



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – February 2021
DATE: February 3, 2021

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – At its January meeting, the TPB approved new members for its Community Advisory Committee and received briefings on a multi-sector study of the impacts COVID-19 has had on the region.

Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) – At its January meeting, CBPC members were briefed on the Chesapeake Bay Program's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice strategy and resources, including its data dashboard. Members also discussed preliminary General Assembly legislation and formed a subcommittee to track legislation tied to COG's legislative priorities for water.

Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) – In January, CEEPC was provided the opportunity to review and comment on Montgomery County's Draft *Climate Action Plan*, COG's Draft *Tree Conservation Cookbook*, and the CEEPC Legislative Committee proposed positions on upcoming state legislation that aligns with the COG Board's 2021 legislative priorities related to climate and energy.

Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) – At its January meeting, HSPC reviewed a recent member survey on possible 2021 priorities and discussed the importance of focusing on mental and behavioral health. They also discussed the possibility of a jurisdictional roundtable on health and human services programs and initiatives within each jurisdiction.

Region Forward Coalition (RFC) – In January, RFC received briefings on the state of the region's economy and opportunities for inclusive growth through leveraging strategic partnerships.



REGIONAL HOMELESSNESS COORDINATION
COG's Human Services Policy Committee, chaired by DC Councilmember Brianne Nadeau in 2020, has developed a regional compact that aims to foster a cross-jurisdictional approach to ending the experience of homelessness.

[Learn more about the compact](#)

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

COVID-19 Vaccine Coordination – A COG committee of public information officers met several times over the past two months to share information on vaccine messaging and developed a regional social media toolkit and Spanish radio ad. In February, COG also launched a webinar series inviting national experts to share insights with area leaders on emerging best practices for vaccine distribution and dose administration.



COG Presentations – COG Executive Director Chuck Bean and COG Department of Community Planning Services Director Paul DesJardin presented an overview of COG’s planning and strategic efforts to address racial equity at a Triangle J Council of Governments webinar on January 29. DesJardin also participated as a panelist on Urban Land Institute (ULI) Washington’s *NEXT Washington* forum, discussing COG’s cooperative forecast and housing targets on January 15.

APPLY FOR TLC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
Through March 8, the TPB is accepting applications for its **Transportation Land-use Connections (TLC)** program, seeking projects that promote mixed-use, walkable communities, and support a variety of transportation alternatives.

[Apply for TLC Technical Assistance](#)

TPB Regional Safety Program – The Regional Safety Pilot Program provides short-term consultant services to member jurisdictions or agencies to assist with planning or preliminary engineering projects that address roadway safety issues. The [FY 2021 application period](#) is open through March 22.

CBPC Academic Paper Competition – The CBPC is now accepting submissions for its [second annual paper competition](#), which invites area high school, college, and graduate students to provide their perspective on real-world sustainability and water quality issues. Students should submit no later than April 16, and the competition is capped at the first 20 submissions.

Food Security - The Food and Agricultural Regional Member Ad Hoc (FARM) Committee launched by the COG Board last fall has identified its priorities, which include addressing food insecurity, supporting small farmers, and strengthening the region's food system. The committee outlined these priorities and provided feedback on federal nutrition programs in a letter to the USDA transition team in January.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

The entire Metrorail system is now covered by wireless service – COG Executive Director Chuck Bean discusses the importance of Metrorail's updated wireless infrastructure.

[The Washington Post](#)

Transportation board report: D.C. area traffic fell more than 50% at start of pandemic – COG Planning Data and Research Program Director Tim Canan discusses the changes in people's travel habits since the start of the pandemic.

[Inside NOVA](#)