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## MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 17, 2009

TO: Members, Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee (PDTAC)

FROM: Greg Goodwin, Regional Planner

SUBJECT: Round 8.0 Jurisdictional Household Forecasts Comparison with Round 8.0 Econometric Model Results

During the October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee, the Committee approved the draft Round 8.0 Cooperative Forecasts for transmission to the Metropolitan Development Policy Committee (MDPC) with the anticipation of COG staff receiving a Fairfax County employment submission and the City of Alexandria staff modifying their original submission.

During the meeting an issue was raised regarding the Round 8.0 household forecasts. For forecast years 2015 through 2030, the sums of the jurisdictional household forecasts (using the 1983 Washington MSA geography) exceeded the econometric totals by more than three (3) percent, which is the threshold traditionally used to require further reconciliation. COG and TPB staff briefed the Cooperative Forecasting and Data Subcommittee (CFDS) on this issue at its November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting (Please see Tim Canan's memo). At the CFDS meeting, members were asked to consider whether they wish to re-examine their household projections for the forecast years in question and determine if a time period adjustment was necessary for those years. The CFDS considered this issue again during its December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. During that meeting, jurisdictions were provided the opportunity to respond to this issue, and afterward, it was the decision of the Subcommittee to not make any changes to the Round 8.0 household forecasts based on the rationale noted below.

Not all jurisdictions submitted forecasts for Round 8.0, which could have had the effect of slower household growth resulting from the economic downturn not being accounted for in this new round. This could explain why the jurisdictional household totals exceeded the econometric totals for the 2015 – 2030 period. As a result, jurisdictions that did submit changes believed their forecasts were reasonable and did not require further reductions during the 2015 – 2030 period. [Jurisdictions not submitting forecasts for Round 8.0 included Frederick, Charles, and Calvert Counties in Maryland and the cities of Fairfax, Manassas, Manassas Park, and Stafford County in Virginia. COG staff did contact Frederick County and the non-member jurisdictions regarding the household forecasts issue and only Charles County planning staff agreed to submit changes for Round 8.0.] The issue raised by COG and TPB staff may resolve itself in Round 8.1 when it is anticipated that jurisdictions that did not submit forecasts for Round 8.0 will submit forecasts for Round 8.1.