

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION ENDORSING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVED
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY**

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) and the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board have a long history of supporting region-wide policies to improve traffic safety; and

WHEREAS, despite the extensive work being done in the region to address vehicular and pedestrian safety in the area, there still exists the problem of pedestrian injuries and fatalities; with more than 80 pedestrians killed and over 2,300 injured every year, accounting for one fifth of all persons killed on the roads in the Washington region; and

WHEREAS, a workshop on pedestrian safety was held on April 29, 2008 involving regional leaders and subject matter experts to discuss planning problems and recommend solutions; and

WHEREAS, workshop participants identified walkability, encompassing both safety and access, as important to the economic future of our region, recommended that a higher priority be placed on pedestrian access and safety, and identified a need for the use of pedestrian safety performance measures in transportation and land use projects; and

WHEREAS, workshop participants concluded that compliance with laws requiring motorists to yield to or stop for pedestrians in crosswalks, and requiring pedestrians to use the crosswalks, needs to be improved; and

WHEREAS, workshop participants identified the concern that differences in laws across the region regarding motorists stopping or yielding to pedestrians make it difficult to educate the driving and walking community in the region; and

WHEREAS, local subject matter experts expressed the need for more complete crash data, including the speed at which pedestrians are hit; and

WHEREAS, workshop participants determined that best practices according to the Americans with Disabilities Act are not being consistently followed; and

WHEREAS, workshop participants supported the continuation of the regional Street Smart pedestrian safety public outreach campaign, which has had success at changing driver and pedestrian behavior for the better.

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

1. The region supports the continuation and enhancement of transportation safety education efforts, including the Street Smart program, the Safe Routes to School program, and effective driver education, with increased targeting of high risk populations; and

2. The region urges sustained efforts by the jurisdictions of the Washington region to enforce pedestrian safety laws, including the deployment of dedicated traffic enforcement units by jurisdictional police agencies, as well as the enhanced compilation and analysis of pedestrian safety data; and
3. The region advocates efforts by the jurisdictions of the Washington region to make their communities more walkable, including pedestrian-safe traffic speeds, ample pedestrian facilities, well-designed bus stops, best engineering practices for accommodating the disabled, and full incorporation of pedestrian needs into transportation performance measurement, engineering, and construction; and
4. The region urges the Commonwealth of Virginia to amend its transportation safety laws to require motorists to stop for pedestrians, rather than only to yield to pedestrians as the current law states; and
5. Copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Governors, the Mayor, the Virginia General Assembly and the Board of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority.
