

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BROADBAND ACCESS TASK FORCE REPORT

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' (COG) Board of Directors established the Broadband Access Task Force in January 2006 to identify and promote local and regional broadband access initiatives to help residents, businesses, schools, public agencies and community organizations make effective use of this technology to achieve their program management, telework, telemedicine, education, and service delivery goals while providing a greater experience for visitors to the region; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force sponsored a one-day regional forum in October 2006 for policy-makers and subject matter experts to discuss and vet options for the development of technology-neutral broadband access networks, including presentations and discussions related to model programs, best practices, and promising approaches; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force has identified policy recommendations that support the development of technology-neutral broadband access networks, which can be adopted within the State of Maryland, Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia by either administrative or legislative means; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force has prepared a report on regional initiatives and policy recommendations, to include steps local governments can take to support the goals and recommendations of the Task Force and outcomes associated with the regional forum; and

WHEREAS, the report contains a toolkit for local governments to use as a guide – or blueprint – to develop local broadband initiatives and policies.

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

1. The Board accepts the Broadband Access Task Force report and directs COG staff to disseminate copies to COG member local governments.
2. The Board shall consider the recommendations and take action as appropriate.
3. The Board extends its appreciation to Chairman Lori Waters and the members of the Broadband Access Task Force for their work in examining the issue of broadband access in the Washington area, creating a valuable resource for COG members to use when considering municipal broadband networks and proposing strategies to expand COG's role and impact on this important issue.
