

MEMORANDUM

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

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – At the July meeting, the TPB took up a series of actions focused on equity, safety, and making it easier for people to get around the region by foot or by bike. The board adopted a policy statement affirming that it take equity into account for every decision and work activity. It also included this equity statement in its approval of a set of safety recommendations for the region. The TPB also identified 49 Transit Access Focus Areas (TAFA) and adopted the National Capital Trail Network (NCTN). These two actions are important milestones in advancing two of the TPB's aspirational initiatives from the 2018 long-range plan, *Visualize 2045*. It also approved bicycle and pedestrian projects in Maryland for funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program.



TPB ADOPTS REGIONAL ROADWAY SAFETY POLICY
At its July meeting, the Transportation Planning Board endorsed a set of shared actions to reduce injuries and fatalities on area roadways and committed to safety strategies that advance equity.

[Read the news release](#)

Region Forward Coalition (RFC) – In July, coalition members were given an overview of the recently released *Health Equity: How Opportunities for Health are Shaped by Race and Ethnicity* prepared by Virginia Commonwealth University for COG. They also hosted a panel of housing and community experts to discuss how the region is working together to both address the unique needs of people experiencing homelessness as well as work to ensure housing stability.

Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) – During the CBPC's July meeting, members received a briefing on building water flushing after reopening and the importance of water management plans for maintaining building water quality. The committee also prepared focus areas for their upcoming September forum with EPA and states to discuss Bay and water quality issues. Lastly, members voiced support for the formation of a COG Food and Agriculture Advisory Committee.

Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) – At its July meeting, the committee was briefed on the results of the 2020 Point-in-Time Homeless Enumeration. The committee also held a discussion on undercounted populations within the census, specifically youth and immigrants.

Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) – At its July meeting, CEEPC members were briefed on and discussed potential goals for *2030 Regional Climate and Energy Action Plan*. Members were also briefed on the Washington Gas *Climate Business Plan* and updated on the estimated impact of the COVID shutdown on energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Advancing Racial Equity Cohort – 100 local government staff, representing 11 jurisdictions, completed COG's inaugural cohort program, held in partnership with Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE). The leaders examined areas of public safety, community development, transportation, and governing and business through an equity lens, helping to shape a better future for the region. A new cohort will begin in early 2021.

Regional Economic Data – COG's Department of Community Planning and Services Research Team [released a blog](#) examining the economic effects of the COVID-19 crisis, highlighting direct and indirect impacts, and encouraging members to sign up for the monthly Regional Economic Monitoring System (REMS) report emails.

Climate and energy planning - COG is actively supporting local climate and energy planning efforts in the region, including the City of Frederick, the City of Rockville, Prince George's County, and Fairfax County. Most recently, COG Department of Environmental Programs staff participated in the Fairfax County Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan Task Force meeting. COG presented a new emission reduction scenario through 2050 to help guide the Task Force in its deliberations on establishing reduction goals for the county.



"[Our challenge] is how we apply what we have learned from current events as we shape a better, more equitable future — not just a return to normal."

Derrick L. Davis
COG Board Chair



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

REGION TO FOCUS ON EQUITABLE FUTURE
COG Board Chair Derrick L. Davis highlights board's unanimous affirmation of racial equity as a fundamental value, discusses ongoing health, housing, and equity cohort work.

[Read the Washington Post op-ed](#)

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

DC-area leaders approve transportation network to serve walkers, cyclists – COG Transportation Planner Mike Farrell discusses how the approval of the National Capital Trail Network advances the goal of having options for walking and biking as reliable, inexpensive, healthy modes of transportation.

[The Washington Post story](#)

Racial equity declared a fundamental value of DC-area governments – Highlights Racial Equity Cohort and its work to develop more equitable policies and practices within sectors such as transportation and public safety.

[WTOP story](#)