



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

February 15, 2017

Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

Enclosed are the responses to the Committee of the Whole performance oversight hearing preliminary questions for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. I look forward to the opportunity to meet with the Committee next month.

If you have any questions or need further information please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Bean".

Chuck Bean
Executive Director

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
2016 PERFORMANCE OVERSIGHT SUMMARY STATEMENT**

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is a membership organization of local elected officials from the District of Columbia and 22 other area jurisdictions in Maryland and Virginia. The region’s state and federal elected delegations also are members of COG. Three independent policy boards direct the Council’s work, including the COG Board of Directors, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – which is the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization – and the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC), which prepares the region’s air quality plans to comply with federal law. COG’s work is funded by government grants, membership dues and private foundations. (NB: The Council of Governments could not supply information on questions directed specifically to city agencies and therefore answered with “not applicable.”)

1. The COG’s organizational chart is attached. We currently have 127 FTE’s and eight vacancies.
2. Not applicable.
3. Not applicable.
4. There are no current or impending vacancies on the Board of Directors.

5. 2016-2017

AGENCY	TYPE OF SERVICE	GRANT AMOUNT	MULTI-YEAR
DCWASA	Regional Environmental and Water Initiatives	1,461,572.00	Yes
DDOE	Environmental Programs	516,067.00	No
DDOT	Commuter Connections	1,045,920.00	No
DDOT	Unified Planning Work Program	4,212,873.00	No
HSEMA	Homeland and Security Programs	16,938,844.00	Yes
	TOTAL	\$24,175,276.00	

6. Current Capital Projects: Network and Technology Infrastructure \$5,662.00
 Office Renovations \$358,128.00

7.
 - A. There were no investigations, studies, audits, or reports completed at any time in 2016 or 2017.
 - B. There are no ongoing investigations, audits, or reports.
8. The top five priorities for the Council of Governments in 2017 include: COG’s commitment to convene regional partners to help better ensure the return of a world class Metrorail transit system, the commitment to serve as a hub for obtaining and implementing NextGen 911 throughout the region, ensuring drinking water security, continuing a strategic relationship with the General Services Administration, and a commitment to ending the opioid epidemic in our region.

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COG's commitment to convene regional partners to help better ensure the return of a world class Metrorail transit system includes:

- Provide support for the creation of an independent State Safety Oversight Agency consistent with federal requirements to provide authority for safety oversight of Metro.
- Creation and staff support of a Metro Technical Panel composed of chief administrative officers and financial experts with the goals of assessing WMATA's financial needs and potential forms of dedicated funding.
- Creation of the Metro Strategy Group composed of elected officials from the Metro compact jurisdictions and COG/TPB leadership with the goal of discussing dedicated funding options and how to meet the funding needs in each state.
- Working closely with the COG Fire Chiefs Committee and WMATA to address coordination on testing of equipment, training of first responders and the rapid reporting and timely repair of all systems.
- Using COG's monthly Board meetings as a public forum to follow-up on issues related to the overall improvement of the Metrorail system
- Continuation of the Metrorail Communications Study in where COG will continue to coordinate and assist the regional partners as they follow-up on recommendations included in the report, including monitoring completion of long-term projects to allow cell phone surface in Metrorail cars.

COG's commitment to serve as a hub for obtaining and implementing Next Generation (NextGen) 911 throughout the region includes:

- Reliable and uninterrupted 9-1-1 service continues to be a priority for COG and our member jurisdictions.
- Through support of the 9-1-1 Center Managers Committee COG is supporting the study and implementation of improving the region's public safety communication infrastructure by implementing NextGen 911 technologies.
- These technologies will enhance 9-1-1 center operations with voice, data, texting, web and visual information and add redundancy and diversity so the system will be less at risk of a failure.
- COG is working on ensuring the interconnectivity of these systems throughout the region and researching group cost saving options through our cooperative purchasing program.

COG's commitment to ensuring drinking water security includes:

- Working with the region's drinking water utilities to develop an after-action report on the November, 2016 Potomac River oil sheen to identify lessons learned and next steps.
- Work with EPA to improve Unified Command representation during future events and increase protection of the region's drinking water supplies.
- Continued coordination, management, and technical support of the regional contaminant warning system/drinking water security monitoring system.

COG's commitment to continuing a strategic relationship with the General Services Administration (GSA) includes:

- Continue to facilitate the federal partnership with GSA to develop increased economic gain throughout the COG region.
- Continued coordination to develop GSA Central Business Areas (CBAs) within each jurisdiction to identify future locations for federal buildings and growth.

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- Support the work of the planning directors and economic development officials to continue partnering with GSA to develop priority places for federal government facilities.

COG's commitment to ending the opioid epidemic in our region includes:

- Support the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia's commitment to ending opioid addiction in our region.
- COG is convening area leaders, healthcare providers, and researchers for a day-long summit. Opioid and Substance Abuse Summit, on May 9, 2017 focused on curtailing this escalating public health and safety crisis.



COG STAFF ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

