



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – February 2018
DATE: February 7, 2018

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)

– At its January meeting, the TPB voted to study newly proposed transportation projects, such as toll lanes on I-495 and I-270, to determine if they meet air quality standards before deciding whether to include them in the Visualize 2045 long-range plan. The TPB also approved \$6 million in grants for 17 projects that fund transportation services for people with disabilities as well as new highway safety targets for the region.

[View the Visualize 2045 news release](#)

[View the Enhanced Mobility grants news release](#)

Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) and the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) – In January, the committees sponsored a special work session on electric vehicles (EV) during Public Policy Day at the 2018 Washington Auto Show.

Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) – In January, CBPC focused on proposed water and environmental legislation and initiatives. New CBPC Chair Libby Garvey facilitated a panel on federal initiatives that discussed advocating nationally for water infrastructure and workforce development. Members were also briefed on forthcoming state bills, and Councilmember Elisa Silverman highlighted the D.C. Council's areas of environmental focus, including planning for the Year of the Anacostia.

Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) – In January, HSPC reviewed its focus areas for the year and members shared information on health and human services initiatives in their jurisdictions.

Region Forward Coalition (RFC) – In January, the RFC received a briefing on VoicesDMV, an initiative designed to hear directly from residents about regional challenges and opportunities. It was also briefed on policies and practices to enhance economic inclusion as well as a 2018 study on millennials from American University's Kogod School of Business.



STAFF FEATURE

Andrew Meese's work is helping the region enhance its response to traffic incidents and keep pedestrians and bicyclists safe.

[View the Heart of COG](#)

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

City of Fairfax – On January 9, Chuck Bean gave a presentation on COG’s programs and discussed the City of Fairfax’s participation in COG.

Unmanned aircraft – The Police Foundation and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) presented at COG on January 30 on small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS), their relationship with public safety, and the future of sUAS in the region. Federal, state, and local public safety partners attended and discussed current issues, strategic implementation, and future legal authorities in the region.

Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program – On February 1, the TPB began accepting applications for free technical assistance under its popular TLC Program, which provides support for planning studies and preliminary engineering for projects that help local jurisdictions build sustainable, walkable communities. Applications are due Friday, April 2.

[View the TLC site](#)

Metrorail Safety Commission (MSC) – The three states have been working to appoint and confirm their MSC Commissioners and held an orientation for them at COG on February 7. The states are also continuing to work on other key tasks, such as hiring an executive director.

Foster Care Exchange – COG’s Foster Care Advisory Committee and Wednesday’s Child Committee hosted the annual Regional Adoption Exchange on January 11, during which private agencies presented licensed families, who are prepared to adopt older children from foster care.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

How Amazon could impact DC-area schools, housing and transportation– COG’s Paul DesJardin and Tim Canan interviewed.

[View the WTOP story](#)

Funding Projects to Enhance Transportation Mobility– COG’s Wendy Klancher interviewed.

[View the Comcast Newsmakers show](#)



BLOG: ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Behind the scenes at the Washington Auto Show, COG and area leaders continued their work readying the region for “plugging in” to the coming “revolution”—electrification of transportation. (CEEPC Chair Mary Lehman moderates panel at Auto Show meeting.)

[View the blog](#)