

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, N.E.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002**

RESOLUTION HONORING DAVID J. ROBERTSON

WHEREAS, David J. Robertson has dedicated much of his professional life in service to metropolitan Washington and the five million residents who call this region home by leading the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) since being appointed Executive Director in 2003, after having previously served as a regional planner and department director in a 26-year career at COG; and

WHEREAS, over the past decade as COG's top executive, Mr. Robertson has demonstrated his skills as a consensus builder, policy expert, responsible fiscal manager, spokesperson, and outcome-focused leader to help elected officials and member governments and COG's stakeholders tackle the National Capital Region's most urgent issues, and to direct and inspire the work of 130 staff members and manage an annual budget of \$26 million; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Robertson, who approaches challenges by looking at the big picture, championed Region Forward, a vision for a more accessible, sustainable, livable, and prosperous region, adopted by the COG Board of Directors, local jurisdictions, and other regional groups, which maps out ambitious goals and targets to inform future decisions and measure progress; and

WHEREAS, to advance this comprehensive vision, Mr. Robertson guided major COG initiatives to ensure a well-managed and maintained transportation system, safe communities, a clean environment, and a strong economy; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Robertson, with the Greater Washington Board of Trade and other partners, committed COG to helping maintain and enhance the region's vital Metro transit system, including efforts to secure dedicated federal funding for the system and improve its governance; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Robertson has been directly engaged with partner regional organizations, including the United Way of Greater Washington, the Freddie Mac Foundation, and other charitable and community focused groups through the 8 Neighbors partnership, to help strengthen the region's safety net for the less fortunate in our region; and

WHEREAS, through personal diplomacy and encouragement to staff and officials, Mr. Robertson forged closer relationships among COG and a wide array of leaders in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia, the federal government including the Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Military's Joint Forces Headquarters, and public safety, transportation, communications, and other officials to strengthen regional emergency preparedness and homeland security planning; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Robertson coordinated responses to numerous regional emergencies and unexpected events including severe snow storms, hurricanes, an earthquake, and the “Derecho”, and led COG’s efforts to improve regional preparedness, resiliency and response through enhanced regional plans, communication systems, and citizen education; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Robertson promoted environmental efforts by COG and its members to improve air quality, restore the region’s waterways, including the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers and the Chesapeake Bay, and make metropolitan Washington a leader among regions in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting green buildings and alternative and renewable energy sources; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Robertson responded to concerns by COG members about the economy and the long-term outlook of reduced federal spending by refocusing current and upcoming COG projects with a goal of improving regional economic growth and competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Robertson has been an outstanding advocate for regionalism, for COG and its member governments, made customer service and outreach key priorities, and listened and was responsive to elected officials, stakeholders, and staff members alike; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Robertson’s strong sense of responsibility and professionalism, matched with his ability to see the ‘glass half full’ and good sense of humor, made him an excellent leader in a complex region of multiple personalities and interests; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Robertson will retire from his position as Executive Director on December 12, 2012, to relocate to Portland, Oregon to pursue a new career and other opportunities;

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

The Board conveys its deep appreciation to David J. Robertson for his many contributions to COG and the National Capital Region during his tenure as Executive Director and wishes him all the best in his future endeavors.

The foregoing resolution was unanimously approved and adopted by the COG Board of Directors at its regular meeting held on November 14, 2012.

***Barbara J. Chapman
Executive Board Secretary***