



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – September 2018
DATE: September 5, 2018

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)

- At its June meeting, the TPB set targets for measuring the performance of the highway system for congestion and emissions. The board also received a briefing on regional travel trends. At its July meeting, the TPB continued discussions about how to support its seven 'aspirational' initiatives incorporated in the Visualize 2045 long-range plan. It also approved more than \$1.2 million in funding for four bicycle and pedestrian projects in Maryland through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).

[TAP news release](#)

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) –

In July, MWAQC received an update on the "What Can We Do" draft report, which focused on priority measures to help achieve no unhealthy air days. In the upcoming months, MWAQC members will focus on strategies to implement the priority measures in the region.

Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee

(CBPC) – At its July meeting, CBPC members learned about laws and practices to foster trees and tree canopy in Montgomery County, and were also briefed on COG's Tree Canopy Strategy report. Members were interested in exploring the formation of a future CEEPC subcommittee to further address tree issues.

Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) - In July, CEEPC hosted a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Drivers of Change Work Session and released a new fact sheet that shows metropolitan Washington GHG emissions have decreased 10% between 2005 and 2015.

[GHG news highlight and fact sheet](#)

Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) – At its July meeting, HSPC members focused on housing for older adults, including a presentation by Montgomery County's Planning Department, as well as the issue of women experiencing homelessness.



MEMBER PROFILE

D.C. Planning Director Eric Shaw, who serves as Chairman of the COG Planning Directors Committee, discusses the group's focus on bringing jobs and housing closer together.

[Q&A/Video](#)

Region Forward Coalition (RFC) - In July, the RFC received a briefing about the Montgomery County's Smart Growth Initiative, which focused on bringing thousands of new housing units near the Shady Grove Metro station and a transit-oriented bioscience enclave as well as modernizing critical public facilities. In addition, members received a presentation on office vacancy rates across the region and strategies for reusing older, empty office buildings from the City of Alexandria and Fairfax County.

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Mid-Atlantic Planning Roundtable – COG's Paul DesJardin and Tim Canan assisted with planning and hosting the 2018 Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Roundtable, which was held on June 19 in Baltimore and included participants from neighboring regions, such as Baltimore, Wilmington, and Philadelphia.

First responder training – COG managed a project to send 25 area public safety officials to Israel to learn firsthand from subject matter experts in the fields of counter-terrorism, cybersecurity, and emergency management.

Training news highlight

TIP forum – On July 12, the TPB hosted a public forum to shed greater light on the project funding and prioritization process and to take a closer look at the region's six-year transportation spending document, known as the Transportation Improvement Program - or TIP.

Commuter Connections Employer Awards– Three area employers took top honors at the 21st annual Employer Recognition Awards. COG's Commuter Connections hosts the awards to recognize employers for providing their workers with outstanding commuter benefits.

Air quality outreach - Clean Air Partners ran its Breathe Easy campaign to raise awareness of the impact of everyday actions on air quality and public health. It encouraged residents to help improve regional air quality, save money, and protect their health by following simple steps like taking transit, telecommuting, and practicing energy conservation.

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions - On July 26, COG's Steve Walz and Maia Davis presented to the NVRC Commissioners on Northern Virginia's greenhouse gas trends and how local jurisdictions are working toward meeting climate and energy goals. Davis also spoke on a webinar on the launch of U.S. Department of Energy and Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) GHG tool, which COG helped develop and used for its recent analysis.



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Region's first responders head to Israel for special training on managing emergencies bit.ly/2mXVjIV @ASTI_edu @FEMARegion3 @PGPDNews @dcfireems @mcpnews @MetroTransitPD @ReadyMontgomery @DCPoliceDept

12:19 PM - Jul 31, 2018

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Green jobs – On August 16, COG hosted the Leaders in Energy ‘Green Jobs’ Forum. COG’s Tim Masters welcomed professionals, students, and green job seekers as they came together to support growth of the regional clean economy.

Air quality workshop –On June 21, area air quality, energy, and transportation staff met at a special work session to discuss actions, especially local actions, that could help the region achieve no unhealthy air days. The actions are included in the forthcoming “What Can We Do” report.

Cooperative purchasing – Staff is working on alternative fuel infrastructure bid documents, including electric vehicles, propane and natural gas infrastructure.

Activity centers – In June, COG staff participated in a ULI Washington Technical Assistance Panel for the Greenbelt Road Corridor Improvements. This panel was offered through a strategic partnership between ULI Washington and COG to identify priority, catalytic strategies to maximize the impacts of investment in COG-designated Activity Centers.

COG priorities, cooperative purchasing – On July 10, Chuck Bean and Rick Konrad gave a presentation to the Charles County Board of Commissioners.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

News4 Your Sunday: The Year of the Anacostia – COG’s Steve Walz, Anacostia Watershed Restoration Chair and Prince George’s Environmental Director Adam Ortiz interviewed.

[NBC4 video](#)

Report looks at trends in Washington region travel – COG’s Tim Canan quoted.

[Frederick News-Post story](#)

‘Feasible projects’ approved to help Md. commuters ditch cars – COG’s John Swanson quoted.

[WTOP story](#)

Washington’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions Are Declining, But Not Quickly Enough – COG’s Steve Walz quoted.

[WAMU story](#)



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ICYMI: Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership Chairman and @PGCSprout Director @ortizadam, COG’s Steve Walz, & @AnacostiaNPS Superintendent Tara Morrison joined @nbcwashington to spread the word about the Year of the Anacostia: ow.ly/vmXI30kZtpT @yota2018
9:48 AM - Jul 17, 2018

 4  See COG’s other Tweets