



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – January 2018
DATE: January 3, 2018

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)

– At its November meeting, the TPB received a briefing on the results of a study of the initiatives recommended by its Long-Range Plan Task Force. In December, the TPB accepted the recommendations from the task force and endorsed five initiatives for future study and incorporation into its long-range transportation plan.

[View the news release](#)

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC)

– In December, MWAQC approved a plan that demonstrates the region's achievement in attaining the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2008 standard for ground-level ozone pollution and details how officials will continue to meet this air quality standard in the future.

[View the news release](#)

Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC)

– In November, CBPC was briefed on how improving water quality in the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers is creating economic and community benefits, including new stormwater jobs and waterfront redevelopment. Rebounding fish populations have also benefitted the local seafood industry.

[View the blog](#)

Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) – In November, CEEPC was briefed on the state of the zero-energy market, affordability of zero-energy buildings, and what local governments can do to support the expansion of zero-energy development.

Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committee (HSPSPC) – In November, HSPSPC hosted a Regional Behavioral Health Forum, which focused on criminal justice diversion and reducing stigma about mental illness.



MEMBER FEATURES
Q&As with Kenyan McDuffie, District of Columbia (above), and Jay Fisette, Arlington County, were featured in recent COG newsletters and the website.

[View the Q&As](#)

Region Forward Coalition (RFC) – In November, the RFC met in College Park, Maryland and received presentations on equity and regional planning, the *Environmental Justice Toolkit*, the TPB Equity Emphasis Areas, and the Purple Line Corridor Coalition.

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Clean Power Plan – MWAQC, CEEPC, and CBPC sent a letter to the EPA in support of the preservation of its Clean Power Plan rule, which was implemented in 2015 and is under consideration for repeal. The rule takes steps to reduce emissions from power plants.

[View the letter](#)

Visualize 2045 – The first public comment period for the TPB’s new long-range transportation plan is underway. Now that agencies have submitted their projects, programs, and policies for inclusion in the plan, the public may comment on these inputs. The comment period will close on January 13.

[View/submit public comments](#)

Flextime Rewards – Commuter Connections has partnered with the University of Maryland to launch a pilot program called Flextime Rewards. Commuters with flexible work schedules can sign up for alerts during periods of high traffic congestion and receive cash rewards for staying off the road.

[View the news release](#)

Metro funding – Chuck Bean briefed the Maryland General Assembly Joint Committee on Federal Relations about efforts in the region to restore the Metro system.

Economic competitiveness – Chuck Bean spoke at a Bisnow conference about taking a regional approach to promoting metropolitan Washington in the global market.

Joint Fire, Emergency Management, Police, and 9-1-1 meeting – COG committees met to discuss information sharing and operational coordination for planned and unplanned events in the region. The discussions identified challenges and opportunities to improve both inter and intra-jurisdictional response.

Preparedness exercise – The Securing the Cities program hosted its first emergency preparedness tabletop exercise, which included participants from 25 different law enforcement and first responder agencies. The program focuses on enhancing the region’s ability to detect radiological materials.



Bill Goddard
@ChiefGoddard



National Capital Region Joint #Fire, #Police, #EmergencyManager, and #911 Directors meet @MWCOG to discuss Operational Coordination & Unified Command. Regional cooperation and collaboration establishing a standard of operational excellence!

11:56 AM - Nov 20, 2017

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TOD forum – COG brought together elected officials, Metro staff, real estate developers, and planning directors to discuss transit-oriented development (TOD) in the region. Falls Church Mayor David Tarter and Prince George's County Council Chairman Derrick Davis led the discussion.

[View the Q&A with Tarter and Davis](#)

Electric vehicles – COG has been invited to serve on the steering committee for a project to develop an electric vehicle infrastructure strategy for the Northeast Corridor. The project is led by the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management with funding from Electrify America.

Solar power – COG participated in a public event at Old Dominion University held by Dominion Energy to release the Solar Pathways Project Statewide Solar Strategy for Virginia. COG staff advised the U.S. Department of Energy grant-funded project team led by Dominion.

Winter weather briefing – COG convened members and stakeholders to receive weather projections from the National Weather Service, a briefing on how closure and dismissal decisions are made from the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, and overviews from other government agencies on their roles and responsibilities regarding the upcoming winter weather season.

Chaplains conference – The COG Public Safety Chaplains Subcommittee, in collaboration with the Joint Force Headquarters Military District of Washington, Military Chaplains, held its biennial conference on how chaplains can take on leadership roles, especially during emergencies.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Metro would get \$500M a year under new funding plan – COG Board Metro resolution featured.

[View the WTOP story](#)

Regional cooperation on economic competitiveness – Chuck Bean interviewed.

[View the Comcast Newsmakers show](#)

How has commuting in our area changed in 50 years? Lots of ways, not all good – TPB travel survey featured and COG's Robert Griffiths and Kenneth Joh quoted.

[View the Washington Post story](#)



EVENT HIGHLIGHT: 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

The meeting featured special tributes, including remarks by Virginia Lt. Governor-elect Justin Fairfax, and awards to Bridget Donnell Newton, George Hawkins, and the Coalition for Smarter Growth.

[View the news highlight and photos](#)