



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – February 2020
DATE: February 5, 2020

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – At its January meeting, the TPB welcomed Kelly Russell as the new 2020 Chair and approved new grants to fund transportation services for seniors and individuals with disabilities. The board was also briefed on transit asset management targets for the region, the Metropolitan Area Transportation and Operations Coordination Program (MATOC), and the TPB's budget and work program.

Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) – In January, CBPC members were briefed on COG's Agriculture Task Force updates and members made commitments to garner further support for COG's Ag Commission. Members also formed the CBPC Legislative Work Group to track pertinent Maryland and Virginia legislation relative to COG's priorities for water and discussed an academic paper competition for area college students.

Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) – For its first meeting of the year, CEEPC held its January meeting at the Washington Auto Show, focusing on the Transportation and Climate Initiative cap and investment program for transportation sector greenhouse gas emissions. The board also discussed renewable natural gas, electric school and transit buses, grid integration of electric vehicles, and the future of sustainable low emission transportation in the region.

Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) – At its January meeting, the HSPC members were briefed on the newly-formed partnership to end the experience of homelessness in the District of Columbia and recent efforts to support regional cooperation in homeless services throughout the region.

Region Forward Coalition (RFC) – The RFC focused on prosperity in January. Members were briefed on the state of the region's economy, initiatives to ensure the prosperity and well-being of older adults, and Connected DMV, the smart technologies partnership of the Board of Trade, COG, and other regional partners.



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TPB APPROVES MOBILITY GRANTS
Transportation Planning Board awards nearly \$9.5 million in funding for enhanced mobility programs across the region.

[View the awarded projects](#)

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program kickoff – The TPB began accepting applications for free technical assistance under its popular TLC Program, which provides support for planning studies and preliminary engineering for projects that help local jurisdictions build sustainable, walkable communities. Applications are due March 9.



(Aimee Custis/[Flickr](#))

Transportation and Housing Initiatives – COG Executive Director Chuck Bean and Deputy Executive Director Kanti Srikanth gave a presentation to the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce on January 14. They covered COG’s regional housing targets, the TPB’s *Visualize 2045* plan, and the COG Board’s 2020 focus on transit-oriented communities.

Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) - On January 16, COG convened leaders from other Councils and Metropolitan Planning Organizations to discuss the Transportation and Climate Initiative, a multi-state collaboration to reduce emissions from the transportation sector.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Public Comment Period Open – The TPB released the FY 2021-2024 updated TIP project information and the 2020 amendment to the financially constrained element of *Visualize 2045* for public comment. The comment period will close March 1.

TLC PROGRAM APPLICATION OPEN
This program has been making a difference in local communities through technical assistance, professional consulting, and more.

[Read the TPB News Article](#)

2020 Regional Point-in-Time (PIT) count – Volunteers from each of the nine COG Continuums of Care participated in the PIT count of persons experiencing homelessness on January 22. Paul DesJardin, Hilary Chapman, and John Kent of COG’s Community Planning and Services Department took part in the count.

CBPC Academic Paper Competition – The CBPC has launched its first annual paper competition, which invites area high school, college, and graduate students to provide their perspective on real-world sustainability and water resources issues. Students should submit no later than April 17, and the competition is capped at the first 40 submissions.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Loudoun board chair pushes affordable housing funding in 2020 agenda – Loudoun County Board Chair Phyllis Randall outlines plans to create the county's first-ever dedicated stream of revenue for its housing trust fund, references COG regional numbers.

[Washington Business Journal story](#)

Alexandria mayor: For More Housing to Help in Alexandria, It Must Be in the Right Place – Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson calls for an increase in state money for affordable housing and land-use policies that address region's housing supply needs.

[Alexandria Gazette op-ed](#)

Curtailing Telework for Federal Workers will increase traffic and congestion in all likelihood– COG's Commuter Connections *State of the Commute* report is cited in reference to the amount of congestion eliminated by the use of telework.

[Southern Maryland Chronicle story](#)

D.C. Has Some of The Longest Commutes in The Country. What Help Is Available? – COG's Commuter Connections *State of the Commute* report is cited in reference to the amount of time it takes people to get to work and the type of transportation used.

[WAMU story](#)

Goldfish bowling over Chesapeake's habitat, species – COG Senior Environmental Planner Phong Trieu is quoted about the possible causes of the abnormal population increase of goldfish, the history behind the migration of goldfish, and how it has gotten to this point.

[Bay Journal story](#)