

ITEM 12 - Information

November 19, 2014

Briefing on the Request From the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) and the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) to Affirm the 2008 COG Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Goals

Staff Recommendation: Receive briefing on

- a proposed TPB resolution to affirm the COG greenhouse emission reduction goals, and on
- COG actions to establish a multi-sector, multi-disciplinary professional working group to explore establishing a target for screening the regional transportation plan, based upon the COG goals.

Issues: None

Background: At the October 15 meeting, the Board was briefed on an October 9 letter from MWAQC and CEEPC requesting that the TPB affirm the 2008 COG greenhouse gas reduction goals. The letter also informed the TPB that the two committees have asked COG to convene a multi-sector, multi-disciplinary professional working group to explore establishing a target for screening the regional transportation plan, based upon the COG greenhouse gas reduction goals.

TPB REVIEW DRAFT – 11-19-2014

**TPB RXX- 2014
December 17, 2014**

**NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002**

RESOLUTION ON THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS' REGIONAL MULTI SECTOR GOALS FOR REDUCING GREENHOUSE GASES

WHEREAS, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB), the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the National Capital Region (Region), has the responsibility under the provisions of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) to carry out a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning for the Region; and

WHEREAS, the TPB is committed to preserving and enhancing the Region's environment through transportation plans focused on reducing congestion and emphasizing projects and programs that move more people and goods efficiently and reduce reliance on single-occupant vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the TPB, which is associated with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) as an independent policy committee, works closely with COG's Board of Directors ("COG Board") and its regional policy advisory committees, including the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee, and the *Region Forward* Coalition, as well as the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee on matters of regional multi-sectorial planning; and

WHEREAS, in November 2008 the COG Board, through resolution R60-08, adopted the *National Capital Region Climate Change Report* that included voluntary goals to reduce greenhouse gases by 10 percent below business as usual projections by 2012 to encourage early action, by 20 percent below 2005 levels by year 2020 to encourage expansion of recommended policies and programs, and by 80 percent below 2005 levels by year 2050 to stimulate support for research into technologies and clean fuels needed to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, in January 2010 the COG Board, through Resolution R9-10, adopted the *Greater Washington 2050 Coalition Report And Voluntary Regional Compact* that set out goals in nine areas and incorporated the previously adopted regional greenhouse gas emission reduction goals; and

WHEREAS, TPB's *What Would it Take* scenario analysis in 2010 quantified the effects of transportation sector specific actions for reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the recommended greenhouse gas reduction actions in the *National Capital Region Climate Change Report* and the *What Would it Take* scenario analysis provide significant co-benefits and enhance the future of the Region's quality of life; and

TPB REVIEW DRAFT – 11-19-2014

WHEREAS, the Region has benefited from federal, state and local actions across sectors that, even while accommodating considerable growth, have achieved significant reductions in emissions of criteria and other pollutants including fine particulate matter, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and volatile organic compounds; and

WHEREAS, actions taken to address criteria pollutants in the Region have also reduced greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, TPB recognizes achieving reductions in criteria pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions as a priority and has been reporting projected on-road greenhouse gas emissions in the CLRP Performance Report; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to identify additional cost-effective, coordinated actions that may be taken across all sectors of the Region's economy to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions and optimize the economic well-being and environmental quality of our region; and

WHEREAS, COG now intends to convene a multi-sector, multi-disciplinary professional working group to identify implementable local, regional and state actions in each of the four sectors including the transportation sector and quantify benefits, costs and implementation schedules, to inform exploration of greenhouse gas reduction goals for the transportation sector.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD:

1. Affirms COG's regional, multi-sectoral goals for greenhouse gas reductions, as guided by jurisdictional endorsements of the Greater Washington 2050 Compact.
2. Commits TPB staff and resources to supporting the proposed multi-disciplinary professional working group to be convened by COG to develop a multi-sector action plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, criteria pollutants and other related co-benefits.