction in severe AM peak period congestion.

The TPB worked with the region's planning directors to look at alternative scenarios. Since most construction is already underway or in the pipeline, the group will be concentrating on the period between 2010 to 2030 for a more realistic study.

There's a growing imbalance between the number of jobs and availability of housing, and the gap is growing. In the transportation realm, the imbalance is being accommodated through in-commuting. Mr. Griffiths went into detail about various aspects of the scenarios and added that an increase in housing could accommodate additional growth without increasing daily travel.

Mr. Griffiths briefly discussed regional activity centers and clusters and looked at one scenario that would put more projected household growth closer to jobs. The group found very little impact on daily travel, a moderate increase in transit use and a significant reduction in AM peak congestion.

Commissioner John Lovell asked for clarification on the east-west divide, and Mr. Griffiths explained. Council Member Nancy Floreen expressed frustration about the study's conclusions and asked when the TPB would address infrastructure. In response, Mr. Griffiths said they will be doing so in the future.

8. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CREATING A SPECIAL REGIONAL PANEL TO EXAMINE DEDICATED FUNDING OPTIONS FOR WMATA

Chairman Gerald Connolly briefed the Board on the proposed WMATA funding panel. WMATA is the only major metro system in the country without dedicated sources of revenue. It has to rely on increasing fares and costs to local governments. Over the next six years the region will need \$4.1 billion dollars for Metro, but only \$1.9 billion has been funded. The panel will review existing studies on how to address the long-term problem. Mr. Connolly moved to adopted R39-04, and the motion was seconded.

The resolution will establish a fairly small, 13-member funding panel. Co-sponsors will be the Greater Washington Board of Trade (GWBOT) and the Federal City Council. One member will be selected from the cosponsors and three members from each state. Selected members will have a reputation for community service. An independent chair will also be selected. The target date for recommendations is December 15.

COG staff recommends that a consultant be retained for the panel, but the organizations involved will supply their expertise as well. The resolution also recommends that Mr. Robertson commit up to \$25,000 from the work program and budget for the panel, as he is authorized to do.

Council Member Carol Schwartz expressed concern about language in the resolution. She asked that the resolution be amended to include federal representation and added that she didn't like the idea of the Executive Director or outside members selecting the panel.

Ms. Hudgins said it's important to reach a compromise so the committee could be formed. Metro customers travel under constricted conditions and at some point, Metro will lose them. The federal government needs to do its part as well. Robert Bobb asked if the panel will be looking at current funding formulas for WMATA. The panel will examine dedicated sources of funding only. Chair Mendelson indicated that WMATA recently looked at the current formula.

Mr. Bobb said it did not make sense to do a dedicated funding study without looking at current funding. Robert Dorsey added that COG needs to see what others are doing correctly because Metro

is here to stay. It's a public utility that can't be eliminated, so we need to find a sensible way to fund it.

Chair Mendelson said the panel will consist of people with expertise in this area, not elected officials. Mr. Robertson added that there is strong COG support that GWBOT and the Federal City Council be active participants on panel.

Ms. Schwartz expressed concerns about the panel expanding and she asked that #6 and #3b be deleted or amended. Mr. Connolly said the wording of the resolution is not intended to give outside groups veto power. It's important to have stakeholder involvement. When and if the report is issued, it will have broad public consensus in the region.

Chair Mendelson said he believes the resolution language is consistent, but he'd accept a change that limited the panel to 13 members. Mr. Connolly agreed to change the language to reflect that the Executive Director will consult with participating jurisdictions to select the panel and to amend to include two federal ex-officio members.

Ms. Gross said the panel should consist of those with expertise on funding, not necessarily experts on Metro. The focus is on the legal and financial ways to raise revenue. Mr. Bobb said that Executive Directors should not be appointing the panel; the Mayor and chairs of the boards of the various agencies should do the appointing.

Ms. Schwartz asked that the resolution include language about a "menu of options." R39-04 was approved with 21 yeas and 1 nay.

9. COG'S UPDATED STRATEGIC PLAN: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEEThis presentation is deferred until October.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION ON THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

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

11. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION

The Board reconvened in Public Session for such purposes as the Board deemed appropriate. By a majority vote, the COG Board of Directors approved the salary increase of the Executive Director as contained in Resolution R40-04. Patrick Hogan, of the Maryland General Assembly, and John Lovell, of Frederick County, voted against the salary increase.

THE BOARD WAS REMINDED THAT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WOULD BE OCTOBER 13, 2004.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.