



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

May 2016

COMMITTEE WORK    FEATURE    OUTREACH    CALENDAR    MEDIA

### Policy Boards & Committees

#### NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD (TPB)

At its monthly meeting, the TPB approved funding for eight technical assistance projects totaling \$420,000 through the Transportation Land-Use Connections Program (TLC)—a TPB program that helps local jurisdictions integrate land-use and transportation planning at the community level.

#### METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE (MWAQC)

MWAQC was updated on the revised 1997 fine particle pollution maintenance plan. The region is in compliance with the fine particulate air quality standard, but needs to continue to control these emissions to further protect public health. MWAQC also received a briefing on the Multi-Sector Work-Group effort, reviewed outlines for an environmental justice tool-kit, and adopted the FY 2017 MWAQC Work Program.

#### HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY COMMITTEE (HSPSPC)

HSPSPC members were briefed on the results of COG's 16th enumeration of persons experiencing homelessness in the region. The group considered how the region can better respond to and meet the unique needs of veterans, youth, and LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness.

#### CLIMATE, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE (CEEPC)

In May, CEEPC discussed the results of a COG-commissioned regional renewable energy study, which found that the region exceeded its 2016 goal to have at least 10 percent of electricity use come from renewable power; with the right policy and market drivers these levels could more than double by 2022. The group also kicked off the process for updating the 2017-2020 *Regional Climate and Energy Action Plan*, which will be adopted by the end of the year.

#### CHESAPEAKE BAY AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE (CBPC)

With Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week coming up June 4-12, the CBPC endorsed an outreach plan at its May meeting to celebrate water recognition events (per COG Resolution 22-2016) this year and beyond. The plan emphasizes the region's effectiveness in protecting water quality and public health, and highlighting wastewater treatment plant success stories, stormwater innovation, and career paths in the water workforce.



#### Member Highlight: Q&A WITH PENNY GROSS

Fairfax County Supervisor Penny Gross has been on the COG Board of Directors since 1997, and is the longest-serving member. We sat down with Gross to talk about her career in public service, regional accomplishments, and her current work as COG's Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee Chairwoman. *(Photo: Gross at the Smithsonian Garden Fest)*

[CLICK HERE FOR THE ARTICLE.](#)

**HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON METRO SAFETY**

Transportation Planning Board (TPB) Chairman Timothy Lovain, City of Alexandria Council Member, testified on May 24 before the House Subcommittee on Highways and Transit on improving the safety and reliability of Metro.

**ROADMAP UPDATE EVENT**

COG Executive Director Chuck Bean presented about the Global Cities Initiative at an event on May 12, which served as an update for area leaders on the progress made toward action items outlined in the “Roadmap for the Washington Region’s Future Economy.”

**CHILDREN’S CHARITIES FOUNDATION RECEPTION**

COG Community Planning and Services Director Paul DesJardin and incoming Child Welfare Program Manager Surina Amin attended the Children’s Charities Foundation (CCF) reception on May 23. COG received a 2016 CCF grant award to support the “Trailblazers” Project for foster children now attending college.

**MILITARY AND CIVILIAN CHAPLAINCY INTERAGENCY CONFERENCE**

The 10th Annual Military and Civilian Chaplaincy Interagency Conference was held on May 3 at Fort McNair to improve coordination among chaplains/clergy in preparation for a disaster in the region. The conference was held in partnership with Joint Force Headquarters National Capital Region (JFHQ-NCR) Chaplains and Public Safety Chaplains in the region.

**ANNUAL WREATH LAYING CEREMONY**

COG’s Corrections Chiefs Committee sponsored the 25th Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony in honor of fallen corrections officers. Speakers included COG Board of Directors Chairman Roger Berliner, Fairfax Sheriff Stacey Kincaid, and Dr. Thomas Kane, Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

**CLEAN AIR PARTNERS ANNUAL AWARDS**

The Clean Air Partners Annual Awards were held on May 11 at the Mansion House at The Maryland Zoo. The awards recognized the achievements of area students, Solar Mowing, and Breathe DC for their dedication to improving the region’s air quality. Maryland Department of the Environment’s Laura Armstrong was honored with the 2016 Clean Air Partners Champion Award

**SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING LEADERSHIP COUNCIL SUMMIT**

The Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council (SPLC) Summit was held May 24-26 at Gallaudet University. COG served as a summit partner for the event, which brought together purchasing and sustainability professionals, suppliers, and NGO experts to share best sustainable purchasing practices.



Event Highlight:  
**BIKE TO WORK DAY**

More than 17,500 commuters cycled to work for the region’s annual Bike to Work Day event on May 20. Co-organized by Commuter Connections and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA), this year’s event featured 83 pit stops across the region. *(Photo: District of Columbia Councilmember Charles Allen at the Eastern Market Pit Stop)*

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

**TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD** - June 15

**COG ANNUAL LEADERSHIP RETREAT** - July 15-17

**CHESAPEAKE BAY AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE/CLIMATE, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE** - July 27

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE** - July 27

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

### **ANNUAL COUNT OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS RECORDED**

The number of homeless people decreased in seven of the region's nine jurisdictions. However, the overall homeless population in metropolitan Washington increased five percent from 2015 to 2016—for a total of 12,215 people—according to COG's latest report. [CLICK HERE FOR THE WAMU ARTICLE.](#)

### **TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD PRIORITIZES UNFINISHED AND UNFUNDED BIKE PROJECTS**

At the May TPB meeting, COG Transportation Planner Michael Farrell highlighted several bike projects for completion across the region, including Virginia's Cinder Bed Bikeway and the Rhode Island Avenue Trolley Trail. [CLICK HERE FOR THE WTOP ARTICLE.](#)

### **ANALYSIS TO SUPPORT DEDICATED FUNDING FOR METRO**

COG and the Greater Washington Board of Trade are preparing to analyze options for dedicated Metro funding. [CLICK HERE FOR THE WASHINGTON BUSINESS JOURNAL ARTICLE.](#)

### **COG REPORT IDENTIFIES TOP 10 IN-DEMAND JOBS IN METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON**

For the first time in three years, the demand for jobs in the region outpaced the nation, according to the COG *Trends in Workforce Demand Report*. The report found that half of the 10 occupations in greatest demand are high-tech, computer related jobs. [CLICK HERE FOR THE WTOP ARTICLE.](#)

### **MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY TRAFFIC ANALYSIS**

The TPB examined historical traffic information on area freeways in the days leading up to Memorial Day weekend. The analysis noted that traffic is consistently worse on Thursday than Friday. [CLICK HERE FOR COVERAGE BY NBC WASHINGTON](#)



### Media Highlight: **FOSTER PARENTS OF THE YEAR**

Foster parents from 10 jurisdictions across the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia were honored by COG as the region's 2016 Foster Parents of the Year. Kristy O'Neal, Foster Parent of the Year for Frederick County, has provided a home for foster children of all ages. *(Photo L to R: Jennifer Long, Roger Wilson, Kristy O'Neal, and Diane Ochalek)*

[CLICK HERE FOR THE FREDERICK NEWS POST ARTICLE.](#)