

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20002-4239**

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRANSPORTATION CLIMATE INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) established regional greenhouse gas emission reduction goals in 2008 to help mitigate the effect of manmade greenhouse gas emissions on our changing climate; and

WHEREAS, COG completed regional greenhouse gas inventories demonstrating that the region met the 2012 emissions reduction goal even as regional population grew by 20 percent and gross domestic product expanded by 39 percent during the period between 2005 and 2015; and

WHEREAS, while the latest regional greenhouse gas inventories indicate that while the region is making progress towards the 2020 emissions reduction goal, a 2016 report released jointly by COG, MWAQC and TPB determined that significant greenhouse gas reductions would be needed in the energy, built environment and transportation sectors to meet the region's 2050 goals; and

WHEREAS, the regional greenhouse gas emission inventory has found that transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions constitute 41 percent of the region's greenhouse gas emissions, second only to the 52 percent contribution from the built environment; and

WHEREAS, future regional transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions modeled as part of the TPB's Visualize 2045 long-range transportation plan show that mobile-sector greenhouse gas emissions are projected to decrease by 22 percent from 2015 through 2040, but then increase by 2 percent by 2045; and

WHEREAS, twelve states in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic United States, including Maryland and Virginia, as well as the District of Columbia, participate in the Transportation and Climate Initiative, which is working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector; and

WHEREAS, on December 18, 2018, the Transportation and Climate Initiative announced its intention to design a regional transportation policy proposal to reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector through a cap-and-invest program or other carbon pricing mechanism to further reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions in a more cost-effective manner than if individual jurisdictions acted alone; and

WHEREAS, the cap and invest program is based on a similar cooperative effort among 10 Northeast states to cap and reduce power sector CO2 emissions called Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) that began operations in 2009; and

WHEREAS, on December 17, 2019, the Transportation and Climate Initiative completed the policy design process and released a draft Memorandum of Understanding to establish a process to complete development of a regional cap-and-invest program (referred to as the "Transportation and Climate Initiative Program") including a framework for the cap-and-invest program, complementary policies, and transportation-related emission-reduction targets; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Climate Initiative Program supports the MWCOG regional greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.

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

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments endorses the Transportation Climate Initiative Program as a path forward to reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions and recommends that the Mayor of the District of Columbia and Governors of Maryland and Virginia sign the Memorandum of Understanding to complete development of the Transportation Climate Initiative Program.

The Board directs the Executive Director to forward a copy of this resolution to the Mayor of the District of Columbia and the Governors of Maryland and Virginia.