



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

May 2017

COMMITTEE WORK FEATURE OUTREACH CALENDAR MEDIA

Policy Boards & Committees

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD (TPB)

At its April meeting, the TPB approved a regional Bike to Work Day proclamation and selected several bicycle and pedestrian projects in Northern Virginia to receive federal funding. A portion of the meeting was spent discussing a proposed flyover ramp near Dunn Loring as part of VDOT's plans to add Express Lanes to I-66 outside the Capital Beltway. The proposal drew criticism from nearby residents, several of whom provided comments to the TPB. In light of public opposition, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe recently announced that the state would not pursue the new ramp.

HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY COMMITTEE (HSPSPC)

The committee focused on workforce development and received presentations on current and past COG initiatives as well as efforts by regional partners. Members held a dialogue with workforce development leaders on regional priorities and opportunities to create policy and assess the talent pipeline to address workforce shortages.

REGION FORWARD COALITION (RFC)

COG hosted the April meeting of the Region Forward Coalition at TechShop in Arlington. The meeting was attended by more than a dozen of the region's local elected officials and featured conversations on the changing nature of work and work spaces. Fairfax County Supervisor John Cook briefed the group on the Fairfax County Building Repositioning Workgroup, which was established to examine the conditions that contribute to office building obsolescence and to identify potential repositioning and/or repurposing solutions, such as residential units, urban schools, and cultural and art uses.



Staff Feature:
DOUG FRANKLIN

As Senior Marketing Specialist for COG's Commuter Connections program, Franklin helps spread the word about transportation alternatives, such as carpooling, bicycling, and using public transit. Part of this work involves organizing major regional events like Bike to Work Day.

[READ THE 'HEART OF COG' FEATURE](#)

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY - ROI PRESENTATION

In April, COG Executive Director Chuck Bean gave a Return on Investment (ROI) presentation to the Prince George's County Council on COG's programs and discussed the benefits of being a member.

STREET SMART SPRING CAMPAIGN

The latest Street Smart bicycle and pedestrian safety campaign kicked off April 25 at the Takoma-Langley Crossroads Transit Center in Maryland. The twice-yearly campaign uses mass media messages and stepped-up enforcement to remind motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians of traffic safety laws.

DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

COG and area partners, including law enforcement agencies, water and wastewater utilities, and health agencies promoted National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, organized by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency. The outreach reminded residents that proper medication disposal keeps communities safe by preventing drug abuse, accidental ingestion, and the contamination of water supplies.

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PROJECTS

The TPB approved seven bicycle and pedestrian projects in Northern Virginia to receive \$2.7 million in funding under the federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). The projects—in Alexandria, Fairfax County, Prince William County, Falls Church, and Herndon—were selected in part based on how well they support or advance regional goals. The TPB will help make selections for TAP projects in Maryland the District of Columbia later this year.

TPB'S LONG-RANGE PLAN TASK FORCE

The Long-Range Plan Task Force met for the first time on April 10. It is looking to identify a limited set of regionally significant projects, policies, and programs above and beyond what is in the region's current long-range plan that will make significantly better progress toward achieving regional goals.

COMMUTER OUTREACH

Commuter Connections staff promoted the program's services at several Earth Day events at agencies throughout the region, including the U.S. Department of Commerce in the District of Columbia, U.S. Geological Survey in Reston, Virginia, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in White Oak, Maryland.

COOPERATIVE PURCHASING - PUBLIC SAFETY RADIOS

COG's public safety subscriber radio request for proposal (RFP) has been released and the deadline for proposals is June 1, 2017. The purchase will involve more than 50,000 radios in the region and could result in savings of \$50-100 million over 10 years. [MORE ABOUT COOPERATIVE PURCHASING.](#)



Event Highlight: REGIONAL EMERGENCY EXERCISE

More than 700 law enforcement officials, other first responders, and actors participated in a full-scale exercise organized by COG on April 26 designed to prepare for the possibility of a complex coordinated terror attack in the region.

[MORE ABOUT THE EXERCISE](#)

26TH ANNUAL CORRECTIONS MEMORIAL WREATH LAYING CEREMONY AND HONOR GUARD COMPETITION - May 6

REGIONAL OPIOID AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SUMMIT - May 9

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COUNCIL - May 10

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD - May 17

BIKE TO WORK DAY - May 19

CHESAPEAKE BAY POLICY AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE - May 19

[MORE COG MEETINGS & EVENTS](#)

REGIONAL EMERGENCY EXERCISE

The regional emergency exercise received widespread coverage from local, national, and international news sources, including The Washington Post, the Washington Times, DCist, WMAL, WTOP, CBS Local Radio, ABC7, Newsweek, Inside Nova, Roll Call, and Fox News. COG's Chuck Bean and Scott Boggs were interviewed by several outlets. [MORE FROM NEWSWEEK.](#)

HUMAN CAPITAL REPORT

In a feature story on the region's economy and workforce, WTOP interviewed Chuck Bean and referenced COG's *State of the Region: Human Capital Report*. [MORE FROM WTOP.](#)

CHESAPEAKE BAY RESTORATION

In an op-ed to The Washington Post, COG Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee Chairman and Falls Church Council Member Daniel Sze highlighted how the region wins when everyone works together for clean water. [MORE FROM THE WASHINGTON POST.](#)

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

The *Frederick News Post* covered COG's latest *Regional Climate and Energy Action Plan* and focused on how Frederick County and other area governments will meet their emissions goals. COG's Steve Walz was interviewed. [MORE FROM THE FREDERICK NEWS-POST.](#)



Media Highlight: METRO DISCUSSION AT BOARD MEETING

Numerous outlets covered the April COG Board meeting and the release of the technical panel report on Metro funding, including The Washington Post, WAMU, WMAL, WTOP, Greater Greater Washington, American Prospect, the Loudoun Times-Mirror, and Montgomery County Media.

[MORE FROM THE WASHINGTON POST](#)