



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – January 2021
DATE: January 6, 2021

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – In November and December, the board approved bike and pedestrian projects in the District of Columbia for funding through the Transportation Alternatives Set Aside program, set Transit Safety Targets for the region as part of the federally required Performance Based Planning and Programming, and approved the fourth set of roadway safety targets for the region.

Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) – In November, CBPC reflected on its work in 2020 in a [new annual report](#) and video featuring Chair Jon Stehle. During its monthly meeting, the committee heard from state entities on their plans for managing winter salts more effectively to protect water quality and had an initial conversation on what jurisdictions are doing to address equity in their respective communities and what further actions would be helpful.

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) – In December, the committee discussed the impacts of COVID-19 on air quality and telework. This effort is one part of a larger effort COG is undertaking to understand and evaluate the effects of the pandemic on regional air quality, energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, traffic and other transportation, health, and the economy.

Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) – In November, CEEPC adopted the [Metropolitan Washington 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan](#). The plan provides a blueprint for meeting the 2030 regional climate change goals adopted by the COG Board that call for a 50 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 2005 levels, enhancing regional resilience, and incorporating equity principles in climate actions to meet the goals. The plan follows global best practices in climate planning established by the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate Action (GCoM).



ANNUAL VIDEO

Local leaders reflect on the region's work together in 2020 to respond to COVID-19, advance equity, and plan for the future.

[Watch the video](#)

Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) – In November, HSPC focused on developing an agreement to cooperate regionally to prevent and end homelessness, which will be shared with the COG Board in early 2021.

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

COVID-19 Vaccine Coordination – Several COG committees have been focused on sharing information on COVID vaccination plans and helping ensure safe and organized distribution of the vaccines. In December, the COG Board Executive Committee sent a letter to federal partners on a vaccine distribution strategy that supports the metropolitan Washington region's needs.

COG/TPB Leaning In Town Hall Series – COG, in partnership with TPB, continues to host monthly virtual town halls, led by UNC professors Jim Johnson and Jeanne Milliken Bonds, exploring how equity, diversity, and inclusion can help build a more resilient region. The last town hall of the series will be on January 15, [register here](#).

COG Winter Weather Conference 2020 – In November, COG held the annual Winter Weather Conference virtually and brought together stakeholders to discuss the regional COG Winter Weather Coordination Plan. Participants emphasized that coordination amongst local, state, federal government entities, and other strategic partners is even more important this season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Regional Housing Webinar – COG and several other organizations came together to [develop a playbook](#) authored by national expert Dr. Tiffany Manuel of The Case Made to help area leaders—across all sectors—communicate more effectively about housing. The playbook was officially released in November during a virtual housing webinar for government, business, philanthropic, and community leaders.

Brownfield Development Workshop – COG staff hosted a virtual workshop in November with members of the Planning Directors Technical Advisory and Built Environment & Energy Advisory Committees with about 35 participants learning how to fund and incentivize Brownfield projects in the region. The workshop included expert speakers from the EPA's Region 3, Maryland Department of Environmental Quality, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, District of Columbia Department of Energy & Environment, Maryland Department of Planning, and the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT).



NEW LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN
The TPB kicked off an update to Visualize 2045, the region's long-range transportation plan, emphasizing public involvement, equity, climate resiliency, and safety.

[View the plan](#)

Community Engagement Campaign (CEC) initiatives – The Community Engagement Campaign (CEC), a partnership between COG and the region’s water and wastewater utilities, developed several social media campaigns in November and December, providing tips for preventing pipes from freezing, proper disposal of fats, oils, and grease to avoid clogging pipes, and about the detrimental impacts of winter salts on water quality.

America Recycles Day 2020 – COG, the state coordinator for America Recycles Day 2020 for metropolitan Washington, offered regional prizes for residents who took the pledge to participate in the 24th annual national event. The goal is to build consumer demand for recycled products and to educate all Americans about the environmental and economic benefits of recycling.

Anacostia River Restoration survey – More than 500 residents of Montgomery County, Prince George’s County, and the District of Columbia responded to a survey aiming to better understand what is known about the Anacostia River and residents’ attitudes toward it. Results showed that area residents are supportive of efforts to improve its health and understand the role they play in making it healthy.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

D.C. says it is being shortchanged on coronavirus vaccines for health-care workers – COG Executive Director Chuck Bean discusses how changing the way in which COVID-19 vaccine allocations are distributed would enhance the safety of health care workers and patients.

[The Washington Post](#)

Visualize 2045 aims to ensure easier commutes for DC-area residents – COG Transportation Planner Stacy Cook discusses how the region’s long-range transportation plan, *Visualize 2045*, looks to the future to better plan for and provide regional transportation options.

[WTOP](#)

Months of pandemic teleworking have left some missing their commutes– COG Deputy Executive Director of Metropolitan Planning Kanti Srikanth and COG Planning Data and Research Program Director Tim Canan, discuss the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on commuting and how it influences current and future telework decisions as well as impacts the overall economy.

[The Washington Post](#)