

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002-4239**

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING COG PARTICIPATION IN “REALITY CHECK”

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is the association of local governments in the Washington metropolitan region and is comprised of federal, state and local elected officials representing 19 local governments in the region; and

WHEREAS, among its diverse responsibilities, COG is responsible for assisting local governments in the Washington metropolitan region with the identification, analysis and resolution of problems and issues related to metropolitan growth and development; and

WHEREAS, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) is the federally-designated metropolitan planning organization responsible for directing the continuing transportation planning process carried on cooperatively by the states and local governments in the Washington metropolitan region; and

WHEREAS, consistent with long-standing policy adopted in 1966 for integrating regional development with transportation plans and programs, the COG Board of Directors, with the policy advice of the Metropolitan Development Policy Committee (MDPC) and the technical support of the Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee (PDTAC) is responsible for the analysis and forecasting of metropolitan growth associated with the transportation plans and programs of the TPB; and

WHEREAS, in October 1993 COG adopted the Report of the Partnership for Regional Excellence, a year-long, regional consensus-building effort, which recognized the importance of linking transportation and land use planning; and

WHEREAS, in October 1998 the TPB adopted its Transportation Vision, a broad-based vision planning process, which identified better inter-jurisdictional coordination of transportation and land use planning as one of its six goals; and

WHEREAS, to further the goal of better inter-jurisdictional coordination, the Transportation Vision further recommended as one objective, a composite general land use and transportation map of the region that identifies the key elements needed for regional transportation planning --- regional activity centers, principal transportation corridors and facilities, and designated “green space;” and

WHEREAS, In 1999 the COG Board of Directors adopted the Strategic Plan, which, as one of its goals, calls for promoting balanced, sustainable growth and livable communities; and

WHEREAS, in March 2002 the COG Board of Directors and the TPB accepted the maps of regional activity centers and major transportation corridors and facilities, and acknowledged that they provide a useful regional planning tool to inform the TPB, the COG Board of Directors and area state and local governments regarding the coordination of transportation and land use planning; and

WHEREAS, COG is a participating member of the Smart Growth Alliance of the Washington District Council of the Urban Land Institute (ULI); and

WHEREAS, the Washington District Council of the Urban Land Institute (ULI) has, in coordination with other Washington region public, academic and advocacy groups, developed plans for “Reality Check on Growth” in the Washington region – a one-day participatory exercise similar to those recently completed in Los Angeles and Utah.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

1. The Metropolitan Development Policy Committee (MDPC) recommends that COG staff and COG membership including the Committee (MDPC) and other relevant COG policy committees participate in partnership with ULI to support planning the “Reality Check” event.
2. The Metropolitan Development Policy Committee (MDPC) requests that COG staff establish an interdepartmental team to consider land use, growth, transportation, and air and water quality implications of the “Reality Check” exercise and to ensure participation of appropriate COG policy officials in the event.
