

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

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

March 11, 2009

**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 Penny Gross called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 11 MINUTES

The minutes of the February 11 meeting were unanimously approved and adopted.

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

District of Columbia Council Member Phil Mendelson asked that the Board consider a resolution requesting Congress to enact S. 160, "the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2009" without amendment or restriction.

City of Fairfax Council Member Dan Drummond requested that the proposed resolution be given time for full discussion later in the agenda, citing concern with some of the resolution's language.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) held its "National Conference of Regions" at the end of February here in Washington, DC. This event is NARC's legislative-focused conference and discussion centered on many of the initiatives and policies underway in the new administration and 111th Congress.

Although not the top major metro award winner, COG received recognition from NARC for its Green Building initiative.

Chairman Gross added that both she and COG's Executive Director were successful in their re-election efforts; Mr. Robertson for another term on the Executive Directors Council and Chairman Gross for an additional term on the NARC board representing Region III (DC, MD, VA, WV).

The President recently announced a broad overview of budget priorities for FY 2010 in an address to Congress. The Board will receive a detailed presentation on the proposed budget once the final details are released next month.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Robertson has met with several new members, including Loudoun County Supervisor Andrea McGimsey, as well as the Council of the District of Columbia to discuss COG's policy focus and priorities in 2009 including COG's increased attention to the region's economic stability and recovery.

COG received several media hits this past month, particularly surrounding the TPB's I-66 vote.

Mr. Robertson announced his intent to ask Maryland Delegate Ben Barnes and Virginia Delegate Jim Scott to brief the Board on the outcomes of their respective General Assembly Sessions and the initial outlook for 2010.

Legislation is pending in both the Maryland and Virginia General assemblies that would amend the WMATA Compact, a requirement in the federal authorizing legislation that passed late last year for Metro dedicated funding. The District of Columbia has passed a bill to amend the WMATA Compact to include Federal participation on the Board contingent on federal appropriation of funding for Metro. The authorizing legislation requires identical legislation be adopted by each of the 'states'. Currently both Maryland and Virginia have bills pending to amend the WMATA Compact though each have differing versions, one that includes "pay to play" and one that does not. Chairman Gross stated, and others reiterated, COG's critical role in coordinating these efforts to ensure the region is speaking with one voice and complying with federal requirements.

Chairman Gross requested that staff update the regional event calendar to include all COG policy committees.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Supplemental Documents: Resolution R16-09.

A. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR STORAGE AREA NETWORK REPLACEMENT

The Board adopted Resolution R16-09, authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to enter into a contract with Accelera Solutions to update COG's Storage Area Network (SAN). COG's current SAN, the central shared data storage repository for most of COG's servers, is at the end of its shelf-life and warranty in June 2009. A request for proposals was issued in December 2008.

The proposal from Accelerera Solutions, a disadvantaged business enterprise, was selected through a competitive bid. The total cost for hardware and services is not to exceed \$175,000 and is included in COG's FY 2009 Work Program and Budget and indirect cost allocation. No COG matching funds will be required.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolutions R16-09 was unanimously approved and adopted.

7. IMPLEMENTATION OF COG POLICY FOCUS AND PRIORITY- REGIONAL RESPONSE TO THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA)

Supplemental Document: Stimulus Summary (Electronic)

At its February 11 meeting the Board was briefed on general provisions included in the initial House and Senate versions of the federal stimulus legislation. On February 17 President Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), a \$787 billion stimulus package comprised of federal spending and tax cuts aimed at reviving the nation's economy and saving or creating millions of jobs. Today's presentation is the first opportunity for most local officials to sit as a regional body to examine this complex and massive legislation, not just what it means for our individual jurisdictions, but what it may portend for the National Capital Region. A panel was convened to briefly discuss four ARRA issues of importance to the National Capital Region and their impact on area governments: 1) economic recovery; 2) transportation; 3) energy; and 4) housing and community development.

Amy Liu, Deputy Director of Greater Washington Research at Brookings, and Margery Turner, Vice President of Research at the Urban Institute, began the discussion by highlighting some of the broad economic issues driving the stimulus legislation and how financial market instability has eroded the housing sector in many communities.

Ms. Liu stated that although the amount of funding provided by the ARRA is significant, the law's requirement for speed and its reliance on previously existing formulas will likely stifle regional solutions. She did note however, that there are a number of opportunities for regional coordination, including assisting neighborhoods affected by foreclosure and discretionary transportation funds. Human capital programs, especially those aimed at workforce training and placement in fast-growing industries such as renewable energy, will be key to the region's continued competitiveness. Long-term sustainability will depend on a multijurisdictional approach.

Ms. Turner stated that impact of the recession on housing affordability in this region has not been fully realized, but added that she does not think that the economic downturn will make housing more affordable. She argued that the Neighborhood Stabilization Program could be a very effective avenue for regional cooperation, especially through efforts aimed at homelessness prevention, which crosses the many jurisdictional boundaries of the region. Localities working independently may dilute the impact of the ARRA housing dollars. In addition to homeless prevention efforts, Ms. Turner stated that foreclosure conversion and retrofitting of public housing are prime areas for regional action. COG could play an instrumental role in data collection and dissemination, convening area stakeholders on various efforts, and assisting local jurisdictions in an administrative capacity.

Brookings and the Urban Institute are partnering to create a "Joint Center for Greater Washington Research;" the first effort of this group will be to assess the effects of the recession on the Washington region and identify key challenges and opportunities for effective regional collaboration as local jurisdictions implement the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This effort will be a

great opportunity for the region and COG to ensure that we emerge stronger and more competitive.

Three area experts, Preston Bryant, Jr., Secretary of Natural Resources for the Commonwealth of Virginia; Clarence Snuggs, Deputy Secretary for Housing and Community Development for the State of Maryland; and Ron Kirby, Director of Transportation Planning at COG, each provided an overview of what ARRA funding allocations will mean.

Secretary Bryant stated that like in many other states, including Maryland and the District of Columbia, the Governor of Virginia has created a website for the public to go to see where the ARRA dollars are being spent in the Commonwealth. Mr. Bryant stated that the final funding totals for energy programs are not yet known nor are the applicant guidelines. Several are the standard formula driven programs like Energy Efficiency Block Grants, state wide energy program which is and weatherization. Eligibility for home weatherization loans has been expanded to include those families at 200%, up from 150%, of the poverty level and a per household credit of \$6,500, up from \$2,500. There are also many competitive grants that will be available including those for electric grid projects, near term electrification projects that Reagan National or Dulles airports would be eligible for and clean cities among others.

The funding will support energy audits and energy efficiency retrofits in residential and commercial buildings, the development and implementation of advanced building codes and inspections, and the creation of financial incentive programs for energy efficiency improvements. Other activities eligible for use of grant funds include transportation programs that conserve energy, projects to reduce and capture methane and other greenhouse gas emissions from landfills, renewable energy installations on government buildings

Deputy Secretary Snuggs stated ARRA is not an answer itself but it is a start, especially in the need for affordable housing. His Department will be receiving \$116 million in ARRA funding specifically for housing. Approximately \$31.7 million has been directed to tax credit assistance which should relieve some of the backlog of stalled projects. Mr. Snuggs stated that the state has seen dramatic increase in the market for affordable rental housing as people move from home ownership which will require additional dollars and renewed focus. The key, he stated, will be leveraging the new funding with additional partnerships to assist as many in the state as possible. Additionally the State will be receiving money for homeless prevention and family stabilization.

Weatherization is the biggest infusion of funding at \$63.9 million for energy conservation controls and measures to reduce consumption and cost of energy use. Twenty percent of that funding will be specifically for training individuals to obtain the skills necessary to perform weatherization related jobs.

Ron Kirby stated that ARRA contains over \$48 billion for transportation, including \$27.5 billion for highway infrastructure investment, \$8.4 billion for transit capital assistance, \$8 billion for high speed rail, \$1.5 billion for a competitive grant program for surface transportation, and \$1.3 billion for Amtrak.

It is estimated that the District of Columbia will receive \$123.5 million, Maryland \$431 million (\$129 million sub-allocated to urban areas) and Virginia \$694.5 million (\$208 million sub-allocated to urban areas) in highway formula funds. The Washington Metropolitan Area is also expected to receive \$230 million in transit capital assistance. One of the very first steps in the utilization of these funds is to include them in the region's six-year Transportation Improvement Program.

Virginia Delegate Jim Scott stated that as the number of foreclosures increases so has the homeless population and wondered if there was a way to regionally track housing units in danger

of foreclosure. Ms. Turner stated that the only housing stock that is currently tracked is subsidized. She added that this would be an ideal opportunity for COG to assist its localities in tracking such information.

Arlington County Board Member Jay Fissette stated that there is a real opportunity, through the Energy Efficiency Block Grants, to get a huge return on a small investment by creating a revolving energy loan funding for homeowners looking to increase the energy efficiency on their homes. The cost of the loan would be attached to the homeowner's mortgage and would be paid back through property taxes. He added that COG could serve as a regional coordinator and promoter of such efforts.

Fairfax County Board Chairman Sharon Bulova stated that there may be opportunity through a new partnership with the Department of Transportation and the Housing and Urban Development for the Greater Washington 2050.

Chairman Gross directed the policy committees to review ARRA and identify regional opportunities for action and return to the Board in April with recommendations.

8. FINDINGS OF THE "HOW SAFE ARE OUR ROADS" REPORT

Supplemental Document: How Safe are Our Roads Report (Electronic)
Resolution R14-09 (Electronic)

The "How Safe Are Our Roads?" report prepared by COG for the Washington Regional Alcohol Program and other studies underscore the seriousness of the problem of impaired driving, automobile accidents and especially accidents involving teen drivers. Several states have begun to enact tougher laws to address these problems. The COG Board was briefed by Kurt Erickson, President, Washington Regional Alcohol Program on key study findings.

Mr. Erickson stated that for the first time in two years, the number of alcohol-related traffic fatalities, injuries and crashes all declined in the Washington-metropolitan area in 2007. Meanwhile, the number of local arrests for driving under the influence (DUI) or driving while intoxicated (DWI) increased by 0.9% in 2007. The data are inline with recent research showing the value of both highly-visible law enforcement deterrent efforts like the region's Checkpoint Strikeforce campaign as well as increased public attention to the threat of drunk driving.

Of the Washington metropolitan area's 351 total traffic fatalities last year, 33% (116) of these roadway deaths were alcohol and or drug-related. 2007 national statistics (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration or NHTSA) show that 45% of total U.S. vehicular fatalities were reported as alcohol/drug-related.

Mr. Erickson also provided a comparison matrix on the region's impaired driving, teen driving, and pedestrian safety laws and reiterated the importance and necessity of mandatory seat belt laws.

A resolution was offered, R14-09, which would 1) direct the Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committee (HSPSPC), and others, to further analyze the region's auto-related safety laws and return this Fall with recommendations for potential 2010 legislative action by the District of Columbia, the State of Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia; and 2) directs the HSPSPC, and others, to provide an annual update on regional impaired driving, teen driving and pedestrian safety measures.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, Resolution R14-09 was unanimously approved and adopted.

9. RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING COG'S SUPPORT FOR VOTING REPRESENTATION IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

District of Columbia City Council Member Phil Mendelson asked that the Board consider a resolution requesting Congress to adopt S. 160, "the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2009," without amendment or restriction.

S 160 has been amended to include a provision which would remove the District of Columbia's right to regulate firearms within the city limits. Mr. Mendelson asked that the Board adopt a resolution reaffirming its strong support for legislation establishing voting representation in the U.S. House of Representatives for the District of Columbia and urging the National Capital Region Congressional Delegation, and all members of Congress, to reject the suggested amendments and pass S. 160 in its original form and intent.

City of Fairfax Council Member Dan Drummond indicated that after discussion with Mr. Mendelson he is in agreement that the District should have the first opportunity to address its gun regulations and that Congressional action on voting representation should not include that or any other extraneous matter.

ACTION: Upon motion made and seconded, Resolution R17-09 was unanimously approved and adopted. Prince William County Supervisor Wally Covington was not present for the vote.

10. IMPLEMENTATION OF COG POLICY FOCUS AND PRIORITY – APPROVAL OF WORKFORCE COMPETITIVENESS TASK FORCE

Supplemental Document:

In February, the Board identified regional workforce preparedness as a top priority for 2009 and directed staff to develop recommendations for the creation of a Regional Workforce Competitive Task Force to oversee this effort, including a work plan and schedule. Mr. Robertson presented the proposed work plan and Sarah Looney Oldmixon briefed the Board on the work of the Greater Washington Workforce Development Collaborative.

Mr. Robertson stated that the Workforce Competitiveness Task Force would oversee an ambitious but focused work program throughout 2009, culminating in a report and recommendations to the COG Board and economic development, workforce planning, education and training organizations in the National Capital Region at the end of the year.

The Task Force will focus on four interconnected elements of workforce competitiveness: what are the job opportunities for today and the future?; how can the region better prepare, retain and re-train workers?; how can workforce stakeholder responsibilities be integrated at a regional scale that is aligned with the job market and worker mobility?; and how can the National Capital Region be positioned to emerge from the current economic crisis stronger and more economically diverse and resilient by focusing on new green technologies and jobs?

Proposed Task Force activities and interim products will include: listening and learning virtual field hearings to better understand workforce system needs, challenges and opportunities; an environmental scan to assess who does what, and how workforce systems can be better aligned to respond to customer needs, now and in the future; relationship mapping to determine how current workforce system agencies, organizations and stakeholders connect (or not) and assess opportunities for greater regional collaboration and coordination; and evaluating and pursuing opportunities to build a more cohesive regional workforce development system in partnership with regional stakeholders and key federal agencies.

The Board will receive periodic updates with a final draft report and recommendations to be shared with area governments and workforce stakeholder organizations, prior to COG Board action in late 2009. Staff will work with the Executive Committee to populate the Task Force in the coming weeks.

Ms. Oldmixon stated that the Greater Washington Workforce Development Collaborative, an initiative of the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region, is a coalition of thirteen local foundations and public partners who share a common belief: workforce development can enhance the economic competitiveness of the greater Washington, DC region by ensuring that employers' workforce needs are met and, at the same time, provide pathways to shared prosperity for the region's families by providing workers with opportunities to enhance their employment, skills, and earnings.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2009.

**ATTENDANCE: MARCH 11, 2009
BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ALTERNATES 2009**

<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	N		
Council	Hon. Vincent Gray	N		
	Hon. Kwame Brown	Y	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y
Maryland				
Bowie	Hon. G. Frederick Robinson	N	Geraldine Valentino-Smith	N
College Park	Hon. Robert Catlin	Y		
City of Frederick	Hon. William Holtzinger	N	Hon. Alan Imhoff	Y
Frederick County	Hon. David Gray	N	Hon. Jan Gardner	N
Gaithersburg	Hon. Sidney Katz	N	Hon. Henry Marraffa	Y
Greenbelt	Hon. Judith "J" F. Davis	Y	Hon. Rodney Roberts	N
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. Marilyn Bland	Y	Hon. Tom Dernoga	N
	Hon. Andrea Harrison	Y		
Rockville	Hon. Susan Hoffmann	N	Hon. John Britton	Y
Takoma Park	Hon. Bruce Williams	Y	Hon. Terry Seamens	N
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. Benjamin Barnes	N		
Virginia				
Alexandria	Hon. William Euille	Y	Hon. Redella Pepper	N
Arlington County	Hon. Jay Fissette	Y	Hon. Walter Tejada	N
City of Fairfax	Hon. Dan Drummond	Y	Hon. Jeffrey Greenfield	N
Fairfax County	Hon. Sharon Bulova	Y	Hon. Catherine Hudgins	N
	Hon. Penelope A. Gross	Y	Hon. Michael Frey	N
	Hon. John Foust	Y	Hon. Patrick Herrity	N
Falls Church	Hon. Hal Lippman	Y	Hon. Robin Gardner	N
Loudoun County	Hon. Andrea McGimsey	Y		
Manassas	Hon. Harry J. Parrish II	N		
Manassas Park	Hon. Frank Jones	N		
Prince William County	Hon. Wally Covington III	Y		
	Hon. Frank Principi	N		
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. James M. Scott	Y		

Other Participants

Preston Bryant
Secretary of Natural Resources VA

Clarence Snuggs
Deputy Secretary of Housing and
Community Services MD

Amy Liu, Deputy Director
Greater Washington Research
Brookings

Margery Turner
Vice President of Research
Urban Institute