



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – July 2020
DATE: July 1, 2020

COVID-19 COORDINATION

Since the beginning of June, COG has coordinated weekly calls with area health departments to explore ways to securely share contact tracing data, as appropriate. COG has also forged agreement among officials and begun testing a regional dashboard, which provides public health agencies and hospitals with information about the medical surge status of area hospitals. In addition, COG's website now features a page of publicly available health data dashboards by member governments as well as a page with links to local school reopening plans for Fall 2020.

[COG COVID-19 Resources Page](#)

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – At its June meeting, the TPB held a robust discussion on equity and safety. Officials considered recommendations from a Regional Safety Study to address the most common factors that contribute to serious injuries or deaths on area roadways. They also received briefings on two work products that have come directly from the aspirational portion of Visualize 2045, the TPB's long-range transportation plan. The first is a list of Transit Access Focus Areas, or areas near high capacity transit that have the most potential to improve walk and bike access to transit. The other is the National Capital Trail Network, an expanded view of regional interconnected trails designed for pedestrians, bikes, and other non-motorized use.



COMMUTE WITH CONFIDENCE

As the region gradually reopens, COG's Commuter Connections program offers COVID-19 commuting tips and resources for employees transitioning back into the workplace.

[View the campaign and safety tips](#)

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Racial Equity Cohort – The COG-GARE Advancing Racial Equity Cohort convened a virtual panel of thought leaders from the philanthropic community on June 25 to collaborate with local governments toward a shared vision of a more equitable region. Chuck Bean also discussed COG’s equity work as well as COVID-19 coordination on June 12 as the featured speaker in a Leadership Greater Washington webinar series.



VIRTUAL RACIAL EQUITY SUMMIT

COG and seven non-profit partners hosted more than 500 area leaders for the virtual **Race, Equity & the Future of Greater Washington Regional Summit** on June 25.

[View the news highlight and watch the summit video](#)

Transportation Grants – The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Highway Administration awarded a \$2.9 million Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment grant to COG. The grant will help Commuter Connections build on its innovative incenTrip app, which offers people rewards for planning trips based on real-time traffic prediction data and user preferences. COG was also awarded a \$151,200 grant under the Federal Transit Administration’s Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility pilot program for development of a technology platform which will integrate and synchronize transportation services to and from dialysis centers for underserved populations.

Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week – To celebrate Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week, June 6–14, COG’s Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) Chair and City of Fairfax Councilmember Jon Stehle, released a blog on the importance of partnerships and equity in the region’s work for the Bay. COG also highlighted CBPC founding member, Fairfax County Supervisor Penny Gross, in a video about the history of the committee and its impact on the progress of the Chesapeake Bay.

Transportation Webinars – The Transportation Planning Board recently hosted a webinar on curbside management challenges for transportation professionals. It also hosted a webinar on connected and autonomous vehicles and the impact these vehicles will have on the region. Both discussions fostered new ideas for enhancing transportation in the region and increased collaboration amongst jurisdictions.

Employer Recognition Awards –Commuter Connections recognized three local employers - Abt Associates, United Therapeutics Corporation, and ANA Enterprise – for their excellence in commute alternative programs. These programs offer measurable commuter benefits, promoting innovation and sustainability.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Annual homeless count shows slight drop, fewest unhoused since 2001– COG’s annual Point-in-Time count recorded a decrease in the amount of people experiencing homelessness in the region.

[The Washington Post story](#)

Safety improvements considered to help you arrive alive on DC-area roads– COG Systems Performance Analysis Manager Jon Schermann discusses the results of the TPB Regional Safety Study and what residents can do to stay safe on the roads.

[WTOP story](#)

Washington has yet to see unhealthful pollution levels this year. That’s a record. – The Capital Weather Gang cited a COG presentation and data that found that pollutants generally seemed lower in Spring 2020 after COVID-19 related restrictions were implemented in the region when compared with Spring 2019.

[The Washington Post story](#)