

Frederick County and City of Frederick Valued COG Members since 1989



LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ARE STRONGER WHEN THEY WORK TOGETHER

Frederick County and the City of Frederick first joined the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) in FY 1989 and have become key participants in decision-making in the National Capital Region. Through their association with COG, the County and City have advanced vital transportation projects and received hundreds of thousands of dollars for transportation/land use and homeland security planning. They have benefited from a wide-range of services provided by COG to its members, including economic forecasts, foster parent recruitment, promoting local agriculture, water quality monitoring and cooperative purchasing of diesel and fuel contracts. Also, Frederick's growth and development as a sustainable community is an integral part of COG's Region Forward initiative.

FREDERICK COUNTY/CITY AND THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

With a total area of nearly 667 square miles, Frederick County and City comprise the largest jurisdiction in the state of Maryland and the largest jurisdiction among COG's members. Together, the County/City comprise more than one-fifth of the total footprint of the COG region.

Based upon the County's Round 8.0 Cooperative Forecasts of growth, the population of the County and City are anticipated to grow by 185,500 persons between 2005 and 2040 or an 84 percent increase – the largest percentage increase in population foreseen among all COG jurisdictions. During the same period the County and City are anticipated to add 52,900 jobs (according to the Round 8 Forecasts).

According to COG's most recent "Our Changing Region" Census Bureau profile report, the median household income for, respectively, the County and City are \$80,970 and \$64,883 compared to a national average of \$51,425.

Since 2005, the City of Frederick has added more than 5.6 million square feet of new commercial, non-residential space, while COG's research indicates that the County has added an additional 10.8 million square feet of new commercial construction.

During FY 2008, Frederick County/City received \$2.5 billion in federal spending, including more than \$1.3 billion in procurement contract awards for the purchase of goods and services.

COG's "Our Changing Region Report" also indicates that among all jurisdictions Frederick County has the highest share of workers who "Drive Alone" (80 percent) as their primary mode of travel to work. The average commute time is 35 minutes for the County's workers.

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FREDERICK BENEFITS FROM COG MEMBERSHIP

Transportation Planning

COG's National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) approved several transportation projects vital to Frederick County /City of Frederick, including:

- I-270/US 15 corridor, HOV/HOT lanes project from Shady Grove to Biggs Ford Road
- Widening of I-70 from Mt. Philip Road to MD 144
- Widening of MD 85 from English Muffin Way to north of Grove Road
- Three interchange projects, I-70 at Meadow Road, US 15 and Monocacy Boulevard, and US 29 at Musgrove/Fairland Road

Frederick County/City of Frederick received funding from COG/TPB for four Transportation Land Use Connection (TLC) projects:

- Pedestrian Crossing Options at East Street and Carroll Creek (FY 2008, \$20,000)
- Fort Detrick Non-Motorized Access Study (FY 2008, \$20,000)
- MD 355/85 transit-oriented development study (FY 2009, \$60,000)
- Freight transportation and land use connections (FY 2011, \$60,000)

COG/TPB provides technical assistance and other resources to Frederick County/City of Frederick staff, including travel models and highway network maps. Elected officials and staff are also engaged in the TPB's transportation priorities plan and Bike to Work Day activities.

Community Planning and Services

City of Frederick staff and COG staff featured the City of Frederick as one of four regional case-studies on Complete Community planning as part of COG's Region Forward program.

The Frederick County Community Action Agency is one of several partners responsible for the COG-led annual count of homeless persons in the National Capital Region. The annual study fulfills HUD requirements for this information and aids communities in targeting public and private sector investments.

More than 20 Frederick County/City of Frederick foster families attended COG's April 2011 foster parent appreciation event. This event was fully-funded by a foundation grant. John and Lynn Taylor from Frederick County were recognized at the outstanding foster family of the year. COG promotes Frederick and other award winners to help recruit additional foster families.

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Environmental Programs

COG's Regional Agricultural Workgroup, which includes local governments, farmers, farmers markets and other non-governmental organizations, is focused on promoting and protecting local agriculture in the region. In April 2010, COG held a major forum, *The Working Lands Forum II: The Growing Local Challenge*, at the Great Frederick Fairgrounds for over 100 participants. COG also hosts a website, nationalcapitalfarms.org that provides up-to-date information on locally grown food and farmers markets.

TransIT Services of Frederick County is part of COG's regional Clean Air Partners program, promoting regional advertisement on buses and with local employers.

COG provided Frederick County with a "Go Recycle" radio campaign spot for local use.

Frederick County staff is actively involved with colleagues in other jurisdiction and COG staff in using regional technical assistance and other resources to promote energy-efficient public buildings and green, sustainable building practices.

COG staff provided consultant and information to Frederick County Office of Environmental Sustainability staff on stormwater permitting issues.

Public Safety and Homeland Security

Frederick County previously received two federal Urban Areas Security Initiative grants developed and funded regionally for emergency planning support (\$250,000) and mass fatality planning (\$70,000).

Frederick County is connected to the National Capital Region fiber-network and video-conferencing systems through regionally-administered federal homeland security grants, enabling the County to be fully integrated with local, state and federal emergency officials.

COG operates a water quality monitoring station at Frederick County's New Design water treatment plant as part of a regional water security monitoring network. The monitoring station is funded through the UASI grant and maintenance is fully supported by COG and contractor staff.

Member Services

Frederick County participates in COG's cooperative purchasing program, saving money on regional diesel and fuel contracts.

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ABOUT COG

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is a regional association of more than 250 local, state and federal elected officials representing 21 local governments in the National Capital Region. COG is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization.

COG is governed by three independent policy boards, each of which includes representation from Frederick County and the City of Frederick. COG also has several program or technical committees that include representatives from senior local government staff.

- COG Board of Directors: **Commissioner Gray** (Frederick County) and **Mayor McClement** and **President Pro Tem Young**, alternate (City of Frederick)
- Transportation Planning Board: **Commissioner Smith** (Frederick County) and **Alderman Krimm** (City of Frederick)
- Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC): **Commissioner Gray** (Frederick County) and **President Pro Tem Young** (City of Frederick)

COG is funded from voluntary contributions from member local governments (12 percent of the fiscal year budget) and a number of federal and state government and private sector grants and contracts (88 percent).

Fiscal year member assessments are based on population. Recognizing the difficult budget situation facing many local governments in the National Capital Region in recent years, COG has frozen membership assessments since FY 2009 (including FY 2010, 2011 and 2012).

The COG Board approved the following FY 2012 membership assessment for Frederick County and the City of Frederick in January 2011:

- City of Frederick, \$39,734
- Frederick County, \$111,354

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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Date: 5/17/2011