

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

**MINUTES
Board of Directors' Meeting
COG Board Room
November 8, 2006**

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

***SEE ATTACHED CHART FOR ATTENDANCE**

STAFF

**David J. Robertson, Executive Director
Lee Ruck, General Counsel
Steven Kania, Clerk to the Board (for Nicole Hange)**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Jay Fisetette called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 11, 2006 MINUTES

Motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to adopt the minutes of the October 11, 2006 meeting.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Fisetette announced the local election results from the night before the meeting. Recent COG efforts include "Go Recycle" radio campaign and a partnership with the Giant Food grocery chain to promote the Wise Water Use campaign.

Mr. Robertson reported COG was a co-sponsor of the Red Cross annual meeting. EPC Chair Gerry Connolly served as its keynote speaker and discussed the newly approved NCR Strategic Plan.

Regulatory changes by some federal funding agencies have required a review of COG's disadvantaged business enterprise programs. In January the Board will receive recommendations as required.

COG held a broadband forum in October. The Broadband Task Force will present its report to the Board early next year.

COG will host an Obesity Summit on November 16, together with Freddie Mac will sponsor an adoption expo on December 2 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, and will hold its Annual Membership and Awards Luncheon at the National Press Club on December 13.

4. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Supplemental Documents: Resolutions R59-06 to R60-06 (electronic). Wildlife-Vehicle Collision Reduction Report (hard copy).

A. RESOLUTION ENDORSING WILDLIFE-VEHICLE COLLISION AVOIDANCE POLICY STATEMENT AND WILDLIFE-VEHICLE COLLISION REDUCTION WORKING GROUP REPORT

The Wildlife-Vehicle Collision Reduction Working Group of COG's Animal Services Committee, supports the recognition of wildlife-vehicle collisions as a public safety issue that impacts people, animals and property. It recommends that immediate action be taken by jurisdictions: (1) to create a seasonal awareness program including public service announcements and local media coverage; (2) to develop and deliver a comprehensive deer collision driver education package; and (3) to support the creation of a standard for collecting and analyzing deer collision information to be implemented throughout the region.

B. RESOLUTION OPPOSING FUTURE LEGISLATION EQUATING PAWN SHOPS TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

A recent Congressional bill would extend bank-applicable individual transaction confidentiality to pawnshops and pawn transactions. In the view of regional law enforcement officials this would eviscerate the concepts and capacities of the recently created Regional Pawn Data Sharing System (RPDSS) and would preclude its replication elsewhere. Lobbying by the National Pawnbrokers Association (NPA) was designed to obstruct the use of systems like RPDSS. Although this language has now been pulled from the House Bill, regional officials and their law enforcement professionals must stand ready for the next actions from the NPA to impede this significant investigatory tool.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolutions R59-06 and R60-06 were unanimously agreed upon and adopted.

6. 2006 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND TRANSPORTATION/LAND USE CONNECTION PILOT PROGRAM

Supplemental documents (all hard copy): "What if the Washington region grew differently? The Regional Mobility and Accessibility Scenario Study"

Michael Knapp, Montgomery County Council and Chair, TPB, reported that the TPB has been focusing on land use and transportation scenarios from the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study that could offer partial solutions to the region's traffic congestion problems. Such a program could provide incentives to localities that link land use and transportation more effectively. He said it is important to identify principles that all jurisdictions can agree on, such as integrating transit and activity centers.

Ron Kirby, COG Transportation Director, said the TPB performs financial reviews to make sure that proposed projects are affordable. There has been a recent shift in the combination of transportation funding sources. More funding is expected from toll roads such as the InterCounty Connector and Beltway HOT lanes. There has also been an increase in local bonding and a decrease in state funding. Increased construction costs exacerbate the situation.

A pilot program, approved by TPB on Oct 18, will provide a regional clearinghouse by raising the profile of local efforts and providing focused technical assistance to localities.

Chair Fisetto said the program was an important step to move from planning to action. District of Columbia Mayor Anthony Williams asked if the TPB analyzed the feasibility of selling toll roads to the private sector. Mr. Kirby said it has been examined.

Mayor Williams said there is a major debate between growth and preservation, and he has experienced a difficulty in convincing constituents that they need nearby transit oriented, high density development. Mr. Knapp agreed that it is an issue in several communities, and said that land use alone won't solve all of the region's problems. Nancy Floreen, Montgomery County Council, said the presentation should be presented throughout the region, and she asked that it be presented to the Montgomery County Council. Greenbelt Mayor Judith Davis said Greenbelt is interested in the pilot program and asked for more information. Virginia Delegate Jim Scott suggested the need to include affordable housing and teleworking in any discussion about transportation and land use planning. David Koontz, City of Frederick Alderman, asked if Frederick and Frederick County were included in the study. Mr. Kirby said that they were as well as counties outside of Frederick. Bruce Williams, Takoma Park Council, said planners can't let development cut off bus routes or routes to transit. Mr. Knapp said to contact him or Mr. Kirby for more information on the pilot program.

7. DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL GREEN BUILDING POLICIES AND BEST PRACTICES GUIDELINES

Supplemental documents: (all hard copy): Regional Green Building Program Presentation

Stuart Freudberg, COG Environmental Programs Director, summarized the COG Green Building Conference held on September 29 in College Park, MD, which focused on a review of local and national green building best management practices, policies, regulations and legislation. He said the only way to deal with the projected regional growth environmentally is through creative programs like green building. Joan Kelsch, Arlington County Planner and Chair, Intergovernmental Green Building Group, said the green building process incorporates the design and construction of a building from its beginning to end to reduce the environmental impact. It focuses on five important areas—the site of the building, saving water, energy efficiency, using non-toxic materials, and creating designs that promote health and productivity. The current intergovernmental green building initiative dates back more than a year when local jurisdictions began meeting on the topic. Mr. Freudberg said a proposed resolution encourages COG members to use

green building practices. The CAO committee has endorsed the resolution. COG would like to assemble an Ad Hoc committee by January that could present a report by Spring 2007.

Penny Gross, Fairfax County Supervisor, said a challenge in Fairfax County is pushback from government officials uncomfortable with new building practices. Mr. Freudberg said it will take public and private sector leadership. Ms. Gross said an emphasis should be made on education and training.

Nancy Floreen, Montgomery County Council, said the process can be complicated and that there can be issues of adopting LEED on its own as well as local governments holding itself to a standard it would like the private sector to meet. Maryland Delegate William Bronrott said this will be a bigger issue as global warming gains interest. He asked if there are any state models of best practices? Ms. Kelsch said the US Green Building Council has a list of federal, state, local jurisdictions and university systems that have adopted LEED. Phil Mendelson, District of Columbia Council, asked about rating systems other than LEED. Mr. Freudberg said the resolution speaks to LEED and other nationally recognized green building programs. Ms. Kelsch said LEED is better established than programs like Green Globes.

Chair Fisetto said the goal of this initiative would be to reach a consensus on green building standards, which could be a great advantage to the region.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, the Board unanimously adopted Resolution R55-06.

8. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF COG 2006 ENERGY STRATEGIC PLAN

Supplemental documents (all hard copy): Energy Strategic Plan-Executive Summary

Chair Fisetto presented Mr. Chuck Clinton from the District of Columbia Energy Office a plaque in recognition of his work. He said without Mr. Clinton's efforts, COG would not have the current Energy Strategic Plan.

The CAO's Energy Advisory Committee recently completed its recommendations for an Energy Strategic Plan for the region. James Gorby, Fairfax County, said global demand for energy is rising, supplies are tightening, and global energy prices are increasing. He said there is more solar power in Germany than in the U.S. He said the U.S. has 5% of global population, 25% of energy use, and generates 25% of emissions.

Mr. Gorby said the plan has been distributed to COG jurisdictions and comments have been added. He said a focus on renewable energy has been added to the vision statement. Nancy Floreen, Montgomery County Council, asked if the plan had been circulated to board members to review before approving it. Mr. Nichols said a draft was discussed in June and that there was a 90 day comment period on the executive summary. Greenbelt Mayor J. Davis said she feels comfortable voting on the plan and that the COG board had been briefed. Mr. Robertson said the larger report is not a policy document. Maryland Delegate William Bronrott asked if the document looks at recent initiatives such as green cars. Mr. Gorby said Fairfax County would be receiving a Plug-In hybrid soon. Stuart Freudberg, Director of Environmental Programs, said a new group at COG is beginning to meet to discuss climate change as well as the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, the Board unanimously adopted Resolution R56-06 and COG 2006 Energy Strategic Plan.

9. AIR QUALITY PLANNING: LOCAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES/COMMITMENTS

Supplemental documents (all hard copy): Local Government Initiatives to Clean the Air Presentation

Phil Mendelson, District of Columbia Council and Chair, MWAQC, said the region does not meet federal health standards for ozone and fine particles, but new federal, state and local initiatives are helping reduce pollution. He said states are employing new control strategies on consumer products, reformulation of adhesives and sealants, and new portable fuel containers. CAIR, the Clean Air Interstate Rule, accounts for new federal controls on power plants, and local governments have initiated a number of non-regulatory initiatives such as wind energy purchases that can be included in the new State Implementation Plan. Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Arlington County, Fairfax County and the District of Columbia have agreed to purchase a percentage of their energy from wind sources. Loudoun, Montgomery, and Fairfax County are retrofitting school buses, transit buses, and trucks in their fleets. Mr. Mendelson said the proposed COG resolution would encourage member jurisdictions to adopt programs to reduce air pollution. Chair Fisetle said all of the day's agenda items today are connected and part of COG's focus on sound growth and development.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, the Board unanimously adopted Resolution R57-06.

10. REVIEW AND ACTION ON BUDGET AND FISCAL MATTERS

The Board received the FY 2006 Fourth Quarter Financial Report, the FY 2006 Audit and the proposed FY 2008 Work Program and Budget.

Dr. Jacqueline Brown, CAO, Prince Georges County and COG Secretary-Treasurer, said COG revenue for the 2006 4th quarter again exceeded expenses. She reported COG had interest income, rent rebate, and project excess yielding a surplus to be placed into reserve accounts.

Abdool Akhran, external auditor with Bert Smith and Co., said based on an evaluation of financial statements that all necessary audits have been completed and COG is in compliance. No management letter was necessary.

Mr. Robertson said the new budget, proposed by staff and recommended by the Board's Budget Committee, reduces the per capita rate for local jurisdictions from that previously authorized by the Board and General Membership. He said WAHP, CONAANDA, and cooperative purchasing are programs that have been mainstreamed into the budget, rather than relying upon individual jurisdiction assessments. Chair Fisetle said this change would result in more cost savings because the three programs will be rolled into the larger budget.

Penny Gross, Fairfax County Supervisor, said she was encouraged by the lively discussion during the budget meetings. She said the Budget Committee suggested changes to the report's presentation and that the budget now fits with the COG Strategic Plan in its format. She asked if COG normally changes auditors every few years. Mr. Robertson said COG had one more year with the current group, and then it would competitively bid for a new auditor. Chair Fisetle complimented the format changes and said it now lives up to COG's other well-designed publications.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, the Board unanimously adopted Resolution R58-06.

11. BOARD DISCUSSION TIME

John Lovell, Frederick County Commissioner, in a farewell statement to the Board, said he enjoyed working at COG as a member of its Board of Directors and as Committee Chair. He said the organization is a valuable venue for solving regional problems. On behalf of the COG Board, Chair Fisetite said Mr. Lovell's leadership was appreciated.

ATTENDANCE: November 8, 2006
BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ALTERNATES 2006

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Y/N</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Y/N</u>
District of Columbia				
Executive	Hon. Anthony A. Williams	Y	Ms. Alfreda Davis	N
	Mr. Edward Reiskin	N	Ms. Sharon Anderson	Y
Council	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y		
	Hon. Carol Schwartz	Y		
Maryland				
Bowie	Hon. G. Frederick Robinson	N		
City of Frederick	Hon. William Holtzinger	N	Alderman David Koontz	Y
College Park	Hon. Robert Catlin	Y		
Frederick County	Hon. John R. Lovell, Jr.	Y		
Gaithersburg	Hon. John Schlichting	N		
Greenbelt	Hon. Judith "J" F. Davis	Y		
Montgomery County				
Executive	Hon. Douglas M. Duncan	N	Mr. Bruce Romer	N
Council	Hon. Nancy Floreen	Y		
	Hon. Michael Knapp	Y		
Prince George's County				
Executive	Hon. Jack B. Johnson	N	Dr. Jacqueline Brown	Y
Council	Hon. Camille A. Exum	N		
	Hon. Tony Knotts	Y		
Rockville	Hon. Robert E. Dorsey	Y		
Takoma Park	Hon. Bruce Williams	Y		
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. William Bronrott	Y		
Virginia				
Alexandria	Hon. William Euille	N	Hon. Redella Pepper	Y
Arlington County	Hon. G. N. Jay Fissette	Y		
City of Fairfax	Hon. Gary Rasmussen	N		
Fairfax County	Hon. Gerald E. Connolly	N		
	Hon. Penelope A. Gross	Y		
	Hon. Joan DuBois	N		
Falls Church	Hon. Robin Gardner	N		
Loudoun County	Hon. Lori Waters	N		
Manassas	Hon. Douglas Waldron	N		
Manassas Park	Hon. Frank Jones	N	Mr. Michael Bunner	N
Prince William County	Hon. Hilda Barg	Y	Mr. Dana Fenton	N
	Vacant		Mr. Rick Canizales	N
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. James M. Scott	Y		

Other Participants
Ron Kirby, Director of Department of Transportation Planning, COG
Joan Kelsch, Environmental Planner, Arlington County
James Gorby, Chair, CAOs Energy Advisory Committee, Fairfax County
Abdool Akhran, Bert Smith and Company