

# **METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

## **COG Board of Directors**

### **Proposal to Establish the Metro Dedicated Funding Joint Coordinating Committee**

**January 11, 2006**

#### Background

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), the Greater Washington Board of Trade and the Federal City Council jointly convened a special panel in late 2004 to examine ways to establish dedicated funding for Metro, which is one of the few major transit systems in the nation without some significant source of dedicate funding.

The panel issued its report in January 2005 and was endorsed by both the COG Board of Directors and the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB). The Greater Washington Board of Trade, the Federal City Council and other business and civic stakeholders also supported the panel's findings and recommendations.

In late 2005, legislation was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives to provide federal dedicated funding, coupled with a requirement that Metro compact jurisdictions also enact dedicated funding legislation. Legislation has now been introduced in the Council of the District of Columbia and is anticipated in both the Maryland and Virginia legislatures. The COG Board of Directors will receive an update on the status of local and state legislation at its January 11, 2006 meeting.

#### Recommendation

The COG Board will be asked to establish a short-term, Metro Dedicated Funding (MDF) Joint Coordinating Committee to review, evaluate and advocate for thorough and swift consideration of Metro dedicated funding legislation by the Mayor and Council of the District of Columbia, the Governors and legislatures in Maryland and Virginia and the President and the United States Congress.

#### Proposed Goals

1. Engage appropriate local, state and federal elected officials to promote and track Metro dedicated funding legislation.
2. Develop and promote a coordinated legislative strategy in support of Metro dedicated funding legislation.
3. Provide direction and support to public officials and business and civic stakeholders advocating for Metro dedicated funding legislation.
4. Promote greater public awareness through letters to the editor, editorial board meetings and other outreach.

Proposed Co-Conveners

Jay Fisette, Arlington County, COG Board Chair

Michael Knapp, Montgomery County, COG Board Vice Chair and TPB Chair

Representatives from Proposed Organizations/Stakeholders

Northern Virginia Transportation Commission

Greater Washington Board of Trade

Federal City Council

Coalition for Smarter Growth

Urban Land Institute/Smart Growth Alliance

Metro Dedicated Funding “Blue Ribbon” Panel

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Additional organizations/stakeholders anticipated

Proposed Schedule

January 11, 2006 – COG Board action

January – April 2006 – MDF Joint Coordinating Committee weekly (30 minute) conference calls, Tuesday at 8:00 a.m. (tentative)

May 2006 – MDF Joint Coordinating Committee review of achievements and next steps

May 10, 2006 – Report to the COG Board