

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

RECOMMENDATIONS ON EFFECTIVENESS OF AVIATION PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments has conducted an aviation policy program for more than three decades that has effectively addressed a wide range of aircraft noise abatement and aviation policy issues; and

WHEREAS, there has been an evolution in COG's aviation policy committee structure, reflecting the nature of the aviation policy issues, as well as the needs of COG's members; and

WHEREAS, in July 2009, the Board adopted R40-09, which recommended actions to enhance COG's Aviation Policy Program; and

WHEREAS, COG's aviation policy program beginning January 2010, focused on an vibrant exchange of information with the regional community, by conducting two significant forums on 1) Aviation and Economics Impacts and 2) Aviation Policy; and

WHEREAS, an assessment of the effectiveness of the forums indicates that both forums were deemed a success in terms of the information that was gathered, the level of participation by local elected officials was limited, and overall attendance was somewhat lower than had been expected; and

WHEREAS, this outcome is consistent with recent experience that led the COG Board to discontinue the Aviation Policy Committee and return oversight for regional aviation policy to the Board; and

WHEREAS, there still remains an ongoing strong interest to maintain a regional presence on aviation policy issues as related to long established controls at Ronald Reagan Washington National and airport economic sustainability of the regions airport system; and

WHEREAS, the appointment of an Aviation Policy Liaison represents the best use of limited resources and will effectively maintain the values of the Aviation Policy Committee; and

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

1. COG will maintain an aviation policy program under the oversight of the COG Board of Directors. The program shall be funded at the current FY 2011 budget level.
2. An Aviation Policy Liaison shall be appointed to coordinate with COG staff in advising the Board on Aviation Policy issues, as well as coordinating with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA), and other COG committees with an interest in aviation policy.
3. The Aviation Policy Liaison will report at least annually to the Board, and more frequently should conditions warrant.
4. COG will host a forum on helicopter noise on September 22, 2010.
5. COG will work with MWAA, the region's congressional delegation, and affected local communities regarding a process for re-examination of the slot and high-density rules at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

6. COG will maintain its long-standing membership in the National Association for a Sound Controlled Environment (NOISE) and participate in its annual legislative workshop.
7. A website shall be developed to serve as an information repository of best practices for community impacts of aviation and aircraft noise. The site will have links with other organizations including the MWAA noise monitoring system site, FAA, Washington Airports Task Force, and the NOISE.

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Nicole Hange, Board Clerk