

**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 12, 2008

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

***SEE ATTACHED CHART FOR ATTENDANCE**

STAFF

**David J. Robertson, Executive Director
Lee Ruck, General Counsel
Nicole Hange, Clerk to the Board**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Mike Knapp called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8 MINUTES

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

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Loudoun County Supervisor Lori Waters requested that Item 11.A. be removed from the consent agenda and be formally discussed and considered.

**11. A. Approval of Federal Highway Administration Grant Application and
Matching Funds from COG's FY 2009 Contingency Account**

At its October 15, 2008 meeting, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) voted to recommend that COG submit a grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration Value Pricing Pilot

Program. If approved the grant would support a COG/TPB led study that would build on ongoing scenario analysis. The Board was asked to adopt Resolution R62-08 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to submit a grant application and execute an agreement with FHA in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 and to provide the required 20 percent non-federal match of \$80,000 (\$30,000 from the FY 2009 operating and capital contingency and \$50,000 from the proposed FY 2010 work program and budget).

Supervisor Waters expressed concern with using money from COG's contingency account given the current economic instability. She stated that if this project is a priority for the TPB then it, given the size of the TPB budget, should reallocate funding to support the grant and not ask the COG Board to use its resources.

Several members stated their support of the request specifically because what COG would be contributing, \$80,000, would get a return of \$320,000.

Vice Chairman Gross added that COG has historically been very restrictive with its use of the contingency account and this was one case that she felt its use was warranted.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R62-08 was approved and adopted. Both Supervisor Waters and Prince William County Supervisor Wally Covington voted NO.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Knapp announced the election results of several races in the National Capital Region. He offered congratulations to Fairfax County Board Chairman Gerry Connolly, who won the contest for Tom Davis' seat in Congress. Mr. Connolly has been a fixture here at COG, serving as the Board Chair in 2000. He's also been one of the most prominent regional leaders in regards to emergency preparedness and planning.

COG Board Member and City of Manassas Park Mayor Frank Jones won re-election in his race.

Longtime District of Columbia Council Member Carol Schwartz lost her bid for re-election. She has been one of COG's most active members with her participation at COG spanning three decades. Ms. Schwartz served as COG Chair in 2001 and led this organization's 50th anniversary celebration last year. Chairman Knapp expressed the Board's appreciation for her service and wished her well.

Chairman Knapp reminded the Board of the upcoming COG Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon at the National Press Club on Wednesday, December 10. The keynote speaker, Washington Post Business Columnist and 2008 Pulitzer Prize Winner Steven Pearlstein, will discuss the economic crisis and its impact on this region. As one of several COG "belt-tightening" measures during this difficult economic time, COG has decided to forego the expense of producing an annual video. Instead, Chairman Knapp will present the "9 in 09," the top 9 Regional Issues for 2009. COG will also be recognizing regional accomplishments with its annual awards.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

COG co-sponsored an event with the National Governor's Association and the National Association of Regional Councils to educate participants on the roles of Metropolitan Planning Organizations and regional councils. Representatives of 15 states and territories participated in the workshop.

Mr. Robertson stated that he has met with the senior staff of several regional organizations to discuss the impact of the economic downturn on area non-profit organizations and possible regional strategies to address this issue. He has also met with the region's Chief Administrative Officers to discuss opportunities for greater collaboration, specifically in terms of cooperative purchasing. It is likely that a workshop will be held for this group early in 2009 to further analyze such opportunities.

There was much media attention last month regarding the conservatorship of both Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and the fear of reduced charitable giving by both organizations as a result.

COG launched its first podcast with Chairman Knapp and Mr. Robertson discussing the authorization of dedicated funding for Metro and the impact of Fannie and Mae and Freddie Mac on area nonprofits.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Supplemental documents: R63-08 through R68-08.

B. Approval of COG Board Policy Advisory Committee Reorganization

The Board adopted Resolution R63-08, approving the merger of the Human Services Policy Committee and the Public Safety Policy Committee effective January 1, 2009. Staff is directed to solicit 2009 appointments to the new Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committee as part of its annual process for soliciting appointments and re-appointments to COG policy boards and committees. The rationale for the proposed action is outlined in a staff recommendation memorandum and includes reduced committee related expenses, improved policy and program integration, and more efficient and effective use of member time. The executive director anticipates additional committee and/or staff re-organization in early 2009 as part of management's recommendations on cost-cutting measures in FY 2009 and the proposed FY 2010 work program and budget.

C. Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for Anacostia Forestry-Related Services

The Board adopted Resolution R64-08, authorizing the Executive Director to execute a nine (9) month memorandum of understanding with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDDNR) to receive and expend up to \$25,000 for Anacostia forestry-related services. The total cost of these services shall not exceed \$25,000. No COG matching funds are required.

D. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Receive and Expend Funding From the Keith Campbell Foundation In Support of the Anacostia Restoration Partnership

The Board adopted Resolution R65-08 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend up to \$50,000 in grant funding from the Keith Campbell Foundation to provide contract and staff services in support of the Anacostia Restoration Partnership. The total cost of these services shall not exceed \$50,000. No COG matching funds are required.

E. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Receive and Expend Funding From the Cafritz Foundation In Support of the Anacostia Restoration Partnership

The Board adopted Resolution R66-08 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend up to \$50,000 in grant funding from the Cafritz Foundation to provide contract and staff services in support of the Anacostia Restoration Partnership. The total cost of these services shall not exceed \$50,000. No COG matching funds are required.

F. Resolution Authorizing COG to Receive Funds to Provide Executive, Professional, and Technical Secretariat Support that will Contribute to Enhanced Emergency Preparedness in the Region

The Board adopted Resolution R67-08, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend \$960,117 through a Subgrant from the State Administrative Agent (SAA) to provide Executive, Professional, and Technical Secretariat Support. The purpose of the Secretariat Support will be to assist the Emergency Preparedness Council, the Chief Administrative Officers, the Senior Policy Group, Regional Emergency Support Functions, Regional Program Working Groups, State Administrative Agent, Office of National Capital Region Coordination, and others in enhancing emergency preparedness in the National Capital Region. No COG Matching funds are required.

G. Resolution Authorizing COG to Receive Funds to Continue to Provide Support and Maintain for the Regional Incident Communication and Coordination System (RICCS for the NCR).

The Board adopted Resolution R68-08, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend \$40,000 through a Subgrant from the State Administrative Agent (SAA) to fund COG's continued support and maintenance for the Regional Incident Communication and Coordination System in the National Capital Region. No COG Matching funds are required.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolutions R46-08 and R59-08 were unanimously approved and adopted.

7. ADOPTION OF CLIMATE CHANGE REPORT

Supplemental Documents: Climate Change Report (Electronic)
Climate Change Power Point (Electronic)
Resolution R60-08 (Electronic)

On April 11, 2007, the Board adopted Resolution R31-07, creating a Climate Change Initiative and establishing the Climate Change Steering Committee. The Committee was charged with, among other things, developing a report evaluating the regional impacts of climate change with specific recommendations as to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Climate Change Steering Committee Chair Nancy Floreen and Stuart Freudberg, Director of Environmental Programs at COG, summarized the work of the Committee over the past year and presented the Committee's report.

Ms. Floreen stated that in the past year, the Committee developed a Best Practices and Policies Guide to Reduce Greenhouse Gases; has supported federal energy legislation which strengthens CAFE standards, creates "green collar jobs", and develops Energy Efficiency Block grants to local governments; has endorsed the Cool Capital Challenge; and has come out against the proposed coal-fired power plant in Wise County, VA.

The "National Capital Region Climate Change Report" presents recommendations for regional action by proposing broad goals, identifying actions that will begin to reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions, and it sets in place a process to implement a regional framework.

The report was sent out to all member jurisdictions and other stakeholders for a 90-comment period which resulted in the strengthening of several target goals and improved consistency throughout the analysis.

The Committee based its recommendations on overwhelming scientific evidence which show a gradual warming of the earth due in large part to human activity. This evidence also signifies the

need for quick action to avoid the potentially catastrophic consequences of climate change forecast for the middle and latter parts of the century.

Due to the region's strong employment and population growth, COG calculates that man-made greenhouse gas emissions, which cause climate change, will increase 33 percent by 2030 and 43 percent by 2050 under a business-as-usual approach. To mitigate this occurrence, the Climate Change Steering Committee has recommended the following policies that will: by 2012, hold regional greenhouse gas emissions at the 2005 level; by 2020, reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent below the 2005 level; and by 2050, reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent below the 2005 level.

The report also includes recommendations relating to transportation, energy, land use and economic development actions to help local officials and citizens meet these targets.

Several Board members praised the report and the significant step forward it is taking. The key to "selling" the recommendations is in educating the public on the cost savings associated with reduced energy consumption.

Vice Chair Gross suggested that this report be the catalyst that gets COG on the President-Elect's radar and that a letter should be sent to his transition team accompanying the report and urging a stronger federal regional partnership.

Fairfax County Board Chairman and Representative-Elect Gerry Connolly also suggested that the report be transmitted to the National Association of Counties and the National League of Cities.

City of Fairfax Councilmember Dan Drummond requested that COG staff put together, and distribute, supplemental materials to jurisdictions which include low cost and fairly easy ways for residents to reduce their energy consumption. He also suggested that COG sponsor a "Change Your Light bulb Day" as part of its education and outreach campaign.

Loudoun County Supervisor Lori Waters questioned whether there is a definite link between greenhouse emissions and increased temperatures and whether this region could have a real impact on global warming. She stated that this is another very expensive program that could push businesses away, citing specifically the notion of a carbon tax.

Arlington County Board Member Jay Fissette commended the report's objective and its comprehensiveness and stated that he hopes to see continued interest and action by COG on the issue of climate change, perhaps through periodic tabletop or workshop sessions.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R60-08 was approved and adopted supporting the Climate Change Report and its dissemination. Loudoun County Supervisor Lori Waters was the only NO vote.

8. BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE RECOMMENDATION UPDATE

In 2005 both COG and TPB staff analyzed the likely impacts of the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission recommendations for the Washington region. In addition to the base-specific BRAC recommendations, DoD also recommended not renewing leases for many buildings in the region that do not meet the Department's anti-terrorism standards for design and security. Execution of BRAC directed movement is required to be completed by September 2011. Brigadier General J. Michael Hayes USMC (Ret.), Director of the Office of Military and Federal Affairs for the Maryland Department of Business & Economic

Development and Cyrena Chiles Eitler, AICP Project Manager at the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Office of Economic Adjustment briefed the Board on significant BRAC activities to date.

Brigadier General Hayes discussed the direct impact of the BRAC recommendations on Maryland. The total jobs being created by both the BRAC process and other decisions associated with Maryland's bases are expected to reach 60,000 by 2011 and beyond. Recent surveys show approximately 50% of employees impacted will move with their jobs; this will require not only an aggressive recruiting strategy but involving Maryland's secondary and higher education efforts to focus on the character and skill set necessary to acquire security clearance necessary for the new positions.

The State's Lieutenant Governor led a BRAC sub-cabinet which developed a BRAC Action Plan outlining actions associated with implementation for each military facility, BRAC associated FY 2008 Capital budget items and legislative initiatives dealing with Higher Education, targeted investment zone strategies and efforts to determine equitable burden sharing associated with Enhanced Use Lease (EUL) activity. SB 206, the BRAC Community Enhancement Act authorized the creation of BRAC "Revitalization and Community Enhancement Zones" that will provide financial incentives to local governments to provide infrastructure necessary to encourage BRAC related businesses and households to locate in BRAC zones. A progress report of the Action Plan should be released by the end of the year.

Ms. Eitler discussed the role of her office in ensuring that each state speak with one voice in response to BRAC recommendations. It is their primary role to act as first responder with state and local officials in reacting and preparing for Department of Defense actions. Her department has partnered with the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices to better assist states and localities as they manage the growth of military communities due to base expansion. The 50 state Governors have requested that DoD provide timely information on the size and scheduling of military changes to enable affected communities to plan effectively for workforce and related growth impacts; and funding to make such accommodations, both on and off base, such as improvements to schools, transportation and other infrastructure, and noise impacts.

Several members expressed their concern with the way the BRAC decisions were made and the lack of coordination with localities that would be impacted and urged greater communication and collaboration moving forward.

Arlington County Board Member Jay Fisetle requested an assessment of the carbon emissions at BRAC sites.

9. ADOPTION OF 2009 COG STATE POLICY PLATFORM

Supplemental documents: 2009 State Policy Platform VA (electronic)
2009 State Policy Platform DC/MD (electronic)
Policy Platform Memo (electronic)
R61-08 State Policy Platform (electronic)

During its annual retreat in July, COG members discussed the need to enhance legislative and policy priorities through greater coordination with state and congressional elected officials to strengthen and elevate our strategic plan for the region.

Engagement and active participation of our locally elected officials has long been a strength of this organization. Similar involvement by our state and federal officials has been more of a challenge. As a member association of nearly 300 local, state and federal elected officials, it is imperative that COG have active involvement at all levels of government. One third of our membership consists of state elected officials. As COG looks to planning for 2050 and the issues of sustainability, affordable housing, and connecting transportation and land use decisions, it is necessary that we

involve all of our members- including state officials- to shape the region's future. Mr. Robertson presented two policy platforms, one for Virginia, which includes Metro funding and a combined Maryland and District of Columbia platform which includes Anacostia watershed restoration. Each of the documents centers on the Board's expressed 2009 priority focus on transportation, energy and sustainability. Upon approval, staff plans to distribute the platforms during early 2009 state outreach events. Planning is underway for an event at both the Maryland and Virginia General Assemblies. In the past, the Executive Director has presented COG's priorities, activities, and accomplishments to the District of Columbia Council. A similar presentation, along with a report of COG's 2009 Work Program and Budget, will be given this year however; staff is reviewing opportunities for greater engagement of both the Council and Mayor.

Staff is also developing additional strategies to keep our state officials better engaged in COG activity throughout the year.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R61-08 was unanimously approved and adopted supporting the 2009 State Policy Platforms and the distribution.

10. ACCEPTANCE OF FY 2008 AUDIT

Supplemental Documents: Audit Report (electronic)

Abdool Akhran, an external auditor with Bert Smith and Co., stated that COG has received an unqualified opinion based on an evaluation of its financial statements. The auditor also made recommendations to improve several administrative procedures.

11. MEMBER TIME

No issues were addressed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2008.

**ATTENDANCE: NOVEMBER 12, 2008
BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ALTERNATES 2008**

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Y/N</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Y/N</u>
District of Columbia				
Executive	Hon. Adrian Fenty	N		
	Mr. Dan Tangherlini	Y		
Council	Hon. Vincent Gray	Y	Hon. Carol Schwartz	N
	Hon. Kwame Brown	Y	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y
Maryland				
Bowie	Hon. G. Frederick Robinson	N	Geraldine Valentino-Smith	Y
College Park	Hon. Robert Catlin	Y		
City of Frederick	Hon. William Holtzinger	N	Hon. Alan Imhoff	Y
Frederick County	Hon. David Gray	N	Hon. Jan Gardner	N
Gaithersburg	Hon. Sidney Katz	N	Hon. Henry Marraffa	N
Greenbelt	Hon. Judith "J" F. Davis	N	Hon. Rodney Roberts	Y
Montgomery County				
Executive	Hon. Isiah Leggett	N	Mr. Tim Firestine	N
Council	Hon. Roger Berliner	Y		
	Hon. Michael Knapp	Y		
Prince George's County				
Executive	Hon. Jack B. Johnson	N	Dr. Jacqueline Brown	N
Council	Hon. Camille A. Exum	Y	Hon. Tom Dernoga	Y
	Hon. Tony Knotts	N		
Rockville	Hon. Susan Hoffmann	N	Hon. John Britton	Y
Takoma Park	Hon. Bruce Williams	Y	Hon. Terry Seamens	N
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. Benjamin Barnes	Y		
Virginia				
Alexandria	Hon. William Euille	N	Hon. Redella Pepper	Y
Arlington County	Hon. Jay Fissette	Y	Hon. Walter Tejada	N
City of Fairfax	Hon. Dan Drummond	Y	Hon. Jeffrey Greenfield	N
Fairfax County	Hon. Gerald E. Connolly	Y	Hon. Sharon Bulova	N
	Hon. Penelope A. Gross	Y	Hon. Michael Frey	N
	Hon. John Foust	Y	Hon. Patrick Herrity	N
Falls Church	Hon. Robin Gardner	N	Hon. Hal Lippman	Y
Loudoun County	Hon. Lori Waters	Y		
Manassas	Hon. Harry J. Parrish II	N		
Manassas Park	Hon. Frank Jones	N		
Prince William County	Hon. Wally Covington III	Y		
	Hon. Frank Principi	N		
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. James M. Scott	Y		

Other Participants
Nancy Floreen, Montgomery County Councilmember
Brigadier General Michael Hayes, Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development
Cyrena Chiles Eitler, Office of the Secretary of Defense