



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

January 2017

COMMITTEE WORK FEATURE OUTREACH CALENDAR MEDIA

Policy Boards & Committees

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD (TPB)

At its November meeting, the TPB adopted an amendment to the region's Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP). The amendment added five major new projects, including Express Lanes on I-395 and a VRE commuter rail extension in Northern Virginia, and bus-only lanes on 16th Street in D.C. Members of the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) attended the December TPB meeting and discussed ongoing coordination efforts between the two metropolitan planning organizations.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE (MWAQC)

In December, MWAQC was briefed on the CLRP performance analysis, including air emissions. The MWAQC Executive Committee approved a comment letter which was submitted to the TPB in November.

CHESAPEAKE BAY POLICY AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE (CBPC)

At its November meeting, CBPC was briefed regarding Chesapeake Bay Program issues that will require decisions in early 2017 as they pertain to the new Bay Watershed Model and Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan development for the Bay TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) or "pollution diet".

CLIMATE, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE (CEEPC)

In November, CEEPC held a special work session to review the draft update of the Regional Climate and Energy Action Plan. CEEPC will be asked to adopt the plan in early 2017.

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COUNCIL (EPC)

At its November meeting, the EPC received a briefing on the new Homeland Security Executive Committee, which resulted from an extensive visioning process to improve regional coordination.

HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY COMMITTEE (HSPSPC)

In November, HSPSPC received briefings on the Health Officials Committee's health indicators project, local mental health intervention programs, and opioid abuse in the region.



Staff Feature: **LEAH BOGGS**

Senior Environmental Planner Leah Boggs has spent much of her 17 years at COG focused on advancing energy efficiency and sustainability. She's currently guiding a major initiative to bring more alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure to the region through Fleets for the Future, a cooperative procurement project.

[READ THE 'HEART OF COG' FEATURE](#)

COG RETURN ON INVESTMENT PRESENTATION - ARLINGTON COUNTY

COG Executive Director Chuck Bean gave a presentation to the Arlington County Board on COG’s programs and discussed the benefits the county receives as a COG member.

WORLD TRADE CENTER VISIT

Chuck Bean and COG consultant Bob Sweeney met with officials at Philadelphia’s World Trade Center. Expanding the exporting capabilities of local businesses through a regionally-supported world trade center has been a focus of the region’s Global Cities Initiative (GCI).

COG-CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT

This November, the chief executives of COG and the Consortium of Universities of Metropolitan Washington signed a letter pledging increased partnership between local governments and universities. Their work will include GCI, economic and workforce development, and cooperative purchasing.

METRO SAFETY COMMISSION UPDATES

In November, Chuck Bean provided testimony on behalf of COG on the Metrorail Safety Commission (MSC) before the Maryland General Assembly Joint Committee on Federal Relations. D.C. Council Chairman Phil Mendelson also provided testimony. The District approved MSC compact legislation in December. Legislation has been pre-filed in Maryland and Virginia for their 2017 legislative sessions.

TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

The TPB hosted a half-day conference on November 2 highlighting traffic incident management best practices and ways that local leaders can champion further improvements, such as sharing more information between jurisdictions and agencies, using data to better position first responders, and keeping the lines of communication open between agencies, first responders, and travelers.

TLC “PEERX” EVENT - A SHOWCASE OF TPB-FUNDED STUDIES

Local planners gathered on December 8 to share innovative bicycle and pedestrian planning ideas and experiences learned through technical assistance projects funded by the TPB’s Transportation/Land Use Connections (TLC) program. The speakers focused on projects that aim to fill gaps in the region’s bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure network.

JOINT MEETING FOR HEALTH AND HOUSING OFFICIALS

Community Planning and Services staff hosted the first joint meeting of the Health Officials Committee and Housing Directors Committee on November 14 at COG.



Event Highlight:
TRANSIT CENTER OPENING

Area officials, including Chuck Bean, spoke at the opening of the Takoma/Langley Transit Center on December 20. The center was funded in part by the \$58 million federal grant managed by the TPB to improve bus transit in the region. The center will be the largest, non-Metrorail transfer point in the region, projected to serve 12,000 passengers a day.

[MORE ABOUT THE CENTER](#)

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD - January 18

CLIMATE, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE - January 25

CHESAPEAKE BAY AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE - January 27

[MORE COG MEETINGS & EVENTS](#)

OP-ED: METRO VITAL TO PRINCE GEORGE'S

Prince George's Council Chairman and COG Board Member Derrick Leon Davis discussed why restoring Metro to a world-class system is vital to the county and region. [MORE FROM THE WASHINGTON BUSINESS JOURNAL.](#)

LOCAL WATER UTILITIES RESPOND TO POTOMAC RIVER SHEEN

After a sheen on the surface of the river was reported, officials monitored water quality and took action to protect the region's drinking water. [MORE FROM WTO.](#)

REGIONAL AIR PASSENGER ENPLANEMENTS RISE, TPB REPORTS

A TPB survey looked at data on the region's three major airports, including factors that influence travelers' airport choice. COG's Richard Roisman was interviewed for several stories. [MORE FROM ABC7.](#)

TPB ANALYZES THANKSGIVING TRAFFIC PATTERNS

The Tuesday before Thanksgiving has been the worst travel day over the last few years, according to the TPB analysis. [MORE FROM THE WASHINGTON POST.](#)

METRORAIL FEATURED IN GOVERNING MAGAZINE

Story focused on how new management team is tasked with fixing the system's problems. Chuck Bean and transit CEOs that spoke at a COG-Board of Trade forum on Metrorail were interviewed for the piece. [MORE FROM GOVERNING.](#)



Media Highlight:

STREET SMART PRESS CONFERENCE

Local officials launched the campaign to promote pedestrian, bicyclist, and driver safety during the darker commuting hours. The Fall 2016 kickoff event was held on November 4 in Southeast Washington and was covered by several media outlets.

[MORE FROM NBC4](#)