

Metropolitan Development Policy Committee
Meeting Summary
January 10, 2007

1. Call to Order, Approval of November 29, 2007 Meeting Summary and Announcements

Chair Sharon Bulova called the meeting of the MDPC to order at 10:20 am. Chair Bulova introduced herself to the committee and everyone around the table was asked to introduce themselves. The November 29, 2006 meeting summary was approved.

Paul DesJardin, Chief of Housing and Planning announced that at noon today DC Councilmember Vincent Gray will become the COG Board of Chair and his first duty was to make appointments to the policy committees. Mr. Thomas Dernoga will become the new chair of the Metropolitan Development Policy Committee. Mr. DesJardin also presented the 2007 MDPC meeting schedule.

2. Briefing on the Legislative and Policy Update

Calvin Smith, Director of COG Department of Human Services, Planning and Public Safety, provided an overview of the COG legislative and policy update work program to the committee. A copy of the Legislative/Policy Update document was distributed to the members of the committee. Mr. Smith stressed the importance of understanding the legislative initiatives that are originating at the state level and how this potential legislation will impact planning and economic development policies in the national capital region.

Mr. Smith suggested a review period for the Legislative/Policy Update document and for committee members to make a recommendation back to the committee of what type(s) of legislation would be of interest for the committee to examine and pursue. The next step for the committee is to receive future briefings on selected legislation and determine its regional importance and take further action if deserved. The committee may take action by way of a resolution. The committee would present to the COG Board of Directors of Directors such resolutions for their review and action. A future step could be for local jurisdictions to receive similar briefings for their review and action.

Mrs. Praisner made a motion that was passed by the committee to continue the support for a dedicated funding source for WMATA. It was also suggested by way of the motion that future meetings could include a representative from WMATA to brief the committee on issues and problems involving land use development around metro stations.

Mr. Smith noted that the meeting schedule for the committee is a challenge since the committee meets every other month. Mrs. Praisner suggested a conference call briefing to discuss these legislative and policy issues. Such issues could include: land use, transportation, environmental regulations and housing. The committee decided to have a conference call during the months of February, June, and October, in lieu of additional meetings. A motion was made to change the committee's meeting schedule to include these conference calls. A February conference call was scheduled to continue the discussion relating to legislative policy.

3. Briefing and Final Action on the Round 7.0 Regional Activity Centers and Clusters Updates

Paul DesJardin briefed the committee on the Round 7.0 Regional Activity Centers and Clusters update. The Activity Centers and Activity Clusters maps and related data were prepared by Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee over the last six months. Since the November

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meeting, Mr. DesJardin indicated that a minor revision to the Activity Cluster map was made to separate the White Oak area away from the Konterra area. Therefore, White Oak becomes a free standing Activity Cluster and Konterra remains with the US 1 area.

Mr. Dernoga raised questions about the criteria for Activity Centers and how boundaries are drawn for Activity Centers. Mr. Dernoga also questioned the appropriateness of the Konterra area being on the map as he believed some Activity Centers for Prince George's County may not be consistent with Prince George's County General Plan. Mr. Dernoga gave other examples of important activity areas such as Westphalia and the Route 4 Corridor and inquired how they could become part of the Activity Centers map.

Mr. DesJardin added that the current criteria for the different typologies of Activity Centers did not change for the Round 7.0 Activity Centers update. It was important for the update to keep the definition of Activity Centers as regionally significant. The original map of Activity Centers from 1999 included 180 "Local" Activity Centers. Mr. DesJardin mentioned COG's Round 7.0 Cooperative Forecast and TPB's Regional Mobility & Accessibility Study as examples of how the Regional Activity Centers are being used.

Mrs. Praisner stressed the importance of being able to explain how this document is going to be used and the context of how the maps and data were prepared. Specifically, the Activity Centers are based on current comprehensive plans and growth projections and the Activity Clusters are groupings of Activity Centers surrounding residential component along major transportation corridors. She also added the importance of monitoring the amount of residential and commercial development currently occurring in Regional Activity Centers. In using the Activity Centers as a tool to focus development, policy makers should be mindful of local goals which may call for increasing employment or some cases housing in Regional Activity Centers.

A motion was made to approve the maps and data. Staff was asked to draft language to address the additional concerns of committee members of how the maps are going to be used. Mr. Dernoga added that a process be added for future areas to be considered for the Regional Activity Centers map. Mr. DesJardin indicated that the current work program includes a project to improve the regional traffic analysis zones, and that one criteria in that refinement would be the designation of Regional Activity Center boundaries, thus permitting Activity Center updates with any update to the Cooperative Forecasts.

4. Briefing on the Update of the TPB Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study "What If the Region Grew Differently" Report and the Transportation and Land Use Connection (TLC) Pilot Program

Ronald Kirby, Director Department of Transportation Planning stated that the Regional Activity Centers maps and more recent work such as the Regional Accessibility and Mobility Study underscore the need to foster a stronger linkage between land use and transportation planning efforts in the National Capital Region. During the November 29, 2006 meeting, MDPC members were briefed on the new "What if the Region Grew Differently" report summarizing the results of the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study, as well as on the TLC program for a land use and transportation clearinghouse and technical assistance. Mr. Kirby briefed the Committee on scheduled RMAS community outreach meetings, and updated Committee members on next steps to implement the TLC clearinghouse and grants for consultant assistance.

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5. Other Business / Information Items

There were no other items of business.

Adjournment

Chair Bulova announced that the next meeting was scheduled for March 14 and adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.