

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4239

**RESOLUTION APPROVING ROUND 7.0 COOPERATIVE FORECASTS OF POPULATION,
HOUSEHOLDS AND EMPLOYMENT FOR METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON**

WHEREAS, on September 10, 1975, the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) authorized the development of a Cooperative Forecasting Program as a component of the Metropolitan Growth Policy Program; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Cooperative Forecasting Program is to provide current forecasts of population, households, and employment growth and change for use in metropolitan planning programs, including the Water Resources, Transportation Planning, Air Quality, Energy Resources, Metropolitan Development and Housing Programs; and

WHEREAS, COG designated its Metropolitan Development Policy Committee as the policy body responsible for developing these forecasts through the Cooperative Forecasting Program; and

WHEREAS, each major round of forecasts takes into account econometric modeling of the region's economy based on both national economic and demographic assumptions and as well as a series of economic and demographic assumptions specific to the region, with such a round of exhaustively reevaluated forecasts scheduled every three years, in support of federal transportation planning requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Forecasting and Data Subcommittee of the Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee has been actively engaged during the past year in developing the first series of forecasts from the seventh round ("Round 7.0") based on current development trends and economic and demographic estimates, as the basis for further study of land use/transportation relationships to comply with Federal regulations implementing the Clean Air Act Amendments and the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21); and

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Forecasting Program has involved the active participation of COG's participating governments, as well as Anne Arundel and Howard counties and the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, which have provided local population, household, and employment forecasts, documentation of methodology and assumptions upon which the forecasts are based, and related analyses for use in the process, and has involved full participation of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council, the Maryland Office of Planning, and the National Capital Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1991, COG endorsed the first annual update to the forecasts of population, households, and employment as the basis for further study of land use/transportation relationships, and to enable local governments so inclined to adjust forecasts annually based on planning, zoning, and economic changes; and

WHEREAS, on September 9, 1998, the COG adopted Resolution R25-98, charging the Metropolitan Development Policy Committee, in conjunction with the Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee and the Cooperative Forecasting and Data Subcommittee, with strengthening the Cooperative Forecasting Program submission, review, and approval process and to notify COG's Board of Directors of actions taken; and

WHEREAS, to further enhance coordination between regional land use and transportation planning, on February 12, 2003, COG adopted Resolution R8-03, which recommends that approval of each round of the Cooperative Forecasts should occur concurrently with the completion of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board's (TPB) Air Quality Conformity Analysis of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and

the Financially-Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP); and

WHEREAS, on July 13, 2005, the Metropolitan Development Policy Committee (MDPC) approved the draft Round 7.0 Cooperative Forecasts for use in this year's Air Quality Conformity Analysis of the FY2006-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the 2005 Financially Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP); and

WHEREAS, collectively, local plans and zoning in the metropolitan Washington region do not currently provide for the amount of housing necessary to provide workers to fill forecast jobs for the metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, in the past forecasts adopted by the Board were primarily based on local plans and zoning capacities as provide for in locally adopted land use plans because there was sufficient capacity in local plans for the modeled period; and

WHEREAS, to provide sufficient housing in the out years 2010 to 2020 to meet employment projections it is necessary to anticipate that certain localities over time will re-plan and rezone land sufficient to provide for the additional housing, the assumption of which is consistent with current development trends and economic and demographic inter-relationships.

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

1. COG approves the Round 7.0 forecasts, effective with the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board's (TPB) action to approve the results of the Air Quality Conformity Analysis of the FY2006-2011 Transportation, Improvement Program (TIP) and the 2005 Financially Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP).
2. COG commends the Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee, Cooperative Forecasting and Data Subcommittee and all participants in the Cooperative Forecasting Program for their contributions to the effort to date.
