

# National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board


777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20002-4290 (202)962-3310 Fax: (202) 962-3202 TDD: (202) 962-3213

**Item #5**

## **MEMORANDUM**

June 18, 2008

**TO:** Transportation Planning Board

**FROM:** Ronald F. Kirby   
Director, Department of  
Transportation Planning

**RE:** Additional Letters Sent/Received

The attached additional letters sent/received will be reviewed along with other letters sent/received under item #5 of the June 18<sup>th</sup> TPB agenda.

Attachment



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

Federal Transit Administration  
Region III  
1760 Market Street, Suite 500  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
215-656-7100  
215-656-7260 (fax)

Federal Highway Administration  
DC Division  
1990 K Street, N.W., Suite 510  
Washington, DC 20006  
202-219-3536  
202-219-3545 (fax)

JUN 11 2008

The Honorable Mr. Phil Mendelson, Chairman  
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board  
c/o Mr. Ronald Kirby, Director of Transportation Planning  
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments  
777 North Capital Street, NW, Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20002-4201

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

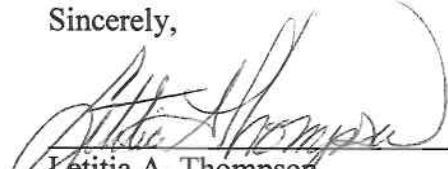
The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have completed our review of the 2007 Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP) and FY 2008-2013 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) for the Washington Metropolitan Area adopted by the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) on April 16, 2008.

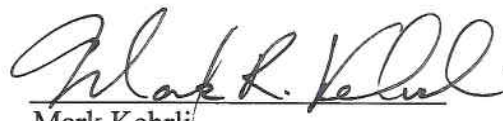
The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in a letter to FHWA's District of Columbia Division dated June 6, 2008 for the 8-Hour Ozone, Carbon Monoxide and PM 2.5 air quality conformity (enclosure), acknowledges its review and includes technical documentation that supports the conformity finding of the region's 2007 CLRP and FY 2008-2013 MTIP. It is our finding that the analytical results provided by the TPB to demonstrate conformity is consistent with EPA's Transportation Conformity Rule (40 CFR Part 93), as amended.

We find that the 2007 CLRP and the FY 2008-2013 MTIP conform to the region's State Implementation Plans, and that the conformity determination has been performed in accordance with the Transportation Conformity Rule (40 CFR Part 93), as amended. The findings are based (in part) on the self-certification statement submitted by the MPO under 23 CFR 450.316(b) (1) and activities by FHWA, FTA, and the State Transportation agencies in accordance with the Federal and State oversight responsibilities.

Any questions concerning this approval action should be directed to Sandra Jackson, of the FHWA District of Columbia Division, at (202) 219-3521 or Gail McFadden-Roberts, of the FTA Region III Office, at (215) 656-7121.

Sincerely,

  
Letitia A. Thompson  
Regional Administrator  
Federal Transit Administration

  
Mark Kehrli  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration

Enclosure

cc: Rick Rybeck, District of Columbia Division of Transportation  
Jason Harrington, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority  
JoAnne Sorenson, Northern Virginia District Office, VDOT  
Kellie Gaver, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Kwame Arhin, FHWA Maryland Division  
Uwanna Dabney, FHWA Virginia Division  
Edward Sundra, FHWA Virginia Division  
Brian Glenn, FTA Washington DC Metropolitan Office

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

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Telephone (202) 962-3200 TDD (202) 962-3213 Fax (202) 962-3201 Internet: [www.mwvog.org](http://www.mwvog.org)For Immediate Release  
June 17, 2008CONTACT: Lauren Udvari  
202-962-3209**DRIVING ALONE TO WORK IS EXPENSIVE;  
CARPOOLING SAVES COMMUTERS MONEY**

Washington, DC – Record high gas prices mean driving alone to work is the most expensive it's ever been. A drive-alone commuter from Chantilly, VA to Washington, D.C. (64 miles round trip) spends \$926 monthly and \$11,110 annually in transportation costs\*. A drive-alone commuter from Silver Spring, MD to Dulles, VA (56 miles round trip) spends \$829 monthly and \$9,946 annually. A drive-alone commuter from Frederick, MD to Greenbelt, MD (98 miles round trip) spends \$1,338 monthly and \$16,056 annually.

By carpooling with just one other person, the commuter from Chantilly to D.C. would save \$5,555 per year. Carpooling with three other people would save the Chantilly commuter \$8,333 per year. The Silver Spring to Dulles commuter would save \$7,460 per year by carpooling with three other people. The Frederick to Greenbelt commuter, carpooling with just two other people, would save close to \$10,704 per year or \$892 per month. Carpooling is significantly cheaper than driving alone to work, making it a viable solution to ever-increasing gas prices. Use the Commuter Connections Cost Calculator at

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[www.CommuterConnections.org](http://www.CommuterConnections.org) to find out how much it costs you to drive-alone to and from work. Other commuters have already done the math and switched to carpooling.

Over the past year (May 2007 to May 2008), the number of Commuter Connections Ridematching Program carpooling applicants has increased by 48%. In just one month, from April 2008 to May 2008, the number of carpool applicants increased by 22%. The Commuter Connections Ridematching Program provides residents with a free list of commuters who are interested in carpooling/vanpooling, who have similar work schedules and commutes.

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Fortunately, for the environment and the wallet, drive-alone commuters are making smarter transportation choices in response to record-breaking gas prices. According to a 2008 survey of professional workers conducted by Fortune 500 staffing firm Robert Half International, forty six percent (46%) of respondents who altered their work arrangements due to higher gas prices, reported carpooling or ridesharing as the most common change.

For more information on ridesharing, public transit and other Commuter Connections alternatives to driving alone to work, visit [www.CommuterConnections.org](http://www.CommuterConnections.org) or call 1 800 745-RIDE.

\*All figures are approximate and based on 22 commuting days per month, \$150 per month for parking and by using AAA's 2008 estimate for owning and operating a vehicle. The estimate factors the average fuel cost, maintenance, tires, insurance, license and registration and depreciation for a small sedan. Cost for larger vehicles will increase accordingly.

*Commuter Connections is a program of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and is funded by the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia Departments of Transportation as well as the U.S. Department of Transportation. Commuter Connections promotes alternatives to drive-alone commuting, and provides free ride-matching for carpools and vanpools and also offers the free regional Guaranteed Ride Home program.*

*COG is the association of 21 jurisdictions working for a better metropolitan region.*

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