

Greater Baltimore Committee unveils transportation task force

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Two dozen transportation officials, business leaders, and former politicians, including former City Councilman Kieffer J. Mitchell and transportation advocate Otis Rolley, have been named to a **Greater Baltimore Committee** task force charged with improving state transportation funding.

The GBC, a regional business advocacy group, created the 24-member committee to create a long-term plan for adequate transportation funding to recommend to state lawmakers.

GBC CEO Donald C. Fry said the wide variety in committee members' backgrounds will help it tackle the state's transportation funding problems. Officials cut \$1.1 billion in transportation projects last month because of the economic crisis and its effect on tax revenue, and \$40 billion to \$60 billion worth of planned projects remain without funding.

"This group has an abundance of talent and policy insight to take a fresh look, from a private-sector perspective, at the substantial transportation funding challenges facing Maryland," Fry said in a statement. "We must find ways to do a better job of funding transportation resources that are critical to Maryland's economy."

Anne Ferro, president of the Maryland Motor Truck Association, and Joseph DeMattos Jr., AARP Maryland director and a former Motor Vehicle Administration chief, are co-chairing the commission.

Joining them on the task force are:

- John A. Agro, Jr., senior vice president, STV Group, and former administrator of the Maryland Transit Administration;
- James R. Beardsley, managing director, Aon Risk Services;
- Alan C. Cason, office managing partner, McGuire Woods LLP;

- William S. Corey, Jr., office managing partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP;
- Maureen Decker, office principal, Pennoni Associates Inc.;
- Karen S. Deeley, vice president, MacKenzie Commercial Real Estate Services Inc.;

- Charles I. "Chuck" Ecker, superintendent, Carroll County Public Schools and former county executive of Howard County;

- W. Dennis Gilligan, Craftsmen Developers;
- James M. Harkins, director, Maryland Environmental Service, former county executive of Harford County, and former member of the Maryland House of Delegates;

- Alvin Katz, CEO, KAWG&F;
- Joseph T. "Jody" Landers III, executive vice president, Greater Baltimore Board of Realtors and former member of the Baltimore City Council;

- Kevin Manning, president, Stevenson University;
- Mitchell, small business banking officer at Wachovia Corp. and former mayoral candidate and City Council member;

- Robert R. Neall, CEO, Priority Partners, former county executive of Anne Arundel County, and former member of the Senate of Maryland and the Maryland House of Delegates;

- Thomas L. Osborne, vice president, Patton Harris Rust & Associates, and former administrator of the Maryland Transportation Authority;

- Bill M. Pisano, director of branch operations, Stephen James Associates;

- John R. Redding, vice president & general manager, The Belts Corp.;

- Michael Rogers executive vice president, MedStar Health;
- Rolley, CEO of the Central Maryland Transportation Alliance;
- Benjamin Rosenberg, managing partner, Rosenberg Martin Greenberg, LLP;
- Wilbert Sirota, partner, Duane Morris; and,
- Karen L. Sweeney, vice president & general manager, Clark Construction Co.

The task force plans to study transportation funding models in other states and other countries. Its first meeting will be Dec. 1 and it will continue to meet through 2009.