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MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Board

Date: October 5, 2007

From: Randall S. Blankenhorn, Executive Director

Re: Regional Comprehensive Plan – Sustainability Concepts

To support the development of the Regional Comprehensive Plan, CMAP is producing a series of snapshot reports on major planning topics. The purpose of these reports is to establish linkages between CMAP's issue areas, gather background data, and initiate discussions on major regional issues early in the planning process.

Staff has prepared a draft report on sustainability, the first topic to be addressed in the snapshot series. The preparation of this report has brought to light a number of important policy issues related to sustainability that staff believes should be discussed at the Board level. These major policy issues are listed below, and will be expanded upon during a presentation at the October 10 meeting. Please note that these policy issues below do not represent formal staff recommendations for action; they are meant to inspire Board discussion of these items, and in particular how they should be treated in the Regional Comprehensive Plan.

A sustainable approach to *environmental health* would have the following major policy implications:

- Measure environmental impacts of new development induced by infrastructure investment.
- Improve overall natural resource base provide "offsets" for natural resource loss by compensation in other areas.
- Address air quality beyond Clean Air Act requirements.
- Include water quality and supply, habitat fragmentation, and other measures as indicators in scenario evaluation.

A sustainable approach to *economic development and quality of life* would have the following major policy implications:

Address economic development by increasing employment and raising income.

- Target infrastructure investments partly on the basis of the economic development potential they would support.
- Consider non-capital means of increasing productivity (such as workforce development).
- Consider effects of tax policy on development, and address alternative taxation possibilities through scenario evaluation.

A sustainable approach to *infrastructure* would have the following major policy implications:

- Consider well-being and needs of future generations when determining maintenance and reinvestment priorities.
- Utilize life cycle costing to assess potential major capital investments.
- Commit to efficient urban form as a long-term solution.

A sustainable approach to *equity* would have the following major policy implications:

- Use "vertical equity" concept judge the distribution of the goods of society from the most disadvantaged stratum of society.
- Continue previous efforts by CATS in the 2030 RTP to consider level of service improvements by minority and income status.
- Address non-transportation equity outcomes for households (income distribution) and taxing districts (tax base distribution)

Sustainability also involves addressing cross-cutting issues that do not neatly fit into the categories above, such as climate change, energy use, and adaptive governance.

A sustainable approach to *climate change* would have the following major policy implications:

- Apply strategies to mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Consider strategies that reduce VMT (alternative transportation, land use policies) but also go beyond this to energy consumption and production.
- Targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions should be explored during scenario analysis.

A sustainable approach to *energy and resource use* (*including water supply*) would have the following major policy implications:

- Explore use of alternative fuels and alternative energy sources through scenario evaluation.
- Increase energy efficiency through land use and transportation, but also improve construction standards or increase the region's commitment to green building.
- Use water supply as a consideration in determining where growth should be directed.

A sustainable approach to *adaptive governance* would have the following major policy implications:

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- Ensure that local capacity exists to respond to future threats (such as climate change) by learning from the experiences of other localities.
- CMAP should serve as a regional resource on climate change and its potential impacts.

As stated, we will present more detail and examples at next week's Board meeting and we look forward to your input and guidance.