



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – November 2019
DATE: November 6, 2019

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – At its October meeting, the TPB discussed regional roadway safety with presentations by the District and Virginia Departments of Transportation. The board also learned about the COG Board action to set regional housing targets, which works in tandem with the TPB's aspirational planning initiative to bring jobs and housing closer together. The board was also briefed on a new web mapping tool showing the region's transit walksheds, the area around a transit station reachable on foot.



HOUSING TARGETS ALIGN WITH TPB WORK
The three regional housing targets recently adopted by the COG Board work in tandem with the TPB's Aspirational Initiatives, particularly its initiative to “bring jobs and housing closer together.”

[Read the TPB News article](#)

Region Forward Coalition (RFC) – The October RFC meeting featured briefings and discussions on the policies and programs supported by the Center for Climate Health and Equity at the American Public Health Association (APHA). RFC also heard from LEED for Cities & Communities, U.S. Green Building Council, and District Department of Energy and Environment on their programs that infuse sustainability and equity best practices and performance metrics to improve the quality of life in local communities.

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Fair Housing Plan – COG convened its member jurisdictions and public housing authorities and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity department on October 30 to kick off a regional planning process to evaluate impediments to fair housing choice and develop local and regional strategies to create more inclusive communities.

Regional Housing Targets – COG leadership completed speaking engagements in October on the region’s new housing targets. COG Executive Director Chuck Bean spoke at the DC Chamber of Commerce State of the District and Region Conference, Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers (HAND) Forum, before the Prince George’s County Council, and at the National Association of Regional Councils’ Executive Directors Conference. Department of Community Planning and Services Director Paul DesJardin spoke to the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, Baltimore Metropolitan Council, and before the Prince William County Board, among other groups.

Street Smart Fall Kickoff – The region’s Street Smart campaign kicked off October 28 in the District of Columbia. The campaign offers safety tips for drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists. This year the campaign incorporated video testimonials from victims of crashes and their families.

Community Leadership Institute (CLI) – CLI, held October 30, and November 5 and 7, engaged community leaders in discussions and education about transportation planning in the region. Through role-playing and mapping activities, participants learned about how transportation projects are planned, funded, and implemented.

Sustainable Purchasing Forum – COG’s Cooperative Purchasing Program and Department of Environmental Programs, and the Mid-Atlantic Purchasing Team sponsored the Second Annual Sustainable Purchasing Forum and Expo to promote “green” purchasing and products in the region. More than 20 agencies from the metropolitan Washington and Baltimore regions attended, as well as 25 vendors.

Clean Air Partners Slogan Contest – The 6th annual Clean Air Partners Slogan Contest is accepting submissions. Metropolitan Baltimore-Washington students in grades 4-8 are invited to submit a creative slogan that brings to light the solutions to air pollution and climate change and inspires people to take actions to improve our region’s air quality. Deadline for submissions via cleanairpartners.net is November 13.

Symposium of Emerging Transportation Trends – Commuter Connections Director Nick Ramfos spoke at the International Symposium of Emerging Transportation Trends (ISETT) in Rome, Italy on the incentive programs associated with Commuter Connections (Guaranteed Ride Home, ‘Pool Rewards, Flextime Rewards, CarpoolNow, and incenTrip).



IMAGINE A DAY WITHOUT WATER
Area water and wastewater utilities on COG’s Community Engagement Campaign created a video sharing their efforts to strengthen the region’s water infrastructure.

[Watch the video](#)

WRAPPY Awards - COG received a 2019 Community Partnership Award from the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) for collaborating on the *How Safe Are Our Roads? Report*.

Ryerson University visits COG - Department of Community Planning and Services and Department of Transportation Planning staff spoke with visiting students from Ryerson University of Toronto about regional planning.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Alexandria, Arlington take first steps to collaborate as Amazon growth looms - COG Executive Director Chuck Bean is quoted about collaboration between the Alexandria City Council and Arlington County Board on housing affordability, workforce development, and other challenges.

[Washington Post story](#)

Overall crime in DC region is down by double digits - COG Police Chiefs Committee Chair Jay Farr is quoted about the findings of the *Annual Report on Crime and Crime Control*.

[WTOP article](#)

Regional officials team up to improve racial equity and opportunities - COG Government Relations Supervisor

Monica Nunez is quoted about a new learning cohort to advance racial equity launched by COG and the Government Alliance on Race and Equity.

[WDVM story](#)

It's the most dangerous time of year for pedestrians in our area. Here's what you can do - COG Transportation Planner Michael Farrell is quoted about the launch of the fall Street Smart pedestrian and bicycle safety campaign.

[WUSA 9 article](#)



STREET SMART PROMOTES ROADWAY SAFETY
The campaign launched in the wake of a 14 percent spike in pedestrian fatalities between 2017 and 2018 in the area.

[Read the news release](#)