

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
**777 North Capitol Street NE**  
**Washington, DC 20002**

Date: April 1, 2009

To: COG Board of Directors

From: David J. Robertson, Executive Director

Subject: Economic Sustainability and Recovery Focus ---  
ARRA National Capital Region Initiative

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Background

The COG Board of Directors adopted its policy and program focus for 2009 on February 11. A focus on economic sustainability and recovery was one of two new activities. As part of the focus on economic sustainability and recovery, the COG Board requested that staff prepare a work plan for an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – National Capital Region Initiative. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, also known as the federal stimulus legislation, directs \$787 billion to local and state governments nationwide to create and retain jobs and make critical infrastructure investments. COG’s proposed ARRA National Capital Region Initiative will have three elements and several tasks.

Information Sharing

- Establish the ARRA Regional Information Center on the COG web site, [www.mwcog.org](http://www.mwcog.org).
- Serve as a “clearinghouse” for ARRA information from other public interest organization (NACO, NLC, NARC, AMPO, etc.) to COG participating governments.
- Develop an email distribution list for timely notices to participating COG governments concerning ARRA funding notices and deadlines.
- Compile, organize, analyze and map (as appropriate) information on ARRA-funded investments and programs in the National Capital Region.

Convening and Best Practices

- Establish a COG senior staff ARRA team to guide and coordinate COG activities and support participating governments.
- Identify and periodically convene local and state government ARRA coordinators in the National Capital Region to share information, strategies and best practices.
- Sponsor and host a meeting for the National Capital Region congressional delegation on regional ARRA response and activities and share information with the delegation on a periodic basis.

- Participate in the Brookings-led program to partner with several regional councils and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) in major metropolitan areas to support regional approaches to ARRA investment and implementation.
- Brief the COG Board of Directors, the Chief Administrative Officers Committee, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) and other key committees periodically concerning ARRA implementation and experiences.

#### COG-Led Funding Opportunities

Identify, coordinate with COG participating governments and seek funding opportunities for potential regional ARRA-funded grant application(s). Targeted funding opportunities may include:

- Discretionary transportation grants for eligible for metropolitan regions are under active consideration by the TPB.
- Energy conservation grants eligible to regional councils and/or coalitions of local governments.
- Discretionary housing grants through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program eligible to regional councils and/or coalitions of local governments.

#### Next Steps

COG staff will brief the COG Board on the proposed initiative, highlight the new pages on the COG web site, and summarize proposed COG-led funding opportunities.

The COG Board will be asked to provide comment and suggestions to staff on proposed initiatives and funding opportunities. Staff will also update the COG Board and other key committees on activities, products and outcomes and seek approval for grant funding throughout the year.