



NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD

At its February meeting, the TPB voted to include projects—such as proposals to toll portions of I-66 in Virginia and expand the bike lane network in the District of Columbia—in an air quality analysis of the region's long-range transportation plan. This fall, the TPB will vote on adding these projects to the Financially Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) once the analysis is completed to determine if the plan meets federal air quality standards.

HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY COMMITTEE

2015 HSPSPC Chair Walter Tejada of the Arlington County Board led a discussion on the committee's priorities and focus for the new year. The committee also reviewed a survey of its members, which recommended an emphasis on sharing best practices and addressing relevant topics more comprehensively. HSPSPC will focus upcoming meetings on housing, workforce development, public safety, and health and mental health. The workforce meeting will support and inform the COG Board's economic competitiveness focus for 2015.

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COUNCIL

2015 EPC Chairman Frank Principi of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors kicked off the group's first meeting of the year, which was focused on emergency response protocols and plans for incidents in the Metrorail system. The EPC heard from WMATA Emergency Management Director Ron Bodmer as well as Chief Marc Bashoor of Prince George's County, who serves as Chair of the COG Fire Chiefs Committee. Members also discussed COG's role in working with WMATA to respond to requests from Senator Mark Warner (VA) on radio communications and Senator Barbara Mikulski (MD) regarding training.



Heart of COG:

MAIA DAVIS & HOW COG PROMOTES REGIONAL CLIMATE AND ENERGY LEADERSHIP

Last fall, Maia Davis had just a week and a half to pull together an application for a White House climate and energy competition. Fortunately, she had a lot of strong examples ready to highlight thanks to COG's work promoting local and regional activities.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE STORY.](#)

pictured: Davis, Gwendolyn Keyes Fleming (EPA), Steve Walz (COG), Mark Rupp (EPA) at COG Climate & Energy Leadership Awards

REGIONAL COUNCILS PEER-TO-PEER EXCHANGE

COG hosted leaders from more than 15 regional councils, who were in the area for a National Association of Regional Councils conference, to share best practices on regional planning and running effective COGs. NARC facilitated the event.

NEW MEMBER OUTREACH

COG held an orientation for new members Ken Robinson (Charles County), Jeanine Lawson (Prince William County), and Michael Carrera (Manassas Park) before the February COG Board meeting. Chuck Bean also met with Rashad Young (D.C.) and Jan Gardner (Frederick County) and spoke via conference call with Jud Ashman (Gaithersburg).

TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES

COG’s Nicholas Ramfos spoke at a GovPartners breakfast meeting in Tysons, which focused on Transportation Network Companies like Lyft and Uber.

WEDNESDAY’S CHILD OUTREACH

COG’s Kamilah Bunn spoke about Wednesday’s Child before 200 members at the Delta Sigma Theta Sororities’ alumni chapter meeting in Southeast DC.

CLEAN ENERGY COORDINATION

COG’s Jeff King was named to the 2015 Advisory Council of the Maryland Clean Energy Center, which works to advance the adoption of clean energy along with energy efficiency products, services, and technologies.

COLLEGE PARK PRESENTATION

Chuck Bean gave a presentation at a meeting of the College Park City Council where he highlighted several COG benefits to the City, including transportation technical assistance grants, stream monitoring and restoration activities, and cooperative purchasing.

AWARD FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCY WORK

The American Planning Association’s Federal Planning Division recognized the region’s climate resiliency work with its Outstanding Collaborative Planning Project or Program Award. This work by COG and several federal partners is detailed in the report, Building a Climate Resilient Region.



Legislative Highlight:
BARKER INTRODUCES VIRGINIA PURCHASING BILL

New legislation in Virginia (SB 1378) will enable localities to purchase from a COG contract and to participate in cooperative procurement with COG. While COG has routinely handled major procurements in conjunction with state and federal grants on behalf of Virginia localities, Virginia law precluded COG from contracting on behalf of Virginia localities for goods and services. COG thanks its members and legislators for their support, especially Virginia State Senator George Barker (pictured left) who introduced the bill.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD - MARCH 18

CHESAPEAKE BAY AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE - MARCH 20

CLIMATE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE - MARCH 25

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE ABOUT THESE AND OTHER COG MEETINGS & EVENTS](#)

COG, UTILITIES OFFER TIPS ON PREVENTING FROZEN PIPES AND METERS

In response to the extremely cold temperatures, area water utilities and COG reached out through traditional and social media to help homeowners prevent frozen pipes and meters. Numerous stories appeared on local radio and TV stations.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE WTOP STORY.](#)

VOTE ON INCLUDING I-66 PROPOSALS IN ANALYSIS DRAWS ADDITIONAL ATTENTION

Several local news outlets covered the Transportation Planning Board vote to include I-66 proposals in the air quality analysis of the long-range plan, including The Washington Post, WTOP, WAMU, and Arlington Now. [CLICK HERE FOR THE WAMU STORY.](#)

WAMU STORY FEATURES REGIONAL CLIMATE ADAPTATION WORK

A recent WAMU story highlighted climate adaptation planning underway in the region, including work by the D.C. Department of Transportation, National Capital Planning Commission, and COG. [CLICK HERE FOR THE WAMU STORY.](#)

INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT CONTINUES TO BE REFERENCED IN NEWS, SOCIAL MEDIA

More than a month after its release, COG members and stakeholders continue to promote the State of the Region: Infrastructure Report on Twitter. In addition, the report was referenced in a Washington Post editorial on Metro. [CLICK HERE FOR THE POST EDITORIAL.](#)



Media Highlight:
**COG HOSTS DISCUSSION
ON METRO INCIDENT
INVESTIGATION, EMERGENCY
PROTOCOLS**

Representatives from Metro, local fire agencies, and the National Transportation Safety Board, including Acting Chair Christopher Hart (pictured left) addressed the COG Board at its February meeting. Reporters from all local TV and radio news stations attended as well as several print reporters.

[CLICK HERE FOR A STORY IN THE HILL.](#)