

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002-4290**

**MINUTES
Board of Directors' Meeting
COG Board Room**

December 12, 2007

**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 Vincent Gray called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 10 MINUTES

Motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to adopt the minutes of the October 10 meeting.

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Gray announced that last month the Transportation/Land Use Connections program was honored by the National Capital Area Chapter of the American Planning Association for helping jurisdictions better coordinate growth patterns with the existing transportation infrastructure.

COG and the Washington Regional Alcohol Program, known as WRAP, recently released the annual "How Safe Are Our Roads" report. The news was not good: alcohol-related traffic fatalities, injuries and crashes are rising again after a two-year decline. Chairman Gray requested staff to return to the Board in January with recommendations on how COG can engage these automobile-related issues more directly and effectively. Fairfax County Board Supervisor and COG Board Vice Chair Penny Gross also requested an explanation of the reporting procedures at that time.

Chairman Gray announced the departure of several members serving on the Board of Directors: Hilda Barg of Prince William County; Maryland State Del. Bill Bronrott, who will join the TPB; Bob Dorsey of Rockville; Joan DuBois of Fairfax County and John Schlichting of Gaithersburg. He thanked each of them for their service to the region and the Board and presented those present with awards in recognition of their work.

During the business portion of the 50th Anniversary Gala, the following members were elected to serve as the corporate officers for 2008: Redella Pepper will serve as COG President; Adrian Fenty and Alan Imhoff as vice-presidents, and J Davis as COG's secretary treasurer. Chairman Gray congratulated them on their elections.

Chairman Gray also congratulated the annual award recipients which included: Jay Fiset who was presented with this year's Elizabeth and David Scull Metropolitan Public Service Award for his efforts to advance long term growth and transportation solutions that include greater private and civic involvement; the Alice Ferguson Foundation for its dedication to cleaning the region's waterways; and a special award for Takoma Park former Mayor Kathy Porter for her remarkable career in public service, including leadership of several COG committees on issues such as transportation programs for people with disabilities.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Robertson stated that COG recently hosted the Greater Washington Board of Trade Board of Directors Meeting in recognition of COG's 50th Anniversary and COG-GWBOT partnership.

Mr. Robertson spoke at a policy forum in November on affordable and special needs housing sponsored by the Urban Institute and Fannie Mae Foundation. The Board will be briefed on the tremendous housing challenges facing this region in early 2008.

The Institute for Regional Excellence, a program sponsored by COG will hold its graduation on January 11, 2008.

Dedicated funding legislation for Metro was recently approved in Maryland during a special session of the General Assembly; similar legislation has also been adopted by the District of Columbia and Virginia. The federal enabling legislation has not yet been voted on, though it has been placed on the legislative Calendar.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Supplemental Documents Resolutions R73-07 – R78-07

A. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Receive a Grant from the District of Columbia State Administrative Agent to Provide Support for the National Capital Region Strategic Hazard Identification Evaluation for Leadership Decisions (NCR/Shield) Project

The Board adopted Resolution R73-07, authorizing the Executive Director or his designee, to receive a grant in an amount not to exceed \$1.5 million to support implementation of the UASI funded elements of the National Capital Region Strategic Hazard Identification Evaluation for Leadership Decisions (NCR|SHIELD) project. The Executive Director is further authorized to execute one or more contracts as may be required to obtain consultant assistance to conduct the approved project work program. No COG matching funds are required. The project duration will not exceed 2 years.

B. Resolution Authorizing COG to Fund Training and Exercises Activities Approved by ETOP

The Board adopted Resolution R74-07, approving a proposal authorizing COG to fund training and exercise activities when they are approved by the Exercise and Training Operations Panel (ETOP). The purpose of the initiative is to provide responsive support to ETOP in developing and/or conducting training and exercises as requested Regional Emergency Support Functions (RESFs), Regional Program Working Groups (RPWGs), and others to improve preparedness in the region. COG is being provided \$1,848,858 through a Subgrant from the SAA to fund ETOP approved training and exercise activities. No COG matching funds are required.

C. Resolution Authorizing COG to Fund Information Technology Initiatives in Accordance with Guidance Received from the SAA on Behalf of the Region

The Board adopted Resolution R75-07, authorizing the Executive Director to receive UASI grant funds in the amount of \$1,000,000. These funds will be used to fund information technology initiatives in accordance with guidance from the SAA based on approval from the Senior Policy Group and the Chief Administrative Officers Committee that is consistent with DHS funding guidelines. No COG matching funds are required.

D. Resolution Authorizing Continued Support for the “Work of Heart” Respite Program

The Board adopted Resolution R76-07, authorizing the Executive Director to accept grant funds from District of Columbia’s Child and Family Services Agency in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 to support the “Work of Heart” respite program. Since March 2004, COG has developed and implemented a respite program for the District of Columbia’s foster children providing overnight and weekend placements and other valuable services.

E. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Enter into Agreements to Receive and Disburse Funds in Support of the Alice Ferguson Foundation’s Trash Free Potomac Watershed Initiative Public Information Campaign

The Board adopted Resolution R77-07 authorizing the Executive Director or his designee to enter into an agreement with the Alice Ferguson Foundation (AFF) to pass through funds received from COG members in support of the AFF’s Regional Public Education Campaign in

accordance with an approved expenditure plan; and to enter into agreements with one or more COG members to receive funds as they may agree to contribute in support of the Campaign. COG will receive an administrative fee from the funds collected. No COG matching funds are required.

F. Resolution Authorizing COG to Execute a MOU with WMATA for a Metrobus On-Board Bus Survey and to Contract with a Consulting Firm to Conduct the Survey

The Board adopted Resolution R78-07, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to execute an MOU between COG and WMATA to receive \$750,000 to fund the 2008 Metrobus On-Board Survey. A consulting firm will be chosen to conduct the survey, as stipulated in the MOU, through a competitive bidding process; in an amount not to exceed \$750,000. No COG matching funds are required.

7. REPORT ON COG'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

District of Columbia Councilmember and Chair of the 50th Anniversary Committee Carol Schwartz presented highlights from the 50th Anniversary Gala. Held at the historic Mellon Auditorium, the event was immensely successful and attended by over 400 state and locally elected officials as well as many other public and private sector invitees. Dignitaries included several state senators and delegates as well as the Governor of Virginia Tim Kaine and Representative Jim Moran.

A commemorative video was displayed showcasing the work of COG in the last 50 years; with narration by ABC-7 anchor Gordon Peterson. A coffee table book was also produced to track the success of COG during its 50 years of regional work and was distributed to each of the attendees. The book will also be distributed to the COG membership, local libraries, and other necessary parties.

Ms. Schwartz announced that COG fully recovered all costs for this event, the Future's Forum, and other associated costs through corporate and civic contributions.

Chairman Gray presented Councilmember Schwartz with an award for her leadership and dedication while serving as Chair of the 50th Anniversary Committee.

8. ADDITIONAL ACTION ON GREATER WASHINGTON 2050

Supplemental Documents: Resolution R70-07 (Electronic)
Greater Washington 2050 Work Program and Budget (Electronic)

At its last meeting, the Board directed the Metropolitan Development Policy Committee (MDPC) to revise and finalize its proposed work program and budget, schedule, staffing plan, and membership and governance plan for Greater Washington 2050 for final review at the December meeting. Prince George's County Councilmember and Chair of the MDPC Tom Dernoga briefed the Board on these recommendations.

Councilmember Dernoga briefly reviewed the mission and organizational structure of the initiative. Greater Washington 2050 builds upon the work already being done at COG and does not create a new structure or entity. It will be housed in, and managed by COG staff and directed by a small group of roughly 30 public and private sector stakeholders to be determined by the MDPC.

The MDPC recommends the following: 1. Creation of Greater Washington 2050 Coalition with broad public, private and civic participation to oversee the initiative for 18 months and

develop a Greater Washington 2050 Compact; 2. Review and synthesis of existing goals, plans, and "visions" to guide elements of the Compact; 3. Commission of a scientific survey to determine attitudes about growth and quality of life issues in the Washington region, as an additional tool to develop the Compact; 4. Define other quantitative and qualitative measures – (water quality, air quality, affordable housing, etc.) to assess the effectiveness of the TPB Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study growth scenarios; 5. Commit to the Greater Washington 2050 Compact; 6. Develop of metrics to assess progress in achieving the goals of the Compact; 7. Develop a Communications Plan to disseminate the understanding of the Compact, including enhanced outreach on the RMAS alternative growth scenarios; and 8. Engage adjacent regions to collaborate on a bold 21st century investment plan to address: environmental quality, energy efficiency, climate change, sprawling development and transportation challenges.

The budget for the initiative is projected to be \$400,000, \$200,000 of which is expected to come from foundation grants. COG will reallocate \$150,000 in existing funds for the program; \$50,000 has been included in the FY09 Work Program and budget.

MDPC will recommend and the COG Board will invite active participation from representatives of the public sector, and business, civic and environmental advocacy organizations not later than January 2008. The Board will approve appointments at its January 2008 meeting.

District of Columbia Councilmember Carol Schwartz suggested a cap be placed on private sector funding and that funding requests should be project specific, stating this should not be a 'pay to play' initiative.

Falls Church Councilmember Dave Snyder stated that the work program needs to have a regional governance component; in planning the Coalition must look to how other planning associates organize themselves to obtain regional objectives.

Arlington County Boardmember Jay Fisette stressed the need for a commitment to action and outcomes. He added that the goals of the Compact must be explicit with metrics to determine the success of obtaining those goals.

After much discussion, Mr. Fisette offered the following amendment to the Work Program under *Action 6 number 3*: "Identify incentives and regional organizational structures for implementation of the compact goals which may include use of the metric analysis as a key factor in the distribution of federal transportation funding."

ACTION: Upon motion made and seconded, Resolution R70-07 approving the amended work program was adopted by a vote of 11-6. The amended work program language will be incorporated as appropriate.

9. BRIEFING ON UPCOMING MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

Maryland State Delegate Bill Bronrott briefed the Board on the recently adjourned special session of the Maryland General Assembly and potential issues of focus in 2008. The special session was called by Governor Martin O'Malley to address the state's projected deficit of \$1.7 billion. After much debate, legislators agreed to \$1.4 billion in new taxes; the sales tax will increase from 5% to 6% and the corporate income tax was increased from 7% to 8.25%. A public referendum on legalizing 15,000 slot machines in the state was also

passed. Of particular interest to COG was the Assembly's dedication of \$50 million annually to WMATA for its capital maintenance needs.

Mr. Bronrott stated that the General Assembly will focus on a variety of issues in 2008 including BRAC, increased funding for education, and environmental issues of climate, energy and green building. Photo speed cameras which are currently only operating in Montgomery County are expected to go statewide. Healthcare will be a big issue as there are currently 700,000 uninsured, with another 700,000 underinsured individuals in the state.

Virginia State Delegate Jim Scott also briefed the Board on priority issues facing the Virginia General Assembly in 2008. Stemming from the tragic shooting at Virginia Tech earlier this year, a Gun Task Force was created to review current mental health and gun purchasing laws and make recommendations. Those recommendations have been released and should result in a variety of bills being introduced. While a comprehensive transportation package was adopted last year, there is still a need for additional funding because the amount adopted was only 60% of the projected need. Immigration will also be a hot topic this year as many jurisdictions across the state have attempted to tackle the issue locally. Other issues will include funding for veterans, specifically those with brain injuries, additional funding for foster care, and a homestead exemption.

COG is currently planning outreach meetings in Richmond and Annapolis as well as in the District of Columbia. The meeting in Annapolis has been scheduled for February 5th, other dates to follow.

10. REVIEW AND ENDORSEMENT OF COG GREEN BUILDING REPORT

Supplemental Documents: Resolution R71-07
Green Building Report (Electronic)
Green Building Power Point (Electronic)

At its July meeting, the COG Board adopted the draft Green Building Report and its transmittal for a 60 day comment period. Stuart Freudberg, COG's Director of Environmental programs and Joan Kelsch, Chair of the Intergovernmental Green Building Group briefed the Board on the revised final draft of the Green Building Report.

The motivation for the report is a result of the tremendous impact buildings have on the environment and the health of our citizens; and the window of opportunity to effect change is now, because nearly 75% of the building stock needed through 2020 will be new construction.

With the increase in population and the buildings that come with that, it is necessary that the region find ways to reduce the environmental impact of such development. Buildings contribute a substantial amount of carbon in our environment and as the region looks to ways to prevent/reduce climate change these emissions must be reduced. A very realistic way of doing so is to focus on energy use in buildings.

Ms. Kelsch stated that early on, costs were high for creating green buildings but that the market is catching up with costs becoming more manageable. Several studies have shown green building to be cheaper to build; when life cycle is factored in, costs are significantly reduced. The studies have also shown the people inhabiting those buildings to be happier, healthier, and more productive.

Recommendations from the report include: the development and implementation of a common rating system for the entire region to ensure that every level of production knows

what is expected—LEED (Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design) is recommended for this standard; that governments lead by example striving for a LEED rating of silver; local governments should set standards for private developers that they achieve the baseline standards of LEED; education and collaboration building upon what others are doing; outreach and training.

This report focused specifically on new commercial construction. The next step is the focus on sectors of development including low-rise residential and schools as well as how to deal with existing buildings. In addition, the group hopes to determine methods to track progress of building codes and quantify regionally the benefits of green building standards.

Delegate Bronrott asked if school buildings were included in this report. Ms. Kelch stated that there is guidance but more specific recommendations will follow in a separate report.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R71-07 approving the Green Building Report and its recommendations was unanimously adopted.

11. APPROVAL OF ROUND 7.1 COOPERATIVE FORECAST

This item was postponed to the January meeting.

12. FY 2008 FIRST QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

Supplemental Documents: FY 2008 1st Quarter Financial Report

Mayor of the City of Greenbelt and COG's Secretary Treasurer J Davis stated that there is a cash balance of \$2.6 million; the reserve increased from \$7.750 million to \$7.754 million; and COG's total revenue of \$16.626 million exceeded costs by \$3.5 million.

13. MEMBER TIME

No issues were addressed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10pm.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2008

**ATTENDANCE: DECEMBER 10, 2007
BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ALTERNATES 2007**

<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	Y	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y
Maryland				
Bowie	Hon. G. Frederick Robinson	N		
College Park	Hon. Robert Catlin	Y		
City of Frederick	Hon. William Holtzinger	N	Alan Imhoff	Y
Frederick County	Hon. David Gray	N		
Gaithersburg	Vacant			
Greenbelt	Hon. Judith "J" F. Davis	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. Tony Knotts	Y		
Rockville	Vacant			
Takoma Park	Hon. Bruce Williams	Y		
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. William Bronrott	Y		
Virginia				
Alexandria	Hon. William Euille	Y	Hon. Redella Pepper	N
Arlington County	Hon. G. N. Jay Fisette	Y		
City of Fairfax	Hon. Gary Rasmussen	N		
Fairfax County	Hon. Gerald E. Connolly	N		
	Hon. Penelope A. Gross	Y		
	Hon. Joan DuBois	N		
Falls Church	Hon. Jan Gardner	N	Ms. Dave Snyder	Y
Loudoun County	Hon. Lori Waters	Y		
Manassas	Hon. Douglas Waldron	N		
Manassas Park	Hon. Frank Jones	N		
Prince William County	Hon. Hilda Barg	N	Mr. Dana Fenton	N
	Hon. Corey Stewart	N		
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. James M. Scott	Y		

Other Participants
Joan Kelsch, Arlington County
Tom Dernoga, Board Member, Prince George's County
Robert Dorsey