



Local governments working together for a better metropolitan region

Oct. 1, 2007

David Robertson,
Executive Director
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

*District of Columbia
Bladensburg*
Bowie
College Park
Frederick
Frederick County
Gaithersburg
Greenbelt
Montgomery County
Prince George's County
Rockville
Takoma Park
Alexandria
Arlington County
Fairfax
Fairfax County
Falls Church
Loudoun County
Manassas
Manassas Park
Prince William County*

Dear Mr. Robertson:

The Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) wishes to express its support for the overall goals of the Greater Washington 2050 initiative as outlined in the "Greater Washington 2050 Discussion Report" of Aug. 22, 2007.

The committee has been briefed on this proposal and had the opportunity to examine several of the discussion drafts.

In particular, we concur with the recommendation of Action 3 that representatives from a number of policy committees, including the CBPC, be included in the group formed to oversee this initiative. However, we think it is critical that this oversight body report directly to the COG Board of Directors rather than through the Metropolitan Development Policy Committee, as the discussion report appears to recommend.

We concur with the inclusion in Action 6 of water-related measures of effectiveness to supplement the traditional focus of long-range planning on land use and transportation issues. The term "water quality" in the draft should be changed to "water resources," to reflect the need to look at water quantity as well as water quality issues.

Finally, we suggest that water resources is another of the issues that should be addressed when examining the opportunities afforded by the anticipated reauthorization of the federal transportation funding bill in 2009, per Action 10.

We commend the Board and the Metropolitan Development Policy Committee for their work in moving this initiative forward and we look forward to providing input into the future development of this effort.

Sincerely,

Martin Nohe, Chair
Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee