

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20002-4290 (202) 962-3310 Fax: (202) 962-3202

Item #5

MEMORANDUM

July 14, 2011

TO: Transportation Planning Board

FROM: Ronald F. Kirby *RFK*
Director, Department of
Transportation Planning

RE: Letters Sent/Received Since the June 15th TPB Meeting

The attached letters were sent/received since the June 15th TPB meeting. The letters will be reviewed under Agenda #5 of the July 20th TPB agenda.

Attachments



July 1, 2011

Ms. Muriel Bowser
Chair
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Chairperson Bowser:

Thank you for your June 15, 2011 letter requesting funding support for the Transportation Planning Board's (TPB) FY2012 Street Smart Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Campaign.

I am pleased to inform you that Metro will again provide funding for the campaign, in the amount of \$150,000. Metro views the Street Smart campaign as an important element in our overall pedestrian and bicyclist safety program. It allows us to reach the hundreds of thousands of pedestrians and cyclists in our region with messages to help keep them safe as they use the Metro system every day. All of our public safety efforts depend on our continued ability to educate pedestrians, cyclists, and operators of all types of vehicles.

Your letter specifically requested that Metro inform Ron Kirby of our continued financial commitment by August 1, 2011. By copy of this letter, Metro is committing its support for TPB to continue with the Fall 2011 campaign.

We look forward to participating fully in this effort with the TPB and our regional partners.

Sincerely,

Richard Sarles
General Manager and
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Ron Kirby, TPB

**Washington
Metropolitan Area
Transit Authority**

600 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
202/962-1234

By Metrorail:
Judiciary Square—Red Line
Gallery Place-Chinatown—
Red, Green and
Yellow Lines
By Metrobus:
Routes D1, D3, D6, P6,
70, 71, 80, X2



Loudoun County, Virginia

www.loudoun.gov

County Administration

1 Harrison Street, S.E., 5th Floor, P.O. Box 7000, Leesburg, VA 20177-7000

Telephone (703) 777-0200 • Fax (703) 777-0325 • email: coadmin@loudoun.gov

June 27, 2011

Mr. Ronald F. Kirby
Director of Transportation Planning
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20002-4239

Dear Mr. Kirby:

This letter serves to officially notify the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) that the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, at its June 21, 2011 business meeting, agreed to fund its recommended contribution towards the Street Smart Campaign in the amount of \$15,000, as suggested in the April 8, 2011 letter from TPB Chair, Murial Bowser. The official record of the Board's action is provided in the enclosed documentation. It should be noted that the Board's approved motion included funding of the campaign for one year, and that the effectiveness of that contribution in promoting bicycle and pedestrian safety in Loudoun County, through its use in the Street Smart Campaign, is to be evaluated at the end of that year. Future contributions would be weighed against the campaign's perceived effectiveness as determined through the evaluation (discussions of possible integration with future annual Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments dues notwithstanding).

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, or require any additional coordination with respect to Loudoun County's contribution, please contact Andy Beacher, Director, Office of Transportation Services at 703-771-5107 or andrew.beacher@loudoun.gov.

Sincerely,

Tim Hemstreet
County Administrator

Enclosure: Copy Teste for Street Smart Item



Loudoun County, Virginia

www.loudoun.gov

Office of the County Administrator

1 Harrison Street, S.E., 5th Floor, P.O. Box 7000, Leesburg, VA 20177-7000

Telephone (703) 777-0200 • Fax (703) 777-0325

At a business meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Loudoun County, Virginia, held in the County Government Center, Board of Supervisors' Meeting Room, 1 Harrison St., S.E., Leesburg, Virginia, on Tuesday, June 21, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

IN RE: FINANCE/GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
REPORTS/STREET SMART CAMPAIGN FUNDING

Mr. Burton moved that the Board of Supervisors approve the recommendation of the Finance/Government Services and Operations Committee that the Board of Supervisors not proceed with the funding of the Street Smart Campaign in the amount of \$15,000.

Mr. Burton further moved that the Board of Supervisors direct staff to send notification to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) that Loudoun County's annual contribution to COG not include any additional fees for the Street Smart Campaign.

Seconded by Mr. Delgaudio.

Voting on the **FAILED** Motion: Supervisors Burton and Delgaudio – Yes; Supervisors Buckley, Burk, Kurtz and McGimsey - No; and Supervisors Miller, Waters and York - Absent for the Vote.

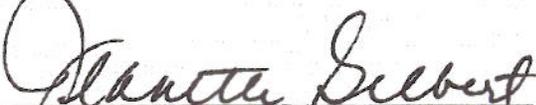
Mrs. Burk moved that the Board of Supervisors approve funding for the Street Smart Campaign for one year in the amount of \$15,000 and that at the end of one year, the contribution be evaluated for its effectiveness in promoting bicycle and pedestrian safety within the County.

Seconded by Ms. McGimsey.

Voting on the Motion: Supervisors Buckley, Burk, Kurtz and McGimsey – Yes; Supervisors Burton and Delgaudio – No; and Supervisors Miller, Waters and York - Absent for the Vote.

(A motion made by Supervisor Burk to direct staff to investigate the possibility of an initiative tailored to Loudoun County for its own Street Smart Campaign was *withdrawn*.)

A COPY TESTE:


DEPUTY CLERK FOR THE LOUDOUN
COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



City of Alexandria, Virginia
301 King Street, Suite 2300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314



William D. Euille
Mayor

City Hall: (703) 746-4500
Home: (703) 836-2680
Fax: (703) 838-6433
william.euille@alexandriava.gov

June 29, 2011

Mr. Ron Kirby
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, N.E. Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002-4290

Dear Mr. Kirby:

The City of Alexandria is providing this letter to outline our financial commitment to the FY 2011 (fall 2011 and spring 2012) Street Smart Safety Campaign. We are pleased to inform you that Alexandria will contribute \$7,300 to the Street Smart Safety Campaign. We are pleased to partner with other local jurisdictions on this important annual effort and to learn of the program's effectiveness. However, as we have previously stated, we believe that this annual contribution should be worked into one Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) regular budget and not be a separate requested and billed item.

Please forward the invoice to:

Ms. Carrie Sanders
Principal Transportation Planner
Transportation & Environmental Services
301 King Street, Room 3200
Alexandria, Va. 22314

Should you have any questions about Alexandria's efforts, please contact Ms. Sanders at carrie.sanders@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4088.

Thank you for your efforts on this program to address pedestrian and bicyclist safety, one of our region's most critical needs.

Sincerely,


William D. Euille
Mayor

cc: David Robertson, Executive Director, MWCOG

"Home Town of George Washington and Robert E. Lee"

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300 Washington, D.C. 20002-4239

Telephone (202) 962-3200 TDD (202) 962-3213 Fax (202) 962-3201 Internet: www.mwcog.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 30, 2011

Contact: Lewis Miller lmiller@mwcog.org / (202) 962-3209

Eco-Driving Campaign Provides Fuel Efficiency Tips
Simple Changes Can Equal Substantial Fuel Savings

As motorists head out to celebrate our nation's independence this Fourth of July, they are continuing to feel the pain at the pump. Although gas prices remain at or near record highs, "Eco-Driving" can help motorists declare their independence from high gas prices by making some easy changes to their driving habits. The [Eco-Driving Campaign](#) provides fuel- and cost-savings tips and also reminds motorists arriving in or near metropolitan areas for July 4th celebrations to take advantage of transit or other transportation alternatives in their holiday travel plans.

The I-95 Corridor Coalition is partnering with a number of state and metropolitan transportation agencies along the East Coast to assist drivers in alleviating the economic drain caused by higher fuel prices. Together, the agencies are promoting a public awareness campaign, "Drive Green, Save Green," based on a program developed by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and others to help long-distance drivers spend less on fuel and to reduce their carbon emissions at the same time. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) has joined the I-95 Corridor region to help bring this message of fuel and cash savings to the public.

Drive Green, Save Green offers drivers seven easy actions they can take to reduce their fuel cost by up to \$80 for a 700 mile round-trip journey – that's at least an entire tank of gas for most cars. Removing unnecessary items in the trunk, inflating the tires, and using cruise control are just a few of the recommended changes.

Eco-Driving posters will be displayed at rest areas and other travel locations in the partnering states. As part of this campaign, COG is encouraging both local and long distance travelers to drive efficiently and properly maintain their vehicles.

For motorists heading to major cities for July 4th festivities and fireworks, including Washington, DC, a number of the state and metropolitan transportation agencies in the I-95 Corridor participating in the "Drive Green, Save Green" Eco-Driving program will be linking travelers to information on options such as public transportation and ridesharing. For instance, those heading to the 4th of July festivities on the National Mall can easily take public transportation or they can also use the [Commuter Connections](#) special events ridematching service to locate others willing to share the ride to the events.

"We commend COG for promoting fuel efficiency and we know that coordinating these efforts with other agencies extends the benefits to travelers well beyond their jurisdictional boundaries. The positive impact on the wallet and on the environment is multiplied significantly when Eco-Driving is promoted in multiple jurisdictions," said George Schoener, I-95 Corridor Coalition Executive Director.

"COG and the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) are pleased to support the I-95 Corridor Coalition's Eco-Driving effort," said Ronald Kirby, Director of COG's Department of Transportation Planning. "As a regional agency in a major metropolitan area, we see an important opportunity to provide Eco-Driving tips and alternatives to commuters and long-distance travelers visiting during the summer holiday vacation season. Transit, ridesharing, bicycling and walking are great ways to get around the D.C. region, and will save travelers time and money while reducing the negative impacts on the environment. For those who choose to drive, altering driving habits and adopting a few simple car maintenance tips can get more mileage out of one's vehicle and mean fewer trips to the pump."

The I-95 Corridor Coalition

The I-95 Corridor Coalition is a partnership of State Departments of Transportation and related authorities and organizations, from Maine to Florida (with affiliates in Canada), working together to accelerate improvements in long-distance freight movement and passenger travel. For more information, see the Coalition website at www.i95coalition.org, or contact Marygrace Parker, I-95 Corridor Coalition at i95mgp@ttlc.net.

COG is an independent, nonprofit association comprised of elected officials from 21 local governments, members of the Maryland and Virginia state legislatures, and members of the U.S. Congress. The TPB is the regional transportation planning organization for the Washington region. It includes local governments, state transportation agencies, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, and members of the Maryland and Virginia General Assemblies.

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Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

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News Room

Commuter Connections Honors Three Area Businesses for Programs that Promote Sustainable Commuting Choices



Washington, D.C. – Three companies in metropolitan Washington – The American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc., B. F. Saul Company, and Clean Currents – were honored today at the National Press Club by Commuter Connections for providing outstanding commuting options and alternatives for employees. Commuter Connections, a program of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, focuses on making alternatives to drive-alone commuting practical and attractive.

Each of the companies voluntarily implemented strategies to support alternatives to driving to work alone, such as carpooling/vanpooling, teleworking, walking, bicycling and taking public transit. Such alternatives help reduce gasoline consumption, ease traffic congestion and the stress that long commutes place on employees, and provide for cleaner air through reduced auto emissions.

“We are honoring these companies and organizations today because they have made a commitment to making progress on two major issues for our region – traffic congestion and air pollution,” said Muriel Bowser, District of Columbia Council Member and TPB Chair. “They have put in place innovative and successful programs that have changed the commuting culture within their workplaces, and by doing so, have made positive contributions to the quality of life for their employees and the region’s residents as a whole.”

The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), the national professional association for occupational therapy practitioners and students was awarded for offering a wide variety of commuting incentives to encourage the use of public transit, ridesharing, bicycling and teleworking.

B. F. Saul Company, a privately-owned real estate firm in Bethesda, operating in every phase of real- estate investment and development, won an award for marketing for their innovative and multifaceted approach to promoting alternatives to drive-alone commuting to their employees.

Clean Currents, which provides residential and commercial power options in the Mid-Atlantic Region, and supplies renewable energy credits to businesses nationwide, was recognized by Commuter Connections for its telework program.

More detailed explanations of the winning organizations are provided


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below.

Commuter Connections works closely with local businesses to educate and promote alternatives to drive alone commuting practices of employees. With free assistance from Commuter Connections, employers can offer a wide array of commuting options from transit subsidies or pre-tax benefits to telework and ridesharing programs. Commuter Connections also manages the Guaranteed Ride Home program, which provides peace of mind for commuters using alternatives to driving alone by providing a free ride home in the event of an emergency. In addition they offer the 'Pool Rewards incentive program which provides up to \$130 in cash to drive alone commuters who start or join new carpools.

2011 Commuter Connections Employer Recognition Award winners:

• **The American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc. (Incentives Award); Contact: Jennifer Cramb, 301.652.6611**

65 employees. The American Occupational Therapy Association (OTA) is the national professional association for occupational therapy practitioners and students. Of their 65 employees, nearly two-thirds use alternative means of getting to and from work: 30 use transit, 4 carpool, and 7 walk or bike. OTA assists with commuting costs by subsidizing transit expenses at the rate of \$50 per month for each employee. OTA's office is located near the Bethesda Metrorail station which further encourages employees to use public transit for their commutes. OTA offers all full-time staff, after six months of employment, telework opportunities as well as alternative work arrangements such as flextime and compressed work weeks. About a third of employees use flextime and telework benefits. A 2010 Montgomery County commuter survey found that nearly 60% of OTA employees commute at off-peak times, allowing them to avoid adding to the main spike of traffic congestion. In 2010, OTA sponsored 30 employees who participated in Bethesda's Walk and Ride Challenge, a competition to see who can take the most steps during the month of September. American Occupational Therapy Association employees have saved or reduced 88,350 Vehicle Miles Traveled and 4,462 gallons of gasoline per year.

• **B. F. Saul Company (Marketing Award); Contact: Cheryl Snyder, 301.986.6195**

230 employees. Founded in 1892, B. F. Saul Company is a privately-owned real estate firm in Bethesda, operating in every phase of real-estate investment and development. By educating employees about alternative commute options, B. F. Saul continues to demonstrate what employees can do to save money, and be part of the solution to the area's traffic congestion and pollution. Marketing efforts to promote commute alternatives begins at the time of hire, with a PowerPoint presentation that outlines the organization's commuter benefits. B. F. Saul also gets the word out through their intranet, a monthly newsletter, as well as through company emails. Commuter brochures and transit schedules are displayed on racks in the Human Resources Department and are restocked regularly. In addition, they post commuter information on employee bulletin boards. In 2010, B. F. Saul also sponsored a team in the Walk and Ride Challenge. The company credits in part, its commuter benefits program with helping to decrease employee turnover from 18 percent in 2006 to less than 4 percent in 2010. It also cites its commuter program as an important contributor to an increase in overall job satisfaction and as a tool for employee recruitment. Of its 230 employees, 96 have found alternative ways to work. The company provides a \$105 per month subsidy and offers bike racks and locker room/showers for employees who walk or ride their bikes to work. The number of B. F. Saul Company employees using alternative commute options has grown tremendously; in 2005 just 17% found alternative ways to get to work, and by 2010 that number increased to 41%. Employees have saved or reduced 630,000 Vehicle Miles Traveled and 31,818 gallons of gasoline per year. In addition, the company has saved \$34,320 annually through fewer

parking spaces.

- **Clean Currents (Telework Award); Contact: Eric Vermeiren, 301.754.0430**

20 employees. Clean Currents provides residential and commercial power options in the Mid-Atlantic Region, and supplies renewable energy credits to businesses nationwide. Clean Currents also provides consulting services on green and renewable energy options to governmental, commercial and institutional customers. The company has 20 employees, all of whom take advantage of Clean Currents' telework benefit. Clean Currents implemented its formal telework program as part of the company's efforts to grow in a green way. All employees are eligible for the program after a four-month period of employment and completion of a telework training program. Clean Currents provides all employees with company-owned laptops. In addition they have invested in Microsoft Remote Desktop which allows employees to work anywhere with internet access. Clean Currents has also installed a phone system that gives employees full access from their home, cell or office phone, and staff cell phone plans are covered at up to \$50 per employee per month. Employees select their telework days with consideration for required in-person team meetings. Employees arrange their telework schedules in collaboration with team members to ensure selected days positively impact coworkers and the effectiveness of the company. Clean Currents' telework program has reduced office space requirements, generating a savings of approximately \$20,000 per year. The program helps to reduce 16,200 vehicle miles traveled per year; saves 648 gallons of gasoline; and reduces CO2 by 5.8 metric tons annually.

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Commuter Connections is a program of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and is funded by the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia Departments of Transportation as well as the U.S. Department of Transportation. Commuter Connections promotes alternatives to drive-alone commuting, and provides ridematching for carpools and vanpools and offers the free Guaranteed Ride Home program.

www.mwcog.org / TPB & COG on Facebook: [Click Here](#)

 Release Date: Jun 29, 2011
 Contact: Lewis Miller
 Phone: 202-962-3209

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METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
 777 North Capitol Street, NE • Suite 300 • Washington, DC 20002
 Phone: 202.962.3200 • Fax: 202.962.3201



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

4975 Alliance Drive
Fairfax, VA 22030

GREGORY A. WHIRLEY
COMMISSIONER

July 7, 2011

Mr. Ron Kirby
Director Dept of Transportation Planning
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street NE
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002-4239

Ron
Dear Mr. Kirby

As you may know, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) have just started a multimodal planning study to address the mobility needs for the I-66 corridor between the Capital Beltway (I-495) and the District of Columbia boundary. VDOT and DRPT seek to identify feasible transportation solutions to reduce congestion and improve overall mobility in the corridor, and would appreciate your participation in this effort.

As part of the study, we are initiating a Participating Agency Representatives Committee (PARC) whose purpose is to provide information, comments and recommendations on study performance to the project management team. The study will be completed by May, 2012, and it is envisioned that the PARC will meet every 6-8 weeks to review study progress and provide input. If your agency would like to participate, please send the name and email address of your designated representative to the Project Manager, Valerie Pardo, at Valerie.Pardo@VDOT.Virginia.gov. She can also be reached at 703-259-1736 if you have any questions.

The first meeting of the PARC is planned for Monday, July 18 from 10am to 12 pm at the VDOT District Offices at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax, Virginia. We hope your representative can attend and look forward to working with you on this important effort.

Sincerely,



Kanathur Srikanth
Planning & Investment Director,
Virginia Department of Transportation
Northern Virginia District Office
Phone: 703-259-2220

I-66 Multimodal Study
VDOT-NOVA District

Invitees to the Participating Agency Representatives Committee

Name	Organization
Tom Biesiadny	Fairfax County
Blaser, Tom	Prince William County
Dennis Leach	Arlington County
Andy Beecher	Loudoun County
Maurice Keys	Wash, DC
Richard Baier	Alexadria
Dennis Johnson	Vienna
Robert Etris	Falls Church
David Summers	City of Fairfax
Al Harf	PRTC
Dale Zehner	VRE
Nat Bottigheimer	WMATA
Richard Taube	NVTC
Ron Kirby	MWCOG
Wayne Fedora	FHWA
Nancy Gourley	Loudoun County Transit



U. S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Transit Administration
Region III
1760 Market Street, Suite 500
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-656-7100
215-656-7260 (fax)

Federal Highway Administration
DC Division
1900 K Street, N.W., Suite 510
Washington, DC 20006
202-219-3536
202-219-3545 (fax)

June 27, 2011

The Honorable David Snyder, Chairperson
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
c/o Mr. Ronald Kirby, Director of Transportation Planning
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capital Street, NW, Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20002-4201

The Honorable Mary Katherine Greenlaw, Chairperson
Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
c/o Mr. Lloyd Robinson, Director Transportation Planning
406 Princes Anne Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Dear Mr. Snyder and Mrs. Greenlaw:

In accordance with the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) and the joint Statewide and Metropolitan Planning Regulations of February 14, 2007, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) conducted a joint Planning Certification Review of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) on April 19-20, 2010, and the Fredericksburg Metropolitan Planning Organization (FAMPO) on October 5, 2010.

Based on our review, the FHWA and FTA, through its oversight and stewardship responsibilities, have determined that the transportation planning process of the Washington, DC-VA-MD Transportation Management Area (TMA) meets the requirements of the Metropolitan Planning Rule at 23 CFR Part 450 Subpart C and 49 CFR Part 613 with the exception of those areas where corrective actions are identified in the enclosed report. The FHWA and FTA, therefore, conditionally certify the transportation planning process with the understanding that the corrective actions noted in the certification report will be accomplished within the specified time frame.

The FHWA and FTA will re-examine the Washington, DC-VA-MD TMA planning process within 18 months from the date of this report to ensure that the corrective actions are satisfied. At that time, barring any unresolved issues, it is our intent to lift the conditional status of the Planning Certification for the Washington, DC-VA-MD TMA.

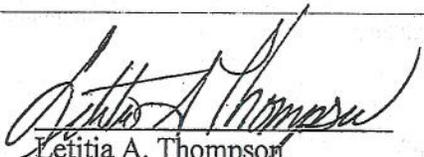
In addition to the corrective actions identified in the enclosed report, the FHWA and FTA have included several programmatic recommendations that reflect national trends and initiatives

intended to aid in improving the transportation planning process. The MPOs are expected to give serious consideration to full implementation of the recommendations for improvement within the next 12 months. We have also included numerous commendations in the report giving credit to many of the MPOs strengths.

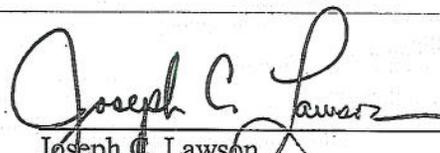
We recognize the need of the TPB and FAMPO to provide a continuously efficient and effective transportation planning process for the Washington, DC-VA-MD Transportation Management Area and we endeavor to provide the technical assistance necessary and appropriate to assist the MPOs in their efforts.

If you have any questions, please direct them to Sandra Jackson, FHWA District of Columbia Division, 202-219-3521, or Melissa Barlow, FTA Region III-D.C. Metro office, at 202-219-3565.

Sincerely,

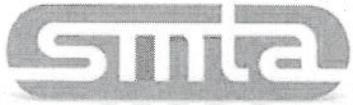


Letitia A. Thompson
Regional Administrator Region III
Federal Transit Administration



Joseph C. Lawson
DC Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

Cc: Mr. Kwame Arhin, FHWA (Maryland Division)
Mr. Ivan Rucker, FHWA (Virginia Division)
Ms. Gail McFadden-Roberts, FTA (Maryland)
Mr. Tony Cho, FTA (Virginia)
Ms. Karina Ricks, DDOT
Mr. Kanti Srikanth, VDOT (NOVA District)
Ms. Lyn Erickson, MDOT
Mr. Nat Bottigheimer, WMATA
Mr. Quintin Elliot, VDOT (Fredericksburg District)
Mr. Freddie Jones, VDOT(Civil Rights)



SUBURBAN MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION ALLIANCE

NEWS:

**For immediate release:
Tuesday, June 14, 2011**

Contact:

**Douglas M. Duncan (240) 447-7036 (cell)
Richard Parsons (301) 503-0697 (cell)
www.mdtransportation.org**

SUBURBAN MARYLAND HAS NEW VOICE IN TRANSPORTATION DEBATE

(Rockville, MD) Today, former Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan announced the formation of a new public education and advocacy organization, called the Suburban Maryland Transportation Alliance (SMTA), dedicated to resolving the chronic transportation challenges facing Maryland jurisdictions in the greater Washington region (Frederick, Montgomery, Prince Georges, and parts of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties).

SMTA's mission: "To educate policymakers and residents of Suburban Maryland on the real choices we face in improving transportation in the Greater Washington region, to advocate for increased funding for transportation including mass transit and roads, and to encourage leaders at the local, state and regional levels to commit those funds to cost-effective capacity improvements that do the most good in relieving traffic congestion and improving mobility."

Mr. Duncan will serve as chairman of the Board of Directors, and a separate Advisory Board composed of national, regional and local transportation experts, from a range of disciplines, will provide expert guidance to support the research and public education missions of SMTA. Both boards are still in formation but already include many leading voices in the community.

"Transportation is a top issue to the people who live and work in this area, and we're not making the investments we need to be making to relieve congestion and get our economy back on track," said Duncan. One of the first priorities of the organization will be to mobilize public and institutional support for increased investments in Maryland's roads, bridges and mass transit infrastructure, as recommended recently by Governor Martin O'Malley's Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation Funding, which has identified an urgent need for an \$800 million annual infusion of new transportation dollars in Maryland, in addition to stronger protections to prevent future raids on the Transportation Trust Fund. Repeated raids on the Trust Fund have undermined efforts to restore appropriate levels of transportation investment in the past.

"The costs of failing to invest in transportation are staggering, not just in all the time, money and fuel we waste sitting in traffic, but also for our economy and the jobs we could be creating if we got behind some real solutions now," Duncan continued.

A key element of the organization's program is a new website: www.mdtransportation.org that will help area residents learn about the choices we face and take action at the grassroots level to demand change. "We know what the solutions are, and the people who are trying to get around this region want action now, so if we bring those voices to the table we can help raise the level of debate and have a real impact," Duncan concluded.

#