



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** COG Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Clark Mercer, COG Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Executive Director's Report – April 2024  
**DATE:** April 3, 2024

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### POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

**National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)** – At its March meeting, the TPB adopted four resolutions: funding for Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside projects, an amendment to carry over funds from the MPO's FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), new funding for the FY 2025 TPB Work Program, and funding for the FY 2025 Commuter Connections Work Program. Tasks under both FY 2025 work programs begin on July 1, 2024. The board also received a briefing on the Visualize 2050 National Capital Region Transportation Plan project inputs and draft scope of work for the air quality conformity analysis.

**Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC)** – At the March CBPC meeting, the committee approved the FY 2024 work program and budget. The members received an update on state and federal legislation and heard from three different water supply experts discussing water supply resilience in metropolitan Washington. The committee was notified about new federal funding that will be used to initiate a Potomac River Secondary Water Source investigation study via the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The study is expected to take three years to complete at an estimated cost of \$3 million (half federal and half local funding).

**Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)** – At the March CEEPC meeting, COG staff provided an overview of the committee's role for newcomers, as well as briefed members on the 2024 legislative sessions in Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. Lastly, the CEEPC Regional Tree Canopy Subcommittee presented the proposed tree canopy goal for the region and asked for input on the resolution that will be considered in the April COG Board of Directors meeting.



#### Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Projects

The TPB approved \$19.5 million in federal Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA Set-Aside) Program funding for 15 non-highway transportation projects in Virginia. The program provides funding for small-scale projects, such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, trails, and safe routes to school (SRTS) projects that are considered "alternatives" to traditional highway construction.

[Learn more about the projects that received funding](#)

**Human Services Policy Committee** – At the March meeting, the committee received a briefing from the Urban Institute on evidence-based strategies to reduce youth gun and gang violence. They also heard from the DC Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, which discussed youth involvement in the juvenile justice system, youth arrests, and effective prevention and intervention initiatives. Additionally, an official from Peace for DC, shared her organization's community-based approaches to youth violence interruption.

## OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**FARM tour** – FARM Chair and City of Fairfax Councilmember Jon Stehle, along with Mayor Catherine Read, hosted FARM's New Member Orientation in Fairfax in early March. New and returning members shared priorities and met one another over lunch. Members also heard from speakers from the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, COG, and several Fairfax staff. The meeting concluded with a demonstration at Fairfax's 24-hour compost drop off station, next to the community garden on city property.

**Bike to Work Day** – COG's Commuter Connections program and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) are partnering for Bike to Work Day, which will take place on Friday, May 17 in over 100 pit stops throughout the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. This event offers a healthy and enjoyable start to the workday. Visit [www.biketoworkmetrodc.org](http://www.biketoworkmetrodc.org) for more information and to register.

## MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

**Water Supply Study** – New federal funding from the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill was secured to support a regional study via the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

[WTOP – quotes COG Water Resources Program Director Steve Bieber](#)

**Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program** – The TPB funding received coverage from Patch, FFXnow, Loudoun Times, and WTOP.

[FFXnow – Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program](#)



### Fire symposium, emergency exercises enhance regional response

Fire professionals from across the region gathered on March 19 and 20 at the biennial COG Fire Health & Safety Symposium, sharing valuable, life-saving information for the region's firefighters. COG also helped convene exercises focused on coordinating across multiple agencies during emergencies for COG's Emergency Preparedness Council, SWAT and Public Order Subcommittees, and an exercise with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and DC Homeland Security Emergency Management Agency on water systems.

[Learn more about these events](#)