



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

WebEx Virtual Meeting (provided to members only by email)

Video livestream available to public on COG website

### AGENDA

- 12:00 P.M.    1. **CALL TO ORDER**  
*Christian Dorsey, COG Board Chair*
2. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**  
*Christian Dorsey, COG Board Chair*
- 12:05 P.M.    3. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**  
*Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director*
4. **AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**  
*Christian Dorsey, COG Board Chair*
- 12:15 P.M.    5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 14, 2022**  
*Christian Dorsey, COG Board Chair*  
**Recommended Action: Approve minutes.**
6. **ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**  
*Christian Dorsey, COG Board Chair*
- A. Resolution R41-2022 - Resolution approving appointments to the COG 2023 Nominating Committee
- B. Resolution R42-2022 - Resolution approving appointments to the COG 2023 Legislative Committee
- C. Resolution R43-2022 - Resolution authorizing COG to procure and enter into a contract to provide the District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency with performance data collection and analysis for the district's emergency management strategy
- D. Resolution R44-2022 - Resolution authorizing COG to receive a grant to fund the operation of a portion of COG's Department of Homeland Security and Public Safety (DHSPS) related to improving homeland security in the National Capital Region (NCR)

Reasonable accommodations are provided upon request, including alternative formats of meeting materials.  
Visit [www.mwco.org/accommodations](http://www.mwco.org/accommodations) or call (202) 962-3300 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD).

- E. Resolution R45-2022 – Resolution authorizing COG to procure and enter into a contract for recycling and battery management campaign media consulting services
- F. Resolution R46-2022 – Resolution endorsing the 2022 contract list

**Recommended Action: Adopt Resolutions R41-2022 – R46-2022.**

**12:20 P.M. 7. FISCAL YEAR 2024 MEMBER DUES & REGIONAL FEES**

*Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director*  
*Julie Mussog, COG Chief Financial Officer*

The board will be briefed on the proposal for the Fiscal Year 2024 Member Dues and Regional Fees.

**Recommended Action: Receive briefing and adopt Resolution R47-2022.**

**12:35 P.M. 8. APPROVAL OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 & FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLAN AND BUDGET**

*Rodney Lusk, COG Secretary-Treasurer*  
*Julie Mussog, COG Chief Financial Officer*

The board will be briefed on the proposed FY 2023 Capital Expenditure Budget and Five-Year Capital Expenditure Plan.

**Recommended Action: Receive briefing and Adopt Resolution R48-2022.**

**12:45 P.M. 9. CLIMATE AND ENERGY LEADERSHIP AWARDS**

*Koran Saines, COG Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee Chair*  
*Era Pandya, COG Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee Vice Chair*

This awards program recognizes public agencies, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, and private businesses for their efforts to achieve local and regional climate and energy goals.

**Recommended Action: Receive briefing.**

**12:55 P.M. 10. UPDATE ON REGIONAL CLIMATE GOALS**

*Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director*  
*Maia Davis, COG Senior Environmental Planner*  
*Gretchen Goldman, White House Office of Science & Technology Policy Assistant Director*

The board will be briefed on ongoing efforts to meet the goals of the 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan and the status of meeting the 2020 and 2030 Green House Gas emissions goals.

**Recommended Action: Receive briefing and adopt Resolution R49-2022.**

**1:30P.M. 11. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE REGIONAL MEMBER (FARM) POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE**

*Mary Cheh, FARM Committee Chair*

*Craig Rice, FARM Committee Vice Chair*

*Jon Stehle, FARM Committee Vice Chair*

The board will be briefed on the priorities and work program of the new policy committee. This item will also include outcomes from the recent White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, and FARM advocacy efforts and federal actions and to improve food security.

**Recommended Action: Receive briefing and adopt Resolution R50-2022.**

**1:55 P.M 12. OTHER BUSINESS**

**2:00 P.M. 13. ADJOURN**

The next COG Board Meeting will take place in-person on Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 – 2:00 P.M.

**AGENDA ITEM #2**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**



## 2022 COG ANNUAL MEETING AND AWARDS PROGRAM

Join us for COG's biggest event of the year that brings together area elected officials, government executives, and business and nonprofit leaders to celebrate regional partnership, make connections, and recognize outstanding leadership. During the meeting, COG will present its three highest honors—the Scull, Kirby, and Freudberg Awards.

At the start of 2022, we unveiled *Region United: Metropolitan Washington Planning Framework for 2030* to communicate more effectively about our shared priorities and encourage new collaborative actions. Since then, we have initiated promising new housing and climate efforts. The Transportation Planning Board at COG approved a major update to the *Visualize 2045* long-range plan. And, we have continued to closely analyze economic and travel trends as we plan for the post-pandemic future. Let's take the chance to applaud this important work and look ahead to new opportunities in 2023.

## REGISTER TODAY

Wednesday, December 14  
Registration & Networking: 11:00 A.M.  
Meeting & Luncheon: 12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Marriott Marquis Washington, D.C.  
901 Massachusetts Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20002

# How the region's housing targets can support transit-oriented communities

**EQUITY** NEWS/ANALYSIS By **Ethan Goffman** (Contributor) September 30, 2022



*Silver Spring is an existing local example of a transit-oriented community. [Image](#) by Nesnad licensed under [Creative Commons](#).*

*This article is part of a limited series exploring the history, current policies, and initiatives to create equitable transit-oriented development in the region. The complete series is available [here](#).*

*Also, don't forget to [register](#) for our webinar, based on this series, coming up on October 12: "Transit-oriented development, but make it equitable: How approaches to TOD can be updated to address racial and socioeconomic disparities."*

As the Washington region decides how to build out its infrastructure and housing in the coming decade, planners have a new tool to help them chart the path — and a more nuanced philosophy that places equity as its central goal.

Over the past 30 years, there has been a growing understanding of how building around cars is unsustainable, and harms people as well as the planet. Now the [increasingly mainstream notion of transit-oriented development](#) (TOD), a framework that aims to address that car-dependency problem, is evolving to explicitly consider how to retain low-income people and others from marginalized communities, who can be pushed out of neighborhoods when investment flows in.

This idea of connectivity is central to the [Region United Framework for 2030](#), created by the planning and policy nonprofit [Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments](#) (COG). The framework envisions the Washington region's future built environment and lays out how to get there. It focuses on four areas — equity, transportation, housing, and climate — and accounts for the complex ways they interact.





*The Region United Framework for 2030 puts equity at the center of its development goals. [Image](#) by COG used with permission.*

The key update with the 2030 framework is its overarching goal to foster equity. This shift was informed by the pandemic, which brought a new understanding of the central role of front-line service workers, from food delivery to public health, COG Executive Director Chuck Bean said. While some planners advocated for including these workers before the pandemic, COVID's [disparate impact](#) threw into sharp relief the need for a holistic view of sustainability and inclusion when planning built environments.

The 2030 framework shifts from TOD to transit-oriented communities (TOC), also referred to as equitable transit-oriented development, and is premised on the idea that people of all income levels belong together in the same communities. It explicitly acknowledges that action is needed to ensure that lower-income and more marginalized people don't get priced out of their homes.

Silver Spring, Maryland, is a local example of TOC in action before the term was coined. A [2018 study](#) conducted by Stanford, Harvard and the Census Bureau showed that Silver Spring is one of "the rare neighborhoods where



Black and white boys appear to do equally well.” With its population of mixed incomes and racial and ethnic groups, as well as walkability and good access to transit, Silver Spring’s success seems to indicate a pathway to equity.



*WMATA and Ride-On buses at the Silver Spring Transit Center. [Image](#) by BeyondDC licensed under [Creative Commons](#).*

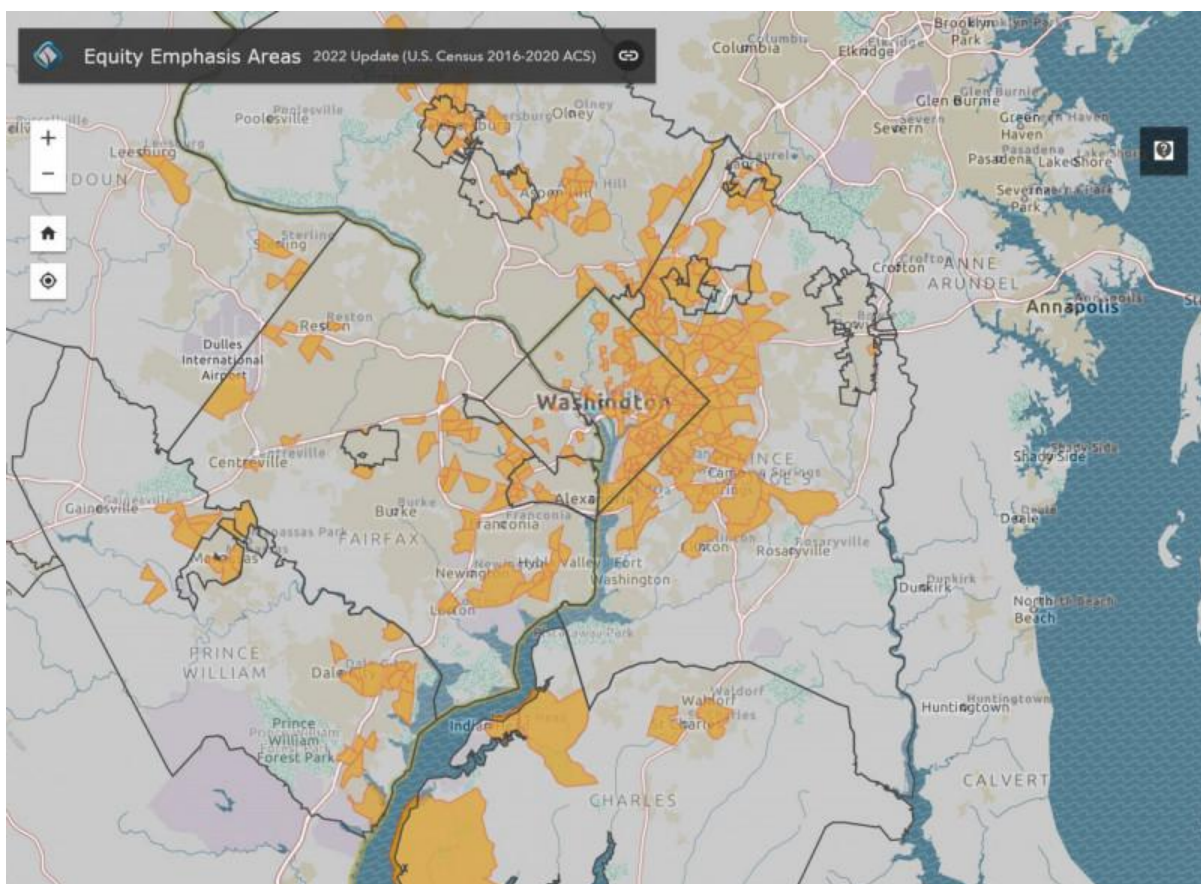
## **Equity emphasis areas are a key new tool**

So how can the region move from TOD to TOC? Housing may pose the biggest immediate challenge to fostering communities where people of all income levels can live near transit. Since the Great Recession, the Washington region, like much of the country, has not built enough housing for the rising number of residents. A [2019 COG report](#) projects a 75,000 unit shortfall in housing construction region-wide by 2030, and recommends that “at least 75% of all new housing should be in Activity Centers or near high-capacity transit.”

To encourage equitable development, [COG has established](#) a new tool called [Equity Emphasis Areas \(EEAs\)](#), which are census tracts with high

concentrations of low-income people and “traditionally disadvantaged racial and ethnic” groups. [As of 2022](#), 364 of the region’s more than 1,300 census tracts are EEAs. The regional framework targets these areas for additional transportation, housing, and climate-related support. Planning agencies will prioritize EEAs in grant programs that fund planning for housing near transit, access to transit stations, roadway safety, transit and other non-car modes of travel, and more, according to COG.

EEAs’ median household income, as shown in the 2030 framework, is only \$70,000 a year, versus a region-wide average of \$113,000. EEA residents commute heavily using public transit, 21% versus 15%. “[EEAs] occupy just 10% of the region’s land mass, but they contain 30% of the region’s population, 1.5 million people,” said Bean. That means they are prime areas for investments in affordable housing and transit.



*As of 2022, 364 of the Washington region’s more than 1,300 census tracts qualify as Equity Emphasis Areas (in orange). [Image](#) by COG used with permission.*

Another tool in the framework is the [Housing Affordability Planning Program \(HAPP\)](#), which will award flexible grants of up to \$75,000 to local governments and non-profit developers that are planning or developing housing near transit stations. COG will award a total of \$500,000 through this program.

The 2030 framework is the successor to the [2010 Region Forward](#), the first of COG's regional plans that aimed to lessen the sprawl that makes most of the U.S. dependent on car trips, according to Stewart Schwartz, Executive Director of the Coalition for Smarter Growth. One challenge in fostering TOD communities that are mixed-income — in other words, TOC — is the market reality of the value a new transit center brings.

A new station can spark “real estate speculations, where land values start increasing, property values start increasing, landlords might decide they want to upgrade their properties and raise their rents,” said Schwartz. To accommodate residents of all income levels, he stresses being proactive about including enough low-income housing for existing residents, beginning when a transit center is first planned.

The tools to help preserve and create affordable housing, as outlined [elsewhere in this series](#), are numerous. They include seed money for nonprofits to buy and renovate existing housing, a “right of first refusal” that allows low-income housing providers a chance to buy buildings, rent stabilization, inclusionary zoning that mandates a certain percentage of new units be low-income, and rezoning to allow [“missing middle”](#) housing, among others. Local funding, however, is still a critical component.





*Rendering of the future transit-oriented communities around the Largo Station on the Blue Line. Image by Prince George's County.*

While the region is spending more on affordable TOD housing than in years past, the [need still outpaces the investment](#). According to Schwartz, a large part of the problem is funding priorities — far too much is spent on highway expansion when building dense housing near transit is more sustainable, cost-effective, pleasant...the list of benefits goes on. For example, [Northern Virginia recently proposed about \\$76 billion for transportation](#) projects, at least half which involve road expansion and encourage driving, “yet it’s hard sometimes to get another \$10 million for affordable housing,” Schwartz said.

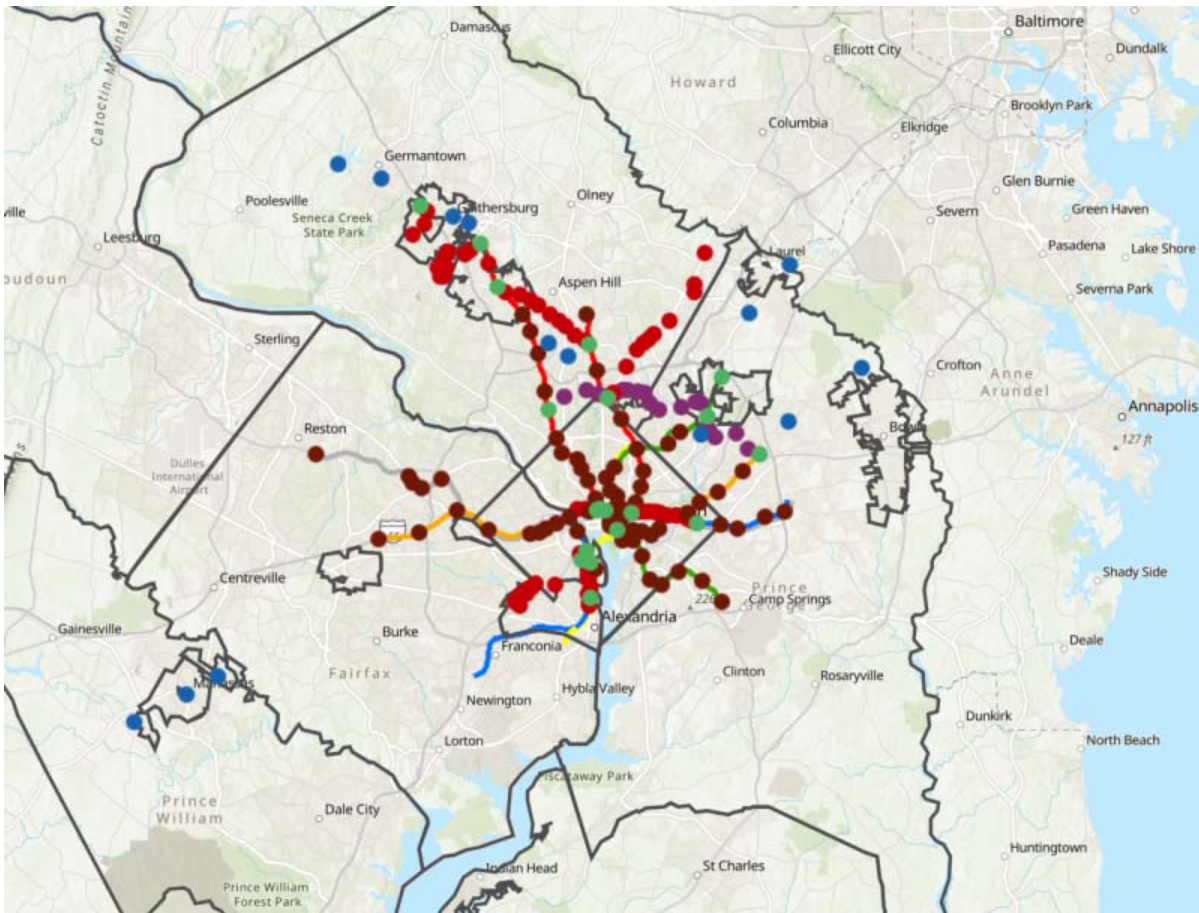
Thankfully, awareness of the region’s housing shortage has been expanding, according to Bean, and with it has come more investment. In 2019, “If I would’ve said ‘we need a corporation coming in with \$800 million in housing affordability in our region,’ it would have been total science fiction, but that’s what the [Amazon housing equity fund](#) has done,” said Bean.

## **Transit fundamental to sustainability**

Besides ensuring housing for all, the other fundamental element of fostering TOC is funding quality public transit, walkability, and rollability in order to reduce our ever-expanding reliance on automobiles. Transit links neighborhoods and jobs, leading to economic opportunity, while studies show a [lack of transit access increases poverty](#) and entrenches car-dependence.

In the future, cities won't be able to accommodate fossil-fuel-powered transportation, and energy must be supplied by the sun, wind and other renewable sources. Cars and buses must become electric, and jurisdictions need to install extensive charging infrastructure to enable that as quickly as possible. Still, transit access and walkability are at the heart of the long-term solution. Transit-oriented communities account for this reality. They "decrease auto travel and increase transit" while allowing "better building energy efficiencies," according to the 2030 framework, all of which reduces climate-change emissions.

The Washington region is well on its way: there are currently some 150 high-capacity transit stations, Bean said, largely Metro, Marc, and VRE. With the addition of Purple Line and bus rapid transit (BRT) stations, that number is projected to [increase to 225 by 2030](#). These high-capacity transit "nodes occupy just 10% of the region's land mass, but will account for 55% of the region's job growth," said Bean.



*Dots represent High Capacity Transit Station areas in the Washington region.  
 Image by COG used with permission.*

Fortunately, of the Washington region’s 364 EEAs, 214 “are close or in a high-capacity transit area,” said Bean, and the future Purple Line corridor, the [Blue Line corridor](#), and the [Richmond Highway BRT](#) have huge potential for future transit equity. Plans for these projects incorporate not just walkability and transit access, but also affordable housing.

Beyond housing and transit, TOC requires a comfortable built environment, including safe street crossings, wide sidewalks, and vegetation. Trees in particular help cool people below, and their ability to sequester greenhouse gasses makes them part of the long-term solution to climate change. Many [underserved urban communities have less tree cover](#) than wealthy ones and suffer from the [heat island effect](#), rendering them uncomfortably hot and even physically dangerous. Ensuring adequate tree coverage is yet another important component of an equitable, sustainable city.

The EEA concept can help jurisdictions identify disparities in the region in ongoing and future impacts of climate change. Bean said that modeling heat islands and mapping tree canopy and areas likely to be flooded in future years will inform regional plans to mitigate environmental disruption in as equitable and effective a way possible.

## **Local jurisdictions must step up**

Fostering such resilient, connected, and diverse communities inevitably presents a political challenge, and success is far from guaranteed. The 2030 framework does provide a blueprint to build a TOC future, but jurisdictions will need to actually implement it. Still, its existence is an important first step. Some initiatives already in the works, such as the Blue Line Corridor and Richmond Highway BRT, are moving the region closer to that reality.

“Sometimes having that regional plan provides some cover for localities to say, ‘well we should be doing that, too,’” said Bean.

Bean also sees help for local TOC projects arriving from the federal government in coming years, as funding from two recently-passed laws makes its way to states and jurisdictions. The 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provides [“up to \\$108 billion for public transportation,”](#) with a priority for projects that incorporate equity, including improved station accessibility. The 2022 Inflation Reduction Act has \$25 billion related to affordable housing, [according to the National Housing Trust](#).

“Now with once-in-a-generation federal investments from the bipartisan infrastructure law and the Inflation Reduction Act, we have unprecedented opportunities,” said Bean.

*This article is part of a limited series exploring equitable transit-oriented development, made possible with a grant from Amazon. Greater Greater Washington’s editorial department maintains editorial control and independence in accordance with our [editorial policy](#). Our journalists follow the ethics guidelines of the [Society of Professional Journalists](#).*

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# **AGENDA ITEM #3**

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** COG Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Executive Director's Report – October 2022  
**DATE:** October 5, 2022

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## POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

**National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)** – At its September meeting, the TPB received a briefing on draft 2022-2025 regional targets for highway systems performance and bridge and pavement highway asset conditions. The board also received a briefing from Federal Highway Administration staff on the U.S. DOT Safe Systems approach paradigm which builds and reinforces multiple layers of protection to prevent crashes and minimize injury to those involved when crashes occur.

**Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC)** – At its September meeting, members received an update on the 2022 ozone season, showing the region had its best three-year period (2020-2022) since COG began tracking air pollution. The committee was also briefed on COG's electric vehicle initiatives and the implications of a recent Supreme Court ruling regarding the EPA's authority to regulate greenhouse gases.

**Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)** – In September, CEEPC was briefed on several military and community resilience strategies underway in the region through the Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR) program. The committee was also briefed on COG's electric vehicle initiatives and held its first discussion on leading a Regional EV Deployment Working Group as directed by the COG Board.

**Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC)** – In September, CBPC held its 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Water Quality Forum, which is an annual opportunity for CBPC, EPA, and state representatives to meet and exchange perspectives and resources. Focus areas included the history of the Potomac's improved water quality due to long-standing partnerships, the achievement of a



**NEW OZONE DATA SHOWS STEADY IMPROVEMENT**  
The metropolitan Washington region experienced just three “code orange” unhealthy air days in 2022, a decrease from eight days in 2021, according to data collected as part of COG's ozone season summary.

[Learn more about the 2022 ozone season](#)

greater local government “voice” in the Chesapeake Bay Program, and utility perspectives on long-term planning to prepare for population growth and emerging issues.

**Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC)** – In September, local leaders from the District of Columbia, Montgomery County, and FEMA led a discussion on the response to migrants arriving in the region from southern border states, the types of support being provided, and the challenges being faced from the federal and local perspectives.

## OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**2030 Framework** – COG Executive Director Chuck Bean presented *Region United* at a Greater Washington Community Foundation event focused on regional cooperation, racial equity, and prosperity in the DMV.

**Car Free Day** – COG’s Commuter Connections promoted Car Free Day, an annual event that encourages drivers to find more eco-friendly and healthy ways to travel. Over 4,000 residents registered for this year’s event celebrated on Thursday, September 22.

**Transportation Resilience** – At the conclusion of its four-part Transportation Resiliency Planning Capacity Building webinar series, the TPB developed a [Resiliency Webinars Resource Guide](#) with key takeaways from the webinars along with related publications, websites, and program resources.

**Clean Air Partners** – On September 27, COG’s Clean Air Partners program partnered with Washington Gas to bring an eco-driving exhibit to the Nationals Ballpark. The exhibit displayed air quality messages and real tips on how to reduce mobile-source emissions and included a vehicle encased in a clear plastic bubble, trivia questions, and a selfie wall.

**Regional Homelessness Forum** – On September 30, COG hosted the second annual homelessness forum in partnership with Kaiser Permanente. COG Housing Program Manager Hilary Chapman participated in a panel discussion about operationalizing racial equity within homeless services in the region.



**REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY EFFORTS**  
A few of COG's Food and Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Policy Committee members along with other area food leaders attended the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health on September 28.

## **MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**

**2030 Planning Framework** – *How the region's housing targets can support transit-oriented communities*

[Greater Greater Washington](#) – Quotes COG Executive Director Chuck Bean.

**WMATA General Manager briefs COG Board** – *Metro GM Wants Transit Agency to Be 'Boring'*

[NBC 4](#) – WMATA GM Randy Clarke shares Metro's plans and priorities.

**2022 State of the Commute survey results** - *Changing commuting habits doesn't mean traffic is getting better in the DMV*

[ABC 7](#) – Quotes COG Transportation Operations Programs Director Nicholas Ramfos.

**Regional water supply resilience** - *DC area could be moving closer to secondary water supply*

[WTOP](#) – Covers water panel from September COG Board meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM #4**

**AMENDMENTS TO THE  
AGENDA**

## **AGENDA ITEM #5**

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
777 North Capitol Street, NE  
Washington, D.C. 20002

**MINUTES**  
**COG Board of Directors Meeting**  
**September 14, 2022**

**BOARD MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES:** See attached chart for attendance.

**SPEAKERS:**

Jeffrey King, COG Climate, Energy, and Air Programs Director  
Randy Clarke, WMATA General Manager and CEO  
Paul Smedberg, WMATA Board of Directors Chair  
Greg Emanuel, Arlington County Department of Environmental Services Director  
Jamie Bain Hedges, Fairfax Water General Manager  
Tom Hilton, WSSC Water Planning Division Leader  
Lisa Ragain, COG Water Resources Principal Planner

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

COG Board Chair Christian Dorsey called the meeting to order at 12:02 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

COG Board Chair Christian Dorsey encouraged the board to register for COG's 2022 Annual Meeting and nominate a peer to receive one of COG's awards. He also updated the board on the activities of the Executive Director Search Committee.

**3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

COG Executive Director Chuck Bean briefed the board on recent activities related to the *Region United: Metropolitan Planning Framework for 2030* including presentations to the City of Alexandria, Frederick County, Prince William County, and the City of Rockville. He also informed the board of an update to COG's Equity Emphasis Areas map tool and announced the release of COG's 2022 *State of the Commute* survey. Lastly, Bean highlighted the Food & Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Policy Committee's agriculture tour in partnership with Montgomery County where local officials and area food leaders explored the county's agricultural reserve.

**4. AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

COG Board Chair Christian Dorsey made an amendment to the agenda to change the order of the agenda items to accommodate the availability of one of the speakers.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the July 30, 2022 board meeting were approved.

**6. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

- A. Resolution R36-2022 – Resolution authorizing COG to receive a grant from the Federal Transit Administration for its Enhancing Mobility Innovation program
- B. Resolution R37-2022 – Resolution authorizing COG to procure and enter into a contract for regional water resilience advocacy and public affairs services
- C. Resolution R38-2022 – Resolution endorsing the removal of debriefs from the COG Procurement Policy



**ACTION: Approved Resolutions R36-2022 – R38-2022.**

**7. REGIONAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE DEPLOYMENT**

COG Executive Director Chuck Bean and Climate, Energy, and Air Programs Director Jeffrey King briefed the board on next steps to advance the regional electric vehicle deployment efforts and proposed a resolution developing a regional EV Deployment Clearinghouse and creating a Regional EV Deployment Working Group.

**ACTION: Approved Resolution R40-2022.**

**8. WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY GENERAL MANAGER/CEO INTRODUCTION AND PRIORITIES**

WMATA CEO and General Manager Randy Clarke and WMATA Board Chair Paul Smedberg briefed the board on the current priorities and future plans for Metro.

**ACTION: Received briefing.**

**9. EFFORTS TO INCREASE WATER SUPPLY RESILIENCE IN THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON REGION**

Arlington County Department of Environmental Services Director Greg Emanuel, Fairfax Water General Manager Jamie Bain Hedges, WSSC Water Planning Division Leader Tom Hilton, and COG Water Resources Principal Planner Lisa Ragain briefed the board on collaborative efforts by water utilities and local governments to improve the resiliency of the region’s water supply. The group shared a resolution to support a feasibility study for the region as part of the 2022 Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA).

**ACTION: Approved Resolution R39-2022.**

**10. OTHER BUSINESS**

**11. ADJOURN**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 P.M.

**September 14, 2022 Attendance**

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Y/N</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Y/N</u>
<b><i>District of Columbia</i></b>				
<b>Executive</b>	Hon. Muriel Bowser		Ms. Beverly Perry Mr. Wayne Turnage Ms. Lucinda Babers	Y
	Mr. Kevin Donahue		Eugene Kinlow	Y
<b>Council</b>	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y		
	<b><i>Hon. Charles Allen</i></b>	Y		
<b><i>Maryland</i></b>				
Bowie	Hon. Tim Adams			
Charles County	Hon. Reuben Collins	Y	Thomasina Coates Gilbert Bowling	
City of Frederick	Hon. Michael O'Connor			
Frederick County	Hon. Jan Gardner		Ms. Joy Schaefer	V
College Park	Hon. Denise Mitchell	Y	Hon. Patrick Wojahn	
Gaithersburg	Hon. Robert Wu	V	Hon. Neil Harris	
Greenbelt	Hon. Emmett Jordan	Y	Hon. Kristen Weaver	
Laurel	Hon. Craig Moe		Hon. Keith Sydnor	
Montgomery County				
<b>Executive</b>	Hon. Marc Elrich	Y	Mr. Richard Madaleno Ms. Fariba Kassiri	
<b>Council</b>	Hon. Tom Hucker	V	Mr. Gene Smith	
	Hon. Nancy Navarro			
Prince George's County				
<b>Executive</b>	Hon. Angela Alsobrooks		Ms. Tara Jackson	
<b>Council</b>	Hon. Calvin Hawkins			
	Hon. Sydney Harrison			
Rockville	Hon. Bridget Donnell Newton	Y		
Takoma Park	<b><i>Hon. Kate Stewart</i></b>	Y	Hon. Peter Kovar	
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. Brian Feldman			
<b><i>Virginia</i></b>				
Alexandria	Hon. Justin Wilson	Y	Hon. Kirk McPike	
Arlington County	<b><i>Hon. Christian Dorsey</i></b>	Y		
City of Fairfax	Hon. David Meyer	Y	Hon. Janice Miller	
Fairfax County	Hon. Jeff McKay		Hon. James Walkinshaw	
	Hon. Penelope Gross	Y	Hon. Daniel Storck	
	Hon. Rodney Lusk	Y	Hon. Walter Alcorn	
Falls Church	Hon. David Snyder	Y	Hon. David Tarter	
Loudoun County	Hon. Juli Briskman	Y		
Loudoun County	Hon. Phyllis Randall			
Manassas	Hon. Mark Wolfe	Y		
Manassas Park	Hon. Darryl Moore	V		
Prince William County	Hon. Ann Wheeler	Y		
	Hon. Andrea Bailey	Y		
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. George Barker			

10/5/2022 2:44 PM

Total Voting Present: 24

Y = present, voting

P = present as alternate in addition to primary

# **AGENDA ITEM #6**

## **ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS  
October 2022**

**A. RESOLUTION APPROVING APPOINTMENTS TO THE COG 2023 NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R41-2022 approving the appointments to the 2023 Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is appointed annually with the task of nominating the three members of the executive committee of the Board of Directors and the four corporate officers. The Nominating Committee is comprised of seven members, balanced geographically among the District of Columbia, the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and chaired by the current COG Board Chairman. If a member of the appointed Nominating Committee is unable to serve throughout the tenure of the committee, the COG Board Chairman will appoint an alternate member. Recommended individuals to serve on the 2023 Nominating Committee are as follows: Christian Dorsey, Arlington County (Committee Chair), Phil Mendelson, District of Columbia, Denise Mitchell, City of College Park, Darryl Moore, City of Manassas Park, Bridget Newton, City of Rockville, Beverly Perry, District of Columbia, and Justin Wilson, City of Alexandria.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R41-2022.**

**B. RESOLUTION APPROVING APPOINTMENTS TO THE COG 2023 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R42-2022 authorizing the appointments to the 2023 Legislative Committee. The Legislative Committee is appointed annually with the task of reviewing and proposing an advocacy platform that outlines the region's federal and state policy priorities for the calendar year. The Legislative Committee is comprised of individuals from each of COG's policy committees and boards. Recommended individuals to serve on the 2023 Legislative Committee are as follows: Kate Stewart, COG Board of Directors (Committee Chair), Reuben Collins, Transportation Planning Board, Anita Bonds, Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee, Patrick Wojahn, Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee, Maria Mackie, Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Committee, Calvin Hawkins, Human Services Policy Committee, Penelope Gross, Region Forward Coalition, Jon Stehle, Food and Agriculture Regional Member Policy Committee.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R42-2022.**

**C. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO PROCURE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PROVIDE THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY WITH PERFORMANCE DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS FOR THE DISTRICT'S EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R43-2022 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend \$277,168 for the purpose of providing the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) with support for its Performance and Data Analysis (PANDA) program. As the Secretariat for the Urban Area Security Initiative for the National Capital Region, COG has been requested by DC HSEMA to procure a contractor(s) to support the PANDA team in establishing the processes to collect and analyze data and performance metrics on the implementation of the District's emergency management strategy. Funding for this effort will be provided through a subgrant from the State Administrative Agent (SAA) for the National Capital Region. No COG matching funds are required.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R43-2022.**

**D. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO RECEIVE A GRANT TO FUND THE OPERATION OF A PORTION OF COG'S DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY (DHSPS) RELATED TO IMPROVING HOMELAND SECURITY IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (NCR)**

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R44-2022 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend grant funds from DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) in the amount of \$1,558,501 for October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023. The project will support the region's homeland security program and provide decision-makers with the tools needed to make decisions regarding emergency prevention, preparedness, and response. Within this project period, COG will coordinate the FY2023 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) process, support the Regional Emergency Support Functions, Regional Programmatic Working Groups, and other relevant committees, conduct research and analysis to develop decision-support materials, and continue to support the Homeland Security Executive Committee (HSEC) and HSEC Advisory Council. No COG matching funds are required.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R44-2022.**

**E. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO PROCURE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR RECYCLING AND BATTERY MANAGEMENT CAMPAIGN MEDIA CONSULTING SERVICES**

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R45-2022 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to expend COG funds from the Department of Environmental Programs in the amount of \$74,000. The resolution also authorizes the Executive Director, or his designee, to proceed with renewal of an existing contract to develop and implement a regional recycling and battery management education marketing program and to assist with procuring sponsors in the metropolitan Washington region. Funding for this effort is available in the budget of the Department of Environmental Programs.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R45-2022.**

**F. RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF THE 2022 COG CONTRACT LIST**

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R46-2022 acknowledging receipt of the 2022 list of COG contracts (attached). As stated in the COG Procurement Policy, an annual list of contracts shall be delivered to the COG Board of Directors.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R46-2022.**



**Contract List**

**October 2021 - September 2022**

Date of Contract	Contract #	Project	Vendor	Amount	Note
10/7/2021	22-025	Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA)	ARC of Prince William County. Insight, Inc.	\$ 80,000	
10/27/2021	22-004	Phase 1 - The Laboratory Incubation Research Portion of a Phosphorus Biosolids Study	The University of Maryland	\$ 69,994	
11/1/2021	22-028	The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)	Boat People SOS	\$ 100,000	
11/4/2021	22-032	The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)	New Horizons, Inc.	\$ 69,360	
11/8/2021	22-031	The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)	Liberty Transportation Assoc	\$ 143,370	
11/8/2021	22-029	The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)	Dulles Area Transportation	\$ 30,640	
11/8/2021	22-030	The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)	EASTER SEALS SERVING DC MD VA	\$ 188,856	
12/3/2021	22-033G	DOEE Storm Water Site Maintenance Program	DC DOEE and Stormwater Maintenance, LLC	\$ 4,500,000	
12/17/2021	22-027	Montgomery County - Electric Vehicle Purchasing Corporation (EVPC) - Phase 1	The Electrification Coalition Foundation	\$ 29,900	
12/28/2021	22-026	CRRSAA Enhanced Mobility	Regency Taxi	\$ 75,000	
1/6/2022	22-037	IT Staff Augmentation Services	American Unit Inc.		
1/6/2022	22-038	IT Staff Augmentation Services	Beacon Systems, Inc.		
1/6/2022	22-039	IT Staff Augmentation Services	BuzzClan LLC		
1/6/2022	22-040	IT Staff Augmentation Services	California Creative Solutions Inc.		
1/6/2022	22-042	IT Staff Augmentation Services	Client Software Services, LLC (CSS)		
1/6/2022	22-043	IT Staff Augmentation Services	Cogent Infotech		
1/6/2022	22-046	IT Staff Augmentation Services	Hosted Records Inc.		
1/6/2022	22-048	IT Staff Augmentation Services	OST Inc.		
1/6/2022	22-041	IT Staff Augmentation Services	Cambay Consulting LLC		
1/6/2022	22-051	IT Staff Augmentation Services	V Group, Inc.		
1/6/2022	22-050	IT Staff Augmentation Services	Tryfacta Inc.		
1/6/2022	22-049	IT Staff Augmentation Services	Sparks Personnel Services Inc.		
1/6/2022	22-036	IT Staff Augmentation Services	Aita Consulting Services, Inc.		

1/27/2022	22-034	Diesel Fuel Reverse Auction for MAPT	ebridge Business Solutions, LLC		
2/7/2022	22-035A	Rail Operations Control Center (ROCC ) Fire	Graydon Dupree		\$60/hour   not ro exceed \$124,000
2/7/2022	22-035B	Rail Operations Control Center (ROCC ) Fire Liaison Services	Chet Helms		\$60/hour   not ro exceed \$124,000
2/7/2022	22-035C	Rail Operations Control Center (ROCC ) Fire	Daniel Poust		\$60/hour   not ro exceed \$124,000
2/7/2022	22-035D	Rail Operations Control Center (ROCC ) Fire	Charles Stewart		\$60/hour   not ro exceed \$124,000
2/7/2022	22-035E	Rail Operations Control Center (ROCC ) Fire	Marcus William		\$60/hour   not ro exceed \$124,000
2/7/2022	22-035F	Rail Operations Control Center (ROCC ) Fire	Jeffrey Woolsey		\$60/hour   not ro exceed \$124,000
2/14/2022	22-053	License Plate Reader Program Coordinator - Contractor Agreement	James Manning	\$ 266,199	
3/1/2022	22-055	Maintain and further develop its educational program for Clean Air Partners	Sarah M. Shpak	\$ 60,000	
3/11/2022	22-054	GARE	Race Forward	\$ 15,000	
4/8/2022	22-059	IT Consultant Agreement	Robert Francois	\$ 10,000	not to exceed
4/27/2022	22-056	Radio Capacity and Capabilities Study in the National Capital Region	Mission Critical Partners	\$ 192,586	
4/27/2022	22-057	Telecommunications Project - Phase 1	Mission Critical Partners	\$ 162,277	
5/10/2022	22-058	Training Cources for Special Weapons and Tactics	Specdive LLC	\$ 41,425	
5/16/2022	22-063	Water Resiliency Regional Funding	Banner Public Affairs, LLC	\$ 8,000	
6/13/2022	22-064	Infotrak Software Subscription and Services	EcolInteractive, LLC	\$ 260,663	
7/22/2022	22-067	Hosting and Maintenance of MWCOG Website	American Eagle	\$ 69,288	not to exceed
8/1/2022	22-018	DMV Transportation Podcast	Robert McCartney	\$ 15,000	
8/12/2022	22-060	Summary and Insight of data for jurisdictions	Washington Regional Alcohol Program	\$ 15,000	
8/12/2022	22-062	2022 Annual Crime Report	TSG Strategies LLC	\$ 8,000	
8/12/2022	22-061	Metropolitan Washington Council of	TSG Strategies LLC	\$ 6,000	
	22-033G	DOEE Storm Water Site Maintenance Program	DC DOEE and Stormwater Maintenance, LLC	\$ 4,500,000	



# **AGENDA ITEM #7**

## **FISCAL YEAR 2024 MEMBER DUES & REGIONAL FEES**

# FY2024 MEMBER DUES AND REGIONAL FEES

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## Accelerating Action on Planning Priorities

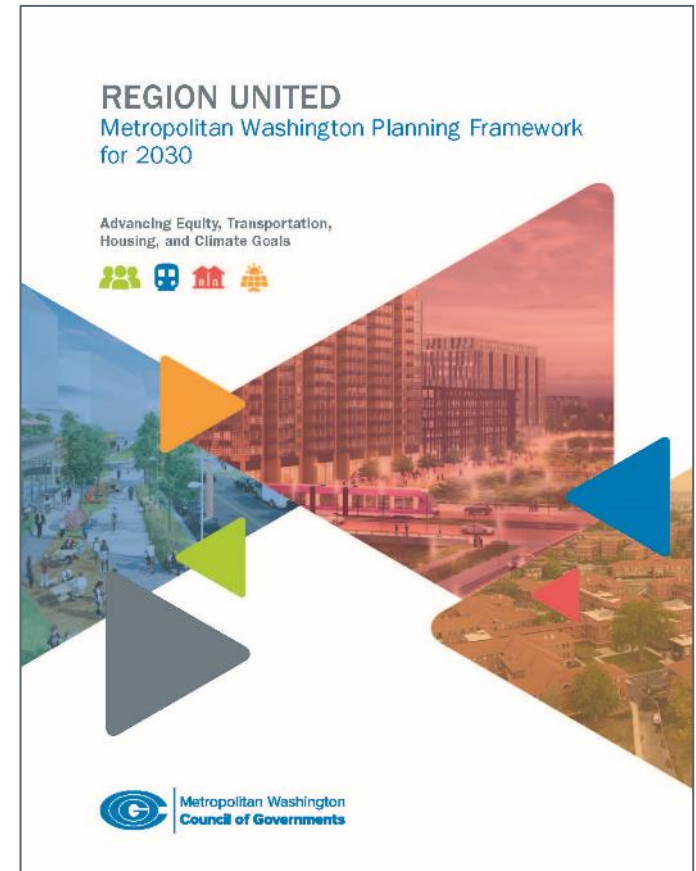
COG Board of Directors  
October 12, 2022



Metropolitan Washington  
Council of Governments

# COG's Planning Priorities

- Guided by its **Region Forward Vision**, COG continually strives for a more prosperous, accessible, livable, and sustainable future for all residents.
- COG has also affirmed **racial equity** as a fundamental value, which is being woven throughout COG's work.
- To advance its vision for the future, COG is helping its member governments turn their shared equity, transportation, housing, and climate goals into action through **Region United**, a comprehensive new planning framework for 2030, as well as its longstanding planning areas.



# Year-Round Member Benefits

- Monthly meetings where members and subject matter experts **make connections** and **develop consensus** on issues to improve the region's quality of life.
- Access to COG research, publications, data, and planning documents.
- Consultation with COG staff and contacts, primed to help members think regionally and act locally.
- Ongoing participation in local and regional forums, conferences, and a voice in shaping regional priorities and actions.



**COG Board of Directors Leadership: Chair Christian Dorsey (Arlington County); Vice Chairs Kate Stewart (City of Takoma Park) and Charles Allen (District of Columbia).**

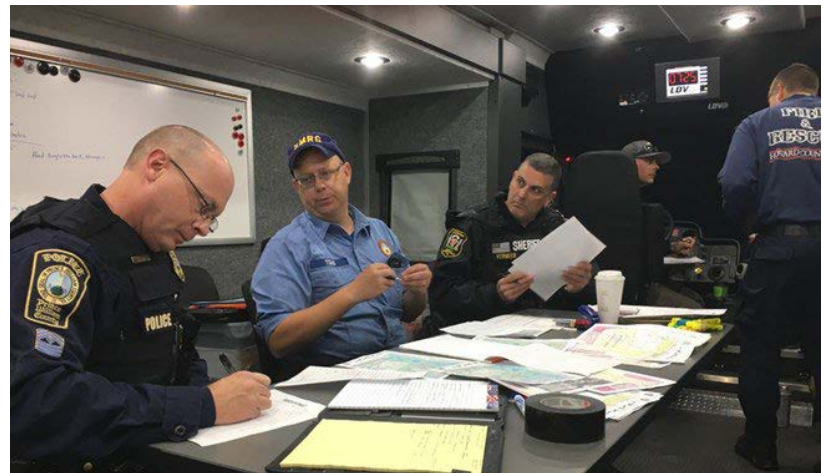
# Member Savings

COG harnesses the purchasing power of member jurisdictions to save them time and money.

- Fuel contracts leverage 40+ million gallons of buying power annually.
- Road salt contracts leverage over 100,000 tons of buying power annually.

COG continually seeks out cooperative purchasing opportunities for members, like these contracts:

- Procurement of self-contained breathing apparatus for fire departments; public safety radios for police and fire departments; bottled water for local schools; procurement of planning contracts and health and wellness training for police, fire, and health departments.



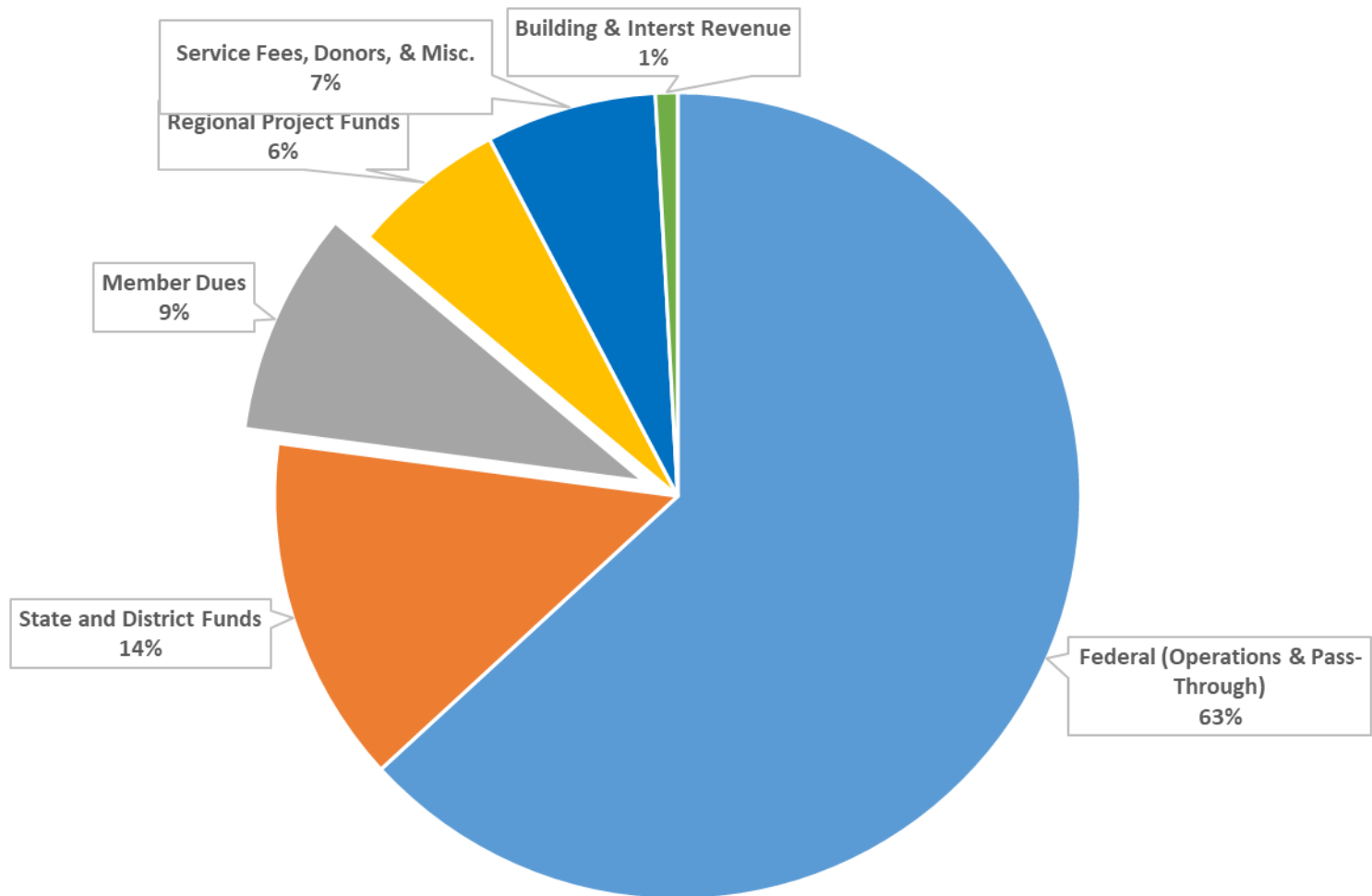
# Forum for Regional Collaboration

Every month, more than 1,500 officials and experts connect through COG to **develop solutions** to the region's major challenges and **plan for the future** through various committees and work groups, including:

- Elected Officials
- City and County Managers
- Transportation Planners
- Air Quality/Climate and Energy Officials
- Water and Wastewater Utility Leaders
- Police and Fire Chiefs
- Chief Equity Officers
- Housing and Planning Directors
- Public Health Officials
- Human Services Directors
- Food Security and Agriculture Leaders
- Emergency Managers and 9-1-1 Directors
- Chief Purchasing Officers
- Information Technology Directors



# Member Dues Provide 9% of Total COG Resources





# Proposed Assessment Rate Increase for FY2024

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The proposed assessment rate for FY2024 is increased by two cents from the FY2023 rate.

**COG Proposed Assessment Rate  
Increase of \$0.02 (2.53%) from \$0.79 to \$0.81**



# Proposed FY2024 Member Dues

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The proposed FY2024 member dues increase is based on a forecast of general operating expenses and estimated changes in revenue and federal match requirements. Note that all jurisdictions are capped at a no more than 8% year over year increase in dues.

## **COG Member Dues**

**Increase of \$197,609 (4.05%), from \$4,884,782 to \$5,082,391**

**Basis for the increase:** Increase in required match for federal programs, and general cost increases.

A table with the dues amount for each jurisdiction is included in the Appendix.

# Regional Water and Environmental Funds



# FY2024 Fee Structure: Regional Water and Environmental Funds

The fee increases for FY2024 are based on a forecast of general operating expenses and estimated changes in revenue and matching requirements for sponsor funds.

## Regional Water Fund

Increase of \$66,937 (4.05%), from \$1,651,443 to \$1,718,379

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## Regional Environmental Fund

Increase of \$32,466 (4.05%), from \$800,774 to \$833,242

### Basis for increases:

- Regional fees are increased in proportion to the annual dues increase, to maintain the balance between funding sources.

A table with the fees for each jurisdiction is included in the Appendix.



# Regional Public Safety Fund



# Regional Public Safety Fund

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The Regional Public Safety Fund was created to provide a sustainable solution for the region to support its long-term public safety needs.

The fee increases for FY2024 are based on a forecast of general operating expenses.

## **Regional Public Safety Fund**

**Increase of \$23,201 (4.05%), from \$573,321 to \$596,522**

### **Basis for increases:**

- Regional fees are increased in proportion to the annual dues increase.

A table with the fees for each jurisdiction is included in the Appendix.



# Food & Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Fund



# Food & Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Fund

The Food & Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Fund was created in FY2023 to address food insecurity issues for the region.

The fee is based on a forecast of the program requirements.

**Food & Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Fund  
Increase of \$13,177 (4.05%), from \$325,602 to \$338,779**

## **Basis for increases:**

- Regional fees are increased in proportion to the annual dues increase.

A table with the fees for each jurisdiction is included in the Appendix.





# Appendix

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- Member Dues by Jurisdiction
- Regional Fund Fees by Jurisdiction

# Member Dues by Jurisdiction

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments				FY2023 Assessment Rate:	0.790	Increase of
PROPOSED FY2024 Schedule of Membership Dues				FY2024 Assessment Rate:	0.810	2.53%
	POPULATION FIGURES			DUES AMOUNT		
	FY2023	FY2024		FY2024	FY2024	FY2024
	Population	Population	Compare	Adjusted	Increase	Percent
Jurisdiction	Estimate	Estimate	to FY2023	Contribution (1)	(Decrease)	Increase
Alexandria, City of	179,100	167,700	-6.37%	\$ 135,837	\$ 1,953	1.46%
Arlington County	242,800	245,600	1.15%	\$ 198,936	\$ 7,124	3.71%
Bladensburg, Town of (adj)	9,600	9,600	0.00%	\$ 3,888	\$ 96	2.53%
Bowie, City of	61,000	61,000	0.00%	\$ 49,410	\$ 1,220	2.53%
Charles County	173,800	176,000	1.27%	\$ 142,560	\$ 5,258	3.83%
College Park, City of	32,200	32,200	0.00%	\$ 26,082	\$ 644	2.53%
District of Columbia	764,000	775,500	1.51%	\$ 628,155	\$ 34,370	5.79%
Fairfax County	1,193,600	1,200,700	0.59%	\$ 972,567	\$ 29,623	3.14%
Fairfax, City of	27,800	28,500	2.52%	\$ 23,085	\$ 1,123	5.11%
Falls Church, City of	17,200	17,800	3.49%	\$ 13,080	\$ 969	8.00%
Frederick County	276,100	280,200	1.48%	\$ 188,184	\$ 13,940	8.00%
Frederick, City of	75,900	76,700	1.05%	\$ 62,127	\$ 2,166	3.61%
Gaithersburg, City of	73,000	73,800	1.10%	\$ 59,778	\$ 2,108	3.66%
Greenbelt, City of	23,900	23,900	0.00%	\$ 19,359	\$ 478	2.53%
Hyattsville, City of (adj)	22,100	22,100	0.00%	\$ 8,951	\$ 599	7.17%
Laurel, City of	25,700	25,700	0.00%	\$ 20,817	\$ 514	2.53%
Loudoun County	449,300	458,100	1.96%	\$ 366,794	\$ 27,170	8.00%
Manassas Park, City of	17,800	17,800	0.00%	\$ 14,418	\$ 356	2.53%
Manassas, City of	44,200	44,700	1.13%	\$ 36,207	\$ 1,289	3.69%
Montgomery County	1,073,200	1,080,200	0.65%	\$ 874,962	\$ 27,134	3.20%
Prince George's County	932,100	935,000	0.31%	\$ 757,350	\$ 20,991	2.85%
Prince William County	489,900	497,100	1.47%	\$ 402,651	\$ 15,630	4.04%
Rockville, City of	75,800	77,000	1.58%	\$ 62,370	\$ 2,488	4.15%
Takoma Park, City of	18,300	18,300	0.00%	\$ 14,823	\$ 366	2.53%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6,298,400</b>	<b>6,345,200</b>	<b>0.74%</b>	<b>\$ 5,082,391</b>	<b>\$ 197,609</b>	<b>4.05%</b>

(1) Adjusted Contribution is calculated by multiplying the adjusted population by the approved rate, limited to 8% annual increase per jurisdiction.

# Regional Fund Fees by Jurisdiction/Utility

Change from FY23

FY2024 REGIONAL FUNDS Proposed Fee Schedule by Jurisdiction	Regional Water Fund (1)	Regional Environmental Fund	Regional Public Safety Fund (2)	Regional FARM Fund (3)	Total Regional Funds	Regional Water Fund	Regional Environmental Fund	Regional Public Safety Fund	Regional FARM Fund	Total Regional Funds
Alexandria, City of	33,890	24,559	18,264	13,651	90,363	625	598	959	(368)	1,813
Arlington County	49,632	35,967	26,748	19,992	132,339	2,127	1,381	1,112	987	5,607
Bladensburg, City of	-	-	-	2,601	2,601	-	-	-	101	101
Bowie, City of	12,327	8,816	-	4,965	26,109	392	241	-	190	824
Charles County	-	-	-	14,326	14,326	-	-	-	722	722
College Park, City of (WSSC)	6,507	4,716	-	2,601	13,824	207	129	-	101	437
District of Columbia (DC Water)	343,745	113,568	79,856	36,418	573,587	13,030	7,302	3,108	1,418	24,858
Fairfax County	343,745	175,837	130,767	36,418	686,766	13,030	5,811	4,740	1,418	24,998
Fairfax, City of	5,759	4,174	-	2,601	12,534	320	214	-	101	635
Falls Church, City of	3,250	2,341	-	2,601	8,192	241	173	-	101	515
Frederick County	-	-	-	22,808	22,808	-	-	-	1,197	1,197
Frederick, City of	-	-	-	6,243	6,243	-	-	-	302	302
Gaithersburg, City of (WSSC)	14,914	10,808	-	6,007	31,729	631	409	-	293	1,333
Greenbelt, City of (WSSC)	4,830	3,500	5,795	2,601	16,726	154	95	226	101	576
Hyattsville, City of	-	-	-	2,601	2,601	-	-	-	101	101
Laurel, City of	-	-	-	2,601	2,601	-	-	-	101	101
Loudoun County (Loudoun Water)	92,575	67,087	49,891	36,418	245,970	4,667	3,085	2,451	1,418	11,620
Manassas, City of	-	-	5,795	2,601	8,396	-	-	226	101	327
Manassas Park, City of	-	-	-	2,601	2,601	-	-	-	101	101
Montgomery County (WSSC)	343,745	158,190	117,643	36,418	655,996	13,030	5,315	4,328	1,418	24,091
Prince George's County (WSSC)	343,745	136,926	101,830	36,418	618,919	13,030	4,150	3,413	1,418	22,011
Prince William County	100,456	72,798	54,139	36,418	263,810	4,605	3,013	2,413	1,418	11,448
Rockville, City of	15,560	11,276	-	6,268	33,105	729	478	-	335	1,543
Takoma Park, City of (WSSC)	3,698	2,680	5,795	2,601	14,774	118	73	226	101	518
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,718,379</b>	<b>833,242</b>	<b>596,522</b>	<b>338,779</b>	<b>3,486,922</b>	<b>66,937</b>	<b>32,466</b>	<b>23,201</b>	<b>13,177</b>	<b>135,781</b>

(1) Where indicated, water and sewer utilities support the Regional Water Fund on behalf of the local jurisdiction.

(2) Additional jurisdictions may opt into the Regional Public Safety Fund before the start of FY2024.

(3) New fund in FY2023.

## **Chuck Bean**

COG Executive Director

[cbean@mwkog.org](mailto:cbean@mwkog.org)

## **Julie Mussog**

COG Chief Financial Officer

(202) 962-3362

[jmussog@mwkog.org](mailto:jmussog@mwkog.org)

**mwkog.org**

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777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20002

Resolution R47-2022  
October 12, 2022

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 COG MEMBER DUES AND REGIONAL FEE  
ASSESSMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, COG bylaws require that assessment of the annual fee for all members and other participating governments and agencies be fixed no later than January 31 for the subsequent fiscal year beginning July 1; and

**WHEREAS**, the Budget and Finance Committee comprised of the COG Board executive committee, the chairs of the Transportation Planning Board and the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee, and the COG Secretary-Treasurer and Corporate President, reviewed and approved the proposed FY2024 COG member dues and regional fees.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:**

The board approves the proposed FY2024 member fee assessment and corresponding regional fund fees, as recommended by the Budget and Finance Committee. The board directs the Executive Director, or his designee to transmit the approved assessments to member jurisdictions to be integrated into local government FY2024 budgets.

# **AGENDA ITEM #8**

## **APPROVAL OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 & FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLAN AND BUDGET**



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** COG Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Julie Mussog, COG Chief Financial Officer  
**SUBJECT:** FY2023-27 COG Capital Plan  
**DATE:** October 5, 2022

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On September 29, 2022 COG presented the 5-year capital plan to the Budget & Finance Committee for approval of current year capital expenditures, and a preview of expected expenditures for the next four years. COG has a Board-designated Capital Expenditure Reserve that is used for the purchase of long-term assets. It is replenished over time through the allocation of depreciation expense to COG's various funding sources.

The FY2023 – FY2027 capital plan proposes expenditures in FY2023 of \$525,000 and a total of \$5.0 million in expenditures over the next five years, \$3.6 million of which is for the office remodel. The Budget and Finance Committee approved moving the FY2023-27 Capital Plan to the Board for full approval.

Approval of the Plan authorizes expenditure of \$525,000 in FY2023 for the assets described on page 4 of the Plan. The expenses noted in FY2024 – FY2027 are presented for planning purposes only. These expenditures will be reviewed, modified, and presented to the Budget and Finance Committee and Board of Directors in subsequent fiscal years for final approval.

As always, I am pleased to answer any question or provide additional information.

# PROPOSED FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLAN

FY2023 – FY2027

October 2022



Metropolitan Washington  
**Council of Governments**



## **PROPOSED FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLAN FY2023 - 2027**

October 2022

### **ABOUT COG**

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is an independent, nonprofit association that brings area leaders together to address major regional issues in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia. COG's membership is comprised of 300 elected officials from 24 local governments, the Maryland and Virginia state legislatures, and U.S. Congress.

### **ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY**

Alternative formats of this document are available upon request. Visit [www.mwcog.org/accommodations](http://www.mwcog.org/accommodations) or call (202) 962-3300 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD).

### **TITLE VI NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY**

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) operates its programs without regard to race, color, and national origin and fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations prohibiting discrimination in all programs and activities. For more information, to file a Title VI related complaint, or to obtain information in another language, visit [www.mwcog.org/nondiscrimination](http://www.mwcog.org/nondiscrimination) or call (202) 962-3300.

El Consejo de Gobiernos del Área Metropolitana de Washington (COG) opera sus programas sin tener en cuenta la raza, el color, y el origen nacional y cumple con el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964 y los estatutos y reglamentos relacionados que prohíben la discriminación en todos los programas y actividades. Para más información, presentar una queja relacionada con el Título VI, u obtener información en otro idioma, visite [www.mwcog.org/nondiscrimination](http://www.mwcog.org/nondiscrimination) o llame al (202) 962-3300.

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# SUMMARY NARRATIVE

## Introduction

Board Resolution R25-2016 established a Board-Designated Capital Expenditure Reserve to ensure adequate resources for replacement and maintenance of COG's capital assets. Use of the reserve requires approval by the Board of Directors, based on an annual Five-Year Capital Expenditure Plan submitted by the Executive Director through the Budget and Finance Committee.

Approval of the Five-Year Capital Expenditure Plan for FY2023 – FY2027 will authorize use of the Board-Designated Capital Expenditure Reserve for the FY2023 expenditures outlined in the Plan. Expenditures outlined in FY2024 – FY2027 are subject to further review, modification, and approval by the Board of Directors when subsequent plans are presented.

## Definition of Capital Expenditure

COG's administrative policies define a capital expenditure as a tangible or intangible asset that can be capitalized in accordance with applicable accounting principles, with a cost of \$5,000 or more, and a useful life of more than one year. COG has two major categories of capital expenditures:

1. Equipment, Software, Data Center, and Website
2. Leasehold Improvements

## Five-Year Capital Expenditure Plan FY2023 – FY2027

The Five-Year Capital Expenditure Plan is based on repair, maintenance, and replacement schedules developed with the following goals:

- Maintain equipment, software, and technology solutions to adequately support program and administrative needs
- Maintain COG's website as a source of information for stakeholders
- Maintain existing office and meeting space to ensure usefulness and maintain value
- Prevent a backlog of deferred maintenance
- Minimize the fluctuation of annual depreciation expense in the Work Program and Budget
- Ensure adequate cash resources for both capital expenditures and operations

Proposed expenditures over the five fiscal years presented in the plan total \$5.0 million. The main expenditure will be remodel and buildout of office and meeting room space, IT upgrades, and an update of COG's website.

# Changes to Previously Approved Capital Expenditures

## OFFICE SPACE REMODEL

The board previously approved a design and construction budget of \$7.3 million to remodel COG's office and meeting room space. This remodel project was suspended in April 2019 to enable the exploration of sale of the building in collaboration with the two other owner organizations with whom COG is a joint owner, and for COG to assess office space alternatives. In January 2020 the board approved the decision not to sell the building and for COG to move forward with the remodel. As of June 30, 2022, approximately \$708,000 has been expended on design, project planning, and administration. The capital expenditures were left in construction in progress as a significant portion of the capital expenditures made to date on the remodel are transferable to a future remodel of existing space.

Based on a review of COG's finances, the current circumstances where telework will likely become more the norm and the uncertainty around what will be recommended best practices for office redesign in a post COVID environment COG is pausing the remodel process until FY2025 and proposing a substantially less expensive remodel than prior estimates. It is expected that there will be some capital expenditures in late FY2023 and FY2024 related to planning and design.

Revised estimates will be brought to the Board for consideration as updated information becomes available.

## BOARD ROOM & MEETING ROOM UPGRADES

The board previously approved a budget of \$225,000 (\$150,000 in FY2022 and \$75,000 in FY2023) for technology to enable hybrid meetings and upgraded video screens and wiring for multiple meeting spaces. The meeting room upgrades have been completed and some of the board room updates as well. \$140,600 was spent in FY2022 on these updates. Based on the usage and needs in what is expected to be permanent hybrid environment IT's analysis of the Board Room is that it will need additional upgrades beyond what was scoped in the prior year for optimal performance. The additional upgrades include a 129-inch 4k projection display monitors, two large speakers, replacement of all 35 wired microphones on the dais, replacement of the podium and panel microphones and two new wireless microphones, installation of four video cameras, installation of audio and video device for recording and streaming meetings, installation of device to allow for wirelessly connecting personal devices to audio and video system in room, touch panels to control all audio and video devices, new server rack to store equipment, digital name plates for meeting participants and installation of new hearing impaired system with 12 receivers to allow for Wi-Fi and RF connectivity. The estimated cost of these upgrades for the FY2023 budget is \$400,000.

## 1G WIRING

The board previously approved a budget of \$40,000 for the third floor 1G wiring. This project since not critical is delayed to FY2025 to coincide with the office renovation and the budget increased to \$50,000.

## **WEBSITE REFRESH**

The board previously approved a budget of \$200,000 for a website refresh in FY2024. This has been pushed to FY2025, but the estimated cost remains the same.

## **DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT**

The board previously approved a budget of \$50,000 for FY2022 with additional expenditures in FY2023 and FY2024 to complete the project for a total cost of \$150,000. There was no spending in FY2022, but a vendor has been selected and the project is progressing. Updated estimates have reduced the cost of this project to \$130,000 with estimated spending of \$50,000 in FY2023. This project allowed COG to remove all material stored offsite and will digitize all documents in a searchable format. This is not only a more efficient search process but results in substantial savings in the long term by removing costly monthly storage fees from the budget. As of June 30, 2022, there are no further offsite storage costs to COG.

## **NETWORK UPGRADE**

In reviewing the network equipment it was noted that it generally has a life cycle of seven years and that COG will have to do a significant update in FY2026. The IT Director estimates this will be a \$400,000 investment.

## **Replenishment of the Capital Expenditure Reserve**

Capital expenditures are recovered over time through the allocation of depreciation expense to COG's various programs and funding sources. Board policy requires that an amount equal to annual depreciation expense is transferred to the Capital Expenditure Reserve to replenish the fund.

## **Summary**

The summary on page 7 of the plan estimates a balance of \$4.9 million in the Capital Expenditure Reserve as of June 30, 2023, which reflects the changes noted above, proposed expenditures in FY2023, and the estimated annual replenishment of the reserve.

## **Approval of FY2023 Capital Expenditures**

Approval of the plan will authorize expenditure of \$525,000 in FY2023 from the Capital Expenditure Reserve for board room technology updates, document management, other IT upgrades and equipment, and to engage an architectural firm to help assess office space.

Capital expenditures for FY2024 – FY2027 are provided for purposes of long-term planning, and will be reviewed, modified, and presented to the Board of Directors for approval with subsequent annual capital expenditure plans.

## SUMMARY OF FY2023 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

Approval of this plan by the Board of Directors authorizes the following FY2023 Capital Expenditures:

Project #	EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE	Useful Life	FY2023 PROPOSED BUDGET
CP23-01	IT Equipment & Software - Other	3	\$ 25,000
CP23-02	Document Management	5	50,000
CP23-03	Board Room Upgrades	7	400,000
<b>Total Equipment and Software</b>			<b>475,000</b>

Project#	LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS & FURNITURE	Useful Life	FY2023 PROPOSED BUDGET
CP23-04	Remodel Project - Design and related	15	50,000
<b>Total Leasehold Improvements and Furniture</b>			<b>50,000</b>

<b>Total FY2023 Proposed Capital Expenditures</b>			<b>\$ 525,000</b>
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# EQUIPMENT, SOFTWARE, DATA CENTER, AND WEBSITE

5-Year Capital Expenditure Plan							
EQUIPMENT, SOFTWARE, DATA CENTER, & WEBSITE	Useful Life	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	Total
IT Equipment & Software - Other	3	25,000	30,000	30,000	50,000	50,000	185,000
3rd Floor 1G Wiring	15			50,000			50,000
Board Room Upgrades	7	400,000					400,000
Document Management System	5	50,000	50,000	30,000			130,000
Website Refresh	10			200,000			200,000
Network Upgrade	7				400,000		400,000
<b>Total Equipment, Software, Data Center, &amp; Website</b>		<b>475,000</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>310,000</b>	<b>450,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>\$1,365,000</b>

# LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS AND FURNITURE

5-Year Capital Expenditure Plan							
LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS	Useful Life	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	Total
Remodel Project - Design and related	15	50,000	150,000				\$200,000
Remodel Project - Administration fees and costs	15		70,000	70,000			140,000
Remodel Project - Construction costs	15			2,550,000			2,550,000
<b>Total Leasehold Improvements (Note 1)</b>		<b>50,000</b>	<b>220,000</b>	<b>2,620,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,890,000</b>

FURNITURE	Useful Life	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	Total
Furniture and minor renovations	10	\$ -	\$ -	750,000	\$ -	\$ -	750,000
<b>Total Furniture</b>		<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>750,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>750,000</b>

<b>TOTAL PLAN (IT, LEASEHOLD, FURNITURE)</b>		<b>525,000</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>3,680,000</b>	<b>450,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>\$ 5,005,000</b>
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Note 1: COG is revising prior renovation plans and will be scaling project back. The expectation is the project will be appreciatively less expensive than prior estimates.



**Approval of this plan by the Board of Directors authorizes the replenishment of the Capital Expenditure Reserve:**

<b>Capital Expenditure Reserve</b>	
<b>Balance at 6/30/2021</b>	<b>\$5,184,100</b>
FY2022 IT Equipment & Software	(150,000)
FY2022 Technology upgrades for meeting rooms	(140,600)
FY2022 Replenish the reserve based on depreciation expense	247,900
<b>Balance at 6/30/2022</b>	<b>5,141,400</b>
FY2023 Remodel project - design & related	(50,000)
FY2023 IT Purchases	(475,000)
FY2023 Replenish the reserve based on depreciation expense	250,000
<b>Capital Expenditure Reserve Balance at 6/30/2023 (forecast)</b>	<b>\$4,866,400</b>

Resolution R48-2022  
October 12, 2022

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLAN FOR FY2023 – FY2027  
AND FY2023 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Capital Expenditure Reserve Policy approved by Resolution R25-2016, the level, funding, and use of the Board-designated Capital Expenditure Reserve is based on an annual Five-Year Capital Expenditure Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, COG By-Laws require the Executive Director to annually submit proposed budgets of the corporation to the Board of Directors for approval or modification; and

**WHEREAS**, the Five-Year Capital Expenditure Plan FY2023 – FY2027 outlines the proposed Capital Expenditure Budget for FY2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the Five-Year Capital Expenditure Plan for FY2023 – FY2027 and FY2023 Capital Expenditure Budget have been reviewed by COG staff and the Board's Budget and Finance Committee, with a recommendation for approval.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:**

The board approves the Five-Year Capital Expenditure Plan for FY2023 – FY2027 and FY2023 Capital Expenditure Budget.

# **AGENDA ITEM #9**

## **CLIMATE AND ENERGY LEADERSHIP AWARDS**



## 2022 Climate and Energy Leadership Awards

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' (COG) Climate and Energy Leadership Awards recognize organizations that develop climate stewardship projects and programs that engage and serve the region's underserved communities. The awards program highlights a broad range of climate solutions for their unique engagement practices as well as their results, creativity, and replicability. COG presents the 2022 Climate and Energy Leadership Awards to Frederick County's "Power Saving Outreach & Engagement Initiative for Vulnerable Communities" project and the Rise N Shine Foundation, Inc.'s "Can We Do Something About Food Waste?" project for their outstanding efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and advance equity across the region. The awards recognize and encourage local actions to advance the regional climate and energy goals established by leaders at COG, while including historically underserved populations in the planning of their programs.

### **Government Sector Award: Frederick County's "Power Saving Outreach & Engagement Initiative for Vulnerable Communities" Project**

Frederick County's Department of Climate and Energy, Division of Energy and Environment (DCE) is working to both mitigate GHG emissions and help vulnerable populations be more resilient to climate risks like extreme heat through its Power Saver Retrofits (PSR) Program. Since 2014, the Division of Energy and Environment has been awarded a grant from the Maryland Energy Administration's (MEA) Low-to-Moderate Income Grant Program. Along with a county investment of \$300,000, the PSR program provides energy star audits and energy-saving home improvements to moderate- and low-income households, including the installation efficient HVAC system upgrades.

Since the program has been in place, word-of-mouth was the main outreach method. Some low-to-moderate income groups were well represented, however, others such as limited English proficiency (LEP) groups were not well reached. As racial equity became a central focus for Frederick County, DCE participated in community equity conversations with non-profits to begin building relationships. This group translated PSR program materials into Spanish and Mandarin. In January 2022, the Frederick County Council approved funding to support the work of the program's nonprofit partners when it approved the climate initiatives proposed by County Executive Elrich. In June 2022, Frederick County entered into a contract to provide outreach and program assistance services to Spanish-speaking community members.

"Without PSR, I would not have been able to afford a heating/cooling new system. Now I am not afraid that it will break down and have costly repairs. For the first time in 15 years, I got an electric bill for less than \$100," a PSR program participant shared. Results of the project show that from 2014 - 2021 the PSR program served approximately 655 moderate-and low-income households. For the FY 2020 program, on average households saved approximately \$624 in utility costs.

The Power Saving Outreach & Engagement Initiative for Vulnerable Communities project provides a framework of strategies which serve as a model for what other local governments in the region can do to include vulnerable communities that have not typically been engaged.



## **Non-governmental Organization Sector Award: Rise N Shine Foundation, Inc. “Can We Do Something About Food Waste?”**

Rise N Shine Foundation Inc.’s “Can We Do Something About Food Waste?” project is a student-led initiative. The goals of the project are to divert food waste from incinerators or landfills to compost facilities, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and to save food from restaurants and grocery stores from becoming food waste and providing it to vulnerable members of the community with food insecurity.

Shrusti Amula, founder of Rise N Shine Foundation and a high school student at Richard Montgomery High School, embarked on a research project with friends for a STEM competition on food waste and its effects on climate. The team of students volunteered to adopt an elementary school in Montgomery County, Maryland as a pilot and committed time and effort to implement the composting program. The following activities were performed:

- Identify opportunities (schools/communities/businesses) to initiate a composting program – fight climate change.
- Identify restaurants and grocery chains to rescue surplus good food and work with local homeless shelters, food banks, and vulnerable citizens in the community to donate food to fight hunger and food insecurities.
- Work with local businesses for sponsorships and write grant applications to cover costs for the program.

The foundation runs the composting program at five local schools. It has recovered an estimated total of 52,000 lbs. of food waste that serves eight shelter homes and food banks and has partnered with four organizations to deliver excess food. To date, approximately 38,000 meals have been donated, worth approximately \$51,150. The total estimated weight diverted from the program is 17.6 tons, which is equivalent to the GHG emissions from over 35,300 miles driven by an average passenger vehicle. The success of this program has inspired other students to start similar composting programs across the county.

# **AGENDA ITEM #10**

## **UPDATE ON REGIONAL CLIMATE GOALS**

# METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON 2030 CLIMATE AND ENERGY ACTION PLAN

November 2020



Metropolitan Washington  
**Council of Governments**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is a hub for partnerships to facilitate sustainable growth, a well-maintained transportation system, clean air, water, and land, safe and healthy communities, and a vibrant economy. This work is guided by COG's comprehensive *Region Forward* vision, to ensure a more prosperous, accessible, livable, sustainable, and equitable future for all area residents. In this role, COG has established goals to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and improve regional climate resiliency. The COG Board established new 2030 goals to supplement earlier 2020 and 2050 goals. The new goals call for further reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and being a Climate Ready Region, including increased investments in resiliency, by 2030.<sup>i</sup>

This 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan builds on previous action plans and establish priority collaborative actions for COG's Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) members to work on together over the next ten years to help move the region towards meeting its' 2030 goals. All the actions in the plan are voluntary; the success of the plan will depend on active regional collaboration and implementation.

## Plan Purpose and Scope

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a body of the United Nations that assesses the science related to climate change, the world is already experiencing the impacts of 1 degree Celsius of global warming above pre-industrial levels. Additionally, the IPCC notes that more severe climate impacts could be avoided if global warming is limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Globally, emissions need to fall by 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030 and carbon neutral by 2050 to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The IPCC acknowledges rapid and far reaching transitions are needed world-wide in order to limit global warming.<sup>ii</sup>

The 2030 greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goals adopted by the COG Board of Directors on October 14, 2020 align with the level of effort called for by the IPCC. COG Board Resolution R45-2020 established interim climate change goals including:<sup>iii</sup>

- The climate mitigation goal of 50 percent greenhouse gas emission reductions below 2005 levels by 2030;
- The climate resilience goal of becoming a Climate Ready Region and making significant progress to be a Climate Resilient Region by 2030; and
- The need to incorporate equity principles and expand education on climate change into COG's CEEPC and its members' actions to reach the climate mitigation and resiliency goals.

To be a Climate Ready Region by 2030, all local governments must assess current and future climate risks, and be actively integrating climate planning across government plans, operations, and communications. To fully be a Climate Resilient Region, the region must have the ability to adapt and absorb against disturbances caused by current and future, acute and chronic climate impacts and successfully maintain essential functions.

The purpose of this plan is to establish priority collaborative actions for COG and its members to work on together over the next ten years to help move the region towards meeting the 2030 goals. Achieving the regional goals would require unprecedented, aggressive cross-sectoral action from all COG members and its state and federal partners.



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Ten principles guide this plan's voluntary collaborative climate action implementation process. These principles reflect CEEPC's commitment to environmental quality, economic prosperity, and equity. As climate leaders, CEEPC is committed to the following principles:

- 1. Collective Action:** We will continue to work together to leverage our impact and facilitate application at scale.
- 2. Effective Partnerships:** We will continue to share best practices, learn together, and coordinate on implementation to advance regional transformation.
- 3. Lead by Example:** We have a continued commitment to internal implementation of long-term solutions to reduce the climate impacts of our operations.
- 4. Integration:** We understand climate action is inherently multidisciplinary and will promote cross-department coordination, including in areas such as equity, health, and economic development.
- 5. Flexibility:** We understand the need for flexibility in how our public agencies and stakeholders across the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia work to achieve regional GHG goals.
- 6. Transparency:** We will continue to measure and report progress in a manner easily understandable by all.
- 7. Innovation:** We support a just transition to a clean energy economy through the application of innovative technology, policies, and processes by public and private sectors.
- 8. Community Leadership:** We will continue to educate, motivate, and empower action from our community's institutions, businesses, non-profits, and residents.
- 9. Inclusive Engagement:** We commit to inclusive community engagement and equitable provision of climate and energy programs and services.
- 10. Advocacy:** We will continue to support state and federal policies and programs that protect the human and environmental health of our communities.

## Plan Elements

There are four core elements to this plan, including:

- **Greenhouse Gases:** This section of the plan provides a summary of regional GHG inventory trends from 2005 to 2018, business-as-usual (BAU) GHG emission projections through 2030, and technical scenario showing what it will take for the region to reach GHG reductions of 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.
- **Climate Mitigation Strategy:** This section of the plan identifies CEEPC's priority collaborative mitigation actions to move the region toward achieving the GHG emission reduction goal of 50 percent by 2030, below 2005 levels. The action areas include Planning, Equity, Clean Electricity, Zero Energy Buildings, Zero Emission Vehicles, Mode Shift and Travel Behavior, Zero Waste, and Sequestration.
- **Climate Risks and Vulnerabilities:** This section of the plan provides a summary of the Regional Climate, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA). The CRVA evaluates climate hazards including extreme heat, drought, lightning and thunderstorms, flash and riverine flooding, coastal flooding and extreme winter conditions. The CRVA also evaluates factors

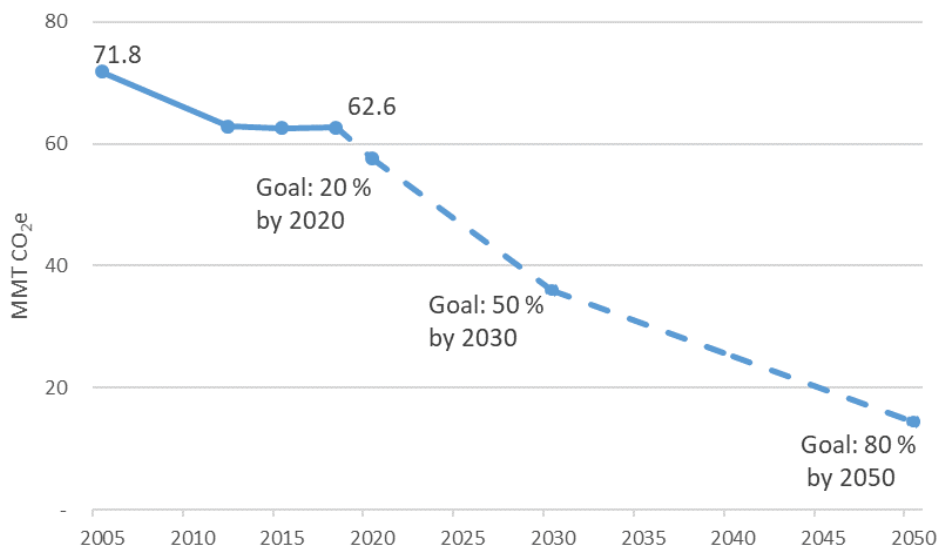
impacting adaptive capacity, such as infrastructure conditions and maintenance, access to basic services, and public health.

- **Climate Resilience Strategy:** This section of the plan identifies CEEPC’s priority collaborative climate resilience actions to move the region toward achieving the goal of becoming a Climate Ready Region and making significant progress to be a Climate Resilient Region by 2030. The action areas include Planning, Equity, and Resilient Infrastructure.

## GHG Inventory

COG’s greenhouse gas inventories show that the region’s progress to date towards the GHG emission reduction goals has been mixed. The region exceeded its 2012 goal but is lagging on progress towards its 2020 goal. The most recent inventory indicates that 2018 GHG emissions in the region decreased by approximately 13 percent below 2005 levels, despite a 19 percent growth in population. Per capita emissions decreased between 2005 and 2018 from 15.6 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO<sub>2e</sub>) in 2005 to 11.4 MTCO<sub>2e</sub> in 2018. Expedited and concerted actions will be needed throughout the region to achieve future goals of 50 percent GHG emission reduction by 2030 and 80 percent by 2050 (Figure ES-1).

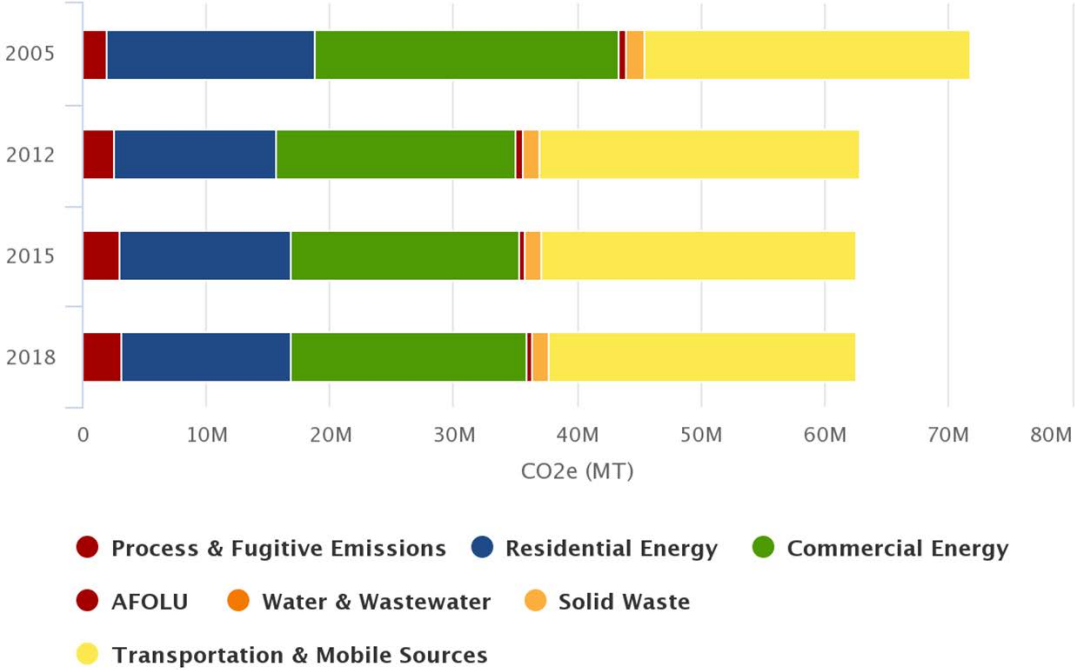
**Figure ES-1: Metropolitan Washington GHG Trends and Goals**



## EMISSIONS ACTIVITIES

The inventories measure GHG-emitting activities undertaken by residents, businesses, industry, and government located in metropolitan Washington, as well as emissions from visitors. Approximately 90 percent of metropolitan Washington’s GHG emissions come from residential and commercial building energy consumption and transportation. Building energy consumption accounts for 52 percent and 40 percent is from transportation. The remainder of emissions comes from other activities and sources including solid waste, wastewater treatment, agriculture and fugitive emissions (Figure ES-2).

**Figure ES-2: Metropolitan Washington GHG Emissions by Activity**

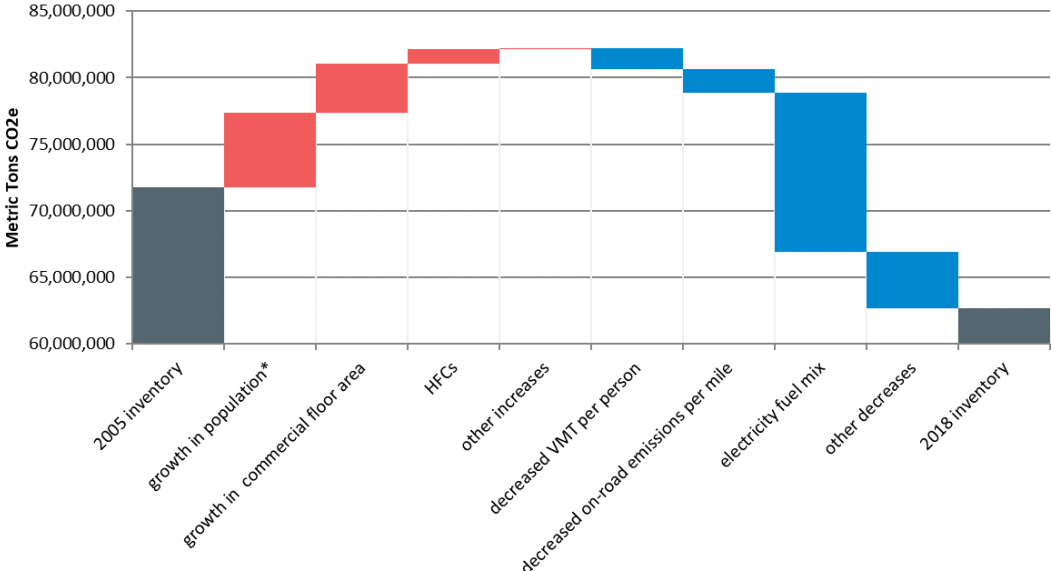


Source: ICLEI’s ClearPath, an online greenhouse gas inventory tool.

**DRIVERS OF GHG CHANGE**

The metropolitan Washington GHG Contribution Analysis results in Figure ES-3 shows what has driven increases and decreases in emissions between inventory years 2005 and 2018. The main drivers increasing emissions (red bars) include growth in population, commercial space, and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). Driving down emissions (blue bars) is mainly a cleaner grid, cleaner cars and reduced vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per person.

**Figure ES-3: Drivers of Metropolitan Washington GHG Changes**

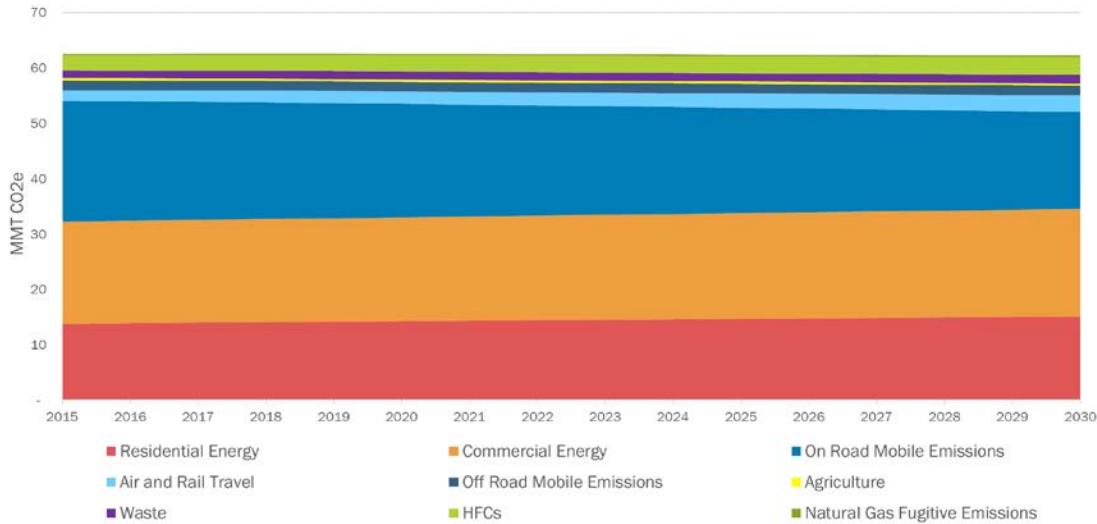


\*Includes effects of population on residential energy, VMT and waste generation.

## Business-As-Usual Projections<sup>iv</sup>

Business-as-usual (BAU) projections provide a baseline scenario for future GHG emissions. BAU projections take into account population, housing, and commercial growth as well as policies and practices that have been in place and implemented to-date to reduce GHG emissions. Figure ES-4 shows that the region’s anticipated BAU emissions projected out to 2030 overall remain flat.

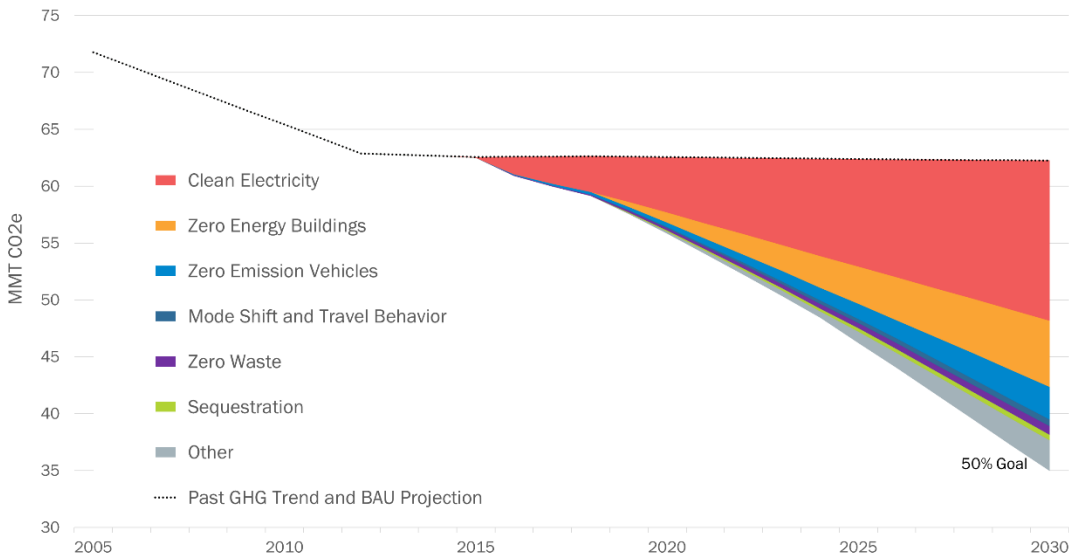
**Figure ES-4: Metropolitan Washington Business-As-Usual Projections**



## 2030 Scenario<sup>v</sup>

The 2030 scenario for this plan analyzes the technical potential of "What Would It Take" for metropolitan Washington to reach a 50 percent reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 from 2005 levels. This scenario leverages results from a previous scenario analysis conducted in 2015 by COG’s Ad-Hoc Multi-Sector Work Group and results have been updated based on new data and progress since that time. Figure ES-5 on the shows a summary of the 2030 scenario results. Considerable action across local, regional, state, and national levels will be needed.

**Figure ES-5: Metropolitan Washington “What Would It Take” Scenario Results**



## Regional Mitigation Strategy

The Regional Mitigation Strategy includes collaborative actions to support the region in achieving the GHG emission reduction goals of 50 percent by 2030 below 2005 levels and 80 percent by 2050.

The climate action areas included in the Regional Climate Mitigation Strategy address: Planning, Equity, Clean Electricity, Zero Energy Buildings, Zero Emission Vehicles, Zero Waste, Mode Shift and Travel Behavior and Sequestration. Within these action areas are high-level priority actions for COG and its members to focus on through 2030. All actions are voluntary. Table ES-1 is a summary of the climate action areas and priority collaborative actions described in this strategy.

**Table ES-1: Metropolitan Washington Priority Collaborative Mitigation Actions**

Climate Action Area	Action ID	Priority Collaborative Action
Planning	PL - 1	Advance Climate Planning and Track Progress
Equity	EQ - 1	Enable Equitable Planning Practices
	EQ - 2	Prioritize Sustainable Energy Access for All
Clean Electricity	CE - 1	Advocate for Aggressive Renewable Portfolio Standards
	CE - 2	Accelerate Development of On-Site Renewables
	CE - 3	Accelerate Deployment of Battery Storage
	CE - 4	Accelerate Development of Microgrids for Critical Infrastructure
	CE - 5	Accelerate Development of Large-Scale Off-Site Renewables
	CE - 6	Advocate for and Implement Community Choice Aggregation
Zero Energy Buildings	ZEB - 1	Expand Building Benchmarking Requirements
	ZEB - 2	Accelerate Deep Building Retrofits
	ZEB - 3	Enhance Green Building Codes and Policies to Facilitate Net Zero Energy Building Development
	ZEB - 4	Expand Proper Disposal and Leak Detection of Refrigerants
Zero Emission Vehicles	ZEV - 1	Expand Light-Duty Electric Vehicle Deployment
	ZEV - 2	Accelerate Electrification of Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicles
	ZEV - 3	Build Out Regional Electric Vehicle Charging Network
Mode Shift and Travel Behavior	MSTB - 1	Invest in Infrastructure that Increases Transit, Carpooling, and Non-Motorized Travel
	MSTB - 2	Bring Jobs and Housing Closer Together
	MSTB - 3	Enhance Options for Commuters
Zero Waste	ZW - 1	Implement Curbside Organics Recycling Programs
	ZW - 2	Reduce Solid Waste Generation
	ZW - 3	Build Markets for Circularity
Sequestration	SQ - 1	Strategically Plant New Trees on Publicly Owned Land
	SQ - 2	Enhance Regulatory Capacity to Manage Tree Canopy and Forest Protection
	SQ - 3	Enhance Incentives and Financing Mechanisms for Tree Planting and Preservation on Privately Owned Lands

## Climate Risk and Vulnerabilities

In 2018, The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released the *Global Warming of 1.5 °C*, an IPCC special report, highlighting that the world is already experiencing the impacts of 1 degree Celsius warming above pre-industrial levels but more severe climate impacts could be avoided if global warming is limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius. If the rate of warming continues, 1.5 degrees Celsius warming is likely to occur between 2030 and 2052 with more frequent and severe extreme weather events becoming even more prevalent.<sup>vi</sup>

As the IPCC noted internationally, metropolitan Washington is also experiencing the impacts of a changing climate. Observations in metropolitan Washington show that temperatures and the water surface level in the Potomac River have been rising and will continue to rise. Extreme weather events and increases in the number of extreme heat and cold days will increase risks to health, energy usage patterns, plant and animal habitats, and infrastructure. These changes are also affecting stormwater, drinking water, and wastewater. Implementing regional adaptation strategies are necessary to reduce the impacts of climate change.<sup>vii</sup>

A climate risk and vulnerability assessment (CRVA) was conducted for metropolitan Washington with the goal of understanding the climate hazards that face the region and assessing the likelihood and impact of current and future hazards on the region. Climate change may increase the frequency or severity of climate hazards in metropolitan Washington, including extreme heat (high day and night temperatures), drought, flooding (flash, riverine, and coastal), lightning and thunderstorms, and extreme winter conditions.

## METHODOLOGY

The regional CRVA methodology is based on the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) framework. GCOM is a global alliance of cities and local governments that support voluntary action to address climate change and ensure a low emission, climate resilient future.<sup>viii</sup> The CRVA identifies and describes current and anticipated climate hazards metropolitan Washington faces. As shown in Table ES-2, each hazard is assigned a risk level, based on probability and level of consequence (probability x consequence). After the hazard risks are identified, an assessment is conducted to determine the future change in intensity and frequency, and the timeframe over which this will occur: Immediately, Short Term (by 2025), Medium Term (by 2050), and Long Term (after 2050).

**Table ES-2: Climate Risk Sourcing Matrix**

		Probability		
		Low (1)	Moderate (2)	High (3)
Consequence	High (3)	3	6	9
	Moderate (2)	2	4	6
	Low (1)	1	2	3

Next, vulnerabilities were assessed to determine the degree in which the people, systems, sectors, and systems are susceptible to current and future climate impacts. The impacts assessed include, but are not limited to: services lost, environmental impact, property damages, public health threats, economic losses, and other disruptions to day-to-day operations. For each hazard, relevant population groups in the region were identified that are most vulnerable to future climate hazards and impacts. Finally, for each hazard, factors were assessed that may impact the region’s adaptive capability.

As shown in Table ES-3, the most prominent climate hazards facing metropolitan Washington include extreme heat and flash and riverine flooding. More frequent extreme heat days will lead to public health concerns, increase energy demand, travel disruptions, and maintenance and infrastructure damages. With more frequent and intense storms, flash and riverine flooding will increase disruptions and damages to infrastructure and emergency services, and further threaten vulnerable populations.

**Table ES-3: Risk Level of Hazards in Metropolitan Washington**

Hazard	Probability	Consequence	Risk
Extreme Heat	3	3	9
Drought	2	3	6
Flooding (Flash and Riverine)	3	3	9
Coastal Flooding	3	2	6
Lightning/Thunderstorm	3	2	6
Extreme Winter Conditions	2	3	6

The region must adapt to climate change. Adaptive capacity is defined as “the ability of systems, institutions, humans and other organisms to adjust to potential damage, to take advantage of opportunities or to respond to consequences.”<sup>ix</sup> Table ES-4 shows the degree of challenge identified for each sector evaluated in the CRVA. Infrastructure conditions pose the highest degree of challenge due to the impacts on maintenance costs, aging facilities, interoperability, and increased demand. Resilient critical infrastructure is essential to the well-being, health, and safety of the people in metropolitan Washington. Implementing resilient measures for all critical infrastructure by 2050 is necessary to respond to a changing climate.

**Table ES-4: Metropolitan Washington Adaptive Capacity Degree of Challenge**

Factor	Degree of Challenge
Infrastructure Conditions/Maintenance	High
Access to Basic Services	Moderate
Access to Healthcare	Moderate
Public Health	Moderate
Housing	Moderate
Poverty	Moderate
Community Engagement	Moderate
Environmental Conditions	Moderate
Economic Health	Low



## VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Climate change will impact people and communities differently. Potentially vulnerable populations may include low-income, minority, marginalized groups, women and girls, persons in sub-standard housing, people with limited English proficiency, the elderly, children, people with chronic health problems, or disabled persons. As vulnerable populations face greater risks, their consideration and inclusion in climate change planning is essential to ensure equitable distribution of benefits. Creating resilient communities is only possible when inclusion of vulnerable populations' needs are met.

## Regional Resilience Strategy

The Regional Climate Resilience Strategy includes collaborative actions to support the region in achieving the climate resilience goals of becoming a Climate Ready Region and making significant progress to be a Climate Resilient Region by 2030. To move the region toward becoming more resilient, the region needs to ensure that all populations are included and prioritize resilience of the region's most vulnerable populations.

The climate action areas included in this Regional Climate Resilience Strategy address: Planning, Equity, and Resilient Infrastructure. Within these action areas are high-level priority actions for COG and its members to focus on through 2030. All actions are voluntary. Table ES-5 is a summary of the climate action areas and priority collaborative actions described in this strategy. The actions are based on the needs identified in the regional climate risk and vulnerabilities assessment.

**Table ES-5: Metropolitan Washington Priority Collaborative Resilience Actions**

Climate Action Area	Action ID	Priority Collaborative Action
Planning	PL - 2	Support Capacity Building for Climate Resilience Planning
	PL - 3	Develop Integrated Approach to Climate Resilience Planning
	PL - 4	Update Local and Regional Plans to Address Climate Risks
Equity	EQ - 3	Support Engagement of the Public on Climate Risks, with a Particular Emphasis on Potentially Vulnerable Populations
	EQ - 4	Support Equitable Secure Energy Access
Resilient Infrastructure	RI - 1	Support Establishment of Resilience Hubs
	RI - 2	Improve the Resilience of Critical Infrastructure
	RI - 3	Implement Measures to Equitably Address Urban Heat Island
	RI - 4	Enhance Green Infrastructure Networks
	RI - 5	Implement Measures to Reduce Flood Risk

## Conclusion

COG's Climate and Energy Program is one of the nation's first initiatives to address climate change on a regional level. The regional effort is led by the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) and guided by this plan. COG will continue to work with its regional partners to meet its goals for 2030 and beyond.



**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING REGIONAL CLIMATE MITIGATION AND RESILIENCY GOALS**

**WHEREAS**, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change provides regular assessments to inform policymakers on the current state and knowledge of climate change and the assessments laid the groundwork for the Kyoto Protocol; and

**WHEREAS**, The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement entered into force in 2005 for countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and monitor progress towards emission targets, and the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement sought pledges of Mayors from all 50 states to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the Kyoto Protocol; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors in Resolution R60-2008 adopted the *National Capital Region Climate Change Report* and its recommendations in 2008, including goals that align with the Kyoto Protocol to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 10 percent below business as usual by 2012, 20 percent below the region's 2005 baseline by 2020, and 80 percent below the 2005 baseline by 2050; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors in Resolution R18-2009 established the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) in 2009 to collaboratively work toward the report's goals; and

**WHEREAS**, COG's Region Forward Vision includes a sustainability goal that calls for a significant decrease in greenhouse gas emissions, with substantial reductions from the built environment and transportation sector; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2019, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change updated its guidance to recognize that the world is already experiencing the impacts of global warming and to avoid most severe climate impacts greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced by at least 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030 and to carbon neutrality by 2050; and

**WHEREAS**, COG and its members were recognized by the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) in 2019 as a U.S. Metro-Scale Climate Leader and CEEPC became a GCoM Signatory committing to follow global best practices in climate planning; and

**WHEREAS**, in October 2020 the COG Board passed Resolution R45-2020 endorsing an interim climate mitigation goal of 50 percent greenhouse gas emission reductions below 2005 levels by 2030 and requested CEEPC to report back a mid-point evaluation of the progress towards these goals and make recommendations for any new actions needed; and

**WHEREAS**, in November 2020 CEEPC approved the Metropolitan Washington 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan including guiding principles and strategies to meet the 2030 climate mitigation goal of 50 percent greenhouse gas reduction below 2005 and climate resilience goals of becoming a Climate Ready Region by 2030 and fully Resilient Region by 2050; and

**WHEREAS**, the region has seen a 24 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, exceeding the 2020 climate mitigation goal of 20 percent greenhouse gas reduction below 2005; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:**

- 1.** The COG Board commends the actions taken at the local and state levels to meet and exceed the greenhouse gas reduction goal set for 2020 and putting the region on a promising path to work towards achieving the region's greenhouse gas reduction goals for 2030.
- 2.** The board recognizes that achieving the next regional climate goal to reduce emissions 50 percent by 2030 below 2005 levels, to avoid the most severe climate impacts, will require aggressive cross-sectoral action by the federal and state governments, in addition to local governments.
- 3.** The board reinforces that local jurisdictions must lead by example and redouble the efforts to implement strategies that reduce greenhouse gases to reduce the climate impacts of internal operations.
- 4.** The board recommits to equitable action within and across local communities through collaboration to implementation solutions at scale and leverage the impact.

# **AGENDA ITEM #11**

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
REGIONAL MEMBER (FARM)  
POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE**



July 15, 2022

Interagency Planning Task Force  
White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health  
Biden-Harris Administration

Via Email

To Whom It May Concern:

Based on our commitment to improving food security and our collective experiences as elected officials and organizational leaders in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia; we're writing to share priorities for the upcoming White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health.

More background on the [Food and Agriculture Regional Member \(FARM\) Policy Committee](#) at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) that we currently lead, and the following priorities, can be found in an attachment to this letter. In this attachment, we also provide a weblink to our comprehensive assessment of healthy food access policies in our region,

The following national strategy priorities reflect the positions of the FARM Committee:

- 1. Guarantee universal, healthy school meals for all.** Providing universal free school meals for all children will improve access to nutritious meals, in turn improving children's capacity to learn. FARM has expressed its support for universal free school meals on multiple occasions.
- 2. Increase SNAP benefits and reduce barriers to enrolling and maintaining benefits.** The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides a vital source of support to many of our region's most vulnerable residents. Additional emergency allotments have been critical to assisting many in avoiding severe food insecurity.
- 3. Prioritize lived experience in strategies to end hunger and improve nutrition and health.** Hunger and food insecurity are solvable problems. We appreciate and commend the conference's stated intention and interest in centering lived experience in strategies to end hunger and improve nutrition and health. We are eager for the feedback on ways to do this to be considered from our local jurisdictions, such as from the Fairfax County Emergency Food Strategy Team and Fairfax Food Council.
- 4. Support BIPOC farmers and small farmers to broaden access to healthy, local food and increase supply chain resilience.** The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted global and local food supply chains, highlighting the fragility and importance of our food system as a national security issue. A diverse local and regional food system, supported by a robust farming community of farmers identifying as Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and of small farmers, is essential to the resilience of the United States.
- 5. Improve online SNAP.** Although SNAP is "interoperable" between states and allows participants in our region to cross state lines for greater choice and convenience - crucial in a region as interconnected as ours - online SNAP is not currently allowed across state lines. We urge USDA to establish a pilot program to move toward interoperability for online SNAP, and to continue to make other specific improvements to this program as enumerated in Attachment 1.

6. **Expand the use of Medicaid reimbursement for nutritious foods.** There are several food as medicine programs in DC, MD, and VA, including the Produce Prescription Program (Produce Rx) coordinated by DC Greens in partnership with several DC health clinics, medical providers, and Giant. We recommend action to encourage states to seek Medicaid waivers which would make programs like Produce Rx a coverable expense.
7. **Provide flexible forms of cash assistance.** Several jurisdictions in our region are piloting Guaranteed Basic Income Programs to put resources directly into the hands of those who are most vulnerable, trusting that they know how to best meet their needs when they have the means to do so. The federal government should implement its own pilot.
8. **Fast track eWIC solutions for farmers markets and other changes to continue to improve access to healthy, local and regional food.** With the move from paper checks to eWIC, WIC customers are no longer able to use their WIC Vegetables and Fruit Cash-Value Checks (CVC) at farmers markets. Technological changes to federal benefit distribution and redemption need to consider all eligible points of sale prior to implementation. A fix is urgently needed for eWIC.
9. **Lead by example: Connect federal workers to local, healthy food to support health, wellness, and drive food system transformation.** The federal government has a vast office and installation footprint across the country. Tasking agencies to develop Workplace Community Supported Agriculture Programs could have a meaningful impact on local and regional food systems, demonstrate leadership by example, and promote healthy eating.

We hope these priorities will be incorporated into the national strategy presented at the conference and would welcome an opportunity to meet with you to share additional insights from our experience. Achieving some of our priorities will require Congressional buy-in and approval. In these cases, we hope the strategy shared in September will map out how to attain this.

We are eager to participate in the conference and bring its outcomes back to our FARM Committee.

The event is just the beginning of an opportunity to bring renewed commitment, understanding, and more integrated approaches to eliminating food insecurity and improving health. Again, additional information about COG and FARM's proposed national priorities for the conference strategy are provided as an attachment to this letter.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

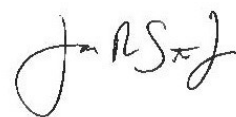
Sincerely,



Mary Cheh  
Chair, FARM Committee  
District of Columbia



Craig Rice  
Vice Chair, FARM Committee  
Montgomery County, MD



Jon Stehle  
Vice Chair, FARM Committee  
City of Fairfax, VA

Interagency Planning Task Force: White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health  
July 15, 2022

C: COG Congressional Delegation  
Office of Congressional Representative Jim McGovern

Enc: Attachment 1 - COG, FARM, and National Strategy Priorities Background

## **Attachment 1. COG, FARM, and National Strategies Priorities Background**

### *COG and FARM*

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is an independent, nonprofit association, with a membership of 300 elected officials from [24 local governments](#), the Maryland and Virginia state legislatures, and U.S. Congress. Every month, more than 1,500 officials and experts connect through COG to share information and develop solutions to the region's major challenges.

The [Food and Agriculture Regional Member \(FARM\) Policy Committee](#) is COG's newest committee and comprised of local elected officials and organizational leaders in food and agriculture from the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. FARM is charged with making policy recommendations to support a more resilient, connected food and farm economy in metropolitan Washington. Addressing the food insecurity crisis exacerbated by the pandemic is a key focus for our committee.

Recently, FARM released *The Healthy Food Access Policy Compendium for Metropolitan Washington*. It is available at [www.mwcog.org/foodpolicy](http://www.mwcog.org/foodpolicy).

This landscape assessment highlights state and local policies supporting food security and healthy food access which have been promulgated over the last decade. It also includes examples of how our local laws have built off, and in many cases, sought to address gaps in many essential federal nutrition programs.

### *National Strategy Priorities*

#### **1. Guarantee universal, healthy school meals for all.**

Providing universal free school meals for all children will improve access to nutritious meals, in turn improving children's capacity to learn. FARM has expressed its support for universal free school meals on multiple occasions, most recently asking Congress to include an extension of U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) nationwide waiver authority in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022.

In addition to implementing the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) in many of our schools, all our jurisdictions – DC, MD, and VA – have taken additional steps to reduce the cost of school meals for low-income families. But we know that many children will continue to fall through the cracks, particularly during the upcoming school year when some of the most important USDA COVID-related waivers expire. Many families will have to prove eligibility for free and reduced meals for the first time in two years.

Universal, healthy school meals should be available to all students throughout the year through federal funding. It should be a seamless experience for students, families, and school food service nutrition staff to participate in and administer meal programs, whether during the regular school year or summer.

We applaud USDA for extending numerous flexibilities during the pandemic which allowed parents and guardians to pick up meals for children, meal service time flexibility, the allowance of non-congregate feeding, and meal pattern flexibility in the child nutrition programs. These flexibilities allowed our schools to continue to serve all children for free without unnecessary restrictions.

These adaptations should be part of the new normal, as should sustained investments and support to schools for increasing local and regional procurement and improving opportunities for BIPOC and small farmers and food producers to participate as suppliers.

## **2. Increase SNAP benefits and reduce barriers to enrollment and maintaining benefits.**

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides a vital source of support to many of our region's most vulnerable residents; giving them resources to meet their basic food needs. Working with USDA, our jurisdictions continue to issue Emergency Allotments to SNAP customers, a vital strategy that has kept many of our residents from experiencing severe food insecurity. We urge the federal government to make these higher levels of support more permanent.

The adjustment to the Thrifty Food Plan last fall was important as it recognizes the increased cost of a healthy diet with a modest increase to SNAP benefits, however, this alone is not sufficient. Prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the level of SNAP benefits was often inadequate for SNAP customers, particularly in communities like the Metropolitan Washington region with high costs of living, leading both DC and MD to supplement the minimum monthly benefit with state funds.<sup>1</sup> As the country recovers from COVID-19, experiences inflated food costs, and seeks to address health inequities and hunger, we need a federal commitment to permanently higher SNAP benefit levels.

We also urge the White House and the USDA to do everything in their authority to increase support to states for the administration of the program, including streamlining application requirements, providing flexibility for recertification processes, and increasing program eligibility and participation among eligible immigrants, and their children in mixed-immigration status households. Educational outreach can address the stigma and fear of repercussions from enrolling in nutrition benefit programs, concerns that persist stemming from the proposed Public Charge rule, which deter many residents from receiving critical assistance to feed their families.

## **3. Prioritize lived experience in strategies to end hunger and improve nutrition and health.**

Hunger and food insecurity are solvable problems. We appreciate and commend the conference's stated intention and interest in centering lived experience in strategies to end hunger and improve nutrition and health.

To this end, we would also like to highlight local efforts in our region which are providing feedback to the White House Conference to center lived experiences in their input. Among these are the feedback that will be submitted by:

- The Fairfax County Emergency Food Strategy Team and the Fairfax County Food Council from their survey and June 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> Maryland supplements the minimum monthly SNAP benefit for seniors.



- Montgomery County Food Council

Furthermore, we urge this conference to include as a recommendation, a national study on food insecurity and food access among immigrants and refugees which would provide a pathway for community members to identify the challenges they face and opportunities to solve them. Among other outcomes, such a study could be used to create and adjust programs to be more culturally responsive to the needs of diverse communities.

#### **4. Support BIPOC farmers and small farmers to broaden access to healthy, local food and increase supply chain resilience.**

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted food supply chains and highlighted the fragility and importance of our food system as a national security issue. Diversity improves resilience and our food system lacks this on several measures, including who prospers from growing, processing, and selling food.

We are heartened by efforts such as USDA's Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program, however, local and regional procurement needs to become a more routine part of federal, state, and local food purchase programs in the near and long-term.

This is also an opportunity to address past discrimination and harm by examining the specific policies and programs that will support farmers identifying as Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and other small farmers.

BIPOC farmers are diverse in their needs and experiences. It is essential that policies and programs to support their increased participation in supplying food for farm-to-school, farm-to-hospital, and other farm-to-table efforts, are crafted separately with their input.

It is with this understanding that one of FARM's Work Groups will be looking at procurement opportunities and barriers in our region. The group will start by examining the experiences and needs of Black farmers descended from slavery, moving on to address barriers faced by farmers of other races and ethnicities, once the work group has learned about and considered specific solutions for Black farmers.

#### **5. Improve online SNAP.**

The expansion of the USDA's authorization of online SNAP purchasing in 2020 was an incredibly positive step towards addressing food insecurity nationally and in our region. Online SNAP provides many of our residents, particularly seniors, and those living in low food access neighborhoods without reliable transportation access, with the option to purchase groceries online and have them delivered to their doorsteps.

Yet several challenges have arisen in the implementation of online SNAP. First, although SNAP is "interoperable" between states and allows participants to cross state lines for greater choice and convenience - crucial in a region as interconnected as ours - online SNAP is not currently allowed across state lines. We urge USDA to establish a pilot program with several regional grocers to move toward interoperability for online SNAP.

In addition, many independent and smaller grocers have reported challenges applying for authorization to accept online SNAP and offer home delivery. While online SNAP is an essential service for SNAP customers, we are concerned that in its current form, it could hurt our local economies by driving SNAP dollars away from small, locally owned businesses. Along these lines, there is an opportunity to expand online SNAP to Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs. We encourage USDA to improve its processes to work with small businesses, including farms, and to expand access to online SNAP to additional retailers.

#### **6. Expand the use of Medicaid reimbursement for nutritious foods.**

FARM strongly believes that nutritious food is crucial to improving health outcomes for residents at risk of or living with chronic and diet-related disease. The *Healthy Food Access Policy Compendium for Metropolitan Washington* includes information on Food as Medicine Programs in DC, MD, and VA. This includes DC's Produce Prescription Program (Produce Rx) open to qualifying DC Medicaid members coordinated by DC Greens in partnership with the DC Department of Healthcare Finance and several local health clinics, healthcare providers, and Giant.

We understand that several state Medicaid agencies have successfully leveraged the Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver to have Produce Rx and other food as medicine programs included as covered treatment options. We hope the White House Conference strategy will include action from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to encourage more states to pursue this waiver. This could be done by creating a universal waiver for utilization of Produce Rx, and other medically supportive food, as a covered benefit for eligible patients, or by developing clear guidance and templates for applying for a waiver to do so.

#### **7. Provide flexible forms of cash assistance.**

Poverty, and a legacy of discriminatory practices and policies, are at the root of food insecurity and a lack of access to healthy food. Navigating tradeoffs and the high costs of things such as childcare, housing, and health care, put pressure on the family's food budget.

Several jurisdictions in our region are piloting Guaranteed Basic Income Programs, providing flexible cash resources to low-income residents, trusting that they know how to best meet their needs when they have the means to do so. One of the pilot programs in our region was born out of a very successful grocery store gift card program during the pandemic. Another pilot program specifically targets pregnant women, with the goal of improving maternal infant health.

We urge the White House to consider opportunities to leverage discretionary funds to support Guaranteed Basic Income pilot programs in support of food access and other basic needs, and to require the establishment of a program participant council to center lived experiences in program deployment.

#### **8. Fast track eWIC solutions for farmers markets and other changes to continue to improve access to healthy, local and regional food.**

With the move from paper checks to eWIC, WIC customers are no longer able to use their WIC Vegetables and Fruit Cash-Value Checks (CVC) at farmers markets. This has limited the WIC dollars that can be used at farmers markets to only WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) dollars.

As an example, at one DC farmers market, the market organization operator has had to turn away WIC families that have used paper WIC checks in the past to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. They estimate that this will result in a loss of \$80,000 of WIC purchases at this market in 2022. This needs to be addressed urgently, and future technological changes to federal benefit distribution and redemption need to consider all eligible points of sale prior to implementation.

There are other policy changes that could improve access to healthy, local and regional food for low-income residents using federal benefits. For example, USDA's requirement that each farmers market acquire its own license and account with the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), limits innovation and expansion of healthy food access opportunities. For farmers market organizations that run multiple markets and aspire to support communities with new markets, farm stands, etc., the administrative burden created by this requirement is an impediment to growth.

### **9. Lead by example: Connect federal workers to local, healthy food to support health, wellness, and drive food system transformation.**

For several years, COG has offered a modest, employer-based incentive program to partially subsidize the purchase of a farmer-owned Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) share from our region's farmers. This program was inspired by a program in Baltimore and led COG to work with colleagues across the country to help conceive of what is now the [CSA Innovation Network](#) (CSA-IN). CSA-IN contains our country's leading support organizations for CSA coalitions across the country, including those with experience developing and supporting Workplace CSA Programs.

The federal government has a vast office and installation footprint across the country. Tasking agencies to develop Workplace CSA Programs could have a meaningful impact on local and regional food systems. It would demonstrate leadership by example and promote healthy eating.

While it is essential to prioritize the needs of our country's most vulnerable residents in the overall strategy presented at the White House conference, studies have shown that many Americans do not consume as many fruits and vegetables as they need to. Further, federal employees receive a wide range of compensation. Encouraging federal employees to support the regional farm economy promotes diversity and resilience in the food system which is important to medium- and longer-term food security. BIPOC and small farmers with CSA programs should be highlighted and promoted through these programs.

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE FEDERAL CHILD TAX CREDIT AND UNIVERSAL FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

**WHEREAS**, state and local governments, businesses and other organizations have recognized the importance of food security and having locally and regionally produced food and agriculture products for a host of benefits including, healthy food access, diverse sources of supply and distribution, food system resilience, protection of our agricultural lands, and employment opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, in September 2021 the COG Board established the Food and Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Policy Committee to improve food security in the region, supporting Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and small farmers, focus on farmland preservation, land use regulations, environmental sustainability, and resilience, improve communicating regional food system data, and leverage procurement to support equity and the region's food and farm economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of FARM and its work program is to support development of long-term regional direction and collaboration toward a more resilient, connected food and farm economy (food system) across urban, suburban and rural communities in the metropolitan Washington region that provides more of the region's food needs; and

**WHEREAS**, FARM has identified national strategy priorities to improve food security in the region based on lessons learned from local and state policies and programs in the last decade, and the public health crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, the second White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, and Health has been held (the first since 1969) and a new National Strategy has been released to address these issues; and

**WHEREAS**, economic insecurity and poverty are root causes of food insecurity and other disparities; and

**WHEREAS**, addressing persistent food insecurity requires bold local, state, regional, and federal action with evidence-based approaches; and

**WHEREAS**, the COG Board has included support for free school meals for all students, and other policies which reduce childhood poverty, as part of its annual legislative priorities; and

**WHEREAS**, the FARM Committee has affirmed the necessity of universal, free school meals to increase childhood food security in outreach to the federal government and legislators on several occasions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Child Tax Credit (CTC), included in the American Rescue Plan in 2021 helped to cut child poverty nearly in half, for all racial and ethnic groups measured, and led to the lowest level of food insecurity for households with children recorded.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:**

The board supports permanent passage of the federal Child Tax Credit and a pathway to universal free school meals without delay. The board directs the Executive Director, or his designee to share this resolution with Congressional leadership and the members of the metropolitan Washington regional Congressional delegation. Furthermore, the board encourages COG member jurisdictions to work with their local school districts, school boards, relevant agencies and departments to communicate the benefits and financial cost of free school meals for all students.

**AGENDA ITEM #12**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**AGENDA ITEM #13**

**ADJOURN**