Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Broadband Access Task Force Work Plan

Mission:

The mission of the Broadband Access Task Force is to strengthen the region's economy and transform its communities by fostering the development of broadband internet access throughout the National Capital Region, as a key feature of common public infrastructure. Building Upon the 2002 report and recommendations of COG's Digital Divide Task Force, the new effort will 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, and service delivery goals while providing a greater experience for visitors to the region.

Goals:

1. Foster economic growth through the development of a region-wide, broadband access network
2. Improve broadband access for residents, businesses, public employees and visitors and ensure that all residents have access to one or more means of broadband connectivity
3. Define the role of governments in supporting the development of open-air/wireless (free/fee) broadband access networks and/or hotspots
4. Support the COG Board and Transportation Planning Board goals for increasing the proportion of teleworkers in the region
5. Inform policy-makers regarding the technology and telecommunications issues associated with region-wide broadband network development and deployment

Staffing:

Staffing for the task force will be drawn from the following individuals on an as needed basis:

George Rice, Assistant Executive Director, MWCOG
Chris Willey, Chief, Office of Technology Programs and Services, MWCOG
Nick Ramfos, Program Director, Commuter Connections, MWCOG
Bill Robertson, Technology Procurement Coordinator, MWCOG

Proposed Membership:

It is expected that the task force will meet bi-monthly beginning in February 2006.

Lori Waters, Supervisor, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors (*Chair*)
Jim Scott, Delegate, Virginia House of Delegates (led digital divide effort 2000-01)
Ben Hecht, President & COO, One-Economy Corporation
Alan Shark, Executive Director, Public Technology Institute
COG CIO Committee Members from the District, Maryland and Virginia (one each)
Telecommunications industry association representative
Federal Communications Commission representative

Deliverables:

- A one-day, regional forum for policy-makers and subject matter experts to discuss and vet options for the development of a region-wide, broadband access network, including presentations and discussions related to model programs, best practices, and promising approaches

- Policy recommendations that support the development of a region-wide, publicly accessible broadband network, which can be adopted within the State of Maryland, Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia by either administrative or legislative means

- 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

Timeline:

January 2006:	COG Board approves establishment of task force
February 2006:	First task force meeting (bi-monthly to follow)
February-April 2006:	Research and other tasks from February meeting
May 2006:	Regional Forum held
June 2006:	Progress report to COG Board
June-September 2006:	Work begun on task force report
October 2006:	Initial draft of report
November 2006:	Second draft of report
December 2006:	Report finalized
January 2007:	Report presented to COG Board (task force sunsets)

Budget:

COG will seek grant funding from private sector sponsors, in particular technology firms, to support anticipated costs associated with the task force. The COG Board will be advised of progress and any funding action required.

Consultant/grad student $10,000
Meetings/Conferences $ 2,500
                TOTAL $12,500