

**Metropolitan Development Policy Committee  
Meeting Summary  
July 14, 2004**

**1. Call to Order, Approval of the May 12, 2004 Meeting Summary, and Announcements**

Chair Woodson called the meeting of the MDPC to order at 10:00 a.m. The May 12, 2004 meeting summary was approved. Paul DesJardin of the COG staff distributed a copy of final agenda for the COG Board of Directors Retreat on July 23-25 at Landsdowne in Loudoun County, noting that much of the retreat will focus on growth-related issues. Mr. DesJardin also indicated that COG staff and NCPC were planning a joint conference / workshop on the federal government presence in the region. Mr. DesJardin also distributed copies of a brochure for a COG conference on Low Impact Development

**2. Report of the July 8, 2004 meeting of the Metropolitan Development Citizens Advisory Committee (MDCAC)**

Chair Lee Quill described the July 8 meeting of the committee, noting that the result group was interested in convening a joint meeting with the MDPC. Mr. Quill also stated that MDCAC members are interested in working with member local governments through a venue such as a design charette. MDCAC member Kent Cooper distributed an outline of a proposed “workbook” to accompany the “Smart Growth Begins at the Local Level” CDs for use in “non-facilitated” presentations of the video to neighborhood associations and community groups.

**3. Update on MDPC / MDCAC “Smart Growth Begins at the Local Level” video**

Mr. DesJardin stated that since the May 12 meeting, staff had contacted COG member jurisdictions and obtained more than 2,000 mailing labels for home owners associations and civic organizations. Mr. DesJardin stated that staff had distributed nearly 300 copies of the “Smart Growth Begins at the Local Level” CD and implementation materials, and presented a list showing the key groups that had received the mailing and a list of other planned / proposed presentations. COG Executive Director stated that dissemination the CDs and accompanying message on growth is a long-term element of COG’s mission. Mr. DesJardin distributed a form on which he asked MDPC members to list specific key organizations and individuals that they would like to see receive the CDs.

**4. Presentations on Economic Trends and Commercial Construction Reports**

Greg Goodwin of the COG staff stated that COG monitors trends in the region’s economy and reports the trends monthly and in an annual summary report to the Board. Mr. Goodwin presented the key findings contained in the report *Economic Trends in Metropolitan Washington, 1999 to 2003*. Mr. Goodwin presented information on several key regional economic indicators, including population growth, employment, construction activity, housing sales, income, retail sales and the number of passengers at the region’s three major airports. In addition, Diana Farina of the COG staff will presented additional information on commercial construction from the *Commercial Construction Indicators – 2003 Summary Report*. Ms. Farina stated that this report provides information on the level of commercial construction activity by jurisdiction, structure type, relationship to Metrorail and commuter rail stations, and in Regional Activity Centers. Ms. Farina stated that more than 31 million square feet of space in 524 projects was started in 2003.

## **5. Update on the Round 6.4 Cooperative Forecasts of Employment, Population and Households**

Greg Goodwin of the COG staff stated that the Cooperative Forecasting Subcommittee of the Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee (PDTAC) has prepared the fourth update to COG's sixth round of Cooperative Forecasts, based on current development trends, economic and demographic estimates, and changes in assumptions about land use, transportation and the region's economy. Mr. Goodwin stated that the process involves participation by local governments, which have provided local population, household and employment forecasts through 2030; documentation of methodology and assumptions upon which the forecasts are based; and relative analyses for use in the process. Mr. Goodwin stated that the PDTAC approved the Round 6.4 Forecasts during its February 13, 2004 meeting. Diana Farina of the COG staff presented an analysis of the Round 6.4 jurisdictional forecasts and a comparison of the new projections with Round 6.3, as well as maps showing the changes in the growth forecasts by traffic zone.

## **6. Adjournment**

There were no additional items. Chair Woodson adjourned the meeting at 11:50. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for September 8, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.