

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

**MINUTES
Board of Directors' Meeting
COG Board Room
April, 12 2006**

**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 Jay Fisette called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 8, 2006 MINUTES

Motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to adopt the minutes of the March 8, 2006 meeting.

1. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 2005 COG Annual Report was mailed out to the members last week, along with the 2006 Regional Directory. The directory is a wonderful resource for information on area elected and appointed officials and key regional stakeholders. Both documents are available for download in the COG website.

On April 27th COG will host a workshop on predatory housing lending practices in the Boardroom. Chairman Fisetta urged all members, or their housing agency staff, to attend.

Preparations are being made for this year's annual Foster Gala. The 2006 gala will take place on May 20 at the Renaissance Washington DC Hotel. Each year, the gala presents an exciting program that includes a special video and an awards ceremony hosted by NBC-4 news anchor Barbara Harrison. It is a wonderful opportunity for elected officials to show their support for foster parents in their jurisdictions. Invitations were included in the packets.

The 40th annual NARC conference will take place from June 17 – 20 in San Antonio, Texas. COG will host a delegation of policy officials and staff. Those interested in attending should contact David Robertson.

Plans are underway for this year's Board retreat which will take place at the same location as last year; the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay in Cambridge, Maryland. Staff will work with the planning committee to make sure this year's event is a stimulating and productive event. The Chairman encouraged all Board members to block the weekend of July 28 – 30 on their calendar. The program will be reviewed and finalized by the planning committee shortly. The retreat is an excellent, once-a-year event when COG's leadership revisits our priorities and focuses on the year ahead.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Last month, the COG Board endorsed a partnership with the Greater Washington Board of Trade and the Community Foundation to push forward the Envision Greater Washington project; specifically a 90 day opportunity for elected officials, civic leaders and the business community to participate in a workshop. The tentative date for the first meeting is April 27th.

Executive Director David Robertson, along with Homeland Security officials from Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, participated in a civic leader tour hosted by NorthCom and NORAD. The event centered on how the military will assist localities and states in situations similar to Hurricanes Rita and Katrina. A more in depth report will be given to the Emergency Preparedness Council.

Mr. Robertson stated that the first round of briefings to member jurisdictions on the Washington Area Housing Toolkit was held in Bowie. Another has been scheduled for Loudoun County next month. Mr. Robertson encouraged all members, who wish to have the presentation in their jurisdictions, to alert staff as soon as possible.

The two latest "In Focus" data reports for the District of Columbia and Prince George's County have been released and were provided in the Board's packets. Similar reports will be provided, one or two a month, until all jurisdictions have been covered.

The Executive Committee is reviewing a proposal to revamp the Board's spring networking dinner. These dinners have been, in the past, a way to build upon valuable working relationships; the new proposal would leverage those relationships to advance the Board's policy agenda. It would be called the "Local/State Partnership Dinner" and would reach out to state legislators in Maryland and Virginia and the full Council of the District of Columbia in addition to the leadership on COG's various policy committees.

The proposed date is May 24th in the evening; a formal invitation and program brochure will be mailed shortly.

Mr. Robertson also noted the departure of George Rice, Assistant Executive Director, who will be taking a position as Executive Director of Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials.

4. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Supplemental Documents: Resolution R20-06 (Electronic)

A. Additional Appointment to Employee Compensation and Benefits Review Committee

The COG Board of Directors authorized the Chairman to appoint the following additional appointment to Employee Compensation and Benefits Review Committee for 2006: Mayor Judith Davis, City of Greenbelt. Mayor Davis is the immediate past Chair of the Board of Directors.

B. Appointment of Fiftieth Anniversary Committee

In 2007, COG will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary (1957-2007). To foster regional recognition of COG's half-century of achievements, the Board of Directors authorized the Chairman to appoint a Fiftieth Anniversary Committee, chaired by COG President Carol Schwartz. The committee will be comprised of current and past COG officials, as well as past executive directors. The committee will be responsible for reviewing and recommending a work program, schedule, budget and fundraising plan for the observance of COG's fiftieth anniversary. The committee will report its recommendations by July 2006.

C. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Commit Local Matching Funds for a Regional Value Pricing Study in Metropolitan Washington

The COG Board of Directors authorized the Executive Director to expend COG local funds in an amount not to exceed \$60,000 (\$20,000 in FY 2006 funds and \$40,000 in FY 2007 funds) for the purpose of providing the 20 percent local match required to conduct a regional value pricing study in Metropolitan Washington, and to execute a contract with VDOT for the regional value pricing study to be conducted by VDOT.

ACTION: Upon motion made, and seconded, consent agenda items A – C were unanimously agreed upon and adopted.

7. RESTORATION OF THE ANACOSTIA WATERSHED - PROGRESS, CHALLENGES AND THE FUTURE

Supplemental Documents: "Our Anacostia: A Citizens Guide" (Electronic)
George Harman's Anacostia Presentation (Electronic)
Adrian Washington's Presentation (Electronic)

The Anacostia Watershed is one of the most polluted watersheds in the Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River Basins. Long recognized regionally as a priority watershed for

restoration, the opportunity and promise of the Anacostia is now the subject of major focus from both an economic development and environmental perspective. In the context of the COG Board 3-year policy focus on growth and development, District of Columbia Mayor Anthony Williams, George Harman, from the Maryland Department of the Environment and Uwe Brandes, Vice President for Capital Projects and Planning of the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation briefed the Board on several new developments and recent progress toward revitalizing the Anacostia.

Mr. Brandes began by acknowledging the extraordinary leadership and vision of the Mayor and his ability to bring together a diverse group of stakeholders to create a vision for Anacostia revitalization that is on par with other great city revitalization efforts. Over the past few years there has been extraordinary planning which has resulted in many exciting new projects: Southwest Waterfront, South Capitol Street Waterfront where the new ballpark is scheduled to be built, Poplar Point and Historic Anacostia, Hill East Waterfront which will connect Capitol Hill to the Waterfront, and Kenilworth/Parkside a mixed-use, mixed income gateway to Ward 7 waterfront.

Mr. Harman summarized the water quality and environmental challenges in the Anacostia, the restoration progress over the past two decades, as well as the future plans for accelerating the restoration effort. He noted that after twenty years there is a growing consensus that more needs to be done. What is needed is a complete and comprehensive plan and to do a better job of transcending boundaries. Achieving both economic and environmental revitalization of the Anacostia will contribute greatly to the restoration of the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay and to the economic health of the Washington metropolitan region.

Mayor Williams discussed his vision for the District of Columbia's portion of the river, highlighted by the Anacostia Waterfront Development initiative and the new Washington Nationals baseball stadium. He stated that while a lot of progress has been made in terms of development, there is still much to be done environmentally. He suggested that the best practices from other regions be looked to and asked for COG's continued support in the quest for increases in Federal funding.

At the Board's February meeting, Mayor Williams requested that the recommendations of the transition team be referred to the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee. This has been done. The current schedule is to return to the COG Board with a specific recommendation for Anacostia Restoration Governance in June.

City of Greenbelt Mayor Judith Davis voiced her concern over the apparent 70% of homes on the waterfront that would not be affordable or low-income housing. Mr. Brandes responded that the 30% figure was a minimum requirement and those homes which are currently affordable or low-income would continue to be so after the revitalization.

8. GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY FOCUS

Supplemental Documents: Proposed Schedule for Round 7.0 Update (Electronic)
Paul Desjardin's Activity Centers Presentation (Electronic)
Resolution R18-06 (Electronic)
Activity Centers Maps (Hard Copy)
Ron Kirby's Transportation and Land use Presentation (Electronic)

A.

COG's regional activity centers maps were developed in response to the TPB's transportation vision and a call for a new tool to foster better integration of regional transportation and land development planning. Although the activity map's direct impact on transportation and land development actions has been mixed, the maps have served to focus on the need for stronger planning policies and tools, and have helped to shape the dialogue on regional planning events such as the recent Reality Check on Growth. Since 2002, COG has provided regional activity center maps to encourage mixed-use development and to increase the percentage of jobs and households that are found in regional activity centers, a goal that we have not fully met. The maps are updated with each population and growth forecast that COG provides. Recently, the Board adopted the Round 7.0 cooperative forecasts, meaning that it is once again time to review and amend the regional activity center maps.

Charles Graves, D.C. Deputy Director of Planning and Paul DesJardin, COG's Chief of Housing and Planning presented the Board with the 2002 activity maps effort and plans for updating them.

The Transportation Planning Board adopted its "Vision" in 1997; the result of numerous meetings with citizens and other stakeholders that sought to determine the best possible use (highways / transit / alternative modes) for transportation funds and projects. The TPB Vision's "Action Agenda" specifically called for the creation of the map of regional activity centers to help with the implementation of the vision.

Activity Centers are places based on COG's local government Cooperative Forecasts of growth, grouped according to similar employment, residential and growth pattern characteristics. There is no hierarchy, just different places or "typologies" with different characteristics, which may require different types of transportation infrastructure support.

These Centers contain slightly more than half of the region's current and future employment, and slightly more than 10 percent of the region's current and future households. The Planning Directors recognized the need for "Regional Activity Clusters," groupings of adjacent Activity Centers located along major transportation facilities and surrounded by additional concentrations of jobs and housing. What they found was that aggregations of several adjacent Activity Centers located along major transportation routes comprised approximately 13 percent of the region's land area, 70 percent of the region's current and future employment and approximately 31 percent of current and future households.

This data has been used in preparing the following reports: TPB Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study, development of COG's Round 7.0 Cooperative Forecasts, the TPB Activity Cluster Analysis of the Constrained Long-Range Plan as well as many others.

In approving the Activity Centers and Clusters, the COG Board and TPB recommended that the maps be updated following the next major "Round" (Round 7.0; Round 8.0, etc.) of the Cooperative Forecasts. Mr. Graves reviewed the proposed schedule for the Board's approval.

Prince William County Chairman Sean Connaughton commented that the BRAC recommendations will change the face of employment in some areas; specifically the Rte. 1 corridor along I-95, and urged the planners to be very cautious and mindful when defining the activity centers clusters within that vicinity.

Montgomery County Councilmember Nancy Floreen stated that it wasn't exactly clear to her what the definition of the activity clusters means to local jurisdictions. Chair Fisetto answered that when the TPB adopted its vision statement, in an attempt to link transportation and land use, the activity map was seen as the first tool to be developed that would help identify priorities for the distribution of federal transportation dollars. The COG Board ultimately, however stripped the vision of that language, choosing to use the activity centers simply as a tool jurisdictions could use in their own planning.

Ms. Floreen then suggested that the Board spend some time in the future going over the assumptions that are made when mapping the centers.

B.

The Regional Activity Centers maps and more recent work such as the Regional Accessibility and Mobility Study underscore the need to foster a stronger balance between land use and transportation planning efforts in the National Capital Region. The TPB is beginning to examine how the Constrained Long Range Plan can support promising land use and transportation strategies. Examples include ensuring that new transportation facilities are integrated with plans for concentrated, mixed-use development and supporting planning studies for promising land use initiatives and transportation facilities. Ron Kirby, COG's Director of Transportation Planning briefed the Board on similar efforts sponsored by other Metropolitan Planning Organizations in San Francisco, Atlanta and Vermont, and how the TPB proposes to develop a transportation and land use incentives program in the Washington region.

In 2000, the TPB recognized that in many respects, the region's long-range transportation plan was falling short of the vision. What has been occurring is a shortage of funding for new transportation projects which means 77% of the existing dollars are going to operational and preservation needs, daily vehicle miles traveled has increased at a rate of 37% while freeway and arterial lane miles has only increased by 16%. What this means is that most of the Beltway will continue to be stop and go during peak travel periods and the metro platforms and trains will be packed. There have been several short term and long term solutions discussed including transit and demand management, capacity increases and the integration of transportation and land use planning. The Regional Accessibility and Mobility Study identified two key longer-run strategies that would significantly increase transit use, walking and biking and decrease driving for 2030: increase household growth in the region, and concentrate that growth in regional activity centers, with supporting transit improvements; and encourage more development on the eastern side of the region with supporting transit improvements.

The goal for the TPB is to strengthen support for promising land use/transportation strategies by supporting planning studies and transportation improvements for land use initiatives and to adapt "Transportation for Livable Communities" Programs from other Metropolitan Planning Organizations, such as those in San Francisco and Atlanta, to our region.

Mr. Kirby stated that COG/TPB staff plan to develop alternative transportation/land use incentive approaches for consideration by the TPB and COG Board in July or September of this year.

Mr. Connaughton cautioned that each of the states have varying authorities for the use of federal dollars and asked the planners to keep this in mind when making their recommendations.

Ms. Floreen voiced her concern regarding the use of transportation dollars for non transportation solutions and added that while it is good to plan for the future, the lack of adequate funding has left the region unable to fund its basic maintenance needs.

ACTION: Upon Motion Made, and Seconded, Resolution R18-06 was unanimously agreed upon and adopted.

9. DAY LABOR SUMMIT UPDATE

Supplemental Documents: Penny Gross' Update and Next Steps Presentation (Electronic)
Resolution R19-06 (Electronic)

The Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) convened two Summits, one in November 2005, and just recently in March to provide a forum to discuss best practices and public management response to the challenge of day labor issues. Fairfax County Supervisor Penny Gross, and past member of the HSPC, briefed the Board on the outcomes of the Summits and the local and federal policy recommendations.

Due to interest from its members, the COG Human Services Policy Committee began to examine the day labor issue last year and organized two regional summits where local officials could learn more about day laborers and share best practices. It made sense for COG to take up the issue since so many local governments throughout the region were dealing with the same challenge.

During the June 2005 NARC Conference in the San Francisco Bay Area, several COG officials took part in a site visit of an organized day labor center in Oakland administered by Volunteers of America. This was the first regional grounding in an issue that would be the focus of subsequent COG attention and research.

In November 2005, COG's Human Services Policy Committee held its first Regional Day Labor Summit. Topics included a general overview on the day labor issue and a discussion of whom these men and women are and why they choose to relocate to our region. Area officials and day labor center administrators explained how they were successfully managing the issue in local communities throughout the region.

A few weeks ago, on March 30, COG held the second Day Labor Summit. Officials from 10 local jurisdictions attended and discussed in more detail how local government officials can best address the day labor issue.

While this second meeting occurred at a time of heightened attention to the national immigration debate, there was general agreement that local officials should embrace common sense approaches to address the public management aspects the day labor issue.

One of the most important lessons learned at both summits was that as the region's strong economy has grown and unemployment levels remain low, there has been an increased demand for day laborers. The same robust economy that creates software engineers also creates a need for workers to fill semi-skilled and un-skilled jobs. And because we believe the region's economy will continue to expand, more day laborers will likely relocate to our region and local governments need to be ready to meet this challenge.

How regulated day labor centers can help manage the issue was also a major part of the discussion. What has been found is that the centers provide a variety of job resources and training skills to the workers and address local governments' public safety and human services concerns. They decrease loitering in front of local businesses, remove the workers from dangerous intersections, and provide a safe, organized hiring site.

At its core, this is a public management issue that calls for sound public management tools. Regulated day labor centers acknowledge that, like it or not, our region has thousands of day workers, and that local government has neither the authority, nor the resources, to change that fact. Local governments can, however, minimize and manage the community impacts in a manner that respects the human dignity of both the day workers and their neighbors.

The large majority of officials at the summits agreed that regulated day labor centers are promising management tools for some local governments in the region. Although the centers might not be the best option for every jurisdiction in the region, the participants thought that each jurisdiction should examine them as a promising public management tool.

During the two summits, participants also discussed the topic of immigration reform, which is closely connected with the day labor issue. The reality is that many day laborers may be undocumented workers. Because of this fact, some citizens would prefer that local governments "do nothing" about the day labor issue. But local governments have a responsibility to protect all its citizens.

Summit participants said that COG should ask Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform. They expressed hope that Congress would reject any legislation of a punitive nature or that imposes unrealistic demands on local governments.

ACTION: Consideration of Resolution R19-06 was continued to the May meeting, as there was insufficient membership for a quorum.

10. ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE PROPOSED FY 2007 FEDERAL BUDGET

Supplemental Documents: Supplemental Analysis of the President's FY07 Budget (Electronic)

Last month COG General Counsel Lee Ruck briefed the Board on a preliminary analysis of the proposed FY07 federal budget; after which, the Board requested that staff

provide additional information on the budget and its impact on several key local governments programs and services.

Mr. Ruck stated that domestic discretionary spending, that which is unrelated to war efforts, will see a significant decrease. While there are many implications for the Region and specifically on local governments, this analysis focused on three key areas: Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Homeland Security, and the Chesapeake Bay.

The administration's budget continues to reduce appropriations designed to assist states and local governments in the provision of basic services. CDBG funds are reduced by over \$1 billion dollars which means significant cuts for local jurisdictions. Direct implications for several jurisdictions, including funding of specific programs, were provided in the Board handouts.

The Environmental Protection Agency's proposed budget is \$300 million dollars less than last year's. Consequently, almost every program or project that impacts the Chesapeake Bay has been reduced. Of greatest significance, is the proposed cut of \$193 million from the national Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund. The impact is roughly a \$17 million dollar decrease in funding for Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

In the area of Homeland Security, the proposed budget would reallocate approximately 13% in First Responder Grants for an overall funding increase for the Department of Homeland Security. In addition, there are increases for Urban Area Security Initiative grants for those metropolitan regions most at risk and continues the Targeted Infrastructure Protection grants for securing transportation assets and other critical infrastructure.

There were however, reductions of the Firefighter assistance Grants Program and the Emergency Management and Performance Grants; the Law Enforcement Terrorism Program would be eliminated.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, April 12, 2006.

**ATTENDANCE: April 12, 2006
BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ALTERNATES 2006**

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Y/N</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Y/N</u>
District of Columbia				
Executive	Hon. Anthony A. Williams	Y	Ms. Alfreda Davis	N
	Mr. Robert Bobb	N	Ms. Sharon Anderson	Y
Council	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y	Mr. Kwame Brown	N
	Hon. Carol Schwartz	Y		
Maryland				
Bowie	Hon. G. Frederick Robinson	N		
College Park	Hon. Robert Catlin	Y		
Frederick County	Hon. John R. Lovell, Jr.	N		
Gaithersburg	Hon. John Schlichting	N		
Greenbelt	Hon. Judith "J" F. Davis	Y		
Montgomery County				
Executive	Hon. Douglas M. Duncan	N	Mr. Bruce Romer	Y
Council	Hon. Nancy Floreen	Y		
	Hon. Michael Knapp	Y		
Prince George's County				
Executive	Hon. Jack B. Johnson	N	Dr. Jacqueline Brown	Y
Council	Hon. Camille A. Exum	Y		
	Hon. Tony Knotts	Y		
Rockville	Hon. Robert E. Dorsey	Y		
Takoma Park	Hon. Bruce Williams	N		
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. William Bronrott	Y		
Virginia				
Alexandria	Hon. Redella S. Pepper	N		
Arlington County	Hon. G. N. Jay Fisette	Y		
City of Fairfax	Hon. Gary Rasmussen	Y		
Fairfax County	Hon. Gerald E. Connolly	N		
	Hon. Penelope A. Gross	Y		
	Hon. Joan DuBois	N		
Falls Church	Hon. Daniel Gardner	Y	Ms. Marti Meserve	N
Loudoun County	Hon. Lori Waters	N	Mr. Bruce Tulloch	N
Manassas	Hon. Douglas Waldron	N		
Manassas Park	Hon. Frank Jones	N	Mr. Michael Bunner	N
Prince William County	Hon. Sean Connaughton	Y	Mr. Dana Fenton	N
	Hon. Hilda Barg	Y	Mr. Rick Canizales	Y
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. James M. Scott	N		

Other Participants

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Waterfront Corp.

George Harman
Md. Department of the
Environment

Charles Graves
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Paul Desjardin
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Ron Kirby
Director, DTP, COG