



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

October 2017

COMMITTEE WORK FEATURE OUTREACH CALENDAR MEDIA

Policy Boards & Committees

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD (TPB)

At its October meeting, the Transportation Planning Board approved six bicycle and pedestrian projects in Maryland for \$1.6 million in funding under the federal Transportation Alternatives set-aside program. The TPB was also briefed on identifying corridors that are important for moving freight through the region, and updates on three components of Visualize 2045, the region's long-range transportation plan.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE (MWAQC)

MWAQC received briefings on the ozone season summary, which showed no unhealthy Code Red days in 2017, as well as a new report, *Improving the Region's Air*, that tracks all six air pollutants regulated by the Clean Air Act. The report shows improving trends in the region over the last 12 years. The region has met federal health-based air quality standards for all but one pollutant—ground level ozone.

CHESAPEAKE BAY POLICY AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE (CBPC)

The CBPC held the 7th Annual Bay & Water Quality Forum with EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) and the states. The CBP reported that the Bay water quality is showing measurable improvements, and all attendees agreed there is more work to be done. Members stressed the importance of communicating Bay and local water quality progress and the value of the CBP in overseeing restoration efforts.

CLIMATE, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE (CEEPC)

CEEPC explored innovative approaches to deploying energy projects at scale, including examining lessons learned from energy systems development at the Walter Reed campus redevelopment site in the District and through large-scale procurement of renewable energy in the Eastern United States.

HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY COMMITTEE (HSPSPC)

The HSPSPC received a presentation on COG's regional crime report as well as briefings on regional gang activity and the juvenile justice system, which included a discussion on mental health treatment and intervention.



Event Highlight:

REGIONAL TRADE MISSION TO CANADA

The region's top three executives led a joint mission to Canada in September. They were joined by a regional delegation, which included COG Board Member Phil Mendelson (District of Columbia) and COG Executive Director Chuck Bean.

[READ MORE ABOUT THE MISSION](#)

Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe, Premier of Ontario Kathleen Wynne, District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser, and Maryland Governor Larry Hogan. (Larry Hogan/Twitter)

LEADERSHIP GREATER WASHINGTON (LGW) CLASS OF 2018

COG Executive Director Chuck Bean discussed region's strengths and priorities with the Class of 2018.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

COG Homeland Security and Public Safety Managing Director Scott Boggs participated as a panelist at WAMU's Community Council meeting, which focused on regional emergency and disaster preparedness.

SMART CITIES WORKSHOP

COG staff from programs in the energy, public safety, transportation, and water sectors facilitated at a workshop to develop regional strategies to engage jurisdictions and the private sector in furthering Smart Cities initiatives. The event, held at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, supported COG's ongoing partnership with the Federal Laboratory Consortium (FLC).

CAR FREE DAY

Car Free Day took place on Friday, September 22. The annual event encourages people to try modes of travel other than driving alone and support car-free policies and initiatives. More than 11,200 people pledged to take part in the region's event, which is sponsored by COG's Commuter Connections program.

SHORT-TERM RENTALS

COG convened a joint meeting of its Housing Directors and Planning Directors Committees to focus on short-term rentals. Members discussed how local jurisdictions are considering regulatory and policy changes to balance the benefits and challenges of short-term rentals and homesharing.

CLEAN AIR INITIATIVES

Clean Air Partners ran a social and digital media campaign encouraging residents to share how they protect the air, worked with Commuter Connections to promote Car Free Day, and launched its 7th annual slogan contest, which engages students in grades 4-8 to focus on improving the air.

CENSUS INFORMATION SESSION

The Cooperative Forecasting and Data Subcommittee held an informational session on the 2020 U.S. Census local update of census addresses (LUCA), which is the opportunity for governments to review and comment on the U.S. Census Bureau's residential address list prior to the census.

HOUSEHOLD TRAVEL SURVEY

This October, the TPB is beginning to collect data for the region's Household Travel Survey, which is conducted every ten years to collect detailed travel information from thousands of households across the region. Households will receive letter invitations to participate over the course of the next year. The data collected from this survey plays an important role in regional transportation planning.



(Arc of Greater Prince William/Insight, Inc.)

Outreach Highlight:

ENHANCED MOBILITY SOLICITATION

The TPB held its final pre-application conference for potential applicants to the Enhanced Mobility Program. The grant program is jointly administered by COG and the TPB. It supports programs and services to enhance the mobility of older adults and persons with disabilities. The solicitation closes November 3.

[LEARN MORE AND APPLY](#)

FESTIVAL DEL RIO ANACOSTIA - Oct 14

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD - Oct 18

TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT FORUM - Nov 2

REGION FORWARD COALITION - Nov 3

[MORE COG MEETINGS & EVENTS](#)

TRADE MISSION

The regional trade mission to Canada was first reported by the Washington Business Journal. COG Board Chairman Kenyan McDuffie and COG's Chuck Bean were interviewed. [MORE FROM WASHINGTON BUSINESS JOURNAL](#)

AMAZON HEADQUARTERS

The COG Board of Directors' discussion and request of staff to explore opportunities for collaboration related to the Amazon Headquarters proposal was covered by several outlets. [MORE FROM WASHINGTON BUSINESS JOURNAL](#)

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council Chairman David Snyder (Falls Church) was interviewed by WTOP about how area officials were monitoring response efforts related to Hurricanes Harvey and Irma to improve the region's response to similar disasters. [MORE FROM WTOP](#)

CAR FREE DAY

The region's Car Free Day was covered by several news outlets in advance of the event, and COG's Commuter Connections Director Nicholas Ramfos was interviewed. [MORE FROM WTOP](#)

CRIME REPORT

COG's report on crime and crime control was highlighted by several outlets, and COG Police Chiefs Committee Chair Ronald Pavlik (Metro Transit Police) was interviewed. [MORE FROM CTV NEWS](#)



(Paul Sullivan/Flickr)

Media Highlight:

AIR QUALITY PROGRESS

COG's ozone season summary, which showed no unhealthy Code Red days in 2017 and major progress in air quality trends, received coverage in *The Washington Post*, WAMU, and WTOP. MWAQC Chairman Hans Riemer (Montgomery County) and COG Environmental Programs Director Steve Walz were interviewed.

[MORE FROM THE WASHINGTON POST](#)