

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300 Washington, D.C. 20002-4239

Telephone (202) 962-3200 TDD (202) 962-3213 Fax (202) 962-3201 Internet: www.mwcog.orgFor Immediate Release
October 12, 2004Contact: Heather Nalbone
(202)-962-3756**-- ADVISORY--*****Metro Funding Panel Invites Public Comment***

- WHO:** A special panel formed by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), the Greater Washington Board of Trade (BOT), and the Federal City Council to examine dedicated funding for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).
- WHAT:** A public comment period to seek input and opinions to address Metro's funding needs.
- WHEN:** Tuesday, October 19, 2004
5:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. (Public comment)
5:45 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (Panel meeting)
- WHERE:** COG 1st Floor Training Center
777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

COG, along with its two partners, appointed 13 experts to serve on a panel established to research funding options for the region's public transit system. The COG Board of Directors in September approved creation of the panel to research alternative sources of funding for WMATA as it faces a looming budget shortfall.

Panelists were selected based on their expertise in economics, political science, public finance and regional transit, and will be responsible for assessing WMATA's current and future financial needs, revenue sources used by transit systems in other parts of the country, and potential sources of dedicated funding for WMATA's needs.

Members of the public may present statements in person at the beginning of the panel's October 19 meeting. To participate, call (202) 962-3231. Each speaker will be allowed up to five minutes to present his or her views. Panel members will have an opportunity to ask questions of the speakers, and to engage in limited discussion. Time may be shortened at the discretion of the Chair if the number of participants exceeds the allotted time. Speakers are asked to bring written copies of their remarks (25 copies) for distribution at the meeting.

Comments may also be submitted in writing by email, fax or mail:

Email:

commentonmetro@mwkog.org

Fax:

202-962-3208

Mail:

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Attn: Metro Funding Panel Public Comment
777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Rudolph G. Penner, Senior Fellow at the Urban Institute is serving as Chair for the Metro Funding Panel, known formally as the Panel on Analysis of and Potential for Alternate Dedicated Revenue Sources for WMATA.

Panel members include: **Gus Bauman**, Of Counsel, Beveridge & Diamond; **Thomas M. Downs**, President and CEO, ENO Transportation Foundation; **James W. Dyke, Jr.**, Partner, McGuire Woods, LLP; **Nuria I. Fernandez**, Senior Vice President, Global Transportation at Earth Tech, Inc.; **J. Kenneth Klinge**, Principal, JKK Associates; **John E Petersen**, Professor and Chair, School of Public Policy, George Mason University; **Dale Susan Rosenthal**, Senior Vice-President and CFO, Clark Construction Group, LLC.; **Major F. Riddick, Jr.**, President and CEO, Strategic Solutions Center; **Michael C. Rogers**, Executive Vice President, Corporate Services, MedStar Health; **Pauline A. Schneider**, Partner, Hunton & Williams; **Matthew S. Watson**, Administrative Judge, D.C. Contract Appeals Board and former D.C. Auditor; **James A. Wilding**, Transportation Consultant and former President, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.

Bill Womack, Legislative Director, office of Representative Tom Davis (R-VA) and **Emil Frankel, Assistant Secretary**, U.S. Department of Transportation were also appointed as non-voting, ex-officio members to represent the federal government.

Mortimer L. Downey, President of PB Consult, Inc. and former Deputy Secretary of Transportation, will serve as staff director. Additional staff support will be provided by COG's National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB), the Brookings Institution and WMATA itself.

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