



## REGION FORWARD COALITION

Friday, October 25, 2024

10:00 a.m. to NOON

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor COG Board Room  
777 North Capitol Street NE  
Washington, DC 20002

Meeting theme: Sustainability

**In-Person Meeting: COG 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Walter Scheiber Board Room**

**[PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE HERE](#)**

Chairman: Takis Karantonis

**10:00 A.M. 1. WELCOME**

*Takis Karantonis, Coalition Chair*

- a. New member introductions and welcome
- b. 2024 COG Membership & Awards Reception, Wednesday, December 11, 2024 (4:00 PM – 6:00 PM), HQO Events, DC Water Headquarters
- c. Coalition member updates

**10:05 A.M. 2. UPDATE ON REGION FORWARD'S GOAL FOR MAINTAINING FARMLAND AND PLANNING FOR FOOD SYSTEM RESILIENCY**

*Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments*

Fairfax Councilmember Jon Stehle, COG FARM Policy Committee Chair (invited)  
Steve Bieber, Director, Water Resources Program  
Lindsay Smith, Food and Agriculture Planner

FARM Chair Stehle, will provide an overview of COG's newest committee, the FARM Policy Committee, including its strategic plan, forthcoming accountability report, and a recent Resolution before the COG Board. COG staff will provide updated data on acres of land in farms in Metropolitan Washington as it relates to Region Forward's goal. FARM's Regional Agricultural Work Group, comprised of technical staff working in agriculture, soil conversation, and ag business development, will begin scoping the next *What Our Region Grows* report.

**10:25 A.M. Discussion Topic:**

*The COG Region has experienced a significant decline in the number of farms and acres of agricultural land. Agriculturally productive soils are a finite resource. As we look into the future, what kind of information do policymakers, local government staff, residents, and businesses need about the social, economic, and environmental value of farming to inform local and regional action to increase our food system's resiliency?*

**10:45 A.M. 3. CONSERVING TREES AND FORESTS IN METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON: NEW REGIONAL TREE CANOPY GOALS AND STRATEGIES**

*Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments*  
Heidi Bonnaffon, Senior Planner

Ms. Bonnaffon will highlight COG's report entitled *Conserving Trees and Forests in the Metropolitan Washington* and the accompanying COG Board Resolution, passed in April, that set a goal of 50% tree canopy coverage for the region. An action plan is being developed to support action on this goal, considering how planning and implementing programs to foster conservation of tree canopy and forests can be integrated with other regional planning priorities, including land use, transportation, housing, energy, workforce, equity, and economic development, with considerations for water, air quality, energy, and climate change.

**11:05 A.M. Discussion Topic:**

*How can COG jurisdictions support Tree Canopy Goals and strategies and also support other development opportunities?*

**11:25 A.M. 4. NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION RESILIENCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN (TRIP)**

*Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments*  
Katherine Rainone, Transportation Resiliency Planner

Ms. Rainone will provide a presentation about the National Capital Region Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan (TRIP) which was developed in coordination with the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) member agencies and constitutes the first comprehensive regional transportation resilience plan for the metropolitan Washington region. There will be an overview of the NCR Transportation System Climate Vulnerability Assessment, which provided much of the foundational information to develop the TRIP, and a primer on the new interactive mapping tool that was created as a resource to display at-risk transportation assets in the region.

**11:45 A.M. Discussion Topic:**

*How can elected officials and local planners use the Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan resources, the mapping tool in particular, to help prioritize planned resilience improvement/adaptation projects in the region? In addition to this tool, how else could this be undertaken?*

**12:00 P.M. 5. ADJOURN**

**Lunch will be provided.**