



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

May 2016

COMMITTEE WORK FEATURE OUTREACH CALENDAR MEDIA

Policy Boards & Committees

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD (TPB)

A greater percentage of the region's residents are biking and using public transit to get to work, and a smaller percentage of commuters are driving, both alone and in carpools, according to a new TPB analysis. More people are also working from home, with about 27 percent of workers telecommuting at least occasionally. Officials were briefed on these and other regional travel trends at the TPB's April meeting. In addition, the TPB voted on transportation alternative projects in Northern Virginia for funding under Virginia's FY 2017 Surface Transportation Block Grant Program Set Aside program. Following a briefing by the Maryland Department of Transportation, officials also voted to update the region's long-range transportation plan and 2015-2020 Transportation Improvement Program to reflect an updated project cost and additional funding for the Purple Line project. Officials also named May 20 as the region's Bike to Work Day.

REGION FORWARD COALITION (RFC)

The coalition met April 22 and was briefed by COG Health Officials Committee (HOC) Co-Chairman Dr. Stephen Haering on a new project on the social determinants of health. He described the elements of the proposed scope of work for the project, including the methods for calculating quality of life using social determinants of health that align with COG's Region Forward goals, and performing Health Opportunity Index calculations.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS (CAOs)

At the April CAOs meeting, officials held a discussion with non-partisan foundation The Volker Alliance on the state of government performance management in the mid-Atlantic and across the country. The group was also updated on Zika developments and the regional preparations being made in response, was briefed on the issue of lead in drinking water, and prepared for a future conversation with WMATA regarding the March 16 Metrorail shutdown.



Heart of COG: **NICOLE MCCALL**

Transportation Planner Nicole McCall has led COG's effort to analyze job posting data to determine what occupations are in greatest demand in the region, and the skills and education needed by workers to fill those jobs. This new data source will be used to help better prepare workers and develop more robust workforce development programs in the region.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE ARTICLE.](#)

DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

COG and regional partners, including law enforcement agencies, water utilities, and health officials promoted the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency’s Drug Take Back Day on April 30. With over 50 take-back locations in metropolitan Washington, the event allowed residents to conveniently dispose of medications while preventing water pollution, drug abuse, and unintentional ingestion.

PROCUREMENT STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

The Mid-Atlantic Purchasing Team, a partnership between COG and the Baltimore Metropolitan Council, hosted Procurement Staff Professional Development Day on April 7. Sixty local government procurement professionals attended the event, which featured speakers from Montgomery County, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, and COG.

TRAINING FOR EMERGENCY DEBRIS MANAGERS

COG hosted a three-day FEMA Region III training for the region’s public works solid waste emergency debris managers, which included a half-day tabletop exercise. The training was aimed at helping members prepare for managing debris generated by emergencies.

TRANSPORTATION FAIRS

Commuter Connections staff attended several transportation and Earth Day fairs this month, helping the region’s residents consider their best options for getting to and from work. Events were attended in the District of Columbia, Rockville, White Oak, Alexandria, Arlington, and Reston.

ANACOSTIA TRIBUTARY TRAIL SYSTEM MAP

Sixty-three miles of the Anacostia Tributary Trail System can be viewed from a computer or hand held device, thanks to a new digital map that features 360-degree views of the system’s trails. The map is a project of the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership, a regional effort supported by the District of Columbia, Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties, state and federal partners, and led by COG.

REGIONAL COMMITMENT TO WATER QUALITY AND SAFETY

The water crisis in Flint, Michigan has brought national attention to the problem of lead in drinking water. COG compiled a list of resources for area officials and residents with additional information on the topic of water quality and safety, including the issue of lead in water. This resource can be found on the COG website.

COOPERATIVE FORECASTING

COG’s community planning and transportation staff participated in an April 27 meeting of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council Cooperative Forecasting Committee.



Outreach Highlight:
BIKE TO WORK DAY TO BE HELD THIS MONTH

The TPB has named May 20 Bike to Work Day in metropolitan Washington. Last year’s record-breaking event drew more than 17,500 bicycle commuters, and thousands are expected to participate in this year’s event. *(Pictured Left to Right: Greg Billing, Tim Lovain, Bridget Donnell Newton, Elissa Silverman, Nicholas Ramfos)*

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD - May 18

BIKE TO WORK DAY - May 20

SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING LEADERSHIP COUNCIL SUMMIT - May 24-26

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE - May 25

LAB-TO-MARKET TECHNOLOGY FORUM - June 2

COG BOARD OF DIRECTORS - June 8

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE ABOUT THESE AND OTHER COG MEETINGS & EVENTS](#)

EXPERT PRESENTS SEVEN INDUSTRIES WITH HIGH ECONOMIC IMPACT FOR THE REGION

Presenting to the COG Board of Directors, Douglas Meade from the University of Maryland Inforum discussed seven industries with high economic potential for the region, including advocacy, information and communications technology, business and finance, media and information, science and security technology, biological and health technology, and business and leisure travel.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE WASHINGTON BUSINESS JOURNAL ARTICLE.](#)

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD REVEALS REGIONAL TRAVEL TRENDS

At the April TPB meeting, Robert Griffiths of COG's transportation planning department shared the latest trends in regional travel, including public transit ridership, congestion, enplanements, and carpooling. The percentage of telecommuters is also increasing. "Work is becoming less of someplace you go...It's something you do where ever you are," Griffiths said. [CLICK HERE FOR THE NBC-4 WASHINGTON VIDEO](#) AND [CLICK HERE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE.](#)

COG JOINS USDA INITIATIVE TO BOOST LOCAL FOOD RESOURCES

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the participation of 10 cities in the new FoodLINC initiative, which connects the demand for local food in urban areas with regional farmers. COG will lead the effort in the region and has hired a value chain coordinator to work with local systems that deliver food from farms to consumers and institutions. [CLICK HERE FOR THE BAY JOURNAL ARTICLE.](#)



Media Highlight:

SPRING STREET SMART CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF IN SILVER SPRING

Transportation officials from the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia launched the spring Street Smart campaign urging drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists to exercise caution and follow traffic safety laws. COG Environmental Planner Isabel Ricker (*pictured*) shared her story to help raise awareness and prevent future incidents.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE](#)