

## Westshore Council of Governments (WCOG) meeting September 14, 2016

By LWVGC observer Conda Boyd (Bay Village)

*This report is not an official statement of the League of Women Voters. Mayor Bobst's office prepares official minutes.*

**Present:** Mayors Bobst (Rocky River), Patton (Fairview Park), and Kennedy (North Olmsted)  
**Absent:** Mayors Clough (Westlake), Summers (Lakewood), and Sutherland (Bay Village)

Director of Regional Collaboration Ed Krause, Director of Public Safety & Justice Services Brandy Carney, and Director of Regional Corrections Ken Mills spoke about the value of consolidating police, fire, and EMS dispatch services within and across city lines. Centralized dispatch, now the national standard, changes the dynamics of responding to and resolving crimes and emergencies. Rather than transferring calls among agencies, all required services are marshaled at once. County Councilman Dave Greenspan noted that decreased response times translate to lower homeowner's insurance.

Rocky River's police facility renovation offers an opportunity to create a shared facility. The county helped fund an eastside consolidation and is open to discussing a westside project. Ms. Carney stated that consolidation always brings cost savings, and dispatch must be the first step. October's WCOG meeting will continue the discussion with police and fire chiefs present.

Officials from Cleveland Hopkins Airport and the Federal Aviation Administration discussed the Metroplex project (described in an accompanying article).

Rocky River Municipal Court has lost grant funding for domestic violence advocacy services and is seeking a new fee proportional to cities' case numbers. Ms. Carney noted that services are also available through the county's Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center.

Councilman Greenspan announced that the county makes portable cameras available to cities without charge for special events and short-term use. The county will sell foreclosures to a debt collector.

Mayors Patton and Bobst described upcoming recycling and shredding events. The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District awards grants to promote recycling. Their website, [CuyahogaRecycles.org](http://CuyahogaRecycles.org), is robust and engaging, with comprehensive information on what, how, and where to recycle and donate items.

Bay Village Law Director Gary Ebert will circulate a new draft Westshore Enforcement Bureau/WCOG agreement. The Republican National Convention agreement was never signed.

*The meeting was called to order at 9:50 am and adjourned at 11:50.*

## WCOG Mayors Host Metroplex Project Discussion

By LWVGC observer Conda Boyd (Bay Village)

Satellite navigation is coming to Cleveland-Detroit airspace as part of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) NextGen Metroplex project. Most airplanes already navigate with GPS, but their routes are defined by land-based "navigation aids". Satellite navigation will free routes from these physical constraints and enable the FAA to draw new, more efficient highways in the sky. Benefits include fuel, personnel, and time savings; increased safety, flexibility, capacity, and reliability; and reduced carbon dioxide emissions.

Hopkins, Burke Lakefront, and Cuyahoga County airports are included in the project. Arrival flight paths are constrained by existing runways. Departure paths are more flexible, offering the opportunity for planes to get on route more quickly.

The FAA is seeking public input now in order to incorporate community concerns before the design is complete and the environmental impact is assessed. Three community meetings have been held, and comments will be accepted until October 15 through <http://www.faa.gov/nextgen/communityengagement/cle/>. The FAA will present the completed design for further comments. Implementation is targeted for mid-2018.

FAA Regional Administrator Barry Cooper, co-Project Lead Ron Wood, Cleveland Hopkins Interim Director Fred Szabo, and Community Relations Manager Jacqueline Muhammad sought westside mayors' input at the September 14 Westshore Council of Governments (WCOG) meeting.

Mr. Wood noted that Cleveland's airspace has been stable for a number of years. They will try to minimize low-altitude changes, but departures may fan out more. Whenever possible, residential impact is minimized by making turns over Lake Erie and routing planes over the Cuyahoga Valley and highways.

Legal consultant Dave Matty stated that any move of air traffic toward the western suburbs "would be a disaster. Things are quiet now, and that's the way we like it." Planes should turn neither too soon, nor too sharply.

Mayors Bobst and Patton noted that they encourage residents to use Hopkins Airport's complaint process, and airport officials have been responsive to community concerns.