

MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – June 2019
DATE: June 5, 2019

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – At its May meeting, the TPB approved 13 projects for technical assistance through the Transportation Land-use Connections (TLC) program. The TPB discussed a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment for the Maryland Department of Transportation regarding the Nice/Middleton Bridge replacement, but deferred action until June. Graduates of the Community Leadership Institute received certificates for their participation. The board was also briefed on road safety in Maryland.

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) – In May, MWAQC approved its work program and budget for FY 2020 and learned about the “Turn Your Engine Off” campaign, which engages truck and motor coach drivers to encourage compliance with idling laws.

Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) - The CBPC developed comments for the Chesapeake Bay Program regarding the Bay's Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans, and its Agriculture Task Force provided an update on a regional COG Agricultural Plan expected this July.

Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) - In May, HSPC focused on an overview of human services programs used by the Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) populations, how poverty has moved over time into our region's suburbs and challenges faced by these populations, how childcare access and cost drives the achievement gap, and possible policy solutions to address the need.



MEMBER FEATURE

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) Chair David Snyder shares recent local actions that are helping the region achieve its air quality goals.

[Read the blog post](#)

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Bike to Work Day – Bike to Work Day was held on May 17. Nearly 18,000 people participated, and more than 115 pit stops across region provided refreshments, bike tune-ups, games, entertainment, and giveaways.

Smart Region Movement (SRM) – Members of COG’s SRM Strategy Group met for the first time with their Board of Trade partners on May 17 to discuss the project’s strategy and provide initial input from a local government perspective.

Metro shutdown – In advance of the summer shutdown of six Blue and Yellow Line Metrorail stations for platform replacements, COG’s Commuter Connections program formed a work group comprised of the impacted jurisdictions, transit agencies, and WMATA to exchange information on activities to help commuters during the service disruption. Commuter Connections has also done targeted outreach with WMATA and advertising to commuters and employers located near impacted stations.

Housing – COG Department of Community Planning and Services Director Paul DesJardin briefed the Arlington County Planning Division on the COG Board’s housing initiative at their meeting on May 15. A joint committee meeting of COG’s Planning and Housing Directors included a briefing from the Urban Institute on research funded by the Greater Washington Partnership concerning the likely need for housing across the full range of incomes, key to the COG Board’s initiative.

Creating the Cities of the Future event – COG Executive Director Chuck Bean spoke about the important role of housing in planning for the cities of the future at a special event hosted at the House of Sweden for EU Green Week/Climate Diplomacy Week.

Corrections Wreath Laying – On May 4, the COG Corrections Chiefs Committee sponsored the annual Corrections Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony. The event honors corrections personnel who have lost their lives in the line of duty. COG Board Vice Chair Christian Dorsey provided remarks.

Enhanced Mobility Grantee workshop - TPB hosted a forum May 29 for Enhanced Mobility grantees from across the region to gather and share their ideas and experiences for working to improve transportation for people with limited mobility. The grant program is jointly administered by COG and the TPB, and supports programs and services to enhance the mobility of older adults and persons with disabilities.



Water survey – COG’s Community Engagement Campaign promoted a survey for its members, area water and wastewater utilities, about how people use water and what they think of tap water safety. The survey results will be shared with members in June and will help inform communication efforts.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

D.C. area records lowest number of homeless residents since 2001, report finds – Article reports the results of COG’s report, *Homeless in Metropolitan Washington*.

[Curbed DC story](#)

Study to examine freight delivery in downtown Frederick – COG Transportation Staff Nicole McCall and Jon Schermann are quoted about a study examining freight delivery in downtown Frederick, funded through the TPB’s Transportation/Land Use Connections program.

[Frederick News-Post story](#)

Amazon has praised the D.C.-area workforce. But there's a lot of work still to do – A recap of the remarks by area economic development officials on opportunities for regional collaboration at the COG Board’s May meeting.

[Washington Business Journal story](#)

Potomac’s water quality keeps improving, but not enough – The Potomac River is showing signs of water quality improvement, according to a new COG report.

[WTOP story](#)

Electric Scooter Safety, Education and Regulation Pose Challenges to Area Governments as Programs Expand – A recap of the TPB’s Dockless Bike and Scooter Share Workshop.

[WAMU story](#)