

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

**MINUTES
Board of Directors' Meeting
COG Board Room**

March 10, 2010

BOARD MEMBERS, ALTERNATES AND PARTICIPANTS PRESENT AND NOT PRESENT

***SEE ATTACHED CHART FOR ATTENDANCE**

STAFF

**David J. Robertson, Executive Director
Lee Ruck, General Counsel
Nicole Hange, Clerk to the Board**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 13 MINUTES

The minutes of the January 13 meeting were unanimously approved and adopted.

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

January Aviation Forum Outcomes

At a recent COG aviation forum, participants agreed that air transportation will be a key ingredient in the region's economy in the coming decades despite a decline last year in passenger traffic nationally. According to the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, the direct economic impact of the region's three major airports include 28,000 jobs related to the airports, a payroll of \$1.3 billion from jobs at the airports, regional business activity of \$6.5 billion, state and local taxes of \$326 million and federal taxes of \$500 million. Experts encouraged area leaders to maximize our airports economic development potential and COG will incorporate this guidance into its development, transportation and other regional programs.

Chairman Brown stated that the Board was originally schedule to have a briefing on the annual "How Safe Are Our Roads Report" last month which was canceled due to unprecedented snowfall. Due to time constraints the Board received the report in their packets, however, in lieu of a presentation it was docketed for the consent agenda. The report, which was released in December, shows some encouraging news. In 2008, the region continued its trend in declining numbers of alcohol-related traffic fatalities, injuries and crashes. Meanwhile, the number of local arrests for driving under the influence (DUI) or driving while intoxicated (DWI) increased by 5 percent in 2008. The report says "the data upholds research showing the value of both highly-visible law enforcement deterrent efforts like the region's Checkpoint Strikeforce campaign as well as increased public attention to the threat of drunk driving." The consent action flags the issue of consistent laws on underage drinking and forwards the report to state and local officials.

Another adjustment arising from the February Board meeting cancellation was a briefing on regional response to the Haiti earthquake. The Board packet contains a summary report on the region's response to the Haitian earthquake, which included the deployment of area search and rescue teams; significant leadership and aid from organizations like the Red Cross; an outpouring of donations by area residents and businesses; and involvement by the Greater Washington Board of Trade, Leadership Greater Washington, and COG to support recovery and reconstruction effort.

The region struggled to respond to the February snowstorms that hit this area hard. On April 5th, COG will host an after action snow forum aimed at reviewing area coordination and response, and exploring opportunities for future improvement. Several jurisdictions and state and federal partners have launched their own internal assessments. COG seeks to tie many of these early "lessons learned" together.

Fairfax County Supervisor, and Region 3 representative on the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) Board, Penny Gross provided a summary of the outcomes of NARC's February 21-23 Annual Conference. Ms. Gross stated that the conference was extremely well attended at a time when governments are cutting their travel expenditures, a testament to the organization's value. NARC is a strong advocate for regional councils specifically at the federal level and plans to strengthen its relationships with other national associations to enhance its ability to effectively represent regional needs. Workforce and economic development issues are at the top of the NARC's priorities this year, which will complement COG's work.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Similar to events held for the Maryland and Virginia General Assemblies to expand and enhance COG's legislative outreach, Mr. Robertson met with the Council of the District of Columbia March 9 to highlight COG's policy focus and priorities and inform and engage new members on the Council.

Mr. Robertson stated that the Transportation Planning Board was successful in its application for \$58.8 million in stimulus from the U.S Department of Transportation; which will provide resources to more than a dozen bus corridors and routes throughout the region.

COG has been hosting and helping coordinate meetings for U.S. Census Bureau officials and area elected officials to promote the upcoming Census. On March 15, 2010 will host a forum "Overcoming Census Challenges with Hard-to-Count Populations: A Focus on the Latino Community."

Mr. Robertson announced that the annual COG Leadership will be held July 23-24 in Cambridge, Maryland and asked members to mark their calendars.

Outreach continues for endorsement of COG's Greater Washington 2050 initiative and voluntary compact. Several jurisdictions have already signed on and briefings are being scheduled for March and April. Mr. Robertson stated the COG will likely have a formal ceremony for signatories in June.

After nearly eight years of dedicated service, COG's General Counsel Lee Ruck has announced his plan to enter retirement beginning July 1, 2010. Mr. Robertson stated that Mr. Ruck has been a tremendous resource and proponent of regional efforts and will greatly be missed. Staff will keep the Board apprised of plans to replace Mr. Ruck.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Supplemental Documents: Resolutions R11-10 through R17-10.

A. APPOINTMENT OF 2010 POLICY COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRS AND EPC VICE CHAIR

Chairman Brown recommended the appointment of the vice chairs of the following COG Board policy committees in 2010: Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committee: George Leventhal, Montgomery County; Metropolitan Development Policy Committee: Michael May, Prince William County and Marc Elrich, Montgomery County; Climate Change, Energy and Environment Policy Committee: Mary Cheh, District of Columbia and Roger Berliner, Montgomery County; Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee: Hamid Karimi, District of Columbia and Barbara Favola, Arlington County. He also recommended the appointment of Phil Andrews, Montgomery County as Vice Chair for the National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R11-10.

B. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO RECEIVE AND EXPEND AN URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE (UASI) SUBGRANT FOR ADDITIONAL TASKS TO BE ADDED TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH INFLUENZA PREPAREDNESS COMMUNITY AND HEALTHCARE PROVIDER EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROJECT

The Board adopted Resolution R12-10, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend UASI funds received from the State Administrative Agent to extend the Public Health Influenza Preparedness Community and Healthcare Provider Education and Outreach to include additional outreach tasks. The State Administrative Agent for the National Capital Region will provide COG with \$68,028.00 in FY09 Urban Area Security Initiative funding which is good through August 31, 2010. No COG matching funds will be required.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R12-10.

C. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO CONTRACT WITH MD DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT FOR ARRA FUNDS TO ADMINISTER A DIESEL ANTI-IDLING CAMPAIGN

The Board adopted Resolution R13-10, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend up to \$150,000 in sub-grant funding from Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) to benefit the air and attain compliance with Maryland regulations by administering a Diesel Anti-Idling Campaign. The campaign will target trucking and bus companies, related trade associations and business groups. MWCOG will manage the program in consultation with MDE air quality staff in coordination with air quality and transportation staff of the District. No COG matching funds will be required.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R13-10.

D. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH WATER WORDS THAT WORK, LLC TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF A REGIONAL WATER AND WASTEWATER OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

The Board adopted Resolution R14-10, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, on behalf of COG, to enter into a contract with Water Words That Work, LLC to develop and implement a regional outreach campaign. The project will build and expand on the successful regional Water, Use it Wisely campaign that has been implemented since 2003. The amount of the contract is for \$59,180. Work is to be completed within nine months after the contract is executed. No COG matching funds are required.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R14-10.

E. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION FOR PHASE 25 OF THE CONTINUOUS AIRPORT SYSTEM PLANNING PROGRAM

The Board adopted Resolution R15-10, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to submit an application and execute a grant contract with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for Phase 25 of the Continuous Airport System Planning (CASP) program for the National Capital Region. This application would be in an amount not to exceed \$425,000. The FAA will provide funds for 95 percent, \$403,750, of the project total. The five percent match, \$21,250, will be provided from previously budgeted local funds.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R15-10.

F. RESOLUTION ENDORSING MORE ACCURATE, THOROUGH COLLECTION OF ALCOHOL RELATED YOUTH DATA

The annual "How Safe Are Our Roads?" report, prepared by COG for the Washington Regional Alcohol Program and other studies underscore the seriousness of the problem of impaired driving, automobile accidents and especially accidents involving teen drivers. The COG Board adopted Resolution R16-10 which calls for more comprehensive collection of alcohol related data for youth and urges consistent regional laws on underage drinking.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R16-10.

G. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO RECEIVE AND EXPEND FUNDING FROM THE SUMMIT FUND OF WASHINGTON IN SUPPORT OF THE ANACOSTIA RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

The Board adopted Resolution R17-10, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend up to \$250,000 in grant funding from the Summit Fund of Washington to provide contract and staff services in support of the Anacostia Restoration Partnership. The total cost of these services shall not exceed \$250,000. No COG matching funds will be required.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R17-10.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R7-10 was unanimously approved and adopted.

7. COG BOARD POLICY FOCUS FOR 2010

Supplemental Documents: 2010 Policy Focus and Priorities

The COG Board has adopted a focus statement for the past several years to serve as a guide for meetings and discussions, and also to complement COG's fiscal year work program and budget. Chairman Brown stated that he, and vice chairs Andrea Harrison and Frank Principi, unanimously agreed that jobs and economic recovery must be a central focus for COG's work in 2010.

This focus is recommended mindful that this topic has not been an area of extensive work by COG in the past. COG's work is largely guided by its required planning responsibilities in areas like transportation and air quality. However, the leadership team believes that COG can provide a measurable contribution to the direction and speed of economic recovery in the National Capital Region by leveraging existing programs and activities; re-focusing some activities to elevate jobs and economic issues; and taking advantage of the fact that COG has strong and growing connections to federal agency decision-makers.

Chairman Brown stated that this new focus will detract from core planning functions or activities but it will require that the Board and staff be strategic in finding ways to sharpen outcomes in a way that promotes economic sustainability and recovery.

Both Vice Chairs Harrison and Principi echoed Chairman Brown's sentiment that jobs and economic recovery must be the central focus of COG's work in 2010 and urged unanimous support from the Board.

Mr. Robertson provided additional details on COG's new efforts this year regarding 1.) jobs and economic resiliency, 2.) workforce competitiveness and 3.) economic sustainability and recovery. He stated that management is committed to examining COG's ongoing policy and program activities to identify opportunities to retool in a way that strengthens and enhances economic recovery. Staff will also identify opportunities to leverage existing university, think tank and federal relationships in support of this work; specifically to identify local and/or regional opportunities to advance job creation and retention efforts in the National Capital Region.

Fairfax County Vice Chairman Penny Gross asked if the current budget could sustain these new efforts or if Mr. Robertson anticipated the need for additional resources. Mr. Robertson stated that he does anticipate the need an augmentation of the budget and will return to the Board with a formal recommendation at its April meeting.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, COG's 2010 Policy Focus and Priorities were unanimously approved and adopted.

8. IMPLEMENTATION OF COG POLICY FOCUS AND PRIORITY- REGIONAL JOBS AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Supplemental Documents: Preliminary FY 2011 Federal Budget Analysis: Job Creation and Economic Development

On February 1, 2010 President Obama sent to Congress a \$3.8 trillion budget proposal focused on education, clean energy, infrastructure, and innovation in an attempt to spur job growth and reverse the economic downturn. The Board's adopted policy focus and priorities directed staff to review the budget and other proposed federal legislation to identify local and/or regional opportunities to advance job creation and retention efforts in the National Capital Region. Mr. Robertson summarized the federal budget proposal, specifically those that would enhance COG's current work and those which would directly support or augment local government efforts. He also recommended several actions COG can take to leverage new funding opportunities and assist localities in their application of such funds.

The budget recognizes the need for reform of the job-training system to better encourage innovation and empower workers; specifically the budget calls for reform of the Workforce Investment Act, establishes a workforce innovation fund to support "learn and earn" strategies and encourage sectoral and regional collaboration, and provides new funding for states to improve teaching and learning in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Mr. Robertson stated that COG will work in partnership with regional workforce leaders to identify how the NCR can coordinate its efforts to compete for the Workforce Innovation funds.

Several of the budget's proposed initiatives directly support the work program priorities of COG's Climate, Energy and Environment Committee; specifically ensuring a well-trained and certified workforce that can support the new energy economy. Mr. Robertson stated that COG will work with its members to seek funding from the proposed Energy Innovation Fund and Green Jobs Innovation Fund in support of the committee's goals of expanding home energy loan programs and enhanced worker training.

In addition to the federal budget, Mr. Robertson provided a brief overview of the federal Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment (HIRE) Act of 2010. The goal of the legislation is to accelerate the hiring of unemployed workers and immediately enhance employers' cash flow by permitting employers to retain the employer portion of the Social Security tax ordinarily remitted. COG is committed to partnering with area chambers of commerce to develop an education and outreach campaign for local businesses on how to maximize the benefits of the tax credits.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, the Board approved the recommended actions aimed at leveraging new federal resources in support of COG's work program.

9. UPDATE ON REGIONAL OBESITY ISSUES

Supplemental Documents: Resolution R18-10.

For the last few years, the Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committee has made combating childhood obesity a primary focus of its work. Last fall the Committee sponsored a forum "Childhood Obesity and the Impact on Learning" with school board members and subject matter experts to discuss the progress school districts are making in addressing obesity and the challenges they face. Arlington County Board Member, and Chair of COG's Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committee, Walter Tejada briefed the board on the forum and next steps.

Mr. Tejada stated that since the mid-1970s, the prevalence of obesity and overweight has increased dramatically in the United States; the prevalence of overweight children and adolescents is nearly triple. These occurrences result in significant health, social and economic costs.

COG has sponsored multiple activities to share information on best practices to address obesity, including the 2009 regional forum on "Childhood Obesity and the Impact on Learning" which brought to light the need for region-wide strategies to support school efforts to reduce childhood obesity. This region must work together to build broad based understanding and support for health and education policies, including land use decisions, that are focused on reducing obesity and creating healthier communities.

Mr. Tejada stated that, as a guide, local governments should use the 12 high priority action steps in the Institute for Medicine's report *Local Government Actions to Prevent Childhood Obesity* to reduce the prevalence of obesity in children including.

City of Fairfax Council Member Dan Drummond requested that the phrase "that may or may not include new tax strategies" be added in the "Resolved Clause" on number 1. After "Member jurisdictions are strongly urged to utilize the Institute of Medicine report to select appropriate strategies and action steps."

Several Board members noted concerns over the language provided in the "Resolved Clause" number 2, that is aimed at reducing school dependence on bus transportation suggesting that it be revised to promote safer multi-modal transportation alternatives.

City of Greenbelt Mayor J Davis asked that a letter "F" be added under number 4. and read "Endorse and participate in the Safe Routes to Schools Program."

City of Takoma Park Mayor Bruce Williams stated that his jurisdiction is interested in providing healthier choices for vending machines in schools and requested information on options.

ACTION: Upon motion made and seconded, adoption of Resolution R18-10 was deferred to the April meeting to allow staff ample time to adequately incorporate comments.

10. APPROVAL OF COG COMMENTS ON HUD SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY PLANNING GRANT

Supplemental documents: COG Draft HUD Comments
HUD Advance NOFA request for comments

As part of the FY2010 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Appropriations Act (HR 3288), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) was provided \$150 million to fund the administration's proposed Sustainable Communities Initiative.

In February 2010, HUD issued its initial guidance and request for comments on implementation of the Sustainable Communities Initiative. HUD is expected to make \$100 million available through the nationally competitive Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program to support linking transportation, housing and land use. HUD will set aside \$25 million to fund eligible entities in regions with populations of less than 500,000, as requested by Congress. HUD is seeking input on the implementation of the program. The deadline for the submission of comments is March 12, 2010.

The Sustainable Communities Grant Program provides an extraordinary opportunity for regional planning organizations to strengthen federal-regional partnerships to advance and implement our shared goals, thereby enhancing the sustainability, accessibility, prosperity, and livability of our communities. Through our ability to bring diverse communities together around a common vision that improves connectivity, access and quality of place, regional planning organizations are uniquely qualified to leverage federal assistance programs across issues and geographic areas. For areas with populations under 500,000, funding may not exceed \$2 million per recipient. For areas with populations of 500,000 and above, grant awards may not exceed \$5 million per recipient. Grant recipients will be required to provide a 20 percent local match or in-kind contribution.

Grant funding will be available in three categories: Category 1: Regional Plans for Sustainable Development; Category 2: Detailed Execution Plans and Programs; and Category 3: Implementation Incentives.

Mr. Robertson stated that this initiative is tailor made for organizations like COG and that there is a tremendous opportunity for COG to leverage the resources for implementation of COG's Greater Washington 2050 *Region Forward* initiative; specifically in category two. Regional Coalitions would be eligible based on demonstrating the adoption of a regional vision, like *Region Forward*, and would be awarded funding for the preparation and adoption of detailed plans to support the regional sustainable visions, like: inter-jurisdictional affordable fair housing strategies, regional transportation investment programs, corridor TOD plans, sector/area plans.

Staff has prepared comments and responses to specific questions identified in the Advance Notice with guidance from an ad hoc community coalition representing the region's local governments, the business sector, philanthropic organizations, and civic and environmental advocacy groups.

Mr. Robertson added that he will return to the Board in April with a recommendation to convene a HUD Sustainability Communities Task Force to oversee this work by COG. The staff recommendation will also outline COG's anticipated regional approach to this grant opportunity, process for engagement, and timetable for completion.

Several Board members noted the importance of this unique funding opportunity and stressed the need for a coordinated regional application; 21 separate applications would undermine regional goals and a single application would provide a higher return on investment.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, COG's comments on HUD's advance NOFA was unanimously approved and adopted.

11. FY 2010 SECOND QUARTER REPORT

City of Fairfax Council Member and COG's Secretary Treasurer Dan Drummond stated that COG's cash balance as of December 31 is \$5.6 million; the reserve increased from \$9.2 million to \$9.51 million; and COG's total revenue of \$17.7 million exceeded costs by \$4.4 million.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2010.

**ATTENDANCE: MARCH 10, 2010
BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ALTERNATES 2010**

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Y/N</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Y/N</u>
District of Columbia				
Executive	Hon. Adrian Fenty	N		
	Mr. Neil Albert	N		
Council	Hon. Vincent Gray	N	Hon. Michael Brown	N
	Hon. Kwame Brown	Y	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y
Maryland				
Bowie	Hon. G. Frederick Robinson	N	Geraldine Valentino-Smith	N
College Park	Hon. Andrew Fellows	N	Hon. Robert Catlin	Y
City of Frederick	Hon. Randall McClement	N	Hon. Karen Young	Y
Frederick County	Hon. David Gray	N	Hon. Jan Gardner	N
Gaithersburg	Hon. Sidney Katz	N	Hon. Cathy Drzyzgula	Y
Greenbelt	Hon. Judith "J" F. Davis	Y	Hon. Rodney Roberts	N
Montgomery County				
Executive	Hon. Isiah Leggett	N	Mr. Tim Firestine	N
Council	Hon. Roger Berliner	N		
	Hon. Michael Knapp	Y		
Prince George's County				
Executive	Hon. Jack B. Johnson	N	Ralph Moultrie	N
Council	Hon. Camille Exum	Y	Hon. Tom Dernoga	N
	Hon. Andrea Harrison	Y		
Rockville	Hon. John Britton	N		
Takoma Park	Hon. Bruce Williams	Y	Hon. Terry Seamens	N
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. Benjamin Barnes	N		
Virginia				
Alexandria	Hon. William Eulle	Y	Hon. Redella Pepper	N
Arlington County	Hon. Walter Tejada	Y	Hon. Jay Fisette	N
City of Fairfax	Hon. Dan Drummond	Y	Hon. Jeffrey Greenfield	N
Fairfax County	Hon. Sharon Bulova	Y	Hon. Catherine Hudgins	N
	Hon. Penelope A. Gross	Y	Hon. Michael Frey	N
	Hon. John Foust	Y	Hon. Patrick Herrity	N
Falls Church	Hon. Hal Lippman	Y	Hon. Dan Maller	N
Loudoun County	Hon. Andrea McGimsey	Y		
Manassas	Hon. Harry J. Parrish II	N	Hon. Jonathan Way	N
Manassas Park	Hon. Frank Jones	N	Hon. Suhas Naddoni	Y
Prince William County	Hon. Wally Covington III	Y		

	Hon. Frank Principi	Y		
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. James M. Scott	N		