



*Local governments working together for a better metropolitan region*

### **Memorandum**

**DATE:** July 8, 2009

**TO:** COG Board of Directors

**FROM:** Mary Hynes, Chair *MH*  
Aviation Policy Committee

**SUBJECT:** Recommendations to Update and Enhance COG's Aviation Policy Program

District of Columbia  
Bladensburg\*  
Bowie  
College Park  
Frederick  
Frederick County  
Gaithersburg  
Greenbelt  
Montgomery County  
Prince George's County  
Rockville  
Takoma Park  
Alexandria  
Arlington County  
Fairfax  
Fairfax County  
Falls Church  
Loudoun County  
Manassas  
Manassas Park  
Prince William County

\*Adjunct member

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### **Recommendation**

At the request of the Board, and after extensive review and consideration, I am writing to recommend updates and enhancements to COG's Aviation Policy program that strike a balance between maintaining an appropriate regional presence on this issue area, while recognizing changed conditions in recent years, as well as the challenging budget period in which we are all operating. This recommendation reflects our collective effort to preserve the values which the APC has represented since its inception - an elevated regional voice for airport concerns and an educational forum on airport issues for the local communities throughout the Metropolitan Washington region.

The specific actions I am recommending are as follows:

1. Retain the Aviation Policy Committee as currently constituted as a standing policy advisory committee to the COG Board of Directors through the end of calendar year 2009.
2. At the outset of FY 2010 (July 1, 2009), the focus of the committee would be insuring a vibrant exchange of information with the regional community through conducting regular forums on important aviation policy issues. In addition, in cooperation with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA), implement improvements to COG's aviation policy website and maintain this enhanced web presence on an ongoing basis.
3. Beginning in January, 2010, to the extent that aviation policy matters require action by COG, these would be advanced through COG staff or Board members for consideration by the Board acting as a "Committee of the Whole" on aviation policy matters.
4. Allocate COG local funds at ½ the level being provided during FY 2009 for FY 2010 to provide ongoing support for this initiative. Staff believes this funding level (\$43,368) will be adequate to carry out the revised aviation policy program.
5. COG's Executive Director would evaluate the effectiveness of the new approach in approximately one year and report to the Board on appropriate refinements or other modifications that may be necessary to insure an effective aviation policy program at COG. This should include possible integration of aviation policy into the recently established Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee.

I believe these actions will maintain the appropriate presence within COG for addressing aviation policy issues. This conclusion is based on discussions with and concurrence by the COG staff including COG's Executive Director, Environmental Director, and Principal Environmental Planner who is lead staff for COG's aviation policy program. It further reflects the results of a recent survey with members of the Aviation Policy Committee and conversations with senior staff of MWAA.

To implement these recommendations, I am advancing Resolution R39-09, which formalizes the modifications recommended above. It also recommends that the existing APC Chair be appointed to oversee implementation of these Aviation Policy Committee enhancement proposals including leading the planning for and moderating the community forums.

The attachment to this memorandum (Attachment 1) summarizes the history of COG's aviation policy work, its current committee structure, results of the committee survey, anticipated aviation policy issues going forward, the areas of focus for the proposed forums, and options considered for enhancement to COG's aviation policy program.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 703-228-3130 or [mhynes@arlingtonva.us](mailto:mhynes@arlingtonva.us).

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations.

**Attachments:**

Attachment 1:

History of COG's Aviation Policy Program and Recommendations for Updating and Enhancement

Resolution R40-09:

"Enhancements to COG's Aviation Policy Program"