



## MEMORANDUM

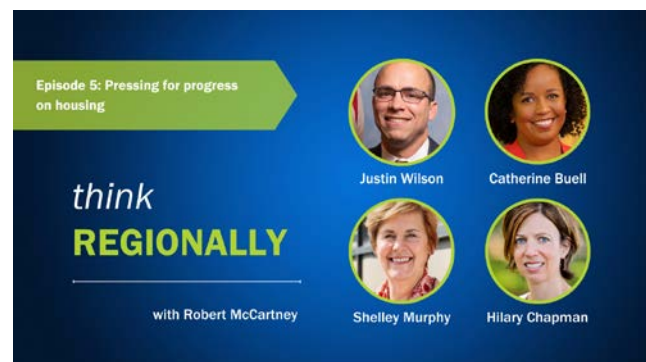
**TO:** COG Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Executive Director's Report – March 2022  
**DATE:** March 2, 2022

## POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

**National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)** – At its February meeting, the TPB approved over \$7 million in funding for eight bicycle and pedestrian projects in Northern Virginia, including several that connect to the National Capital Trail Network. The board also discussed an upcoming climate change and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction questionnaire asking members about the integration of proposed climate change elements into the *Visualize 2045* long-range transportation plan, the local transportation decision-making process, and GHG reduction strategies. In addition, the board received briefings on the draft FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), draft FY 2023 Commuter Connections Work Program, and 2022 Transit Asset Management targets.

**Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC)** – At its February meeting, MWAQC received a briefing on two initiatives that focus on limiting air pollution from the lawn and garden sectors. The board also heard the results of Clean Air Partners public awareness survey, which is conducted every three years with residents in the Baltimore-Washington region.

**Food and Agriculture Regional Member Policy Committee (FARM)** – At its February meeting, FARM received updates on the Prince George's County Food Security Task Force Report, policy developments on school meals and the Supplemental Assistance Nutrition Program (SNAP), and Capital Area Food Bank's forthcoming studies and 2022 operations. The board also heard presentations on the progress of the region's Food and Water Resilience planning efforts and the grocery supply chain.



**PODCAST: PRESSING FOR PROGRESS ON HOUSING**  
On this episode of *Think Regionally*, host Robert McCartney talks with leaders in the government, business, and non-profit sectors, including COG Board member and Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson, about innovative ways they're partnering to solve the region's housing shortage.

[Listen to the episode or read the transcript](#)

## OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**COG presentations** – In February, COG Executive Director Chuck Bean presented COG’s *Metropolitan Washington Planning Framework for 2030* to the College Park City Council, National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), and the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME), briefing them on four regional priorities shaping COG’s work.

**Racial Equity** - On February 11, COG Health Programs Manager Jenny Schitter hosted a “Deeply Rooted: History’s Lessons for Equity in Northern Virginia” webinar for the Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers.

**Commute with Confidence** – In February, COG’s Commuter Connections program launched a Facebook Live Discussion Series, hosted by Commuter Connections Director Nicholas Ramfos. In the series, Ramfos interviews guests such as TPB Chair and City of Manassas Vice Mayor Pamela Sebesky about the importance of ridesharing as employees return to their offices post-COVID and how Commuter Connections programs help address this issue.



### TPB APPROVES \$7.2M FOR BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

The eight projects located in Northern Virginia will be funded by the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program, which supports small-scale projects such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, trails, safe routes to school (SRTS) projects, and more.

[Learn more about the awarded projects](#)

[Watch the first two episodes](#)

## MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

### Current travel trends

*More than half of employees prefer mix of in-person, remote working, survey says.*

[FOX 5 – Features COG Executive Director Chuck Bean](#)

**Equity Emphasis Areas** - Local jurisdictions like Montgomery County are using COG’s regional planning concept Equity Emphasis Areas (EEAs) to guide strategic planning efforts.

*With equity officer and mandate, racial effects now embedded in legislation review*

[Bethesda Beat – References EEAs](#)

*Montgomery Co. lawmakers unanimous on the Shovel Our Sidewalks Act*

[WTOP – References EEAs](#)