



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Creating a
Region Where
**Everyone Can
Live and Thrive.**



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

Message from the COG Board Chair and Executive Director

Following recent shared accomplishments, like securing dedicated funding for Metro and the Amazon HQ2 selection, leaders from the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia took regional collaboration to the next level in 2019.

This was exemplified by the COG Board's focus on the region's **housing** production and affordability challenges. We did what COG does best—building understanding around the issue—and, ultimately, regional consensus and a call to action. In addition, COG supported and tracked efforts to clean the air and local waterways, provided technical and decision support to officials on homeland security and public safety, and initiated a focus on roadway safety through the Transportation Planning Board (TPB).

In 2020, we turn our attention to a new decade and commit to shaping a future-ready region.

We intend to build on the housing targets and the TPB's *Visualize 2045* plan and study ways to create **transit-oriented communities** throughout our region. By better connecting people to transit, we have a golden opportunity to improve accessibility to housing and jobs and grow our economy. We will continue to focus on advancing **racial equity** regionally and in local government programs and policies. And we will explore new efforts to combat **climate change** and ensure a more sustainable future.

We look forward to working alongside you this year as we create a region where everyone can live and thrive.



Visit mwcog.org/2019COG for a video on the housing initiative and other accomplishments and to learn more about the regional work highlighted in this report.

2020 COG Board Chair Derrick L. Davis



COG Executive Director Chuck Bean



Regional Housing Targets



After an intense year-long effort, involving elected officials, housing and planning directors, and COG staff, the COG Board of Directors unanimously adopted three regional targets on housing. The rationale for each target is available in COG's report, *The Future of Housing in Greater Washington: A Regional Initiative to Create Housing Opportunities, Improve Transportation, and Support Economic Growth*. Board members resolved to work within their communities to adopt local-level targets alongside nonprofit, private, and philanthropic partners.

TARGET 1 Amount

At least 320,000 housing units should be added in the region between 2020 and 2030. This is an additional 75,000 units beyond the units already forecast for this period.

TARGET 2 Accessibility

At least 75% of all new housing should be in Activity Centers or near high-capacity transit.

TARGET 3 Affordability

At least 75% of new housing should be affordable to low- and middle-income households.



METRORAIL SAFETY COMMISSION:

COG completed the transition of administrative responsibilities to the commission following its federal certification. COG helped the states establish the independent safety oversight body.

ROADWAY SAFETY: Following an increase in fatal traffic crashes, the Transportation Planning Board partnered with state departments of transportation to examine broad factors and data underlying these trends. A regional study and recommended strategies for future implementation are expected in 2020.



EQUITY: In partnership with the Government Alliance on Race and Equity, COG launched the first-ever regional learning cohort of 100 staff members from 11 local jurisdictions to advance racial equity and opportunities for all.



WATER QUALITY: According to COG's *Potomac River Water Quality in Metropolitan Washington* report, the amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus—which in excess can degrade water quality—have declined dramatically in the Potomac River, and are on track for further reductions.



PREPAREDNESS: COG sponsored a Complex Coordinated Attack symposium for law enforcement and the Capital Fortitude full-scale health emergency exercise—along with follow-up exercises for the Chief Administrative Officers and Emergency Preparedness Council.



.....
81 moderate air days

.....
154 good air days

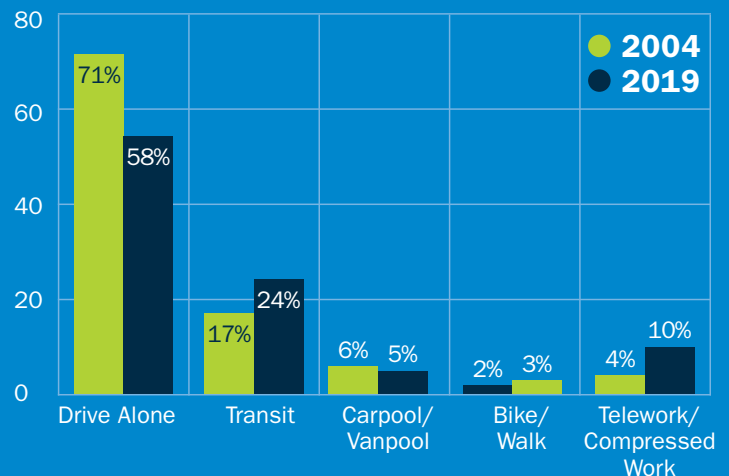
.....
10 unhealthy air days
(for sensitive groups)

.....
0 Code Red air days
(unhealthy for all)



AIR QUALITY: While the region's air quality has greatly improved—it registered no Code Red unhealthy air days during the 2019 ozone season—area officials continue to work to reduce pollutant levels further and protect the public's health.

COMMUTING: According to the triennial *State of the Commute* survey by COG's Commuter Connections program, the percentage of people who report driving alone has decreased over the years, while other travel modes, like transit, have increased.





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CLIMATE CHANGE: The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) named the region one of four “Regional and Metro-Scale Climate Leaders” in the U.S. COG and its members will receive technical assistance from GCoM on the region’s forthcoming 2030 *Climate and Energy Action Plan*.

AMAZON HQ2: While Amazon selected National Landing in November 2018 as a site for its second headquarters, the final approval was still pending in Arlington. Before the vote, COG sponsored a high-profile event with area leaders and Amazon to discuss the regional impact and benefits of the project.

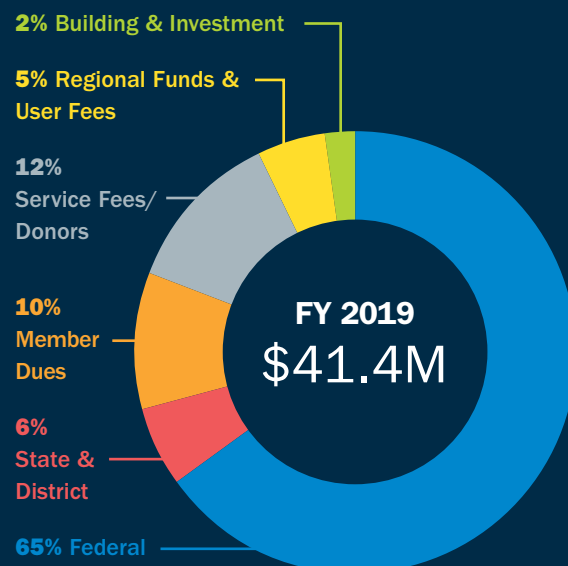
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CONNECTED DMV

SMART REGION: COG and the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area joined the Greater Washington Board of Trade to form ConnectedDMV, a partnership to help communities, governments, and businesses work together on regional, digital technology solutions.

COG Budget by revenue sources



2019 COG Leadership

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About the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)

COG is an independent, nonprofit association that brings area leaders together to address major regional issues in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia. COG's membership is comprised of 300 elected officials from 24 local governments, the Maryland and Virginia state legislatures, and U.S. Congress.

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