

**Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee
October 11, 2002
Meeting Summary**

The Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee (PDTAC) met on October 11, 2002 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:45 in COG Conference Room 1. The attendance roster is attached. PDTAC Chair Pastor called the meeting to order and members introduced themselves.

Announcements

COG staff announced that the TPB Regional Accessibility and Mobility Joint Working Group would meet again at noon, immediately following the next PDTAC meeting. COG staff also distributed an updated agenda for the November 22 conference on affordable housing. Karl Berger of COG/DEP staff briefed the committee on the August meeting with EPA Region 3 officials to discuss Chesapeake Bay water quality issues.

Future Growth in the Washington Region

Lee Epstein and Steve Libbey of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation presented the results of a growth modeling study recently conducted by the University of Maryland for the Bay Foundation. The study utilized satellite imagery analysis and “SLEUTH” software to assess three different land use scenarios predicted to the year 2030 and determined that the metropolitan Washington area will likely see an 80% increase in developed land if current trends are followed. Several committee members stated that the results of the modeling process do not reflect existing local land use plans and current efforts to concentrate or reduce growth. Ms. El-Alaily questioned the Bay Foundation conclusion that local watersheds are becoming impaired when large land areas are “10 percent impervious”. Mr. Dobbins suggested that the model results were more useful at the regional scale and not for smaller, sub-county geographic areas

Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study: Alternative Growth Scenarios

Paul DesJardin of the COG staff said that Ron Kirby, Director of Transportation Planning briefed the Metropolitan Development Policy Committee (MDPC) on the project during their September meeting. Mr. DesJardin said that MDPC members are very interested in working with the PDTAC to frame the alternative scenarios and presented a memo listing several potential scenarios as suggested by MDPC and PDTAC members:

- (1) Increasing housing in the regional activity centers;
- (2) Increasing employment in the regional activity centers;
- (3) Targeting growth towards “underutilized” Metrorail and commuter rail stations, though definition may not be universal
- (4) Attempting “balanced growth” (1.5 – 1.6 jobs per household for large geographic areas)
- (5) TPB consider use of Round 6.3 as “baseline” instead of Round 6.2
- (6) Consider regional light rail alternatives (COG / IRE assessment)

Update on Schedule for Round 6.3

Greg Goodwin of the COG staff distributed a schedule showing approval of the Round 6.3 by the PDTAC in February and by the MDPC in March. Mr. Goodwin noted that COG staff had provided the Dun & Bradstreet employment data file to all member jurisdictions at the beginning of the summer and that Cooperative Forecasting Subcommittee members were working to finish corrections to the files. Mr. Goodwin reiterated that all jurisdictions must participate in this year's update due to the TPB request for a year 2030 forecast horizon. In response to a request from Chair Pastor during the September meeting, Mr. Goodwin also distributed a matrix which indicated that most jurisdictions do not intend to use the Dun & Bradstreet employment data to prepare Round 6.3 forecasts.

Next Meeting

Friday, November 15, 2002 at 10:00 a.m.

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