

MILESTONE MOMENTS IN REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

2018 Annual Report



MILESTONE MOMENTS IN REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

January 2019

ABOUT COG

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (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.

COG MEMBER JURISDICTIONS

District of Columbia; Maryland: Town of Bladensburg, City of Bowie, City of College Park, Charles County, City of Frederick, Frederick County, City of Gaithersburg, City of Greenbelt, City of Hyattsville, City of Laurel, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, City of Rockville, City of Takoma Park; Virginia: City of Alexandria, Arlington County, City of Fairfax, Fairfax County, City of Falls Church, Loudoun County, City of Manassas, City of Manassas Park, Prince William County.

CREDITS

Editors: Steve Kania & Megan Goodman

Cover Photos: Metro (Leo Ji/Flickr); 2018 COG Board Chairman Matt Letourneau and Vice Chairmen Robert White, Jr. and Derrick L. Davis (COG); Mayor Bowser, County Executive Elrich, Supervisor Bulova, Chair Randall, and County Executive Alsobrooks at the COG Annual Meeting (COG); Virginia Governor Northam at the Amazon HQ2 site announcement (Maryland Gov Pics/Flickr).

ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

Alternative formats of this document are available upon request. Visit www.mwcog.org/accommodations or call (202) 962-3300 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD).

TITLE VI NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations prohibiting discrimination in all programs and activities. For more information, to file a Title VI related complaint, or to obtain information in another language, visit www.mwcog.org/nondiscrimination or call (202) 962-3300.

El Consejo de Gobiernos del Área Metropolitana de Washington (COG) cumple con el Título VI de la Ley sobre los Derechos Civiles de 1964 y otras leyes y reglamentos en todos sus programas y actividades. Para obtener más información, someter un pleito relacionado al Título VI, u obtener información en otro idioma, visite www.mwcog.org/nondiscrimination o llame al (202) 962-3300.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
PRIORITIES OF THE COG BOARD OF DIRECTORS	2
TRANSPORTATION	4
ENVIRONMENT	5
COMMUNITY	6
HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY	7
PUBLICATIONS	8
FY 2018 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS	9
2018 COG LEADERSHIP	11



2018 COG Corporate President Phil Mendelson presents Maryland State Delegate Marc Korman, Maryland State Senator Brian Feldman, and Virginia State Senator George Barker with COG's Special Regional Impact Award for their collaborative efforts to ensure the long-term safety, reliability, and success of the Metro system (COG).

INTRODUCTION

2018 was a year of milestone moments for metropolitan Washington.

Together, the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia reached an agreement decades in the making when they secured dedicated capital funding for Metro. Again, they worked together to create the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission, ensuring safety oversight of the system. The entire region had reason to celebrate once more when Amazon selected a local site for the future home of its second headquarters.

COG is proud to have played a key role in these achievements, whether that's helping to forge partnerships among the key players or providing important data and expertise.

This brief annual report along with our 2018 recap video—Milestone Moments—provides a preview of some of COG's achievements from the past year. COG looks forward to working alongside its members in 2019 on challenges both big and small to make the region even stronger.



FEATURED VIDEO

Area leaders speak about the region's milestone moments and the partnership and collaboration at COG that made them possible.

mwkog.org/milestonemoments

PRIORITIES OF THE COG BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Virginia Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax, Arlington County Board Chair Katie Cristol, Former City of Alexandria Mayor Allison Silberberg, and COG Executive Director Chuck Bean celebrate the selection of National Landing as the future home of Amazon HQ2 (COG)

For the past several years, regional leaders at COG identified **dedicated funding for Metro** as their top priority. Following work to forge consensus on the transit system's capital needs in 2017, COG supported dialogue among the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia officials that resulted in the landmark Metro funding legislation in 2018. The \$500 million-a-year in new, dedicated funding will allow Metro to implement its \$15.5 billion, 10-year capital improvement program.

In March 2018, the **Washington Metrorail Safety Commission (WMSC)** held its inaugural meeting. The WMSC was created by the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia, with support from COG, to serve as the State Safety Oversight Agency for the Metrorail system. In the months that followed, the WMSC hired a CEO and technical staff, adopted bylaws and policies, and submitted its application for certification to the Federal Transit Administration.

Amazon announced its selection of the National Landing site in Northern Virginia for its next headquarters in November 2018, which will bring more than 25,000 high-paying jobs and billions of dollars in direct investment to metropolitan Washington. Throughout the competition for Amazon's second headquarters, COG supported close coordination among Virginia, Maryland, and District officials and provided them with regional data to enhance their bids.

Following a year-long study proposed by COG Board Chairman Matt Letourneau, the COG **Traffic Incident Management Enhancement (TIME) Task Force** released a report in November 2018 containing seven priority recommendations to improve the quick and safe resolution of traffic incidents regionwide. The COG Board endorsed the recommendations, which emphasized the need to update regional agreements and achieve more regional consistency of traffic incident management (TIM) laws. Specifically, the report called on jurisdictions to review and update their laws to ensure concepts like “move over,” which requires motorists to give safe clearance to first responders, are applied consistently regionwide.

The COG Board also asked staff to study the **physical security infrastructure of local government buildings**, which resulted in some data and ideas to inform discussions in each member’s jurisdiction.



FEATURED PUBLICATION

COG's Round 9.1 Cooperative Forecasts provide updated population, household, and employment forecasts for use in planning and modeling activities at COG, the Transportation Planning Board, and other state, regional, and local agencies.

Check out more COG publications on page 12, or at mwcog.org/publications.

TRANSPORTATION



COG Department of Transportation Planning staff at a Visualize 2045 public outreach event (COG)

In October 2018, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) at COG approved **Visualize 2045**, the region's new long-range transportation plan. The plan consists of more than 600 highway and transit projects planned through 2045 and provides detailed analysis to help area officials and the public visualize the region's transportation future.

Visualize 2045 added several new projects like managed toll lanes on I-495 and I-270 in Maryland, five additional segments to Montgomery County's Bus Rapid Transit network, and improvements to add capacity to the Metrorail system, such as running 100 percent eight-car trains during peak periods. For the first time, the plan included a set of seven aspirational initiatives to address some of the region's biggest transportation challenges. Following the plan's approval, COG and the TPB have begun working with their member governments and partner agencies to advance these initiatives.

Performance-Based Planning and Programming rules influence federal transportation funding by requiring states and Metropolitan Planning Organizations, like the TPB, to measure, forecast, and set targets to ensure national goals are being met. In 2018, the TPB adopted targets for highway safety, pavement and bridges, highway congestion, and freight movement.

Early in 2018, the TPB approved 17 local projects to receive approximately \$6 million dollars under the Federal Transit Administration's **Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program** to address the transportation needs of older adults and individuals with disabilities. Components of all projects help reduce reliance on MetroAccess, the region's paratransit service.

ENVIRONMENT



Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership Chairman Adam Ortiz, COG Department of Environmental Programs Director Steve Walz, and National Capital Parks - East Superintendent Tara Morrison joined NBC Washington to talk about Year of the Anacostia (COG)

COG joined the region in celebration of the **Year of the Anacostia**, part of its ongoing work to improve regional water quality and revitalize local waterways. COG and partners launched a public outreach campaign, #ComeToTheRiver, to highlight how local investments and major efforts are restoring the entire watershed. A new Restoration Dashboard built by COG illustrated the region’s progress to reduce pollution, protect and restore ecosystems, increase wetlands, expand forest cover, and increase citizen involvement in restoration activities.

COG continued to track and celebrate the impact of transformative local actions on reducing emissions and increasing energy efficiency in the region. In November, COG’s Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee celebrated **10 years of the National Capital Region Climate Change Report**, which set a short, medium, and long-term goal for the region to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, ultimately by 80 percent by 2050. In July, COG released its **greenhouse gas inventory** results, which revealed the region is just halfway to its more medium-term goal of reducing emissions by 20 percent below 2005 levels by 2020. To facilitate progress toward these goals, COG continued to play a key role in the region’s **electric vehicle** strategy, including holding an “Electrification of Transportation” event for area governments at the Washington Auto Show.

Agriculture employs more than 480,000 in the region, and the sector’s economic impact totals more than \$90 billion, according to a preview of *What Our Region Grows* released in October. The preview by the Regional Agricultural Work Group evaluated the state of agriculture in the region, and was released at the Chesapeake Food Summit, a gathering of the region’s food system leaders. The full report is expected to be released in early 2019.

COMMUNITY



COG Board Vice Chairman Robert White discusses the release of VCU health study, *Uneven Opportunities* (COG)

A COG analysis revealed the region needs to increase the number of planned **housing** units by over 100,000 homes between now and 2045 to sustain economic growth and improve quality of life. According to COG's Cooperative Forecasts, employment growth outpaces housing growth in the region, creating a housing shortfall that is expected to worsen without intervention. Housing must be added at all price points and types with access to transit and other amenities to ensure a sufficient supply of housing for workers to fill current and anticipated jobs. The COG Board of Directors passed a resolution directing COG staff and government housing and planning directors to conduct additional research to address this challenge.

A Virginia Commonwealth University **health study**, *Uneven Opportunities: How Conditions for Wellness Vary Across the Metropolitan Washington Region*, produced for the COG Health Officials Committee examined health at the census tract level as well as the factors that shape health. The study found that life expectancy across the region varies by as much as 27 years and health can differ drastically within a single jurisdiction. Health officials are sharing the study among policymakers and government officials in different disciplines as well as businesses, nonprofits, philanthropies, and civic groups to develop policies and strategies to address health disparities.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY



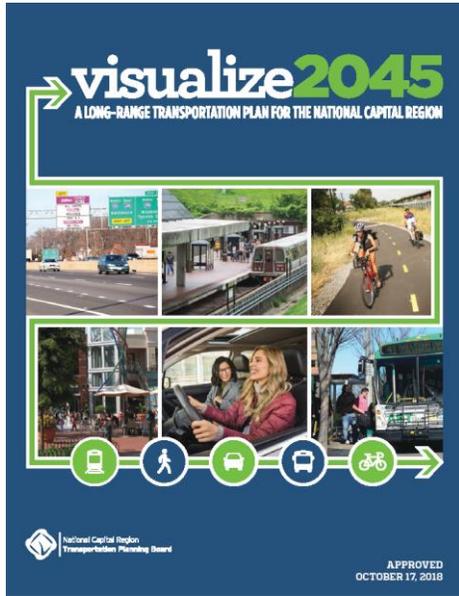
Twenty-five first responders from around the region in Israel for training (Advanced Security Training Institute)

COG's homeland security and public safety programs helped coordinate several **important training exercises** in 2018, including a regional search and rescue exercise, a first responder training in Israel covering counter-terrorism and cybersecurity, and a wireless emergency alert test, which resulted in messages being sent to the mobile phones of about five million people in the region. The test, coordinated by local emergency managers through a COG subcommittee, was the first of its kind across a wide region. Local public information officers—also coordinating through COG—spread the word about the test in advance of the exercise.

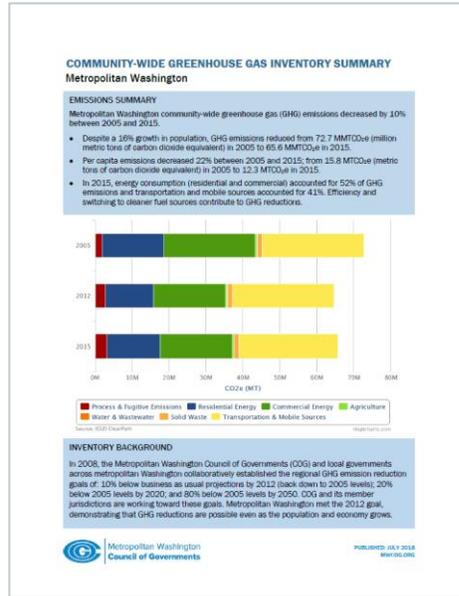
In order to better support long-term regional needs, the COG Board approved a new **public safety fund** that will enable vital activities to continue and thrive. Starting in FY2020, the fund will be used to update regional mutual aid agreements and public safety policy and to provide program coordination for regional initiatives and training.

PUBLICATIONS

COG staff produced a variety of publications to inform officials, stakeholders, and the public about regional initiatives, issues, and trends. Learn more at mwcof.org/publications.



Visualize 2045: A Long Range Transportation Plan for the National Capital Region



Metropolitan Washington Community-Wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Summary



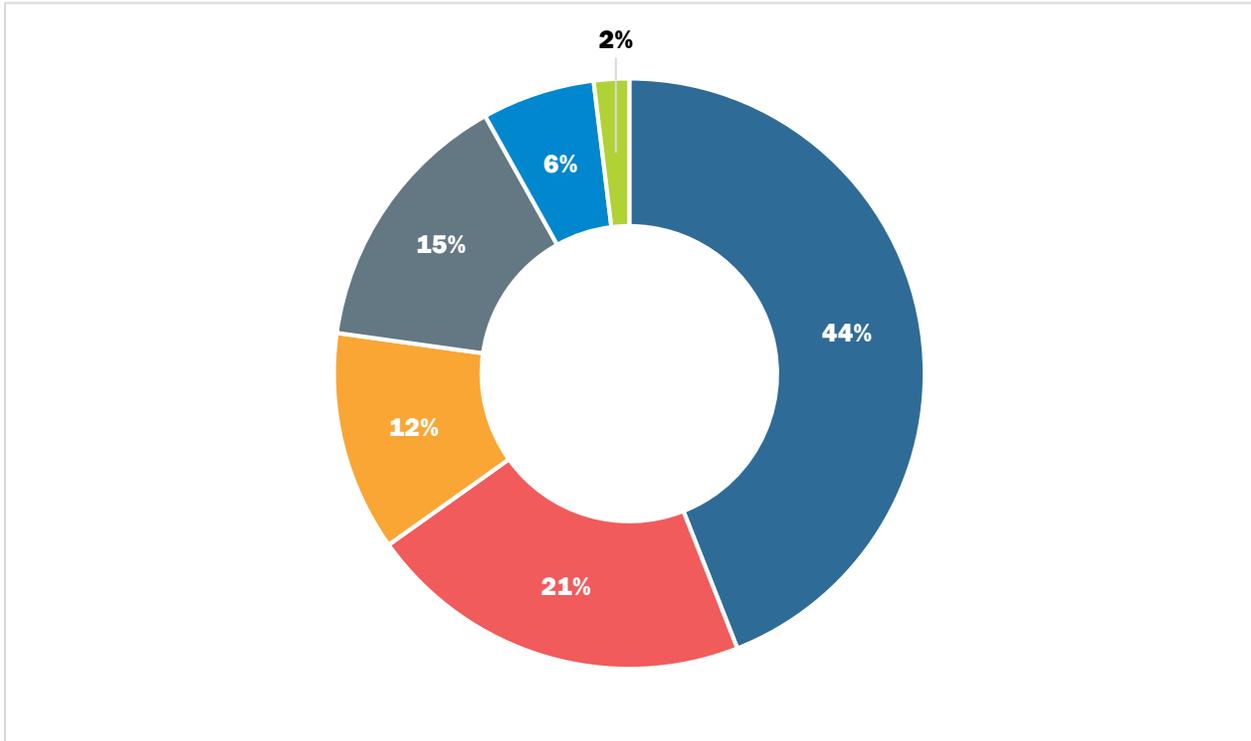
Homelessness in Metropolitan Washington: Results and Analysis from the Annual Point-in-Time Count



Annual Report on Crime and Crime Control

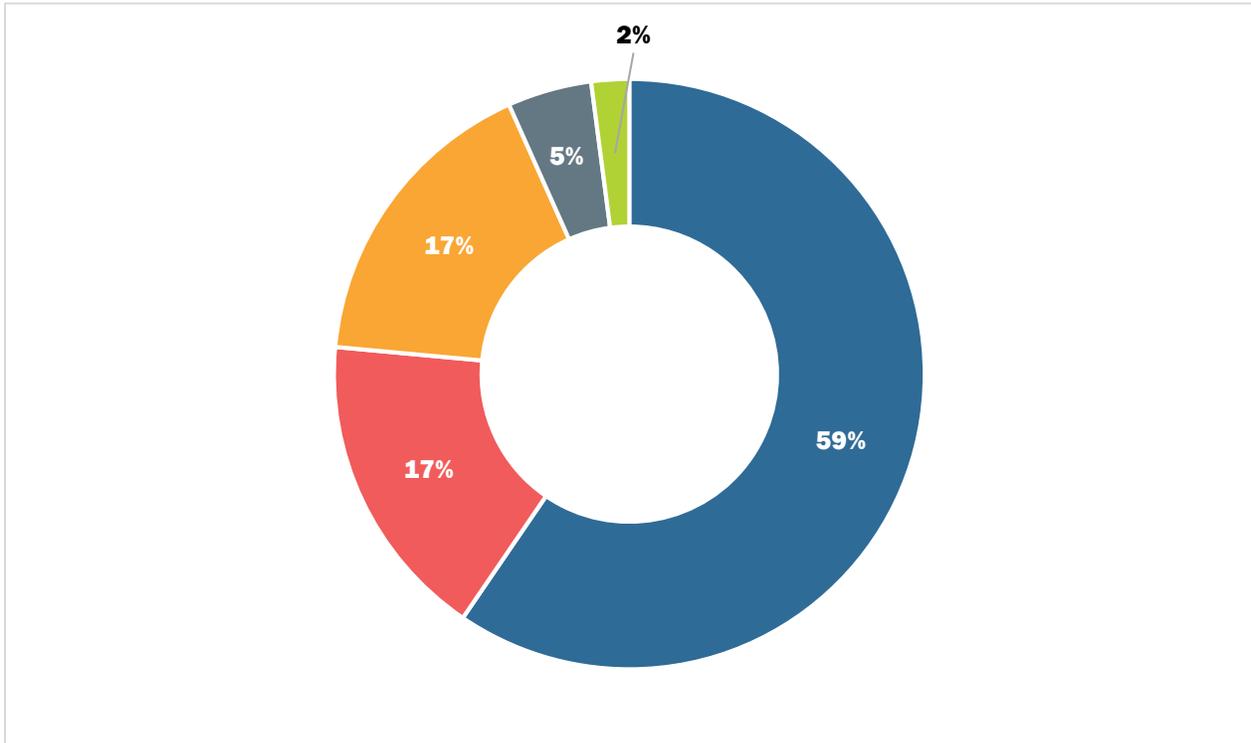
FY 2018 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Revenue Sources



SOURCE	AMOUNT (\$)
Federal Funds	18,630,232
State & District Funds	8,933,195
Member Dues	5,098,401
Service Fees, Donors, and Misc.	6,210,119
Regional Funds and User Fees	2,614,906
Building and Investment Revenue	817,739
TOTAL REVENUE	42,304,593

Revenue by Program



SOURCE	AMOUNT (\$)
Transportation	25,183,969
Homeland Security and Public Safety	7,166,139
Environment	7,128,823
Strategic Initiatives & Member Services	1,951,088
Community Planning	874,574
TOTAL	42,304,593

*Subrecipient pass-through funds

10,312,700

2018 COG LEADERSHIP

Corporate Officers

COG President
Phil Mendelson
District of Columbia

COG Vice President
Karen R. Toles
Prince George's County

COG Vice President
Phyllis Randall
Loudoun County

COG Secretary-Treasurer
Kate Stewart
City of Takoma Park

COG Board of Directors Officers

Chairman
Matt Letourneau
Loudoun County

Vice Chairman
Robert White
District of Columbia

Vice Chairman
Derrick L. Davis
Prince George's County

Executive Director

Chuck Bean

COG Board of Directors

District of Columbia

Muriel Bowser
Rashad Young
Phil Mendelson
Robert White

Maryland

City of Bowie
G. Frederick Robinson
Charles County
Ken Robinson
City of Frederick
Michael O'Connor
Frederick County
Jan Gardner
City of College Park
Patrick Wojahn
City of Gaithersburg
Robert Wu
City of Greenbelt
Emmett Jordan
City of Laurel
Craig Moe
Isiah Leggett
Montgomery County
Roger Berliner
Nancy Navarro
Rushern Baker
Prince George's County
Todd Turner
Derrick Leon Davis
City of Rockville
Bridget Newton
City of Takoma Park
Kate Stewart
Maryland General
Brian Feldman
Assembly

Virginia

City of Alexandria
Allison Silberberg
Arlington County
Christian Dorsey
City of Fairfax
David Meyer
Sharon Bulova
Fairfax County
Penelope A. Gross
John Foust
City of Falls Church
David Snyder
Loudoun County
Matt Letourneau
Phyllis Randall
City of Manassas
Mark Wolfe
City of Manassas Park
Hector Cendejas
Prince William County
Frank Principi
Ruth Anderson
Virginia General
George Barker
Assembly



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

mwcog.org