

RAC Chair Report

September 1, 2010

1) I received an invitation dated August 10th, 2010, from the Council of Governments (COG)/Board of Trade (BOT) Joint Task Force on WMATA Governance to present testimony at a public hearing they will be conducting on Friday, September 17th. I have accepted the invitation. (Since the Council's letter to the same task force, which was approved at the August 4th Council meeting, was also dated the same day, I do not think that the invitation could possibly have had anything to do with our letter.) I welcome any suggestions or advice you may have in how to shape my testimony for that occasion.

2) The August 10th letter that the RAC sent to the COG/BOT Task Force was answered on August 25th, with a letter from James Dinegar, Chair, Washington Board of Trade, and David Robertson, Executive Director of Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (please see attachment). This letter was followed up on Friday, August 27th by a courtesy phone call to me from Mr. Robertson in which we discussed how the COG/BOT Task Force was formed and also some details about testifying to the Task Force on Sept. 17th (see #1 above).

3) The vice-chairs and I have had a discussion about revising the RAC's website to organize it by chronology, rather than document genre—the way it is currently organized. John Pasek has followed through with our recommendations with Metro's IT staff, and the new format will be available to the public shortly.

You can preview the page using the following link:

http://www.wmata.com/about_metro/riders_advisory_council/index_new.cfm?nocache

Or, to go directly to the meeting materials and documents page:

http://www.wmata.com/about_metro/riders_advisory_council/events_and_docs_by_month.cfm

4) On August 31st, an aide in Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton's office phoned me as a preliminary to an invitation to testify at a congressional hearing in late September on the NTSB's safety guidelines for Metro. More information will follow as it becomes available.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank DeBernardo

August 25, 2010

Mr. Francis DeBernardo
Chairman
Metro Riders Advisory Council
c/o Office of the Secretary
WMATA
600 Fifth Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. DeBernardo:

Thank you for your letter dated August 10, 2010 concerning the Joint WMATA Governance Review Task Force. We are responding on behalf of Task Force co-chairs James Dyke and Kwame Brown. We welcome your continued interest in this important topic.

The Greater Washington Board of Trade, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and the Joint WMATA Governance Review Task Force are aware of the important contribution the Riders Advisory Council (RAC) has made to a wide-range of WMATA issues, including governance, operations and safety.

It is the desire of the Joint Task Force to provide independent and thoughtful findings, conclusion and recommendations to the WMATA Board of Directors and local, state and federal funding partners and other stakeholders to yield "improvements in the transit agencies governance to ensure the highest performing and sustainable transportation system for the Washington metropolitan area." We are confident that the RAC agrees with the Joint Task Force's mission and we look forward to working with you in the coming weeks.

As one of its first actions, the Joint Task Force adopted participation guidelines to help frame the work of the Joint Task Force and staff. The Joint Task Force concluded the guidelines were appropriate for a public-private, volunteer-led task force and would aid in securing input from a wide-range of experts and stakeholders. On July 1, the Joint Task Force hosted a public forum affording early input on its mission and work scope from both stakeholders and the public.

The participation guidelines and all studies, resources and information compiled to date by the Joint Task Force are posted on the COG website. We believe the studies and information compiled by the Joint Task Force will be especially helpful to the RAC, which we understand has its own governance examination underway. Joint Task Force meeting summaries are posted, as well as notices of future public meetings. We anticipate additional public meetings will be scheduled, as well.

The Joint Task Force has invited the RAC to participate at its next public work session on September 17. This meeting will be structured to provide sufficient time for opening statements by representatives of the RAC and other invited stakeholders, as well as dialogue with Joint Task Force members. We sincerely hope that the RAC will use this opportunity to provide what we are confident will be keen insight into WMATA governance and specific recommendations for improvement. Staff will follow up with you to confirm RAC participation on September 17 and seek your recommendations on other stakeholders for inclusion on the public work session.

We are grateful to the RAC for its ongoing work as well as its additional focus on governance. We believe the RAC can play a critical role in building public support for the difficult decisions that may be required to strengthen WMATA governance. We look forward to your input on September 17 and throughout this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Dinegar', with a stylized flourish at the end.

James C. Dinegar, CAE
President and CEO
Greater Washington Board of Trade

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David J. Robertson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David J. Robertson
Executive Director
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Cc:

James Dyke,
Chairman, Board of Directors
Greater Washington Board of Trade

Kwame Brown,
Chairman, Board of Directors
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments