

ITEM 8 - Action
December 17, 2014

Approval of a Resolution to Affirm Support for the 2008 COG Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Goals and for the Establishment of a COG Multi-sector Working Group to Examine Greenhouse Gas Reductions

Staff Recommendation: Adopt Resolution R10-2015 to affirm support for the 2008 COG Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Goals and for the establishment of a COG multi-sector working group to examine greenhouse gas reductions.

Issues: None

Background: At the November 19 meeting, the TPB was briefed on a proposed draft TPB resolution to affirm the 2008 COG greenhouse gas reduction goals as requested by MWAQC and CEEPC. The TPB was also briefed on COG actions to convene a multi-disciplinary professional working group to develop a multi-sector action plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and criteria pollutants.

**NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002**

**RESOLUTION ON THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS' REGIONAL MULTI SECTOR GOALS FOR REDUCING
GREENHOUSE GASES**

WHEREAS, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB), the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the National Capital Region (Region), has the responsibility under the provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) to carry out continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning for the Region; and

WHEREAS, the TPB is committed to preserving and enhancing the Region's environment through transportation plans focused on reducing congestion and emphasizing projects and programs that move more people and goods efficiently and reduce reliance on single-occupant vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the TPB, which is associated with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) as an independent policy committee, works closely with COG's Board of Directors ("COG Board") and its regional policy advisory committees, including the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee, and the *Region Forward* Coalition, as well as the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee on matters of regional multi-sectorial planning; and

WHEREAS, in November 2008 the COG Board, through resolution R60-08, adopted the *National Capital Region Climate Change Report* that included voluntary goals to reduce greenhouse gases by 10 percent below business as usual projections by 2012 to encourage early action, by 20 percent below 2005 levels by year 2020 to encourage expansion of recommended policies and programs, and by 80 percent below 2005 levels by year 2050 to stimulate support for research into technologies and clean fuels needed to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, in January 2010 the COG Board, through Resolution R9-10, adopted the *Greater Washington 2050 Coalition Report And Voluntary Regional Compact* that set out goals in nine areas and incorporated the previously adopted regional greenhouse gas emission reduction goals; and

WHEREAS, TPB's *What Would it Take* scenario analysis in 2010 quantified the effects of transportation sector specific actions for reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the recommended greenhouse gas reduction actions in the *National Capital Region Climate Change Report* and the *What Would it Take* scenario analysis provide significant co-benefits and enhance the future of the Region's quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Region has benefited from federal, state and local actions across sectors that, even while accommodating considerable growth, have achieved significant reductions in emissions of criteria pollutants including ozone, fine particulate matter, and carbon monoxide; and

WHEREAS, actions taken to address criteria pollutants in the Region have also reduced greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, TPB recognizes achieving reductions in criteria pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions as a priority and has been reporting projected on-road greenhouse gas emissions in the CLRP Performance Report; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to identify additional cost-effective, coordinated actions that may be taken across all sectors of the Region's economy to further reduce criteria pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions and optimize the economic well-being and environmental quality of our region; and

WHEREAS, COG now intends to convene a multi-sector, multi-disciplinary professional working group to identify implementable local, regional and state actions in all four sectors (Energy, Transportation, Land Use, Built Environment) and quantify benefits, costs and implementation timeframes, to inform exploration of greenhouse gas reduction goals for the transportation sector.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD:

1. Affirms the Region's greenhouse gas reduction goals set out in the November 2008 National Capital Region Climate Change Report and adopted by the Council of Governments Board of Directors (COG Resolution R60-08), incorporated in Region Forward through adoption of the Greater Washington 2050 Coalition Report and Voluntary Compact (January, 2010, COG Resolution R09-10), and as guided by jurisdictional endorsements of the Greater Washington 2050 Compact.
2. Commits TPB staff and resources to supporting the multi-sector, multi-disciplinary professional working group convened by the Council of Governments, which has been charged with:
 - a. identifying viable, implementable local, regional, and state actions in each of the four sectors (noted above);
 - b. quantifying benefits, costs and implementation timeframes;
 - c. jointly developing an action plan for the region; and
 - d. exploring specific greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for the transportation and other sectors (noted above).