

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002-4290**

**MINUTES  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
COG Board Room**

**June 8, 2011**

**BOARD MEMBERS, ALTERNATES AND PARTICIPANTS PRESENT AND NOT PRESENT**

**\*SEE ATTACHED CHART FOR ATTENDANCE**

**STAFF**

**David J. Robertson, Executive Director  
Sharon Pandak, General Counsel  
Diane Humke, Clerk to the Board**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Harrison called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

**2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Harrison reminded everyone that the COG Leadership Retreat will be July 22 - 23 at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay and encouraged everyone to attend. A draft retreat schedule was handed out and invitations will be sent shortly.

**3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Robertson met with Alexandria Acting City Manager Bruce Johnson and testified before the D.C. Council on COG's work program and budget.

Mr. Robertson met with Brookings and National Capital Planning Commission officials and also met with Freddie Mac officials on regional philanthropic investments.

Mr. Robertson presented a statement on behalf of the joint BOT-COG Task Force at the WMATA Governance Committee meeting.

There were three orientation meetings for members of the new Region Forward Coalition. Bike to Work day had over 11,000 participants, and DTP staff organized the launch of rollDC.

#### **4. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no amendments to the Agenda.

#### **5. APPROVAL OF MAY 11, 2011 MINUTES**

The minutes of the May 11, 2011 meeting were approved and adopted. Alexandria City Council Member abstained.

#### **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

Supplemental Documents: R27-2011 through R30-2011

##### **A. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO PROVIDE ANACOSTIA RIVER WATERSHED TRASH TMDL MONITORING -RELATED SUPPORT SERVICES**

The Board adopted R27-2011, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to execute a contract in an amount not to exceed \$130,000 to provide technical trash TMDL monitoring-related assistance to Montgomery County for Anacostia watershed trash TMDL-related monitoring. Services include performing seasonal tributary stream baseline trash surveys, conducting land-based "windshield" and roadside trash surveys, developing a questionnaire targeting apartment and large commercially zoned land uses, and preparing a summary report/technical memorandum. The project duration will be two-years from the receipt of funding. No COG matching funds are required.

##### **B. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO RECEIVE AND EXPEND FUNDING FROM THE TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNITY, AND SYSTEM PRESERVATION (TCSP) PROGRAM**

The Board adopted Resolution R28-2011 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend grant funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation's TCSP Program for a planning project budgeted at \$200,000 (including a 20 percent local match). The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) is seeking this TCSP funding to develop a regional database of small-scale pedestrian and bicycle improvements that will provide commuters with better access from rail stations to jobs and houses in targeted growth areas. The project will serve a variety of regional goals including promoting compact regional activity centers, relieving demand pressures on the transportation system by taking advantage of existing rail capacity, and supporting access to jobs for people of all income levels. If awarded the grant, the TPB proposes carrying forward to FY 2013 funding from the approved FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program, so that the TCSP grant funding would be matched by COG funds already approved for FY 2012. No additional COG matching funds would be required.

##### **C. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO ISSUE A CONTRACT TO COMPLETE A PUBLIC HEALTH GAP ANALYSIS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

The Board adopted Resolution R29-2011, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee to receive and expend up to \$95,992.95 to complete a Public Health Gap Analysis for the District of Columbia. Funding for this effort will be provided through a subgrant from the State Administrative Agent (SAA). No COG matching funds are required.

##### **D. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO ISSUE A CONTRACT TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT COMMUNITY ORGANIZING AND OUTREACH FOR NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

The Board adopted Resolution R30-2011, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee to receive and expend up to \$300,000 to develop and implement community organizing and outreach for National Preparedness Month in the District of Columbia. Funding for this effort will be provided through a subgrant from the State Administrative Agent (SAA). No COG matching funds are required.

## **7. TRANSIT AND JOBS IN METROPOLITAN AMERICA: U.S. AND NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION PERSPECTIVES**

Supplemental Documents: Brookings Transit Report and Presentation

The Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings released a new national report on transit and job access at an event on May 12 that included responses by U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shawn Donovan and U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. The report provides an analysis of transit routes and schedules, demographic data and employment information from the nation's 100 largest metro regions, including the National Capital Region. The report focuses on how transit serves communities and helps workers reach jobs.

Mr. Berube, Senior Fellow and Research Director Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings, outlined the findings of the report on Transit and Jobs at the national level. An analysis of data from 371 transit providers in the nation's 100 largest metropolitan areas reveals that nearly 70 percent of large metropolitan residents live in neighborhoods with access to transit service of some kind. Transit coverage is highest in Western metro areas such as Honolulu and Los Angeles, and lowest in Southern metro areas such as Chattanooga and Greenville. Regardless of region, residents of cities and lower-income neighborhoods have better access to transit than residents of suburbs and middle/higher-income neighborhoods.

About one-quarter of jobs in low- and middle-skill industries are accessible via transit within 90 minutes for the typical metropolitan commuter, compared to one-third of jobs in high-skill industries. This reflects the higher concentration of high-skill jobs in cities, which are uniformly better served by transit. It also points to potentially large accessibility problems for workers in growing low-income suburban communities, who on average can access only about 22 percent of metropolitan jobs in low- and middle-skill industries for which they may be most qualified.

Fifteen of the 20 metro areas that ranked highest on a combined score of transit coverage and job access are in the West. Top performers include metro areas with noted transit systems such as New York, Portland, San Francisco, and Washington, but also Salt Lake City, Tucson, Fresno, and Las Vegas. Conversely, 15 of the 20 metro areas that rank lowest are in the South.

These trends have three broad implications for leaders at the local, regional, state, and national levels. Transportation leaders should make access to jobs an explicit priority in their spending and service decisions, especially given the budget pressures they face. Metro leaders should coordinate strategies regarding land use, economic development, and housing with transit decisions in order to ensure that transit reaches more people and more jobs efficiently. And federal officials should collect and disseminate standardized transit data to enable public, private, and non-profit actors to make more informed decisions and ultimately maximize the benefits of transit for labor markets.

Paul Desjardin outlined the Brookings study as it relates to the Metropolitan Washington Region and how the Brookings report can help with further studies of jobs and transit.

As called for in the approval of *Region Forward*, COG staff is currently completing the assessment of all indicators – including land use development and transportation system performance – to support the Region Forward Baseline Report later this year.

*Region Forward's* goals and targets specifically call for increasing the amount of commercial and residential development in Regional Activity Centers, and recommend that all Regional Activity Centers be served by transit.

COG staff will work with Brookings to guide the detailed assessment of the region's transit stations, benchmarking the work to the Region Forward targets and goals.

Cathy Dryzgula, Gaithersburg inquired if the statistics reflect the recent declines from construction. Mr. Berube said that the data came from 2010 but are modeled and are estimates but would not change the numbers by very much.

Walter Tejada, Arlington County Board Member, asked with regards to affordable housing was there any analysis and impact on the supporting communities and the impact of different modes of transportation. This was not studied but is a part of an upcoming study being performed now. The study did not distinguish between different modes of transportation.

Penny Gross, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, asked time versus money and how much a rider is willing to pay and the cost to each jurisdiction. These issues were not studied but there is another ongoing study which examines costs of building.

Dan Drummond, Fairfax asked if there was a comparison done of commuters by car, train and other modes of transportation and how that impacted the results found in this study. These issues were not examined but will be in future studies.

John Britton, Rockville asked if the study tied transit to public facilities. Brookings is looking into the issue.

Karen Toles, Prince George's County asked about timing issues and research and how a determination was made in areas such as Prince George's County that is both urban and suburban. Timing issues were researched and a more detailed report is forthcoming.

J. Davis, Mayor of Greenbelt asked about research on how to connect different modes of transportation for people who work non-traditional hours or days and communication with the different modes of transportation. The issues are being researched.

## **8. REGIONAL CLIMATE AND ENERGY ACTION PLAN FOR 2010-2012 AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO ESTABLISH WASHINGTON REGIONAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE COALITION AND APPLY FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

Supplemental Documents; Presentation, Resolution R31-2011

Last year, the Climate, Energy and Environmental Policy Committee adopted a Climate and Energy Action Plan to conserve energy, promote renewable energy use, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The *National Capital Region Climate Change Report* examined potential climate change impacts on our region, evaluated mitigation strategies focused on building energy conservation, transportation system management, land use, use of renewable energy, adaptation, and outreach and education. The report was adopted by the COG Board of Directors in November 2008, proposes significant short-term, medium term and long-term greenhouse gas reduction goals for the region.

Electric vehicles are being introduced in the Washington region and offer many advantages such as the carbon intensity of the electric grid is lower than transportation fuels; there are no tail pipe emissions; they are cheaper to operate and maintain and they have energy independence. There is a need for utilities, local governments, electric vehicle suppliers and private energy suppliers to work together to address electric vehicle readiness. There needs to be a focus on locations for public charging stations, commercial charging stations, permitting for home charging stations and looking

into power transmission loads. The Board was asked to adopt Resolution R31-2011 to support the creation of Washington Regional Electric Vehicle Coalition and to support partnering with Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition to submit a grant proposal for a Washington Regional Electric Vehicle Plan.

Supervisor Gross asked if the grant is not obtained what will happen to the Coalition and how would that affect COG. Mr. Fisetto responded that the coalition would still be formed only on a smaller scale and funds would be solicited from the private sector.

J. Davis, Mayor of Greenbelt asked about reporting statistics in each jurisdiction and if the reporting process could be made easier or if there would be help to those jurisdictions who find reporting difficult. These issues are being worked on and the process will be simplified.

Frank Principi, Prince William County asked if there would be COG matching funds. There will not be any matching funds required and the private sector will be solicited for additional funds if needed.

Redella Pepper, Alexandria asked about electric vehicle charging stations and accessibility. Charging stations would be available to the public and locations are being researched as to how to best serve the Washington area.

There was a motion to amend the grant amount from \$300,000 to \$400,000 that was approved.

Resolution R31-2011 was adopted as amended.

## **9. SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OUTREACH CAMPAIGN**

Supplemental Documents: SNAP Presentation

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the new name for the federal food stamp program which aims to end hunger and focuses on nutrition and better health.

Jeffrey Greenfield of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service spoke about the economic stimulus effects that additional SNAP participation could generate. When people receive and spend their SNAP benefits, the economic impact is multiplied as those funds move from grocery stores to delivery companies and throughout the economy. Every \$5.00 in new SNAP benefits generates over \$9.00 in total community spending.

Mr. Greenfield also commented on the positive impact SNAP funding has had on reducing hunger particularly among children and stated that if this region could be the first region to end childhood hunger we would be a model for the nation.

Updates on progress with the SNAP Program will be given throughout the year.

Supervisor Gross, asked for more information pertaining to farmers markets and how they can be encouraged to accept SNAP. Mr. Greenfield stated that more information will be forthcoming.

J. Davis Mayor of Greenbelt requested information about farmers markets and accepting SNAP be available to everybody. Mr. Greenfield said he would make the information available to everyone.

A motion to approve the SNAP Outreach Program was made and unanimously approved.

## **10. COG PARTNERSHIP WITH LINEA DIRECTA**

Supplemental Documents; None

Several area local and state officials and community leaders wrote to COG in April requesting that COG consider establishing a partnership with Linea Directa. Linea Directa is a weekly Spanish-

language public service television series. Linea Directa is produced by EVS Communications, a non-profit organization, in collaboration with NBC4 studios, where it is recorded, and then broadcast on Telemundo Washington.

Linea Directa proposed a pilot program and partnership with COG in support of programs that broadcast pedestrian safety and health issues. EVS has asked that COG contribute \$20,000.00 to the pilot program.

Jeanne Saddler, COG's Director of Public Affairs, suggested that COG support the program in a scaled down version by contributing \$7,500.00 towards the first full show and a portion of the second show to see how the program goes and then evaluate from there.

Board Member Mr. Tejada spoke in support of the partnership and pilot program and said that it was a great opportunity for COG.

There was a motion and second to approve supporting the Linea Directa Partnership and to contribute \$7,500.00 to EVC for production of public service programs. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **11. FY 2012 MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Supplemental Documents; Presentation

Mr. Robertson presented the 2012 COG Membership Report and thanked Frederick City and County for retaining membership with COG. Mr. Robertson recognized that this was a tough year financially for all members especially Frederick City and County, whose continued membership within COG was not guaranteed. He thanked Alderman Young and Commissioner Gray for being COG advocates and including COG in their Fiscal year budgets. Mr. Robertson showed a targeted membership report for Frederick City and County and has proposed that similar reports be made for all jurisdictions to encourage participation with COG in the future.

## **12. OTHER BUSINESS**

None

## **13. ADJOURN-THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2011.**